



Kanton Bern  
Canton de Berne

Bern Economic Development Agency

# 2021 Annual Report





**Dr. Sebastian Friess**  
 President, Bern Economic Development Agency  
 Head Official, Office of Economic Affairs

**Unbureaucratic support**

“How can we best support Bernese businesses?” This seven-word question is always at the heart of everything we do at the Bern Economic Development Agency. But once the pandemic hit, we decided to add three more words: “quickly”, “unbureaucratically”, and “efficiently”. Having launched our own assistance program for businesses in 2020, we were able to take part in the federal government’s hardship program in 2021. So we set ourselves the goal of processing applications as quickly, unbureaucratically and efficiently as possible to ensure that the grants would reach the recipients in record time. Without neglecting our duty of care, of course. And I am proud to say that my team did it! We succeeded in meeting the deadlines we had set ourselves. You will find the key data and information on the Canton of Bern’s hardship program in the appendix to this annual report.

It was only by digitalizing our processes that we were able to manage the many hardship applications we received. We are not alone in making huge strides in digitalization over the past two years. This trend can be

**Content**

**Editorial ..... 03**

**Development Agency ..... 04**

**Project funding in figures ..... 05**

**2021 in focus ..... 06**

**Funding examples ..... 10**

**Annex ..... 22**

**Contact/Publication details ..... 24**

seen everywhere. In this context, I am particularly pleased that so many start-ups and established businesses in the Canton of Bern have responded to the emergence of this movement by implementing technology to facilitate it. We introduce some of them in this annual report, along with other examples of businesses who have received funding.

In other – but no less celebratory – news, two new buildings were officially inaugurated this year: Switzerland Innovation Park Biel/Bienne and the TCS building in Ostermundigen. Both of these are shining examples of the confidence being placed in our canton as a business location, with effects that extend beyond the canton’s borders.

I would like to thank all our staff, colleagues in the ministries, the temporary staff taken on to process the hardship applications, our partners, and, of course, all businesses for their cooperation in 2021, a year that has been nothing if not unpredictable.

## Bern Economic Development Agency

The Bern Economic Development Agency (BEDA) supports companies and their activities with a wide portfolio of advisory and other services. Our services are tailored to meet the needs of export-oriented and international companies of all sizes, ranging from start-ups and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to multinationals. BEDA helps companies to get in touch with the right people in the administration. Our key services are:

- Advice
- Arranging contacts, real estate, cantonal realty, and guarantees
- Initial advice for SMEs and start-ups
- Financial assistance and tax relief

In order to boost economic development, BEDA markets the Canton of Bern as a business location abroad in collaboration with Switzerland Global Enterprise and the Greater Geneva Bern area. Other important partners in the Canton are the innovation promotion agency be-advanced, the Switzerland Innovation Park in Biel/Bienne and sitem-insel.

Another area in which we provide strategic project support is that of innovation promotion and real estate development projects. These activities boost the long-term attractiveness of the Canton as a business location.

One of BEDA's key tasks is to improve the overall regional environment for business and tourism. Our regional policy boosts competitiveness in rural areas, generates added value and creates jobs, benefiting residents, companies, and tourists alike. BEDA supports the tourism sector to enable it to hold its own against the competition and develop. Key areas of our support are market promotion and events.

BEDA's success is measured in terms of the actual investments made by Bernese companies and the number of jobs they create. We therefore continuously monitor the progress of the projects and businesses we support and conduct regular reviews of the effects and benefits of our funding activities. Based on the latest review, it can be assumed that the tools we employ generate net revenues and thus ease the burden on the Canton's financial budget.

## Legal basis for BEDA funding and support and number of funded projects in 2021

The work of the Bern Economic Development Agency is based on four laws:

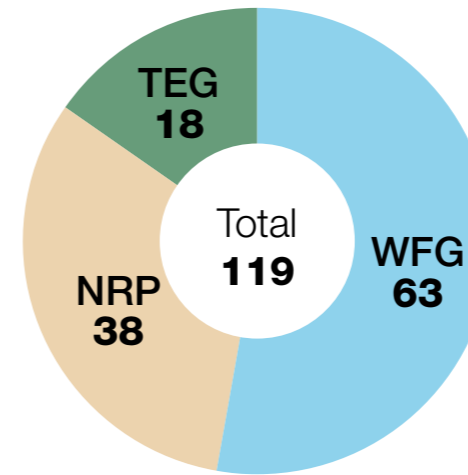
The [Economic Development Act \(WFG\)](#) enables us to support innovative projects, start-ups and companies relocating to the Canton.

The Cantonal Investment Aid Act is the basis for the support we provide for infrastructure and development projects under the [New Regional Policy \(NRP\)](#).

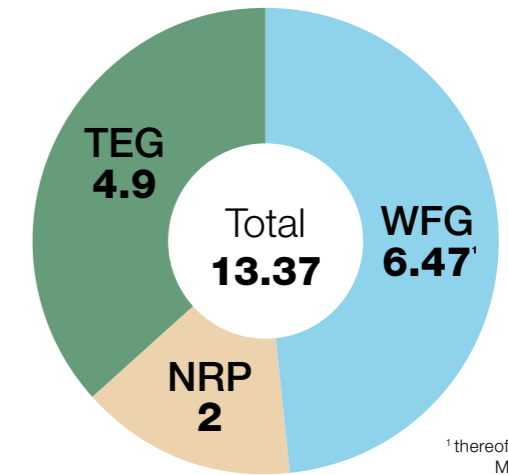
The [Innovation Promotion Act \(IFG\)](#) allows us to provide funding for applied research and development institutions.

And finally, the [Tourism Development Act \(TEG\)](#) enables us to support events and marketing activities in the tourism sector.

