

Conversation

Uwe E. Jocham,
Senior VP and General Manager,
CSL Behring AG

Business

**CTI Swiss Medtech Award for medical
technology innovation in Münsingen**

VeinPress GmbH and its innovative system
for measuring central venous pressure

Research & Development

**How innovations in medicine
make it to the hospital bedside**
sitem-insel AG in Bern

Living

Global learning in the Canton of Bern

A new campus for the International
School of Berne





cutting through complexity

Switzerland – your future business location

KPMG in Switzerland supports you with experienced specialists. We provide valuable local knowledge and assist you in your market entry. Our experts help you with setting up your company as well as managing tax and legal requirements.

Hans Jürg Steiner, Partner
Tax Partner & Office Manager
KPMG, Hofgut, CH-3073 Gümligen-Bern
T: +41 58 249 20 57
E: hsteiner@kpmg.com

www.kpmg.ch/InvestCH



Conversation

- 4/5 “The motivation of our workforce in the Canton of Bern is second to none”**
An interview with Uwe E. Jocham, Senior VP and General Manager, CSL Behring AG

Business

- 6–8 “We have expanded our successful base in the Canton of Bern”**
MPS Precimed SA in Corgémont
- 9–11 CTI Swiss Medtech Award for medical technology innovation in Münsingen**
VeinPress GmbH and its innovative system for measuring central venous pressure

Research & Development

- 12/13 How innovations in medicine make it to the hospital bedside**
sitem-insel AG in Bern
- 14–16 An ecosystem for Switzerland’s leading innovators**
INNOCAMPUS AG in Biel/Bienne

Living

- 17–19 Global learning in the Canton of Bern**
A new campus for the International School of Berne
- 20 Excitement, entertainment and enterprise under one roof**
The multifunctional Tissot Arena for sports and events in Biel/Bienne

Competition

- 21 Relaxing weekend break in Biel/Bienne**
Win a relaxing weekend break in Biel/Bienne

Bern Economic Development Agency

- 22 New arrivals in the Canton of Bern**
New companies in the region
- 23 Networking – the key to innovation**
Promoting innovation in the Canton of Bern

Publication details

Publisher, concept and chief editor: Bern Economic Development Agency (BEDA), Münsterplatz 3, CH-3011 Bern, tel.: +41 31 633 41 20, www.berne-invest.com **Text:** Julia Weber **Photography:** Daniel Rihs, Bern **Design:** Casalini Werbeagentur, Bern **Translation:** Marianne Creola, lingua-communications, Thun **Printed by:** Haller + Jenzer AG, Burgdorf. Printed on FSC-certified paper. **Circulation and publication method:** “bernecapitalarea – magazine on business, science and living in the Canton of Bern, Switzerland” is published twice a year in German, French and English and has a circulation of 4,000 copies. **Picture credits:** Daniel Rihs (p. 1, 5–13, 16–19), provided by Tissot Arena (p. 20), Art Déco Hotel Elite (p. 21). All rights reserved. Articles and pictures may only be reproduced with the express consent of the publisher.



Dear reader,

Innovation and medical technology are two prominent themes running through this edition of *bernecapitalarea*. Innovation plays a key role in our economy’s advancement and growth, and the Canton of Bern is home to a strong cluster of innovative medical and medical technology companies. Innovation and medical technology are therefore firmly anchored in our Economic Strategy for 2025 and are also my focal areas in the 2014–2018 legislature.

The strength of the Swiss franc poses major challenges for the export-oriented Swiss economy and tourism. To ensure Switzerland does not become a pure service economy, we will continue to need innovative industrial companies going forward. Promoting knowledge transfer and innovation is therefore a top priority.

To make this happen, the Canton of Bern has initiated two pioneering projects. The first is our candidacy for Biel to become one of the network locations for the Swiss Innovation Park, where we intend to bring research, development and manufacturing together and improve knowledge and technology transfer.

Secondly, a National Center of Excellence for Translational Medicine and Entrepreneurship is being created in Bern. This center, known as sitem-insel, aims to facilitate the translation of discoveries in the fields of medical research and industrial development into clinical applications.

In this edition of *bernecapitalarea* you will read about the companies and people that are the driving forces behind the advancement of our canton. I hope you enjoy it!

Yours truly,

Andreas Rickenbacher, member of the Government of the Canton of Bern, Minister of Economic Affairs

“The motivation of our workforce in the Canton of Bern is second to none”

An interview with Uwe E. Jocham

Senior VP and General Manager Uwe E. Jocham explains why Lengnau was CSL Behring's number one choice for the location of its new production facility and how it will be producing antihemophilia drugs there.

Originally there were 45 locations across the world vying for CSL Behring's new production site. Why did Lengnau ultimately succeed where others like Singapore failed?

“Unlike in other countries, in Switzerland we can count on political stability and liberal labor laws with an excellent social partnership. Peaceful labor relations are an essential element of our economic system. But it was a head-to-head race with Singapore right until the end. One of the key factors that made us opt for Lengnau was the extremely positive experience we have had at our existing headquarters in Bern. Opening a new facility nearby will enable us to tap into this know-how and our established networks and build on them. The Bern capital area offers every aspect of the value-added chain in the entire healthcare sector with all the services and suppliers we need: from medtech to biotech and pharma to research and applications in high-end and mass medicine, as well as all the relevant business associations and political authorities. In addition, the excellent educational and research institutions in the Canton of Bern provide us with a first-class workforce.”

How will you be approaching protein recovery in your new factory in Lengnau?

“In Lengnau we are investing CHF 300–400 million in a new production facility for blood clotting factors that are not extracted from plasma but with recombinant

technology. Recombinant manufacturing uses a culture medium instead of plasma proteins. Genetically engineered microorganisms in fermentation systems produce special coagulation factors that are subsequently made into ready-to-use drugs in complex cleaning and formulation processes.”

