

The Foundation STI - successful innovation starts here!

STI start-ups
create economic
growth and jobs!



Stiftung für technologische Innovation
Fondation pour l'innovation technologique
Foundation for technological innovation

STI

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01

OUR VALUES

Why we create Values



At the STI we are convinced that youth entrepreneurship will play a vital role in creating opportunity and livelihoods in the future, and that this will have beneficial effects for people of all ages and across societies and economies. Our aim is to encourage these young people to be active, innovative, creative, and socially responsible citizens.

Today we face a paradox: young entrepreneurs are savvier about technology, more knowledgeable about the world around them and more interconnected than any previous youth generation has been. Yet, as a generation, they also face high levels of unemployment. While representing only 37 per cent of the global working age population, young people make up 60 per cent of the world's unemployed. This is why it is so important to take fresh approaches to entrepreneurship, and to equip today's youth with the skills to create their own jobs – and, in their success, create jobs for others too. In developing countries, more than two-thirds of all jobs now originate in micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises.

Through entrepreneurship and harnessing the energy and innovation of youth, there is an opportunity to improve the quantity and quality of jobs, and to generate inclusive and sustainable growth. This energy, enthusiasm, and innovation of the young entrepreneurial generation can bring a huge demographic dividend to countries and to our world. But in order to get dividends, investments are required – in education, skills training, availability of credit. The STI promotes and nurtures youth entrepreneurship in many practical ways. The lack of financial literacy, business skills, and access to financial services remain the most important challenges which youth entrepreneurs have to overcome. The STI directly addresses these issues. It has responded by launching a Funding Project focused on entrepreneurship. Through the support offered by a group of seasoned specialists, efforts are being made to remove the existing barriers to youth entrepreneurship, enabling them to establish or expand their businesses.

The members of the STI share the vision of entrepreneurship as a means of empowering young people to improve their lives and contribute to their local area, to their country and to addressing global challenges. Here in Biel/Bienne we have a duty to create conditions which are conducive to our young entrepreneurs. The STI aims to help expand opportunities for youth entrepreneurship. The world's large and growing youth population can be a powerful and transformative force for a better world – if the right investments and decisions are made now.

Elmar Mock
The entrepreneurial inventor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elmar Mock', written in a cursive style.

The focus of our foundation

In 2005 the Foundation STI for technological innovation was set up to establish technologically innovative companies with attractive jobs in the capital region, Espace Mittelland.

The two founders, the Berner Kantonalbank and the Bern University of Applied Sciences – Engineering and Information Technology, have been forward-thinking and closed a gap in early financing.

Since establishing the STI, far more than 100 entrepreneurs have pitched at the foundation board and around 50 start-up projects have been supported. Almost half of them are successfully established on the market today.

The Foundation STI continues to search for personalities with a promising and scalable business idea. As the basis for funding by the Foundation STI is a technological innovation, STI has built up a stable partner network with both technological researchers and start-up institutions. STI is in close contact with regional partners such as the University of Bern, the Bern University of Applied Sciences – Engineering and Information Technology, be-advanced (located in the Start-up HUB in Bern) and the Switzerland Innovation Park Biel/Bienne (SIP BB) in Biel/Nidau.

Within this well-established network and further important organisations, STI has been able to turn ideas into companies. Thanks to the experience gained in recent years the STI plays an increasingly important role in the early innovation process. If a start-up request is granted by the foundation board, the label 'approved by STI' can subsequently trigger financing from further sources such as investors.

Services offered by the STI

The foundation looks for people with new ideas and innovative creativity, who are developing marketable products and want to bring them onto the market.

Seed-financing for technological innovation

The aim of the Foundation STI is to establish technologically pioneering companies in the region. Therefore, the STI supports young entrepreneurs in their individual early development phase with interest free loan and coaching.

The Foundation STI focuses on technology-oriented innovation. Accordingly, the portfolio of our currently supported entrepreneurs shows topics in upcoming markets such as energy, digitalization, medtech. Newly developed products are for example a vehicle which can be driven using a joystick instead of a steering wheel, or a heat recovery in a shower tray, or even a safe valve application for powder handling systems. Furthermore, digitization allows new business models to be developed. Cleverly programmed computer programs, cloud computing or big data solutions are the key to reach new markets in healthcare, for mobile pricing or shaping the purchasing behavior.

We visited some of the start-ups funded by the Foundation STI and given an idea of their situation in this brochure. They represent many other great young companies that are settling here in the region and successfully bringing their new technologies, products and services to the market. Even in an early innovation phase some are able to sell or to develop their new products in direct customer contact.