Number of projects



Promised contributions in million CHF



<sup>1</sup> thereof paid out 5.1 Millionen CHF

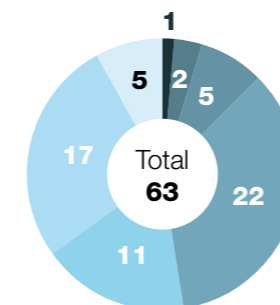
Planned jobs according to information provided by the companies



Planned investments according to information provided by the companies

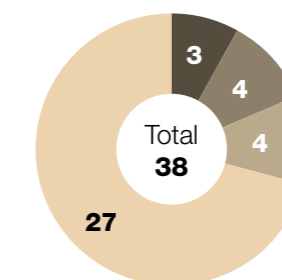


Projects by key area category



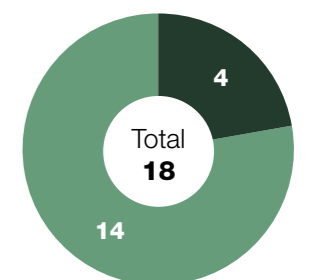
### WFG

- 1 Design/luxury goods
- 2 Services (incl. finance/ administration)
- 5 Energy and environment technology
- 22 IT and communication technology
- 11 Medical technology
- 17 Precision industry
- 5 Others



### NRP

- 3 Education (and health)
- 4 Energy
- 4 Industry
- 27 Tourism



### TEG

- 4 Marketing
- 14 Events



Interview: Christoph Ammann, Minister of Economic Affairs, Energy and the Environment

## How did we do? Some thoughts on the local and regional picture

The pandemic once again had the Bernese economy in its grips in 2021. How different was it from the previous year? Who were the winners, and what other challenges are Bern's businesses facing? Minister of Economic Affairs, Energy and the Environment Christoph Ammann answers these questions and more besides.

### In your view, what were the economic highlights of 2021?

The pandemic had a formative impact on all sectors last year – especially, of course, on the economy. One highlight, if I may even call it that, was seeing just how flexible and yet resilient our economy is. The ability to cope with crises is an extremely valuable quality. And the Bernese economy has demonstrated just that ability.

### What message do you have for Bernese businesses after two years of pandemic? What positive things can you take away from the pandemic?

The pandemic impacted and obstructed so many aspects of our lives, making things extremely difficult – not only in economic but also in social and personal terms. And it is

still doing so today. But every crisis also harbors opportunities. Digitalization has taken a massive leap forward as a result of coronavirus, for example. This would probably not have happened so soon without an emergency of this magnitude. We now need to maintain this momentum – and not only in the economy.

### The main issues businesses had to grapple with in 2020 were the conditions under which they could continue to operate, and obtaining compensation from the federal government and the canton. Were these issues the same in 2021, or were they sidelined by other concerns?

In our ministry, the focus was very much on implementing the hardship program. We invested a lot of resources in it,

and rightly so. That paid off and met with much appreciation in the business community. There were a few hiccups when it came to implementing short-time work compensation, however. With so many applications flooding in, delays were inevitable – coupled with the fact that being part of the federal government system meant we had less wiggle room of our own. But all in all we were able to meet the concerns of the business community. And I owe a big debt of gratitude for this to my ministry staff.

«The ability to cope with crises is an extremely valuable quality. And the Bernese economy has demonstrated just that ability.»

Because of the pandemic, there were fewer Swiss and foreign companies looking to locate to Bern in 2020. Did numbers start to pick up again in 2021?



Even though international travel came to a virtual standstill during that period, we were still able to welcome some interesting businesses last year. Our partner agency GGBa (Greater Geneva Bern area) continued to work flat out and in close collaboration with the external network it operates. I am confident that this will pay off in the months ahead. But yes, in some markets it is currently difficult if not impossible to actively promote relocations to Bern.

### Which industries will emerge stronger?

Some industries, such as logistics, have made a further quantum leap thanks to the pandemic. They had to become more efficient in a very short space of time to accommodate the higher volume of business. However, the pandemic has exposed vulnerabilities and dependencies in a wide range of industries and global supply chains. The state cannot solve or fix everything, but at least some of the dependencies are currently being reduced. We have also seen a welcome return to regional and local supply options, which will strengthen our economy as a whole.

### Apart from the pandemic, what other issues have been at the forefront of businesses' minds in the Canton of Bern?

Global climate change is a fundamental challenge. With its Climate article, the Canton of Bern has sent a clear signal for the future. And for our society, our economy, and not least our culture, the digital transformation is formative and challenging as well – it represents a massive opportunity that we must seize.

### What are the issues that concern the government of the Canton of Bern, both now and looking ahead to the future?

Angesichts der aktuell laufenden geopolitischen Verwerfungen der geopolitischen Umwälzungen, die derzeit stattfinden, bin ich traurig zu sagen, dass ich neue Blöcke in der globalen Wirtschaft mit all den unvorhersehbaren persönlichen, sozialen und wirtschaftlichen Konsequenzen. Diese Entwicklung ist sehr verstörend für die kantonale Regierung: wir beobachten nicht von den Seitenlinien, sondern es hat uns sicherlich geschockt und verwirrt.

However, this has not and will not distract us from our day-to-day business. I do hope that we can once again find more time for the government's strategic objectives, for the good of our canton and for the innovative strength of our economy – ultimately smoothing the way for us to continue working on our most important issues, such as the challenges we face in terms of the environment, climate and energy policy, and promoting the Canton of Bern as a business location.



### Switzerland Innovation Park Biel/Bienne

Since August 2021, a new building has graced Robert-Walser Platz behind Biel/Bienne train station. Switzerland Innovation Park Biel/Bienne (SIPBB) is home to a range of laboratories, workshops, and cleanrooms as well as providing space for businesses. The Park connects businesses, researchers and specialists, significantly boosting the Canton of Bern's attractiveness as a research and business location. The state-of-the-art infrastructure fosters an attractive innovation ecosystem.