What will your new facility in Lengnau mean for the region?

“Our Lengnau production facility will strengthen Bern as a medical and business center, the Medical Cluster, and industry and jobs in Switzerland in general. It will provide a particularly strong boost for the high-tech region to the south of the Jura mountains and therefore also for the Swiss Innovation Park at Biel/Bienne. By opening in Lengnau we are reinforcing the bridge between biotechnology in the Lemanic Arc area and the Basel pharma/biotech stronghold. Besides creating hundreds of jobs, we will also be providing new synergies in the region, such as between the universities, the Medical Cluster and the precision industry.”

“I want to play an active role in shaping business and research.”

To what extent will the Canton of Bern as an R&D center benefit from CSL Behring's expansion?

“I and many of our key people have been active in research and teaching at various universities and hospitals such as the University of Bern and Inselspital for many years. We intend to intensify these collaborations in the future. One example is sitem-insel AG. This new National Center of Excellence for Translational Medicine and Entrepreneurship, of which I am vice-chair of the board, will be working closely with our production bases in Lengnau and Bern.”

Why did you decide to focus on high-tech biotechnology in Bern, a region rather better known for its long tradition in the healthcare sector?

“The motivation of the high-skilled workforce in the Canton of Bern is second to none. This not only makes for a great working environment but also a highly productive one. Our company is firmly embed-

About the company

CSL Behring is one of the leading manufacturers of plasma protein biotherapeutics, with production facilities in Bern (CH), Marburg (D), Kankakee (USA), and Melbourne (AUS). The US-headquartered CSL Behring Group employs about 12,000 people in 27 countries worldwide, more than 1,300 of whom are based in Bern. In fiscal 2013/2014 the Australian parent company CSL Ltd achieved a turnover of USD 5.5 billion. The Bern base contributes around 40% of CSL Limited's turnover.



“Even as a pharmacy student I was dreaming of being an entrepreneur and saving people’s lives. This fascination still spurs me on in my work every day.”
Uwe E. Jocham

ded in a fruitful setting which not only includes the liberal Swiss labor market but also the strong Medical Cluster.

I have found professional fulfillment at CSL Behring AG in Bern: firstly I manage a team of highly motivated people in a world-leading high-tech medical technology company, and secondly I live in one of the loveliest regions in the world to live and work in.”

Information

www.cslobehring.ch

About the person

Uwe E. Jocham has been Senior Vice President and General Manager of the CSL Behring AG Center of Excellence for Immunoglobulins in Bern since April 2004. A pharmaceutical technology specialist and graduate in marketing planning, Jocham grew up in Frankfurt and Munich and has lived in the Thun region for more than two decades. In his free time the father of two sons is a keen cook and enjoys playing golf, ice hockey and skiing. In the Canton of Bern Jocham plays an active role in various committees, foundations and associations and is a university research and teaching lecturer. Uwe E. Jocham is currently president of the Bern Employers Association.

“We have expanded our successful base in the Canton of Bern”

MPS Precimed SA in Corgémont

MPS Precimed SA has taken the medtech market by storm with a world first. Nicola Thibaudeau and François Bopp talk about their new product and how their base in the Bernese Jura is boosting the development and fabrication of innovative medtech products.



“Our aim is to be the world’s leading provider of instruments and implants for the orthopedics industry.” François Bopp, CEO MPS Precimed SA



In 2013 MPS Micro Precision Systems AG founded MPS Precimed SA in Corgémont. What were the main reasons behind this move?

Nicola Thibaudeau, CEO MPS Micro Precision Systems AG: "In the summer of 2012 the US medtech group Greatbatch Medical announced that it would be relocating a large part of its activities in Orvin and Corgémont to the USA and Mexico. By taking over its Swiss subsidiary in January 2013, we were able to keep the successful Corgémont site operational, retain dozens of highly specialized jobs in the orthopedic sector and expand our medical technology division."

"In the Canton of Bern we can tap into some excellent specialist networks."

François Bopp, CEO MPS Precimed SA: "Our merger with MPS gave us the opportunity to build on our position as one of the world's leading manufacturers of orthopedic instruments. By merging our two previous sites in the Bernese Jura into one production location in Corgémont, we were able to optimize our processes and significantly boost our sales. Our merger with MPS also means that we are able to benefit from more than 70 years of experience in microtechnology precision systems and work together on creating innovative medical technology devices."

At the World Forum for Medicine, one of your company's products recently won the DeviceMed Innovation Award. What makes your latest development so innovative and unique?

Thibaudeau: "At Medica 2014, at which more than 4,000 exhibitors from over 60 nations present their latest equipment,

products and systems, the partner of MPS Precimed's new product was selected for an award out of 700 participating companies. Our new hand-held fraise, which we developed jointly with Composites Busch AG in Porrentruy, consists of carbon fiber composites, is 40% lighter than its predecessor and has just half of

the previous number of components."

Bopp: "Our hand-held fraise for hip operations is cheaper, more stable, quicker to assemble and therefore easier to clean. Cost-effective, practical and long-lasting products of this kind are crucial for companies looking for long-term success in the medical technology industry and thus also in the healthcare sector, which is increasingly having to cut costs. The global market for orthopedic

About the company

MPS Precimed SA was established in January 2013 when MPS Micro Precision Systems AG took over the orthopedics technology company Precimed, based in Orvin and Corgémont since 1988, from Greatbatch Medical. The MPS Group, which has sites in Biel, Bonfol and Court, has been part of the German Faulhaber Group since 2003 and employs 400 people. With more than 70 years' experience, MPS is one of the world's leading manufacturers of microtechnology precision systems for luxury watches, medical implants, optical applications and the semiconductor industries.