Starting a cooperation lasting years

Every young entrepreneur is faced with the question of how to build a company. As the first years are fraught with risk the entrepreneur is accompanied during this insecure first seed phase by the Foundation STI. The foundation supports the transition of technical innovation projects on the way from the idea phase to market entry with individual coaching and long-term interest-free loans (maximum 8 years). The maximum possible grant of CHF 0.5 million has so far only been paid out in individual cases. Rather, care is taken to ensure that the entrepreneurs achieve individual milestones in stages with smaller amounts of money. At least once a year the entrepreneur informs the foundation about the progress of the project. As challenging situations are not exceptional with Start-ups, the coach is available as a discussion partner to actively address specific issues of the entrepreneurs.

Finally, the company should be economically successful. The repaid loans are then available to new young entrepreneurs.

Axiamo GmbH

Axiamo is a Swiss tech start-up founded in 2015 in Biel in the Canton of Bern. With financial support of the Foundation STI the three young founders and engineers, Michael Gasser, Benjamin Habegger and Damian Weber, developed the concept of using sensor data to improve training in sports.

Today their start-up Axiamo develops Motion Sensing Technology for use in professional sports training. These products support coaches and athletes by providing feedback on objective performance data for training control and monitoring. The evolved technology and production know-how has been proven with numerous successful development projects.

Today, together with BASPO (the Bundesamt für Sport in Magglingen), Axiamo has developed solutions for sprinters which allows the trainer to visualise and discuss the most important variables (such as ground contact time, step lengths and step frequency) together with the athlete on a tablet immediately after a run. Ease of use in every training session and immediate feedback are crucial factors for increased training success.

Characteristics of Axiamo

- › Engineering services
- › Scientifically validated algorithms
- › Custom tailored data visualisation

Axiamo offers engineering services with core competencies in complete customer project development, from first specification to customer delivery. Fully automatic data processing with scientifically validated algorithms calculates the information relevant to the operator.

Furthermore, the new solution for activity monitoring 'Axiamo PADIS' integrates a modern visualisation revealing the group's physical activity and energy expenditure in a convenient and comprehensive way. Until today, the founders are in close contact to the Berner Fachhochschule BFH.

Achievements

Axiamo won Stage I and received funding from the **Swiss Confederation's Commission for Technology and Innovation (CTI) Start-up foundation**

European Athletics: Michael Gasser won the Innovation award in Technology Category – "Motion Estimation Using Inertial Sensor Technology with Applications to Sporting Exercises"

04

TO THE LIMIT



The Axiamo XRUN Set

With Axiamo XRUN you are able to analyse your running on a scientifically validated level. It has been developed in collaboration with the association SwissAthletics. The lightweight sensor (16g) guarantees running without restriction or distraction. The athlete has access and control by transferring the data to their computer, laptop or tablet over Bluetooth. The Axiamo cloud sync service also offers storing and sharing of data on different devices.

The Axiamote X1 Motion Sensor

The Axiamote X1 is a versatile inertial sensor developed for a range of sports applications. Main features are: the measurement of 11 physical dimensions, flexible networking capabilities, and its miniature size and weight. It also uses Bluetooth 2.3 and Bluetooth Smart [BLE] to wirelessly transfer your data to a smart phone, tablet or other compatible device.



**Axiamo combines
technic with sports**

SonoView

SonoView is a high-tech spin-off from Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) founded by Dr. Ivana Jovanovic Balic in 2010. SonoView is developing a new ultrasound breast scanner for early and safe detection of breast cancers.

Funding by the Foundation STI started in 2014. Since then the company is located at the Swiss Innovation Park SIPBB, the innovation hub for application-oriented research and development in Biel/Bienne.

Breast cancer kills over half a million women each year. The cause of breast cancer is unknown, however if detected early it is 98% curable. In order to improve early detection, women are invited to have a screening. Current screening technologies suffer from serious drawbacks but SonoView wants to change this with their new technology.

SonoView is developing a reliable, cost-effective and prevalent gold-standard technology, which will become a stand alone tool for widespread breast cancer screening for all women. The technology is based on a radical new use of ultrasound. It will enable healthcare professionals to accurately detect breast cancer at an early and more treatable stage. It will allow to better differentiate between benign and malignant tissue what will reduce unnecessary biopsies. Assessed breast density information will help to predict the risk factor for breast cancer. Furthermore, safely monitor suspicious findings and responses to therapy will be possible.