Embedded in an application-oriented research environment and at the heart of industrial Switzerland, Biel/Bienne is a breeding ground for solutions tailored precisely to the specific technological needs of industrial companies. SIPBB consists of four competence centers: Swiss Smart Factory, the Swiss Health Competence Center, the Swiss Battery Technology Center, and the Swiss Advanced Manufacturing Center.

### Touring Club Schweiz

Another noteworthy new building has also appeared on the scene, this time at the train station in Ostermundigen. TCS opened its new office building in September, bringing together all its individual administrative sites previously spread across German-speaking Switzerland. All administrative functions are now either located at the Vernier headquarters or in Ostermundigen. Its more than 100 regional sites, such as campsites, training and event sites, patrol bases and Assista offices, are unaffected by the move.

In addition to state-of-the-art workspaces, the new building features conference rooms along with focus spaces, meeting places, coffee corners, and terraces. On the ground floor is Switzerland's first TCS eMobility lounge, where – as the name suggests – people can find out more about e-mobility.

### sitem StartUp Club

sitem-insel, the Swiss Institute for Translational and Entrepreneurial Medicine, opened the sitem StartUp Club in the summer. The club provides medtech startups with specialized advice and coaching and puts them in touch with potential investors. The new medtech hub, which is being created right next to the Insel Campus Bern, will offer low-cost workspaces in the future.

Supported by partners in various industries, the hub is the logical continuation of Insel Campus Bern's medtech start-up promotion scheme. The first lead partners are the Berner Kantonalbank, Johnson & Johnson, KPT, Guido Fluri Stiftung, F.G. Pfister Holding AG and Swisscom. Together with the other club members, they provide the financial resources for the start-ups.

### Circular economy

The topic of circular economy is gaining increasingly in significance. A growing number of Swiss companies are seeking to reduce the negative effects of their value creation by acting responsibly and sustainably.

2021 saw the publication of the study "Kreislaufwirtschaft. Innovationen der Berner Wirtschaft im europäischen Kontext" (The Circular Economy – Innovations in the Bernese Economy in the European Context), commissioned by the Office of Economic Affairs. This report by Reuter transferpilots.ch demonstrates that the Canton of Bern is home to a number of pioneering companies that are committed to the principles of the circular economy and have developed innovative offerings with which they are driving forward the transformation to the circular economy in Switzerland. However, there is still a need for collaborations and partnerships between the various stakeholders on issues such as developing standards to promote the circular economy.



## Aixelink

Aixelink develops hardware and software products for hospitals that utilize previously unused data and combine them with clinical expertise.

Their products collect data from medical devices regardless of the make or model, standardize them, and forward them to any clinical application. These data analyses enable better patient treatment decisions to be made in hospitals. Aixelink hopes that its products will also help make clinical monitoring and care available outside the hospital setting in the future.

To gain better access to technologies and academic facilities and to be closer to its customers, Aixelink decided to move its headquarters to Biel/Bienne.



“ The New Zealand-based med-tech company Aixelink has relocated to Biel/Bienne to benefit from the region’s medtech expertise and the cantonal ecosystem. From its Biel/Bienne base, Aixelink will be coordinating its international activities and further developing its products in collaboration with academic and industrial partners. ”

**Isabelle Berthold, Project Manager**

## CareUP Network AG

CareUP.share is the digital B2B sharing platform developed by the startup CareUP Network AG. In its regional healthcare pools, nursing professionals can offer their spare capacity digitally and find healthcare institutions that need additional temporary nursing staff, thereby helping to reduce staffing bottlenecks in healthcare. CareUP.share also mobilizes professionals who are looking to work more flexibly or just a few hours per week.

Once a regional nursing pool has reached a critical size, CareUP Network AG expands the offer with a P2P sharing facility called CareUP.comfort, which provides entertainment options for people suffering from social isolation. CareUP manages the platform, the placements and the online networking and provides the software for documenting the care provided.



“ CareUP Network AG provides nursing professionals with tools that enable them to better manage their time, leaving them more time for their core activity, nursing. It is a project that is very much in tune with the times and that will be gaining in importance over the next few years. ”

**Ralf Müssig, Project Manager**

## Gentics Software AG

The Viennese software house Gentics develops content management systems (CMS) and e-portal solutions for public authorities, businesses, insurance companies, and banks in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. Its Acta Nova dialog portal provides citizens with a convenient way of completing a range of administrative transactions online, making interaction between the public and the authorities more efficient, more transparent, and more cost-effective. The solution has so far met with considerable success in the Swiss market. Most of its customers in Switzerland are public authorities such as the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (DETEC).

The new subsidiary in Bern is Gentics’ first foreign branch. It will act as a sales, consulting, and project management company.



“ With its central location and multilingualism, and being the seat of the federal authorities, Bern provides Gentics with the ideal base from which to offer its services throughout Switzerland. Gentics received further support for opening its Swiss subsidiary from the intercantonal partner Greater Geneva Bern area. ”

**Peter Kistler, Project Manager**

## Digger Foundation

The Digger Foundation manufactures mine clearance machines. These remote-controlled devices are armored and blast-resistant, and yet light enough to be able to be transported onto rough terrain.