"Medical technology is the perfect enhancement of our product portfolio. As society ages, the demand for innovative, low-cost and long-lasting medical technology devices is rising; this represents a massive growth market for us." Nicola Thibaudeau, CEO MPS Micro Precision Systems AG



prostheses like artificial hip, shoulder and knee joints is increasing by between 8 and 9% per annum. The potential in the medical technology sector is massive."

How does your base in the Bernese Jura impact on your company's success?

Bopp: "Being based in the traditional medical technology and watchmaking stronghold of the Canton of Bern is ideal for us as a specialist medical technology company. Within a radius of just 50 kilometers we can find all the skills – from young trainees to specialist suppliers – that are so vital to our company's success."

Thibaudeau: "We are also in close contact with institutions like the Bernese ARTORG Center or the BFH-TI in Biel who support us in research and development, for example. In addition, we can tap into the excellent specialist networks that exist in the Canton of Bern, such as the Biel Precision Cluster, a platform specifically for companies in the precision and microtechnology industries. But the Bern region is not just an attractive place for us as entrepreneurs.

For our employees and families too, the fact that it is at the heart of Europe, boasts magnificent scenery and has excellent training opportunities and working conditions makes it second to none as a place to live and work in."

Information

www.mpsprecimed.com

About the persons

Nicola Thibaudeau, engineering graduate, has been CEO and board member of MPS Micro Precision Systems AG since 2003. A dual Swiss and Canadian national, Thibaudeau studied mechanical engineering in Montreal and has worked for IBM Canada, Cicorel in La Chaux-de-Fonds, Mécanex SA (now RUAG), MPS Precimed SA in Corgémont and MPS Décolletage SA in Court.

François Bopp, Master of Laws (LL.M.), MBA, was born in Zurich, studied in Lausanne and worked in recruitment and business development before joining MPS Precimed SA as CEO in 2013.

CTI Swiss Medtech Award for medical technology innovation in Münsingen

VeinPress GmbH and its innovative system for measuring central venous pressure

With the help of the Bern Economic Development Agency and the Medical Cluster, the start-up VeinPress GmbH has further developed its innovative venous pressure measurement system in a Commission for Technology and Innovation (CTI) project. Even NASA has expressed an interest in this solution.

“Central venous pressure (CVP) measurements currently require the insertion of a catheter, which is painful and laborious, and can lead to serious complications as it can cause trauma to other parts of the body such as the lungs,” Dr. Ulrich Baumann explains. “In VeinPress we have launched a medical technology innovation that does not involve a painful catheter procedure.” During his 15 years as head physician of internal medicine at a local hospital, Dr. Baumann was actively involved in dynamic ultrasound diagnostics. “After I set up my own practice, I started working on an unconventional way of measuring central venous pressure together with a mechanical engineer.” This resulted in a method of measuring peripheral venous pressure (PVP) using an elastic membrane, olive oil as a sound-conducting agent, an ultrasound probe and a measuring device. PVP correlates exactly with CVP.

“In the Canton of Bern we have found the perfect partners to implement our idea.”

Precise measurements, pain-free procedure

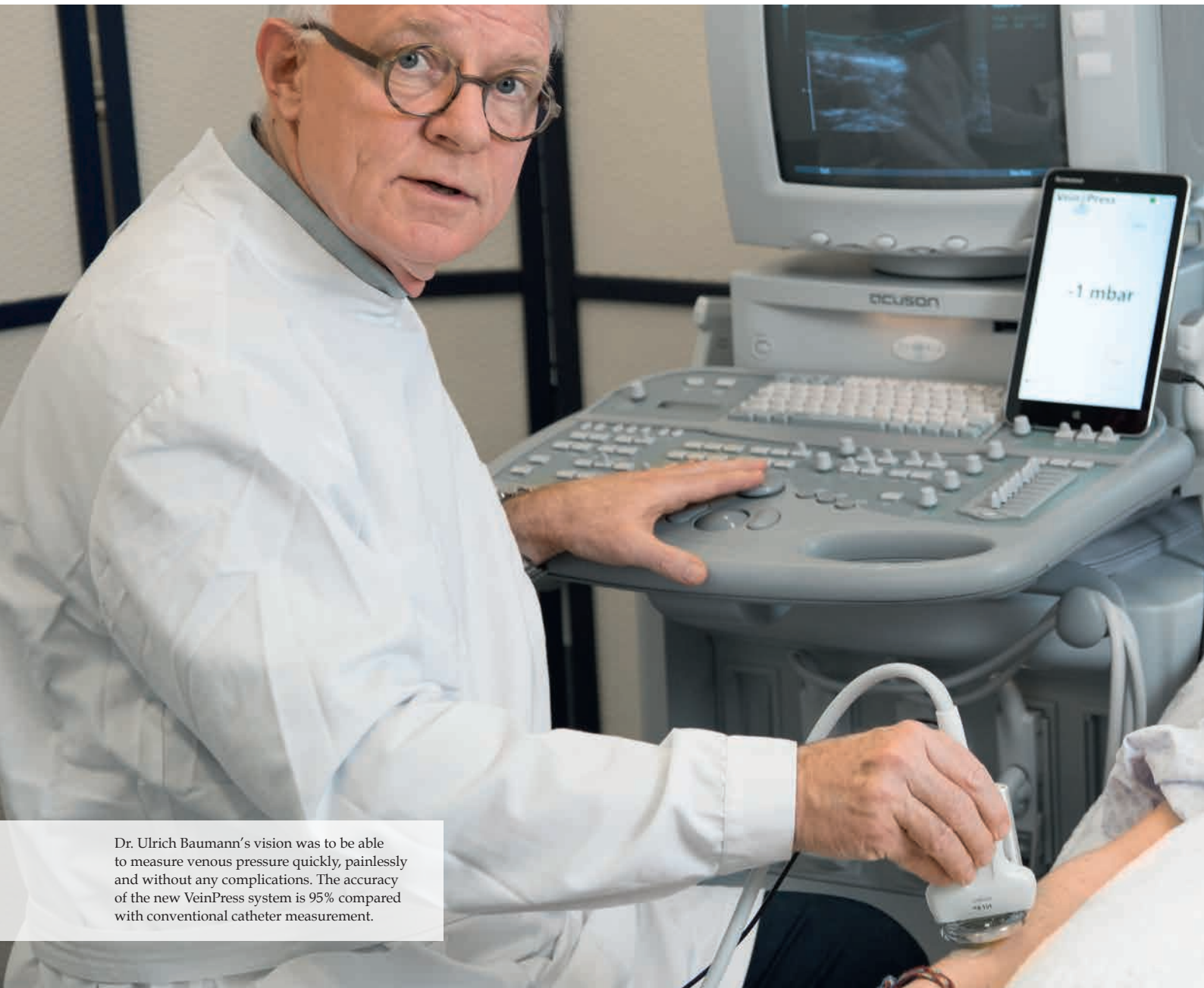
With the help of the Bern Economic Development Agency and the Medical Cluster, the CTI project was