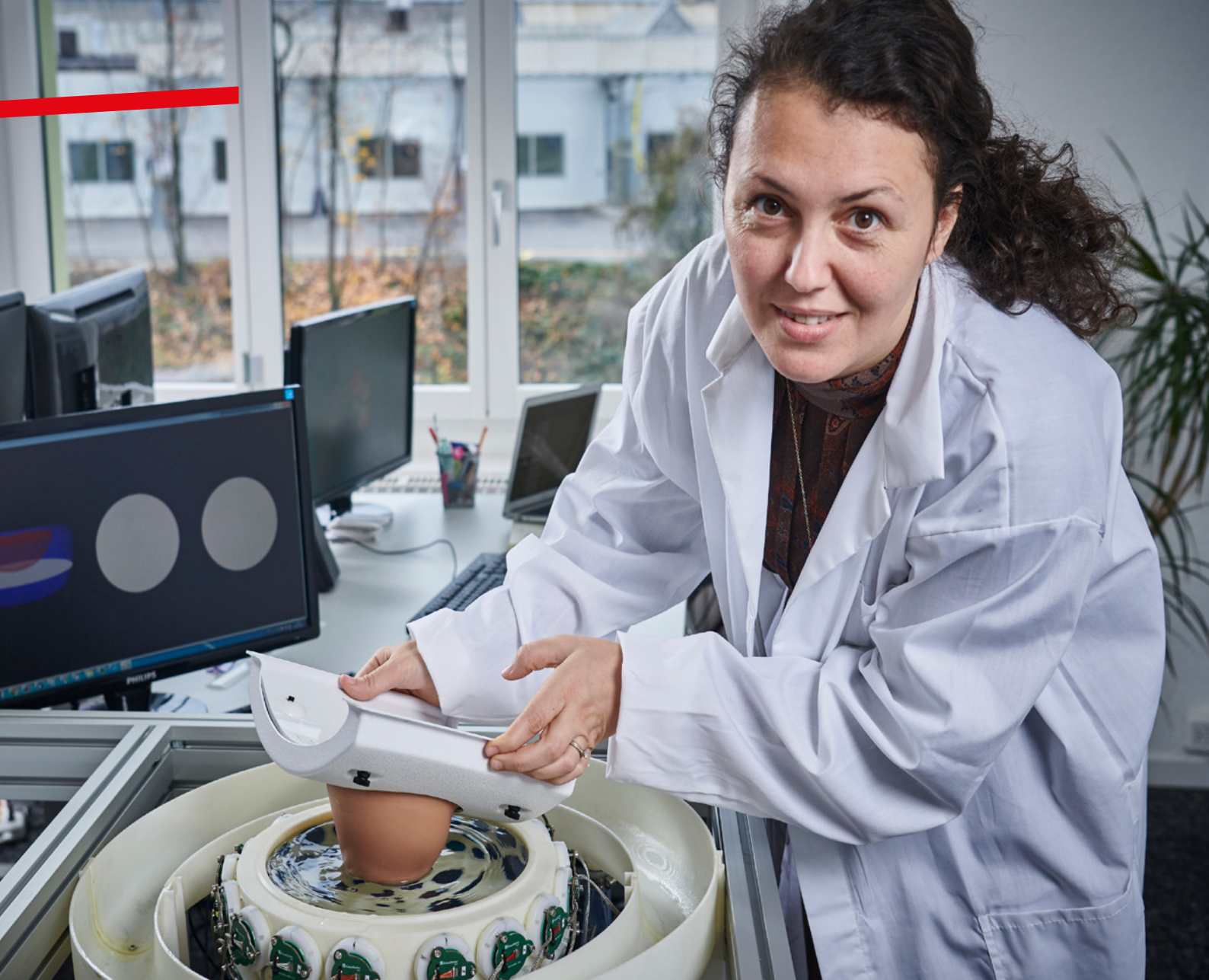
SonoView licenses the technologies and adapts them to the specific needs of their customers.

05

WOMEN'S HEALTH

Ultrasound against breast Cancer





Technology

The key innovation of SonoView's technology lies in coupling new ultrasound sensors with sophisticated computing algorithms. Together they capture and process new information about the breast tissue structure. As a result, SonoView's technology is capable of providing high resolution images that better differentiate malignant and benign tissue. This capability is not available from existing imaging modalities.

Core Competencies

SonoView is a research and science driven company specialised in a number of areas: Non-invasive acoustic sensing, inverse problems, array processing, beamforming, time delay estimation, modelling and simulation of acoustic wave propagation, spatial audio processing and related areas. SonoView works with a wide range of clients, developing new or improving existing acoustic and ultrasound systems.

Achievements

Apr 2017 - SonoView won the **Venture Leaders Life Science competition** and was selected as one of 10 Members of the Swiss National Team for 10 days of professional training in Boston.



With Joulia-inline technology, heat recovery in buildings is achievable.

This scalable heat recovery module is invisibly integrated into a slim channel in the shower floor, efficiently recovering heat energy from the warm shower water as it goes down the drain.