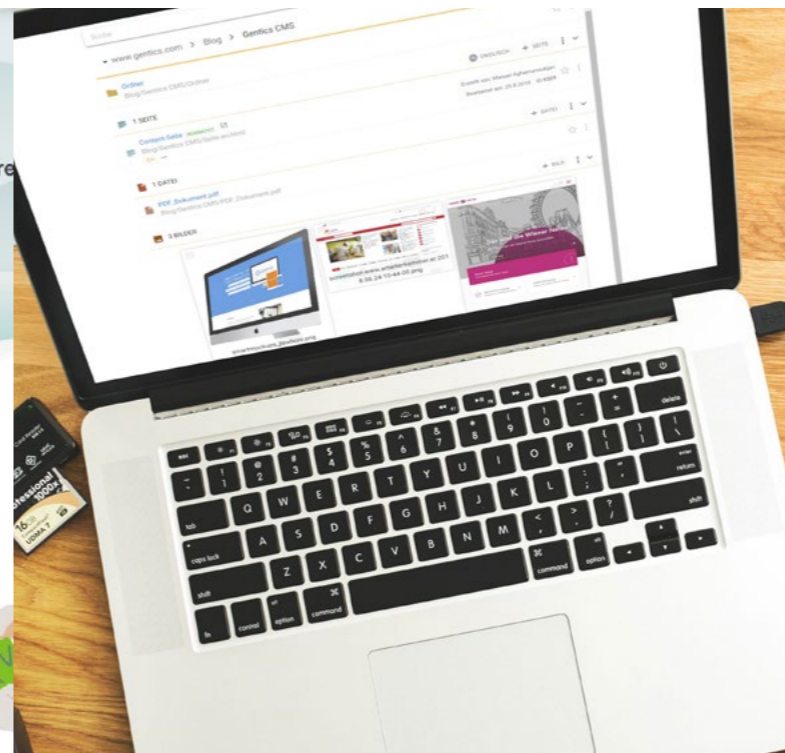
To date, Digger Foundation machines have been used in a total of sixteen countries around the world. They are used to clear minefields as well as to rebuild urban theaters of war in which work is endangered by explosive waste.

The Tavannes-based Digger Foundation has been supported by BEDA since 2005.



“ The Digger Foundation is well-known for its humanitarian activities. But BEDA supports a different aspect: its innovative technological achievements, such as its remote control system for construction vehicles. With its developments, the foundation is helping to create a more humane and secure future. ”

**Etienne Maillefer, Project Manager**



## NaturLoop

NaturLoop AG is a greentech spin-off of Bern University of Applied Sciences. The start-up develops technologies for producing wood panel substitutes from agricultural byproducts and natural adhesives.

Its first product, Cocoboard®, is manufactured in the Philippines out of coconut husk fibers and tannin. The boards are an alternative to particleboard and MDF and are suitable for use in residential and commercial furniture and interior fittings.

The company was founded in August 2020 and has already received multiple awards for its achievements in sustainability and the circular economy. Local farming communities were involved in the planning of the production facility in the Philippines.

The company's vision is to become a global leader in sustainable biocomposite technology.



” This startup combines innovation, technology, sustainability, and development in a unique way. Among other things, we were able to help the young company develop an innovative production facility.

“

**Isabelle Berthold, Project Manager**

## Kunz Kunath AG

Kunz Kunath is one of the leading Swiss producers of compound feed for farm animals and pets. Since it was established in 1926, the family-owned business has developed a successful product range under the brand name FORS, which it constantly seeks to improve through research.

In 2021, the company opened a new 60-metre-high silo tower for raw material storage with a total volume of 37,000 m<sup>3</sup> at its Burgdorf headquarters.

In addition to its Burgdorf factory, Kunz Kunath has another compound feed factory in Weinfelden, Thurgau, and a subsidiary, Profutter AG in Signau, Bern, where structured feed is produced using a special process.



” Kunz Kunath develops new products for the animal feed market using feed additives such as tannin-rich bark extracts and wood residues. Among other positive effects, the products help to regulate parasite and bacterial infections in animals.

“

**Jean-Philippe Devaux, Project Manager**

## mindcraft AG

Mindcraft is building a unique ecosystem consisting of 3D scanning, 3D cloud, and 3D publishing technologies. At the heart of the development work is the nucleus cloud, which enables data from any 3D scanner to be stored, edited, and published on an electronic medium.

With its software and hardware, mindcraft enables its customers to access the 3D possibilities offered by the modern internet. These are rapidly taking on new significance with the emergence of 3D e-commerce, Augmented Reality, and 3D content recognition



” Mindcraft AG is a Langenthal-based start-up developing 3D scanning systems that give its customers access to the digital 3D era. Right from the outset, it has been successfully fulfilling orders from top tech companies and has consistently demonstrated promising scaling potential.

“

**Manfred Böhnner, Project Manager**

## Almer Technologies AG

What does it take to make useful Augmented Reality (AR)? Start-up Almer Technologies has the answer: its revolutionary AR glasses, a compact optical system combined with energy-saving electronics, appealing design, and durable mechanics.

The glasses manufactured by this start-up, which was founded as recently as 2021, are primarily designed for industrial applications. For example, they can be used for observing manufacturing sites abroad in real time and giving instructions directly. Information such as checklists can be overlaid on the glasses. This also makes them an interesting option for other industries such as logistics centers.