About the product

Launched by **VeinPress** GmbH this summer, VeinPress is a system that enables central venous pressure to be measured by ultrasound in a procedure that is completely noninvasive and pain free. Central venous pressure is an important medical parameter which is measured hourly for certain conditions in intensive care units. CVP allows doctors to draw conclusions on the volume of blood in the vascular system, which is relevant in the case of hemorrhage, for example. The Münsingen-based start-up was awarded the CTI Swiss Medtech Award for VeinPress in September 2014 together with its partner in the project, ETH Zurich.



VeinPress measures peripheral venous pressure (PVP), which correlates exactly with central venous pressure, using an elastic membrane, olive oil as a sound-conducting agent, an ultrasound probe and a measuring device.



Dr. Ulrich Baumann's vision was to be able to measure venous pressure quickly, painlessly and without any complications. The accuracy of the new VeinPress system is 95% compared with conventional catheter measurement.

further developed in conjunction with the Institute of Image Processing at ETH Zurich. Under the direction of Prof. Orcun Göksel, ETH developed ultrasound measurement software that enables CVP to be measured in real time independently of the subject. The device also had to be compatible with as many standard commercial ultrasound systems as possible and display images that could be viewed on a separate, existing device. This measurement takes less than four minutes and requires no specialist personnel. "Compared with the catheter method, the accu-

racy of VeinPress is currently 95%, which is almost perfect," Baumann says. The principle is very reliable and precise, as scientific studies at Münsingen Hospital, Inselspital in Bern and the Basel University Hospital under the direction of Prof. Dr. Kurt Jäger, chief physician of angiology have shown.

Winner of the CTI Swiss Medtech Award 2014

The first prototypes of the system were built fifteen years ago. At the CTI Medtech Event in September 2014, VeinPress was

presented with the CTI Swiss Medtech Award which is endowed with prize money of CHF 10,000. The aim of the CTI Medtech Initiative is to improve the innovativeness and competitiveness of Swiss medical technology and to stimulate the transfer of know-how between researchers, medical technology companies, start-ups and SMEs. "Our base in Münsingen in the Canton of Bern is perfect for our operations, not least because of the very active Medical Cluster here. We have found the ideal partners here who understand our idea and can implement it with great skill,"



About the person

Dr. Ulrich Baumann was head physician for internal medicine at the Oberdiessbach district hospital for fifteen years, after which he set up his own practice in Münsingen in 2002, where he specializes in gastrointestinal diseases. Bernese by birth, he is also Chief Medical Officer of the Münsingen start-up VeinPress GmbH, which he established in 2011 together with his son Vincent. In his free time Dr. Baumann enjoys drawing, painting and reading and loves to explore new corners of the Canton of Bern – a current favorite being the Bernese Jura – on walks with his wife and dog.



Dr. Baumann sums up. VeinPress is produced by Meridian AG, a manufacturer of medical devices in nearby Thun.

Dr. Baumann predicts that the VeinPress system could replace around 10% of all catheter measurements performed worldwide. 5 million central catheters are inserted every year in the USA. As the reusable VeinPress system is not only much cheaper than a disposable catheter but also causes no complications, savings in this market alone could amount to some USD 220 million per year. The medtech

world first from Münsingen has even caught the attention of NASA, who wants to start testing VeinPress this year for possible use on the International Space Station (ISS) in Houston, Texas.

Information

www.veinpress.com

How innovations in medicine make it to the hospital bedside

sitem-insel AG in Bern

A new National Center of Excellence for Translational Medicine and Entrepreneurship will open its doors in Bern in 2017. sitem-insel's aim is to support the translation process – that is, the process of transforming findings from industrial developments and fundamental research into clinical applications.

For 40 years, Felix Frey experienced the limitations of the diagnostic and therapeutic approach in his work as a doctor on a daily basis. Yet as a member of the Swiss National Science Foundation research council and Vice Rector of the University of Bern with responsibility for the whole of its research activities, Frey was astonished by the endless abundance of new discoveries in fundamental research and the fantastic technical developments happening in industry. Frey believed that there was a widening disparity between the small number of truly innovative products being used at the hospital bedside and the large volume of new findings and technologies that were not being implemented for the benefit of patients.