Used in this way it provides more comfort while using less energy. Instead of pouring valuable energy straight down the drain, Joulia-inline technology helps to keep it in the home, and helps to bridge the gap towards a more energy-efficient future. Funding by the Foundation STI started in 2012.

Great potential going to waste

A warm shower is a daily luxury that we no longer want to do without. However, most people don't realise the amount of energy that is contained in warm shower water! For example, in modern apartments almost as much energy is needed for hot water production as for heating the entire living space! And one eight minute shower uses energy equivalent to climbing the Eiffel Tower 55 times.

More comfort with less energy

- Connected to the cold water supply.
- For an energy-efficient future.
- More efficiency

The functional principle of the Joulia technology is as simple as it is brilliant

The thermal energy from the used shower water is extracted and used to heat the incoming cold water. As a result, this water is much warmer when it arrives at the mixing valve, and less hot water needs to be mixed in to produce the comfortable shower temperature you desire. This gives the user an enjoyable warm shower that uses substantially less energy!

The support provided by the Foundation STI since 2012 has enabled the transition of Joulia AG from development to industrialisation.

IN THE HEAT



Achievements

- The award Swiss Excellence Product Award 2017 goes to – Joulia!
- In May 2017, Joulia wins the prestigious greentec award in the category of Bauen & Wohnen
- Joulia wins the Design-Preis Schweiz, endowed with CHF 10,000 in the category of Product – Investment Goods
- Joulia receives the renowned Swiss Energy Prize Watt d'Or 2013 of the BFE
- Joulia wins the deutschen Umwelt- und Medienpreis Clean Tech Media Award 2012 in the category of Nachw





Less energy for a
long warm shower

SwiSS-9 GmbH is in business of development, production and market introduction of innovative surface functionalization products.

SwiSS-9 is an “EMPA Spin-off”. Through a project with Empa, the Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology, Swiss-9 developed two surface functionalizing products that once applied atop surfaces form a transparent film and change native surfaces’s intrinsic hydrophilic response omniphobic (oil and water repellent).

The omniphobic response gives the surface a self-cleaning and easy-to-to-clean ability, the treated surface instead of collecting environmental particles either repels them or makes it easy to clean them by minimizing adhesion. The oil and water droplets roll-off the surface, and by not sticking to the surface lessen the likelihood of particle deposition.



The Lotus Effect

In addition, they pick up any pre-existing particulate deposits while rolling across a surface. Furthermore, by employing the self-cleaning effect, commonly reported in media and literature as the “Lotus effect”, Swiss-9 products maintain and extend the cleanliness of surfaces. The coating can be applied atop metal, ceramic, glass, paper, etc., surfaces. The longevity of this coating is being evaluated in real-time and real-life conditions. The coating can be easily applied through dipping or spraying.

SwiSS-9 GmbH has been used the STI loan (approved 2014) to conclude setting-up of the production plant at the Switzerland Innovation Park Biel/Bienne AG (SIP BB) in Biel, to cover the running costs of the company.

Offer to the clients

The coatings were characterized through wetting, tribological, mechanical and optical evaluations.

- Wetting evaluations: measurements of static and dynamic contact angles of various liquids [water, oils, perfluorinated oils...] atop different substrates.
- Tribological evaluations: ambient or elevated temperature sliding wear and friction coefficient evaluations in continuous or intermitted sliding contacts.
- Mechanical evaluations: measurements of hardness; measurements of adhesion [interfacial fracture toughness] through quantitative and qualitative evaluations.
- Optical evaluations: optical transmission and reflection measurements, measurements of film thickness [2 nm resolution].





Lotus effect on glass surfaces achieved



08

COACHING

How to start a business?

Young entrepreneurs obtain coaching to support them in achieving a successful start to their business.

Often, start-ups set out with a deep knowledge in technology but maybe only a rough idea of what their business should look like, and the kind of customers who will pay for their product.

Hence, in the early phase of coaching focus is given to the product-market fit. In other words, what unique selling point will be available to the customer once the product is developed? During the development of the company, the coach assists the management team in addressing other areas, which can include: development of a concise business plan, price setting, investor pitch, industrialisation of the product (including sourcing and partnerships with potential manufacturers) and go-to-market activities such as target market selection, reimbursement, distributor choice, KOL development etc. Furthermore, team building and corporate development are important topics to be addressed as part of the coaching.

Coaching is not to be mixed up with consulting.

The coach is available to the startup during the entire process, however, execution and decision making remains solely in the hands of the entrepreneurs.