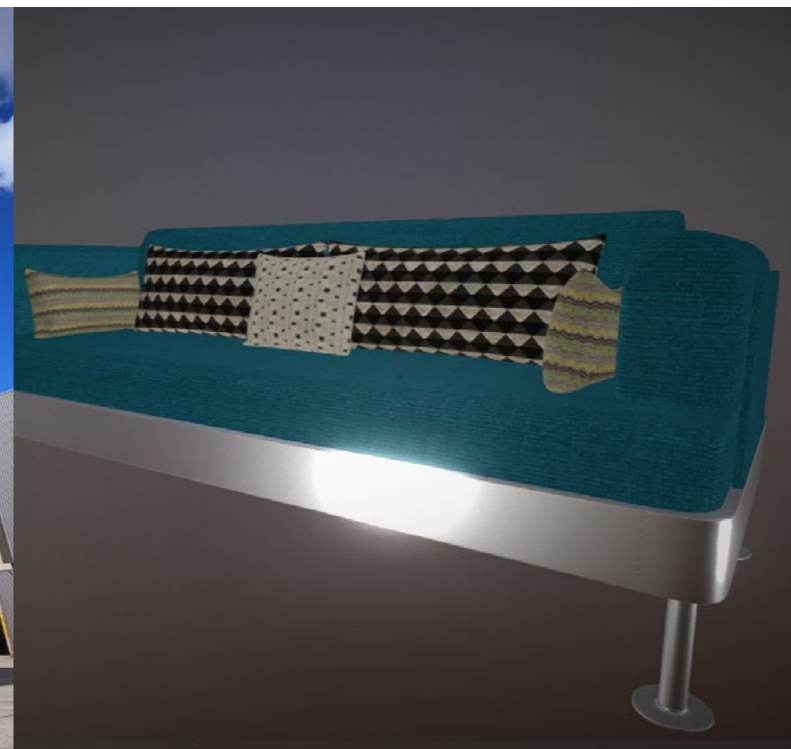
Prototypes are currently being tested by the Swiss industrial group Huber+Suhner and are due to go into pilot production in Q2 2022.



” Almer Technologies AG is a fast-growing start-up that develops affordable AR glasses for industrial applications. Its products also have potential for use in sports or laboratories. BEDA is supporting Almer Technologies as part of an Innosuisse project in collaboration with Switzerland Innovation Park Biel/Bienne (SIPBB).

“

**Nastassja von Gunten, Project Manager**



### CITIUS Meeting

The fourth edition of the CITIUS Meeting athletics event, one of the first major fixtures of the year, was held at the Bern Wankdorf Stadium in August 2021. The meeting consists of a 120-minute main program with international stars and a three-hour preliminary program with around 300 participants from Switzerland. Athletes in the main program compete in a total of 14 disciplines, while those in the secondary program take part in 15 disciplines.

In CITIUS, the organizers have created an innovative international athletics meeting in Bern that offers attractive added value for spectators, athletes, media, and sponsors alike.



” We support this athletics event as part of our development funding. After just four editions, the meeting is already one of the top 30 events in the world and is part of the World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze Meetings.

“

Alexandra Fries, Project Manager

### DC SWISS AG

DC SWISS AG is world-renowned for its expertise in threading technology. Since it was founded in 1940, it has been constantly expanding its product range including thread taps, thread formers, and thread milling and whirling cutters in a wide range of designs and sizes. Its precision threading tools are used in many different industries: watchmaking, medical technology, automotive, aerospace, power generation, as well as general and large-scale mechanical engineering.

DC SWISS AG is based in Malleray in the Bernese Jura. In addition to its parent factory, it also has subsidiaries in Germany, Italy, and the UK.

To strengthen its manufacturing base in Bern, DC SWISS AG is planning a new production facility in Malleray.



” The family-owned company DC SWISS AG is one of the global leaders in thread manufacturing. It secures its technological lead with a constant stream of new developments. This requires substantial investment, such as the construction of a new production facility. BEDA is supporting DC SWISS AG in this strategic project.

“

Etienne Maillefer, Project Manager

### reCIRCLE

Bern-based reCIRCLE wants to see an end to disposables and produces recyclable reusable packaging for the catering industry. The key to its success: reCIRCLE is structured as a network. Consumers can purchase their take-aways in a reusable box with a deposit and return them to another partner – or they can keep the box to reuse themselves.

The reCIRCLE product range includes lunch boxes, cutlery, and cups. The network currently comprises more than 1,750 partners in Switzerland. The company aims to build a Europe-wide reusable network with independent franchise partners and already has reCIRCLE products in circulation in Germany, France (Montpellier), and New Caledonia (South Pacific) since 2020 and in the Netherlands, Denmark, Estonia, and Italy since 2021. Three more countries are planned for 2022.



” reCIRCLE is a flagship enterprise for the circular economy: it's an outfit where sustainability meets innovation and generates added value for society and the Canton of Bern as a business location. BEDA has supported the company as it has expanded and launched new products and in doing so has helped it to meet its next milestone.

“

Vassiliki Riesen, Project Manager

### Wild Foods GmbH

Wild Foods GmbH is the inventor and manufacturer of Wood Smoked, an organic vegan salmon alternative made from smoked carrots. For Wild Foods, minimal processing, quality, regional sourcing, ethics, and sustainability are paramount. Wood Smoked was awarded first prize in the savory food category at the Swiss Vegan Awards in September 2021.

Within a short space of time, the start-up from Kiental has managed to build a strong community and firmly established marketing and sales channels.

Wood Smoked is seeing strong demand from the specialist and general retail trade and the catering industry. To meet this demand, the company is setting up a new, modern production facility in Uetendorf.



” The start-up Wild Foods GmbH has developed a product that strikes a chord on two levels: it responds to the fast-growing vegan sector and the ever increasing demand for products that are traded fairly and are produced with a low environmental impact. BEDA is supporting the start-up in the construction of the new production facility.

“

Ralf Müssig, Project Manager





## Urbane Dörfer

Urbane Dörfer (Urban Villages) is a community designed as a platform for projects. In its Urban Future Labs, it brings together future residents, start-ups, developers, academics, and representatives of the town or city to develop vibrant neighborhoods as well as mixed-use properties and areas in a co-creative approach. Its key areas of interest are social innovation, collaborative economy, circular economy, and urban design.

The cooperative aims to empower people to design, inhabit, and manage their living spaces on a self-determined basis. It is currently working on projects in Zollikofen, Gümligen, and the Basel area.

” In the Urban Future Lab, various stakeholders develop solutions for self-organized living, modular construction methods, a local food sourcing community, and closed-loop resources in a co-creative approach. We support the initiative and are convinced that Urbane Dörfer will create an innovative scene in urban site development.