Accelerating and optimizing the translational process

In order to improve the general conditions for translational medicine in Switzerland, bring together the existing strengths of relevant players in the field, and accelerate the overall translational process, a group of people and organizations around Felix Frey came together in November 2014 to form sitem-insel AG. Among the founding shareholders are the Canton of Bern, the Association of Chief Physicians at Inselspital, the Inselspital Foundation, CSL Behring AG, the University of Bern, and the Bern University of Applied Sciences. sitem-insel AG plans to commence project operations at the new Center of Excellence for Translational Medicine and Entrepreneurship in provisional accommodation in 2017–2018. In parallel, a new building will be built on the Inselspital grounds or on nearby Murtenstrasse, in which the Center will take up residence in January 2019. The Institute will focus on three areas. Firstly, sitem-insel AG will train specialists in translation with the aim of professionalizing the process. Secondly, the Institute will provide special infrastructure (facilities and equipment) and personnel at the interface between industry and academic medicine. Thirdly, sitem-insel AG will establish a Translation Promoting Service to optimize the necessary administrative/regulatory effort along the route from laboratory bench to commercial product.


Beacon with an international reach

The city of Bern has many benefits which make it the ideal location for translational medicine. Its University hospital (Inselspital) is a highly regarded center of excellence in clinical research which has treated the highest number of patients in the country since it merged with the Bern hospital network (Spital Netz Bern). Bern is home to world-class medicine in many different academic, practical and research fields and various institutions with direct relevance to translation. The University of Bern's ARTORG Center for Biomedical Engineering Research, which has extensive experience in combining medicine and technical innovation from its work in developing artificial organs, is already located at Murtenstrasse 50. The Department of Clinical Research and the national centers of excellence Transcure and RNA & Diseases are further major bodies with potential in the field of translation. In addition, the Swiss capital area lies at the heart of the Medtech Cluster, it acts as a bridge with excellent opportunities for cooperation at the language boundary between the Lac Léman and Basel/Zurich areas, and it is increas-

“The city of Bern has many benefits which make it the ideal location for translation.”

About the company

sitem-insel AG is setting up a national center of excellence in Bern, scheduled for completion in 2017, to professionalize and accelerate the transfer of innovations from fundamental research and industrial development into medical practice. The Swiss Institute for Translational and Entrepreneurial Medicine (sitem-insel) is a non-profit, independent public company initiated by the Bern Economic Development Agency together with the industrial sector, the University of Bern, the Bern University of Applied Sciences and Inselspital, and aims to be completely self-funding in the long term.

A portrait of Felix Frey, CEO and cofounder of sitem-insel AG. He is an older man with grey hair and glasses, wearing a brown suit jacket, a white shirt, and a light-colored tie. He is gesturing with both hands, pointing his index fingers outwards. The background is a blurred indoor setting with light-colored walls and a window.

sitem-insel AG's mission is to improve the quality of and accelerate the complex process of translation in the interest of patients.

ingly gaining in significance in the pharmaceutical sector as more and more companies establish branches and head offices here. The existence of interest and demand on the part of industry is clearly demonstrated by the involvement of the biotech company CSL Behring AG. sitem-insel AG's offering is aimed in particular at SMEs and start-ups, who find it disproportionately difficult and expensive to overcome the major challenges involved in translation and its progress through all the government bodies.

Information

www.sitem-insel.ch

About the person

Felix Frey is CEO and cofounder of sitem-insel AG. He graduated in internal medicine and nephrology at Inselspital and the University of California in San Francisco. Frey has been engaged in translational research since 1971. As a professor at the University of Bern, he headed various Inselspital departments and held the position of Vice Rector, Research. Felix Frey was a member of the Swiss National Science Foundation research board and was a scientific expert on the Swiss Federal Drug Commission.

An ecosystem for Switzerland's leading innovators

INNOCAMPUS AG in Biel/Bienne

The Biel-based INNOCAMPUS is becoming the country's leading research and testing ground for the industrial sector. INNOCAMPUS CEO Felix Kunz tells *bernecapitalarea* why, and how universities and companies like Konduko are benefiting from this new "innovation ecosystem."

"We offer private-sector businesses, universities and research institutions a total of 2,000 square meters of production space, labs, offices, and co-working space with desks and labs with flexible tenancies," explains Felix Kunz, CEO of INNOCAMPUS AG Biel. "But our special feature is that we don't just provide space, we also provide measuring equipment, industrial machines and manpower."

Center of high-tech in the Canton of Bern

"At INNOCAMPUS we now offer a range of 3-D production machines for 3-D rapid prototyping in plastic, which can be used for applications such as printing 3-D models of organs to prepare for operations," Kunz explains. "In a few months' time we will be in a position to play a leading role in this field." There are also three 3-D research projects currently taking place

there, with industrial partners including Rofin-Lasag AG in Thun and Bernese companies GF Mikron Charnilles AG and RUAG Holding AG. INNOCAMPUS focuses on Advanced Industrial Technologies, with particular emphasis on Industry 4.0, Medical Technology and Health,

and Mobility and Energy Storage. The Human Centered Engineering Institute, run jointly by the University of Bern and the Bern University of Applied Sciences, conducts medtech research here, while the Energy Storage Research Center, operated by CSEM, the Bern University of Applied Sciences and BKW, is researching energy storage. In a third collaborative project, the Bern University of Applied Sciences and the Institute of Applied

Physics in Bern are developing a high-energy, two-color laser with the aim of opening up new 3-D applications. "The fact that these institutions have chosen INNOCAMPUS as their base shows that researchers and students find it an ideal, fruitful environment," CEO Kunz says. "To bring students into contact with the worlds of research and industry, we put on two special events a year as part of our monthly continuing professional development and information events."