Coaches are experienced entrepreneurs with knowledge in the related fields described above. They usually have a strong and reliable network in the industry and can open doors to industry partners, large players in the field and investors. Coaches can also direct the start-up to expert knowledge, e.g. the fields of patents and regulatory. They understand the challenges and pitfalls of start-up development and will help the young company to choose their optimal path.



What does coaching look like?

Let's have a look at Stimit AG. This young company was founded in 2018 with the intention of activating the lung muscles in conjunction with artificial ventilation. Stimit managed to prove their concept and was searching for funding to start their new business. With the help of their coach, Stimit successfully pitched at a be-advanced expert meeting in Bern where they made contact with the Foundation STI. STI subsequently invited Stimit to pitch at the foundation board. The same coach supported Stimit in the preparation of their pitch and, as a result, the company received support from the Foundation STI. STI works with the coaches of be-advanced so that their successful collaboration can be continued.



The Stimit AG

Millions of intensive care patients each year have difficulties activating their breathing muscles or other lung-related difficulties. As a consequence, air supply delivered by a mechanical ventilator is used to help them survive. Thereby, the diaphragm (the core breathing muscle) quickly loses its functionality. This can lead to various problems, for example a dependency on the ventilator.

Stimit created a newly developed product concept to stimulate the diaphragm. The Stimit AG was created to train and preserve the natural breathing muscles during ventilation. By stimulating the diaphragm of intensive care patients, this muscle shall be kept active and functional.

It is Stimit's mission to empower patients to breathe, reduce healthcare costs, and have a positive impact on patient survival.

The STI funding will enable the team of Stimit to further develop their new non-invasive solution and coaching will help them to develop a successful business.

How the STI selects Projects

To get support at STI, a company doesn't have to be founded yet. Suitable applicants usually reach the Foundation STI via partner organisation be-advanced, which has been working with the foundation since its inception.

Sometimes applicants contact the Foundation STI directly, in which case they will be referred to be-advanced to ensure appropriate guidance from the very beginning. In any case, the two organizations (Foundation STI and be-advanced) discuss the cases in order to provide the best possible support for the entrepreneurs.

As a first step, the team or interested persons are invited to participate in the 'be-advanced Challenge'. During three months, the teams will have time to test their business idea and business model on the market, obtain customer feedback, develop a value proposition and further develop their entrepreneurial skills. The purpose of the challenge is to provide market proof and obtain meaningful documents to support this, for example a Letter of Intent (LOI), Pre-Orders or Pre-Payments. The team is each assigned a coach who will support them individually in their project and prepare them for the final part of the challenge: the expert pitch in front of the investors.

A successful performance (the pitch) enables further support from be-advanced high-flyer package as well as – in case of technological innovation - the transfer to the Foundation STI. The focus of the high-flyer package is on the development of the business plan, prototyping and then market entry. A prerequisite for inclusion in the programme is a focus on technology (ICT, industry, medtech, other) and a scalable business model.

If there is an invitation to present to the Foundation STI board, the modality of the foundation will be explained to the applicants before the board meeting. The entrepreneurs will be invited to a 15 minute presentation in Biel to introduce their project. After a short discussion, the board will decide on the financing directly. STI provides support for start-up founders and their innovative projects based in the business and residential area of the Espace Mittelland region (Cantons of Bern, Solothurn, Fribourg, Neuchâtel and Jura).

If the pitch is successful support is granted in the form of a repayable, special purpose interest-free loan. It is a personal loan given to the founder or to one or more people from a company's founding team. The loan is granted for a maximum period of eight years.

Main criteria for funding at the Foundation STI:



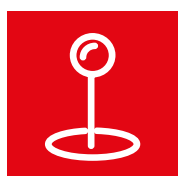
Personality of the founder and/or the team is able to start and run a business