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**Virve Resta,**  
Innovation promotion expert

## CASCINATION AG

CASCINATION is a Bern-based global medical technology company that has been developing, manufacturing, and marketing robotic and image-guided medical devices for 13 years. Its solutions enable reproducible and minimally invasive treatments for cancer and severe hearing loss with high-quality results.

Among other solutions, the company has developed and launched the world's first task-autonomous medical robot (HEARO®). This system provides keyhole access to the inner ear through which a cochlear implant can be inserted. The first systems are already in use in Europe, including at the Inselspital in Bern.

” This Bernese flagship company is on a growth trajectory. CASCINATION AG was founded in 2009 as a spin-off from the ARTORG Center, the University of Bern's Center for Biomedical Engineering Research, and is still an SME with great potential today.



“

**Stefan Jans,** Project Manager

## Digitale Dorfstrasse Adelboden

“It's never too late to shop” – that's the motto of Digitale Dorfstrasse Adelboden (Adelboden Digital Village Street). This initiative is a joint web shop in which the stores along the village high street in Adelboden offer their products and services online. Twelve shops have signed up so far, offering selected traditional products and specialties, as well as souvenirs and a range of useful services. Purchases can be collected from the local theme park or from a parcel locker accessed 24/7 with a QR code or can be delivered to the doorstep on four daily delivery runs.

The Digitale Dorfstrasse is a collaboration between retailers, artisan makers, tourist businesses, the commune of Adelboden, and the Myni Gmeind digital support association. The aim of this partnership is to boost local value creation and further enhance Adelboden's attractiveness as a tourist destination.

” Imagine ordering local specialty cheeses, charcuterie, and freshly baked bread online on your way to Adelboden or after work and finding them on your doorstep when you arrive late at night... This new service and many other options have become a reality in Adelboden – partly with financial support from BEDA.



“

**Daniel Wüthrich,** Project Manager

## Seeland Sans Souci

Seeland Sans Souci is a project by the Claire & George Foundation. It aims at developing practical and affordable vacation offerings for people with mental disabilities in the Bernese Seeland. The project plays a role in promoting inclusion and prevention, since vacations are important for everyone's mental and physical health – as corroborated by the project's specialist partner Bern University Psychiatric Services. Other project partners include Biel Seeland Tourism, Integrativo, and Gut und Gut.

The offerings and services being developed provide a concrete solution for a growing guest segment in an area that is all too often swept under the carpet. They serve as a model with potential to be rolled out across the country.

” Seeland Sans Souci, with its commitment to vacations for all, is an important, demand-oriented, innovative social tourism initiative and a flagship project of the New Regional Policy.

“

**Peter Michel,** Project Manager



## e-globe solutions AG

E-globe solutions AG specializes in digitalizing work processes. It develops and operates customized software solutions that aim to enhance interactions between humans and machines.

At the heart of the Bernese company is the all-in-one solution Godoo. This is a powerful process automation software and integration platform that enables work processes to be designed in line with individual needs. It enables users to download data and documents in real-time and upload data such as work reports, image documentation and electronic signatures to back-end systems.

” E-globe solutions AG’s strapline is “Think smart – work digital”. Their software solution is designed to support people in their daily work and lighten their workload, leaving more time for their core business and creative work. The company sees its products as providing a sustainable solution for the digital transformation.



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**Ralf Müssig, Project Manager**

## Jungfrau-Marathon 2021

With its unique mountain backdrop, the Jungfrau Marathon is one of the most beautiful marathons in the world. How much of it the runners themselves take in is questionable, because it’s also considered one of the toughest. The 42.195 kilometer course starts in Interlaken and leads up through Lauterbrunnen and Wengen to the Kleine Scheidegg, climbing a total of more than 1,800 m in elevation as it progresses.

Despite the difficult circumstances, 2021 saw the 28th edition of the event take place with more than 3,200 runners competing. In 2022, numbers are expected to return to pre-Covid levels, with some 4,000 people coming to the Bernese Oberland to take part. This makes the marathon one of the most important events in the Jungfrau region.

” Due to its unique setting, the Jungfrau Marathon is both a challenge and a reward. We support this regular traditional event because of its great economic significance for the region.



“

**Alexandra Fries, Project Manager**

## LOXO

The start-up LOXO is setting out to revolutionize goods delivery services. Its aim is to provide a scalable, cost-effective, environmentally friendly, and flexible delivery solution, and to achieve that it has developed a self-driving car. The LOXO engineering team has equipped the prototype, Loxomy, with a state-of-the-art teleoperation system.

Loxomy is in the final stages of development and will soon be tested on private and public roads in collaboration with various partners.

In the near future, LOXO plans to make omnichannel a reality with its autonomous vehicle fleet, offering a completely new delivery experience.

” LOXO combines an innovative business model with an original technology mix designed to revolutionize home delivery services. Its small, self-driving vehicles help reduce traffic in city centers.



“

**Jean-Philippe Devaux, Project Manager**

## Leitner AG

Leitner AG is a highly specialized supplier that manufactures high-precision surgical instruments for medical technology. It offers the full range of processes, from consulting and implementation in the prototype phase to series-ready production and packaging in a clean room.

In the next stage of its expansion, the company plans to equip its prototype department with a standalone machine park and increase the degree of automation in production, with the aim of substantially shortening the lead time between conception and market readiness of new products.

” Leitner AG is a market leader in the development and manufacture of surgical instruments and medical technology accessories. With its ongoing move towards automated manufacturing and the high quality of its workmanship, Leitner has been able to consolidate customer relationships and maintain and expand its activities in the Bernese Seeland region.



“

**Manfred Böbner, Project Manager**



### Bosonic AG

Bosonic AG develops and manufactures next-gen surgical instruments for spinal and neurosurgery. They are based on unique ultrasound technology that enables interventions to be carried out much more precisely. Complications are reduced and safety is improved, and all at a much lower price than comparable products.