Complete package

A particularly attractive feature for companies is a special package of services combining the offerings of INNOCAMPUS AG, the STI Foundation for Technological Innovation, innoBE, and BaseCamp4High-Tech. This package was one of the deciding factors in Konduko's relocation from Lausanne to Biel last year. This technology company has designed a unique concept

About the company

INNOCAMPUS AG in Biel was established in 2013 by the Canton of Bern, the City of Biel, the Bern University of Applied Sciences, along with various commercial companies and organizations. Its aim is to bring together industry, innovative projects, researchers, and universities and help them develop, optimize, manufacture, and market innovative technologies and products. It offers research facilities, machines, offices, skilled manpower, and services for innovators such as start-up advice and training. 90% of its shares are owned by private companies and individuals.

"An ideal, fruitful environment for innovation."





**ADVANCED
INDUSTRIAL
TECHNOLOGIES**

**ADVANCED
MANUFACTURING
TECHNOLOGIES
FUTURE
MOBILITY &
ENERGY
HEALTH &
MEDTECH**

A unique research and testing facility for the industrial sector with an attractive package of services – INNOCAMPUS in Biel is a breeding ground for innovative technologies and products.



“Our aim is to make it quicker to translate developments into products and therefore to boost the manufacturing sector in Switzerland.”
CEO Felix Kunz

for exchanging customer and brand data in real time using contactless and proximity technologies (NFC, Beacon, RFID and WiFi). It enables businesses to collect customer data at high-foot-fall events like trade shows or at airports and analyze it quickly and profitably. This can be done via the Konduko Cloud, for example, which combines data from tablets, cellphones or social networks.

INNOCAMPUS was launched in pilot mode in June 2014 and had already reached break-even point by the end of the year. “Our facilities are more or less fully booked,” Felix Kunz is delighted to report. Alongside globally successful high-tech concerns like ETEL SA and various research institutions, around ten other businesses have taken up residence at INNOCAMPUS. In the first phase the campus on Aarbergstrasse in Biel offers space for about 20 SMEs to further develop their technologies, bring them into production and therefore generate real added values for the manufacturing industry in the Canton of Bern.

Information

www.innocampus.ch

About the person

As CEO and board member, **Felix Kunz** is responsible for the development and operational management of INNOCAMPUS AG. The electrical engineering graduate and entrepreneur has been involved in setting up more than twelve companies across the world and is the founder, CEO and chair of the board of Digital-Logic AG. Winner of the 2009 Canton of Solothurn Entrepreneur Award, Kunz is also Head Innovation Mentor at CTI and chair of the board of directors of the HFTM Mittelland Technical College in Grenchen.



Global learning in the Canton of Bern

A new campus for the International School of Berne

ISBerne is one of fewer than 400 schools in the World that offer all three IB programmes, and one of only four authorized to offer Diploma courses online. As such, it plays an important role in making the Canton of Bern an attractive location for businesses – as is evidenced by its new central campus.

What prompted ISBerne to decide to build a new campus?

Richard Swart, Director: “At the moment our school is housed in six separate buildings, some of which date back more than 50 years. In our new campus, we want to bring our teaching facilities together under a single roof, in a building that supports the best in technology and teaching practice. A single school also encourages collaboration for learning. This new, purpose-built campus will certainly enhance Berne’s reputation as an attractive destination.”

What do you expect your new school facilities to deliver?

“With its professional, purpose-built infrastructure, our campus will create a rich learning and teaching environment for our

“We are a school that is both international and proud of its roots here in Switzerland.”

students and teachers. Our ‘Green Campus’ meets extremely high-efficiency standards, supporting environmental awareness and our emphasis on sustainability. Engaging teachers and other professionals in the design of areas such as the Media Centre is a positive process that will ensure that our facilities meet the educational needs of 430 students.”

What does being located in Gümligen near Berne mean to ISBerne?

“Gümligen has proven to be an excellent location for us. It is safe, quiet, and within the city of Bern’s catchment area. Train, tram and road links provide excellent accessibility to the campus. With our new campus in Gümligen Siloah-South, we will welcome the opportunity for even greater involvement with our local community,

About ISBerne

The International School of Bern (ISBerne) was established in 1961. Today ISBerne has around 320 students from 50 nations aged between 3 and 19 following the International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum. Social activities like music, theater and sport are fixtures on the school timetable. The new ISBerne campus at Gümligen Siloah-South is scheduled for completion at the end of 2016. As an alternative to attending the school in Gümligen in person, the ISBerne Online Programme offers students from all over the world a choice of subjects leading to the ISBerne Online Diploma.



The multinational makeup of our student body, the standard curriculum and the use of English as the teaching language make ISBerne the ideal learning environment for the children of expat families.



Always a listening ear for his students – Richard Swart has been director of ISBerne since August 2014. Students can not only attend classes in the classroom but also from anywhere in the world online.

through the sharing of sports facilities to be used by community groups, for example. This community integration is entirely in keeping with our school motto: *Education for life in the heart of Switzerland*. We are an open-minded, international school that is very much aware and proud of its roots here in the Canton of Bern.”

What is it that makes your school such a good learning environment for young expats?

“We are one of less than 400 IB schools across the world that offer the IB programmes in all three age groups from 3 to 19. The standard curriculum, the multinational makeup of our student body and the fact that lessons are taught in English make it easier

for our students to switch to other IB schools anywhere in the world. We currently have 320 students from 50 different nations who will stay with us on average for three to four years. Their parents work for multinationals based in the Canton of Bern, foreign embassies, universities such as the University of Bern, and Swiss companies. We are here to support and educate the children of these families until relocation moves them on to another IB school or university. The International Baccalaureate programmes, culminating in the prestigious IB Diploma, provide a means by which these students are able to maintain their education, even though many of them will cross continents over the course of their education.