Technological based idea

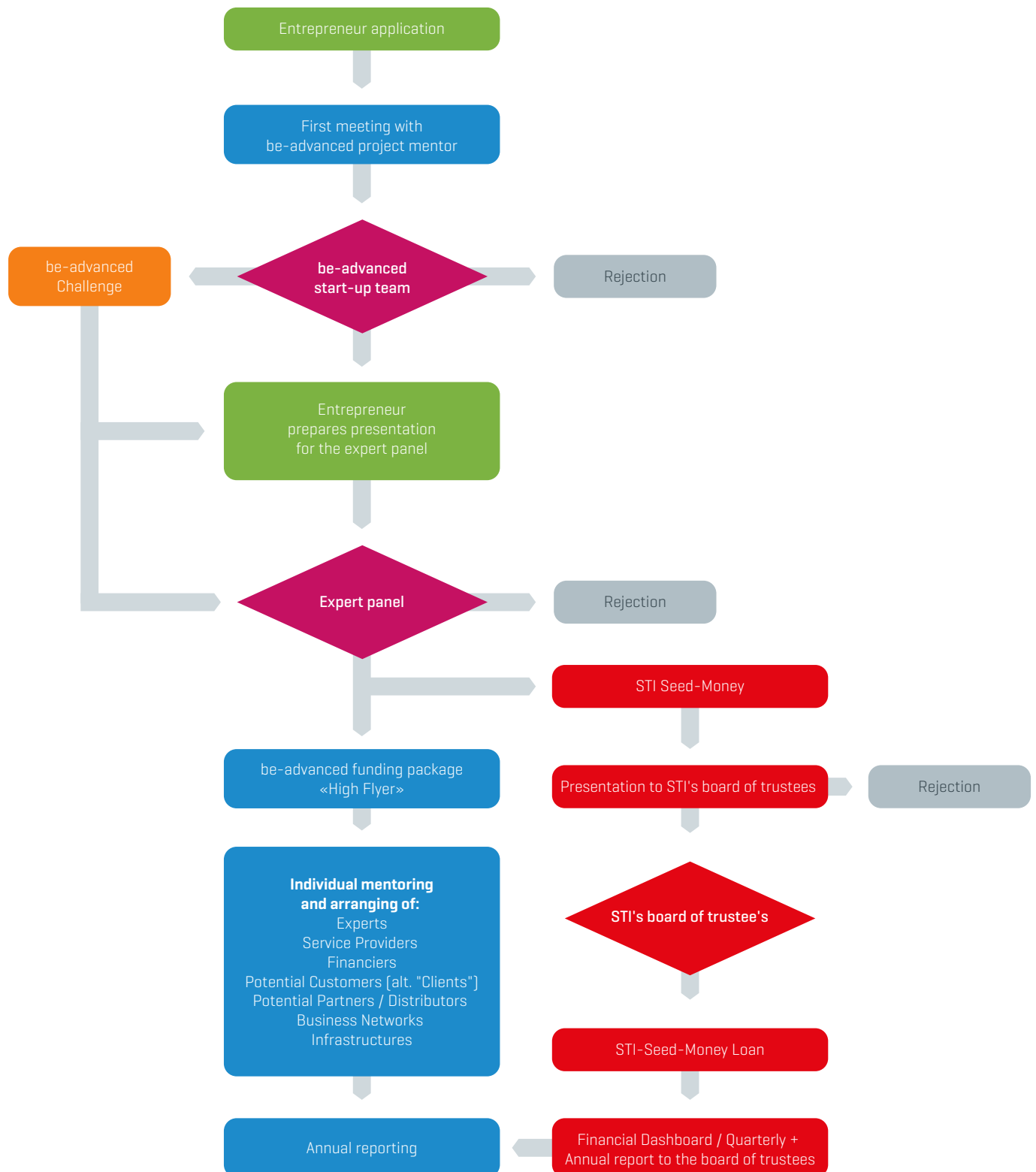


Market potential of the product/idea can be shown



Established in the Espace Mittelland region

The application process



The STI in numbers: Growth since 2005

Since its foundation in 2005, the number of supported projects has been growing with its model for the granting and repayment of loans. Interested in technological innovation, the foundation supports sustainable projects with significant growth potential.

Our achievements

Throughout its active years, the foundation has been able to obtain funding of around CHF 12 Million for over 50 projects evaluated. Thanks to this funding, the supported entrepreneurs in the Espace Mittelland region (Cantons of Bern, Solothurn, Freiburg, Neuenburg, Jura) were able to start their businesses and have now created well over 150 jobs.