Bosonic's instrument catalog includes scalpels, bone resection instruments, cutting tools, and files. Thanks to their modular design, the instruments are also suitable for use in robotics.



” Founded in 2019, the start-up Bosonic is based in sitem-insel and has received support from BEDA. Its ultrasonic technology makes it a world leader in its field. Bosonic guarantees unique, Swiss-made quality at low manufacturing costs.

“

**Stefan Jans, Project Manager**

### machineMD

The Bern-based start-up machineMD has developed the NeurOphthalmoscope, a non-invasive diagnostic tool for early detection of brain diseases such as MS, brain tumors, Alzheimer's disease, etc.

It involves high-precision pupil movement tracking using special VR glasses.

MachineMD is revolutionizing ophthalmological diagnostics with its standardized and automated methodology. Instead of being done manually by a specialist, the examination can be performed by a medical assistant in a fraction of the time. The NeurOphthalmoscope also provides objective, reproducible and quantitative results and is therefore more reliable than the current method.



” Founded in 2019 as a spin-off from the University of Bern and based at the new start-up hub at sitem-insel, machineMD is a prime example of the Bernese innovation ecosystem. This development is being supported as part of an Innosuisse project in collaboration with the University of Bern, the development partner Helbling Technik Bern AG, and CSEM in Neuchâtel..

“

**Ralf Müssig, Project Manager**

### Myni Gmeind

Founded in 2018, the Myni Gmeind association helps communes and regions go digital. Through its projects, it aims to increase the quality of life in rural regions and their attractiveness as places to do business and work. To achieve this, the association brings together service providers from different industries under one roof and produces a suitable tailor-made package of services for each commune.

One of the association's offerings is its basic Digital Pioneer course, a professional development training course for representatives of communes. The course provides participants with a basic knowledge of digitalization, tips and tricks for successfully initiating and managing projects, and opportunities for sharing experiences and coaching their own projects.



” Digitalization can only happen when the skills are available. Employees of Swiss communes play a key role in implementing e-government solutions, and it is for this reason that we supported the development of a basic Digital Pioneer course by Myni Gmeind.

“

**Virve Resta, innovation promotion expert**

### Derdack

The German company Derdack is a leading software specialist in automated alert notifications and mobile incident management. Its solutions automate and centralize alert processes in manufacturing, IT, building management, and other areas. In this way, Derdack enables its customers to communicate critical information to the right people reliably and quickly and respond promptly to critical incidents and emergencies.

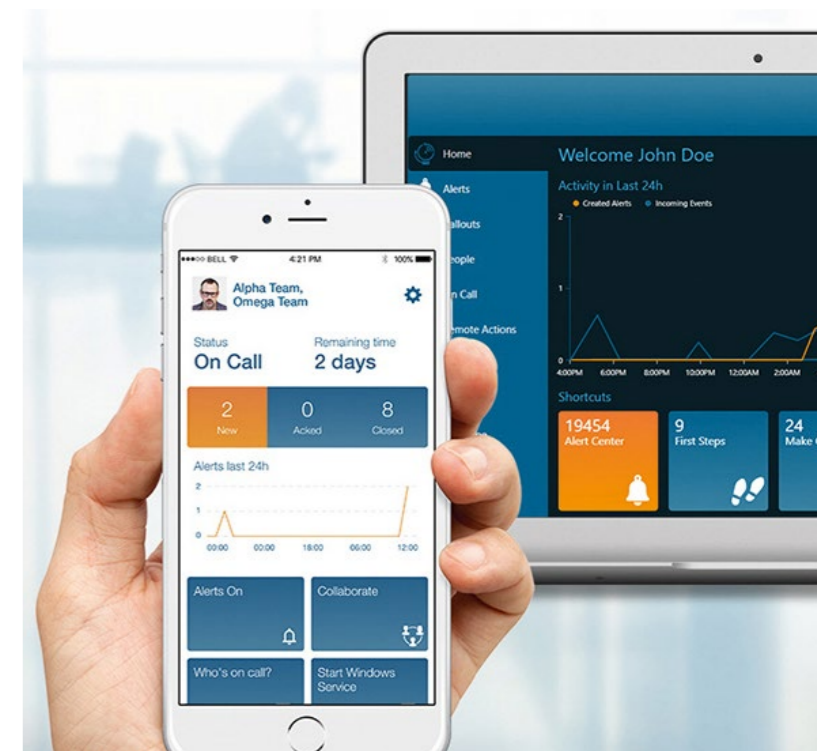
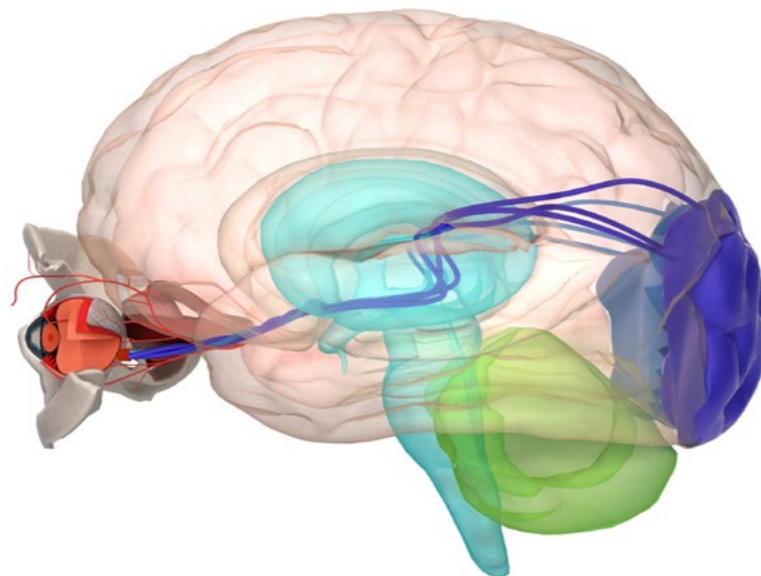
Derdack is a global company with branches in Germany and the USA. In June 2021, the company opened another base in the city of Bern to bring it closer to its Swiss customers.