The new ISBerne campus in Gümligen.

About the person

Richard Swart has been director of ISBerne since August 2014. Mr Swart was born in Cape Town, South Africa, and graduated in education from the University of Port Elizabeth. He has taught in South Africa, New Zealand, the Philippines and was principal at Nanjing International School in China, also an IB World School. The hobbies of the father of two are climbing, walking, surfing, squash and mountain biking.



As an addition, since 2011 we have been offering the ISBerne Online Diploma which is equivalent to the American high school diploma. These courses are open to all students with Internet access anywhere in the world. Subject tutors and coaches provide the students with intensive online support in their chosen subjects."

How does your school benefit business in the Canton of Bern?

"In the Bern capital area, with its many large multinationals and embassies, an international school is a critical element in these companies' and their employees' decisions to locate here. We appreciate our excellent working relationship with the Canton of

Bern and the support it has given us over the years. Together, we are committed to ensuring that expatriate families have access to a school that is tailor made for their needs – and, thanks to the new campus, one that will be an attractive option well into the future."

Information

www.isberne.ch

Excitement, entertainment and enterprise under one roof

The multifunctional Tissot Arena for sports and events in Biel/Bienne

The Tissot Arena in the bilingual city of Biel/Bienne is the new meeting place for businesspeople and sports and event fans in the Canton of Bern.



Located at the heart of Switzerland, the Tissot Arena, a unique sports, cultural, events and business center, opens its doors this year.

From the fall of this year, this ground-breaking building in Bözingenfeld, which has excellent public and private transport links and is close to the picturesque recreation area of Lake Biel, will feature 100,000 square meters of events venues for sports, culture, trade shows, gastronomy, shopping and entertainment. The 352 meters long, 115 meters high main building of this public area conforms largely to EU Eco-label criteria, it is Minergie-certified and has a CO₂-neutral footprint. There are more than 16,000 square meters of solar cells on the roof. Its complex cooling system can be used both as a refrigeration plant and a heat pump. Rainwater is used to irrigate the football fields, produce the ice rinks and flush the toilets.

“A range of attractive shopping, entertainment and leisure facilities.”

Built-in variety

A 6,000-seater football stadium, a 7,000-seater ice hockey stadium, an additional ice hockey rink, a curling hall and four football training facilities will provide a state-of-the-art home for the EHC Biel and FC Biel sports clubs, the Biel ice-skating club and Biel's curlers. On the commercial side, the stadium will offer a range of attractive shopping, entertainment and leisure facilities such as a shopping mall with trendy boutiques and a supermarket, a fitness center with a sauna and wellness facilities, and a covered place where visitors can relax and spend time.

Information

www.tissotarena.ch

About the sports and events venue

The **Tissot Arena** is Switzerland's first multifunctional sports venue to combine ice hockey, ice skating, curling, football, culture, events, conferences, trade shows, gastronomy and entertainment under one roof. Guided tours of the construction site are being run until summer 2015: visit www.tissotarena.ch to register.

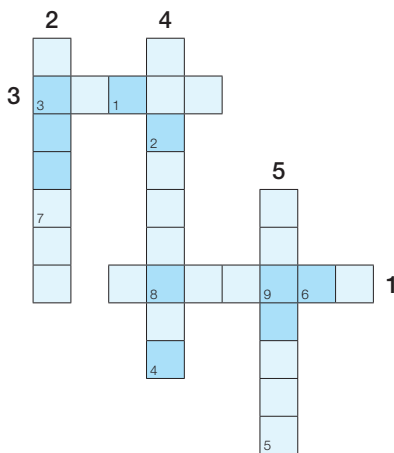
Win a relaxing weekend break in Biel/Bienne

Welcome to the Art Déco Hotel Elite Biel/Bienne: www.hotelelite.ch

Take part in our prize draw and win a wonderful weekend break for two at the Art Déco Hotel Elite in Biel/Bienne (one night in a double room, including welcome drink, free wi-fi, sumptuous breakfast buffet and free use of the brand-new fitness and wellness center, Flower Power). You and your companion will also be treated to a Fondue chinoise at the 4-star Hotel Restaurant Schlössli in Biel Ipsach and a guided tour through the historic city center of Biel.

The Art Déco Hotel Elite is a stylish, 4-star business hotel at the heart of Biel and has been the leading local establishment for the past 75 years. Built in 1931 as a counterpart to the Volkshaus opposite, the Art Déco Hotel Elite has recently undergone complete renovation. In 2015 this traditional hotel with 67 bedrooms and 7 junior suites will be opening its doors to guests in a whole new guise, with its brand-new Flower Power fitness and wellness center and its new Cha Cha restaurant.

Taking part couldn't be easier. Simply find the answers to the clues and enter them in the appropriate places in the grid to find the mystery word. Send the mystery word along with your completed entry form to the address below by 30. September 2015. You can also enter online at www.berneinvest.com/chance. Tip: every word relates to a subject covered in this issue of *bernecapitalarea*. Good luck!



1. Location of CSL Behring AG's new production facilities in the Canton of Bern
2. Abbreviated name of the International School of Berne
3. Name of the new National Center of Excellence for Translational Medicine and Entrepreneurship in Bern
4. Innovative system for measuring central venous pressure
5. Start-up at INNOCAMPUS Biel

Extra questions (optional):
Which article in this issue of *bernecapitalarea* did you enjoy most?

Answer

1	2	3	4	5	1	6	7	8	9	6
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

How do you obtain your copy of *bernecapitalarea*?