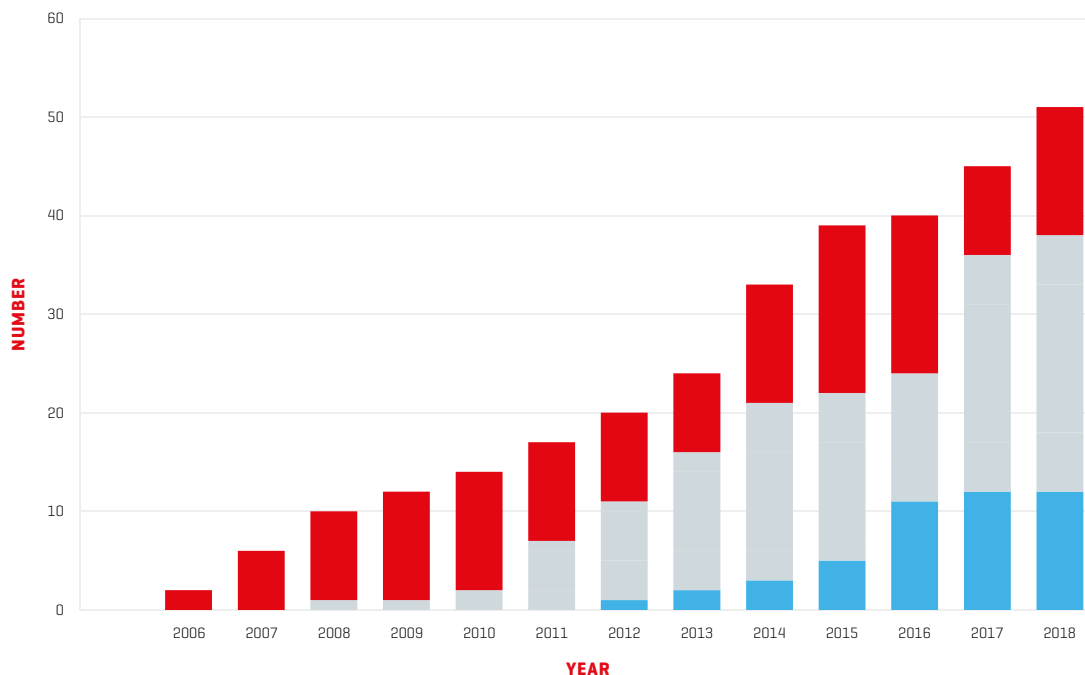
Since it was established, the Foundation STI board has evaluated well over 100 projects. From these, it approves an average of four to five projects per year for funding. While the first years of the foundation tended to see higher financial contributions being approved, the funding projects are now divided into smaller tranches of around CHF 100 thousand.

After the personal loans were granted for a period of up to eight years, the first full repayments were recorded in 2012. The repaid loans allow the Foundation STI to finance further promising innovation projects. In total CHF 12 million has been transferred into projects. The initial foundation capital of CHF 10 million thus achieves effective fostering.

In addition to the most important objective of continued financing, the Foundation STI will continue to work towards a high success rate for its supported projects.

The start of a long-term collaboration

As the first years of business are fraught with risk the entrepreneur is accompanied during this unstable first seed phase by the Foundation STI. The foundation supports the transition of technical innovation projects from the idea phase to market entry with individual coaching and long-term, interest-free loans (maximum eight years). The maximum possible grant of CHF 0.5 million has so far only been paid out in individual cases. Rather, care is taken to ensure that the entrepreneurs achieve individual milestones in stages, with smaller amounts of money. At least once a year the entrepreneur informs the foundation about the progress of the project. As challenging situations arise with the start-up, the coach is available as a discussion partner to actively address specific issues with the entrepreneurs.



Continuous growth of the amount of projects
[Status 2018]

- 13 projects just started
- 26 projects running with repayment plan
- 12 projects completed

100

Projects evaluated by 2018

51

Loan-financed projects
[from inception to 2018]

4-5

Projects funded by the foundation every year

2011

Marked the start of the first repayments being made

26

Projects currently with repayment plan

Since 2018 the Foundation STI has initiated 50 loan-financed projects. By far the largest part of the ongoing projects is active in new, innovative markets. More than 10 projects are in repayment or are already independently successful on the market.

Start-ups create jobs

For more than 10 years the Foundation STI has been granting interest-free loans to young entrepreneurs. STI has accompanied them in their early stages to grow their technological innovation. Now the results of this work are visible.

The first STI start-ups have arrived on the market with economic success. Along with the Xovis AG the following companies can be named: ARCOptix SA, regenHU GmbH Geosatis SA and Bozzio AG. Together, they have already created well over 150 jobs in the region.

Start-ups are important for a successful economic region.

On the one hand, they allow growth of the economy, on the other hand they strengthen small and medium-sized businesses in the region. Successful start-ups are also role models. Youth entrepreneurship can have an infectious and motivating effect on students and the young at heart and therefore have a positive effect on the economic region as a whole.

The foundation, Up Close

The desire to establish the Foundation STI came from the two founders, the Bern University of Applied Sciences and the Berner Kantonalbank BEKB | BCBE. They recognised the importance of supporting young companies, which on the one hand leads to new ventures and on the other hand to economic growth.

The foundation

The foundation for technological innovation STI was founded in 2005 with foundation capital of CHF 3.5 million as a result of a joint initiative by the BEKB | BCBE and the Bern University of Applied Sciences – Engineering and Information Technology. They offer special funding instruments to entrepreneurs in their early phase of starting and developing their new business.

Foundation board

The foundation board is the strategic decision-making body. Composed of economic and university representatives, the board determines the eligibility rules, defines the financial framework conditions and monitors the activities of the other departments. In addition, the board also decides on the financing of the projects.