” From its branch office in Bern, Derdack aims to provide optimum sales and technical maintenance cover with the help of a local workforce. The Bern site gives the company an ideal central and multilingual base. Moreover, Bern being the largest industrial canton in Switzerland provides the perfect setting for Derdack to offer its Industry 4.0 services throughout Switzerland.

“

**Peter Kistler, Project Manager**



## Funded projects based on the Economic Development Act (WFG)

### Number of projects, promised contributions, planned jobs and investments

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of funded projects	49	37	47	47	48	44	50	60	87	63
Promised contributions in million CHF	3.48	2.24	3.16	2.45	2.30	1.81	2.77	4.18	7.35 <sup>1</sup>	6.47 <sup>2</sup>
Planned jobs <sup>3</sup>	740	350	1500	1030	610	610	670	1130	1450	710
Planned investments in million CHF <sup>2</sup>	392	88	1122	390	85	256	191	226	298	96

<sup>1</sup> thereof paid out 5.7 Mio. CHF

<sup>2</sup> thereof paid out 5.1 Mio. CHF

<sup>3</sup> According to information provided by the companies.

### Funded projects by type

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Expansion projects by Bernese companies	28	23	30	19	27	19	23	32	40	27
Start-ups	5	6	6	13	11	10	15	13	36	25
Relocations	16	8	11	15	10	15	12	15	11	11
Including Innosuisse projects <sup>4</sup>	10	14	4	7	10	6	4	10	9	10
Evaluation visits for relocation purposes <sup>5</sup>	69	68	61	59	61	50	54	52	34	18

<sup>4</sup> Innosuisse is the Swiss innovation promotion agency. The Canton supports companies that are industrial partners of an Innosuisse project.

<sup>5</sup> The Economic Development Agency offers evaluation visits for companies interested in relocating to the Canton of Bern in order to help them find a suitable location.

### Funded projects by activity/sector

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Design/Luxury goods	3	1	0	0	1	1	3	1	4	1
Services (incl. finance/administration)	2	0	4	2	2	2	2	1	1	2
Energy and environment technology	5	7	2	7	4	3	4	3	8	5
IT and communication technology	17	3	6	7	10	5	10	14	25	22
Medical technology	5	13	9	8	10	9	7	8	13	11
Precision industry	14	12	21	18	16	23	19	22	23	17
Others	3	1	5	5	5	1	5	11	13	5

### Regional distribution of projects<sup>6</sup>

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Bern-Mittelland	21	9	14	10	15	8	13	16	31	24
Bernese Jura	8	5	12	9	8	5	9	12	8	8
Bernese Oberland	4	3	3	2	2	8	7	4	17	10
Biel-Seeland	9	12	12	21	16	16	12	17	16	15
Emmental-Oberaargau	7	8	6	5	7	7	9	11	15	6

<sup>6</sup> The Economic Development Agency provides its services throughout the Canton. It is not possible to control regional distribution.

### Advisory services<sup>7</sup> based on the WFG and the NRP

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Advisory services for start-ups	307	330	208	324	336	200	151	188	192	249
Advisory services for SMEs	113	108	135	106	94	31	85	106	220	256

<sup>7</sup> Conducted by be-advanced AG and CEP Coaching Berner Jura.

## Projects funded under the New Regional Policy (NRP)<sup>7</sup>

### Number of projects, promised contributions, planned jobs and investments

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of funded projects	33	34	28	40	29	47	31	38	45	38
Promised contributions and loans in million CHF <sup>9</sup>	3	6	3	2	4	15	3	13	6	2
Jobs <sup>10</sup>	300	390	560	210	140	400	350	415	340	240
Planned investments in million CHF <sup>10</sup>	35	81	44	62	52	241	26	79	21	10

<sup>8</sup> As From 2008 (Investment Aid Act).

<sup>9</sup> These contributions also include the regional management.

<sup>10</sup> According to the project sponsor's statements.

### Regional distribution of the projects<sup>11</sup>

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Bern-Mittelland	10	2	12	4	5	8	13	6
Bernese Jura	2	4	2	8	2	5	2	4
Bernese Oberland	2	19	9	24	16	17	22	22
Biel-Seeland	7	2	3	6	4	3	2	4
Emmental-Oberaargau	7	7	3	5	4	5	6	2

<sup>11</sup> The Economic Development Agency provides its services throughout the Canton. It is not possible to control regional distribution. Due to a change of system in the controlling software at the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO, it is only possible to show the data as of 2014.

## Projects funded under the Tourism Development Act (TEG)

### Number of projects and promised contributions

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of funded projects	14	13	13	15	17	21	19	17	16	18
Promised contributions in million CHF <sup>12</sup>	5.6	9.7	10.1	9.4	5.5	4.3	1.2	4.4	4.3	4.9

<sup>12</sup> Including annual contributions for market development.

### Regional distribution of projects<sup>13</sup>

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Bern-Mittelland	0	7	4	7	7	7	4	4
Bernese Jura	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0
Oberland	11	5	6	8	6	5	9	10
Biel-Seeland	2	2	4	5	5	3	3	4
Emmental-Oberaargau	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0

<sup>13</sup> The Economic Development Agency provides its services throughout the Canton. It is not possible to control regional distribution. Due to a change of system in the controlling software at the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO, it is only possible to show the data as of 2014.

## Projects funded under the Innovation Promotion Act (IFG)

### Number of projects<sup>14</sup>

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of new projects funded	2	1	1	1	1	0

<sup>14</sup> Effective as of 2016.



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