Name: _____ Address: _____

Telephone number: _____ E-mail: _____

The winner will be drawn by lots and notified in writing. Employees of the Bern Economic Development Agency are excluded from entering the competition. The judges' decision is final. There is no cash alternative to the prize.

Tear out this page and send it to this address by September 30, 2015.

Bern Economic Development Agency, Münsterplatz 3, CH-3011 Bern, fax +41 (0)31 633 40 88, or by e-mail to www.berneinvest.com/chance.

Many congratulations to Patrice Rolland of Sion, the winner of our competition in *bernecapitalarea* 2/2014.

New arrivals in the Canton of Bern

New companies in the region

The Bern Economic Development Agency helps innovative international companies with their decisions to relocate and settle in the Canton of Bern – like Tudor Tech SA in Saint-Imier and EX!LANT GmbH in Bern.



Saint-Imier-based **Tudor Tech SA** has been building a new production facility since last autumn. From the end of 2015 the company will be manufacturing its Roboscan Aeria mobile aircraft scanner – the only one of its kind in the world – and selling it on the international markets from its new Saint-Imier base. Over the next five years the high-tech industrial company will be investing around CHF 45 million and creating 120 new jobs. The new CO₂-neutral building is being built to the highest international standards for sustainable construction and will be the first building in Switzerland to be awarded a BREEAM energy emission certificate with an “Outstanding” rating. Key factors in its choice of the Bernese Jura as the location for its new facilities were the expertise in the precision, telecommunications, IT and micro-electronics industries, the favorable conditions – including an attractive 10,000-square-meter site – and the support offered by the Bern Economic Development Agency and the Greater Geneva Berne area Economic Development Agency.

The Roboscan Aeria mobile scanner system is housed in a compact container on a truck and can scan an entire aircraft in minutes with its extending crane arm. The system can detect tiny cracks on the fuselage and also helps trace contraband such as drugs and weapons. This innovation is the brainchild of the Romanian MB Telecom Ltd, the parent company of Tudor Tech SA.

Information

www.mbtechnology.ro



EX!LANT GmbH moved into its new headquarters in Sandrainstrasse, Bern, in June 2014. A member of the EX!LANT Technologies Group based in Bangalore, India, founded in 2004, the company runs its Operations, Engineering and Business Development divisions from its Bern location. Its close working relationship with EASY SA in nearby Moutier enables it to further optimize its technical solutions and products for customers predominantly in the precision industry. The software developed jointly with EASY SA is used in areas such as CAM (Computer-Aided Manufacturing).

EX!LANT Technologies Pvt Ltd. employs more than 1,500 people worldwide. Its core business is Engineering and Industry Solutions (EIS). According to CEO Krishnaswamy Subbarao, the main reasons for choosing to establish a presence in Bern were first and foremost the excellent support provided by the Berne Economic Development Agency, as well as its ideal location at the heart of Europe and Switzerland, the high standard of living, the proximity to the microtechnology and precision industries and the excellent universities producing a high-skilled workforce.

Information

www.exilant.com

Networking – the key to innovation

Promoting innovation in the Canton of Bern

The Canton of Bern is one of the most important industrial and high-tech hubs in Switzerland. To maintain its competitive edge in the international environment, it must remain innovative and dynamic. Denis Grisel explains why.

What makes a location innovative?

“Firstly, it needs economic strength. In our case this comes from the input we receive from outside – from new arrivals like CSL Behring and Tudor Tech, innovative projects by established SMEs, knowledge and technology transfer, and start-ups like Konduko and VeinPress. Another key aspect is the synergies generated by the interaction between market participants – entrepreneurs, qualified employees, consumers and customers, but also our world-class research and education institutes, including the University of Bern and the Bern Universities of Applied Sciences with their planned Technology Campus in Biel. When all these participants work effectively together in networks, this boosts our ability to innovate, which has a positive impact on our competitiveness.”

What innovative projects are currently ongoing in the Canton of Bern?

“At the moment there are some new, innovative location-specific projects in development, such as the health center around Ypsomed in Burgdorf, the Weitsicht project by RUAG in Thun, the Raum 5 project in Steffisburg and our candidacy for the Swiss Innovation Park (SIP) Biel/Bienne. In addition, a new National Center of Excellence for Translational Medicine and Entrepreneurship is being created with sitem-insel AG at the Inselspital in Bern. sitem-insel focuses on helping innovative medical technology transition from research to industrial development and clinical applications.”

What part does the Canton of Bern play in innovation?

“We see it as one of our core tasks to put the appropriate general conditions in place. These include KTT platforms such as INNO-CAMPUS, the cluster organizations, a highly qualified workforce, flexibility in the labor market, and, if all goes well, the future SIP Biel/Bienne. We want to establish an enabling framework in the Canton of Bern that actively and specifically promotes innovativeness in business and industry – through exciting new projects, start-ups and relocations. A key part of this is our tried-and-trusted cluster policy and the implementation of our Economic Strategy 2025. Nonetheless, we in the Canton of Bern still face some major challenges. To ensure that Bern as a business location continues to promote and deliver innovation going forward, we need an adequate supply of building land. This will guarantee that both relocation and expansion projects can continue to be implemented in the future.”



Denis Grisel, director of the Bern Economic Development Agency



Contact

Bern Economic Development Agency
Denis Grisel, Director
Münsterplatz 3
CH-3011 Bern, Switzerland
Tel.: +41 31 633 41 20

Robert-Walser-Platz 7
CH-2503 Biel/Bienne
Tel.: +41 32 321 59 50

www.berneinvest.com
info@berneinvest.com

Elegance is an attitude

Kate Winslet
Kate Winslet

LONGINES®




Conquest Classic