President of the foundation board is **1 Dr. Lukas Rohr**. He is director of the Bern University of Applied Sciences – Engineering and Information Technology and is one of the two founders of the Foundation STI.

Vice-President of the foundation board, Manager of the private and corporate clients department at the Cantonal Bank of Berne BEKB | BCBE is **2 Marcel Oertle**. As manager of the north market area at the Berner Kantonalbank BEKB | BCBE he is also one of the two founders of the Foundation STI.

Further board members are **3 Elmar Mock** (inventor of the Swatch watch and author of well-known books about innovation), **4 Felix Kunz** (serial entrepreneur and CEO of Switzerland Innovation Park Biel/Bienne), **5 Dr. Lorenz Müller** (professor at Bern University of Applied Sciences – Engineering and Information Technology) and founder **6 Roland Schmid** (self-employed interim manager and consultant).

The associate member, **7 Dr. Urs Guggenbühl** is head of the start-up programme at be-advanced and is manager of our start-up source.

8 Bärbel Selm, CEO of the Foundation STI and head of networking at RhySearch, reports to the board members. The Management oversees the business' daily operations, which covers all aspects of the organisation, financial management, communication, and reporting.

In the Secretary **9 Bénédicte Petitat Flückiger** is responsible for the effective and smooth supporting of the Management. She is also assistant at Bern University of Applied Sciences – Engineering and Information Technology



Together we prove our strength

It is important for start-ups to network with the right people, especially those in the phase of early funding.

The STI cooperates closely within the regional start-up network. Beside the Bern University of Applied Sciences and the University of Bern she is in close contact with be-advanced and Switzerland Innovation Park Biel/Bienne SIPBB.

Every requirement is different

Depending on the stage the project is in, they are either looking for research proximity, a suitable investor or even a profitable customer. For example, start-ups in the capital goods sector (Investitionsgüterbereich) need more capital to conquer their sales market than ICT projects. Whereas projects in the field of medical technology/pharmaceuticals tend to require more time for clinical tests and approvals. Therefore it is important to support each project individually. The coach will help to identify the project's needs and open doors to suitable and assured partners or networks.

In recent years, the foundation has established an ecosystem in which suitable partners are available for our start-ups and we are in regular contact with private and public institutions. Our most important partners are represented on the foundation board.

Young entrepreneurship is promoted by several institutions and organisations.



In the field of research, the University of Bern focuses on the latest issues relevant to entrepreneurship and is shaping the international scientific dialogue.

Research results are not only published at conferences and in scientific publications, but are also directly incorporated into university teaching and practice-oriented training. The university would like to use its knowledge and solidarity with the economy to promote entrepreneurship with various offers in the area of further education and outreach.



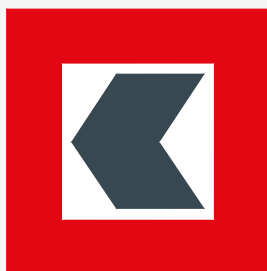
The Bern University of Applied Sciences is co-founder of the Foundation STI.

The results achieved in their technology-oriented research offer an innovation potential for marketable products. In order to develop this innovation potential, BFH-TI collaborates with both existing and newly founded companies, which are spin-offs from the university's research activities.



be-advanced – to start a business case.

The purpose of be-advanced is to strengthen the innovative capacity of newly founded and start-up companies as well as small and medium-sized enterprises in the Canton of Berne. They do this by improving knowledge and technology transfer in addition to coordinating efforts to promote the economy and innovation by various organisations in the Canton of Berne.



As co-founder of the Foundation STI, the Berner Kantonalbank together with BFH-TI is aiming for a responsible development of sustainably effective start-ups in the region.

BEKB contributes to ensuring that technologically innovative companies with attractive jobs will continue to be located in the region in the future. With their commitment to the Foundation STI, they foster the establishment and development of technologically innovative start-ups. Furthermore, they provide tools for business and financial planning and provide further financing for the start-ups, if required.



**SWITZERLAND
INNOVATION
PARK BIEL/BIENNE**

For the prototyping and industrialisation phases, Foundation STI works with the Switzerland Innovation Park Biel/Bienne (SIPBB).

The foundation has a close connection with the SIP in Biel as operator of the network location of the Swiss Innovation Park, which now hosts and promotes more than 20 high-tech start-ups, partly from the Foundation STI. Young companies work there in an attractive environment amongst universities and innovative companies, inspiring each other and consequently creating new jobs in the region. SIP BB represents an alternative to one's own office and is a springboard for one's own premises.

We are also in a lively exchange with Innosuisse, Regional Business Promotion, venture capitalists and other foundations.




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