

NATURE OF INNOVATION

## NOI TECHPARK - HARD FACTS

**NOI Techpark is South Tyrol's innovation district. Here, companies, institutes and the university find a stimulating surrounding to collaborate on research and development projects.**

**Since 2017**, South Tyrol's innovation district has been growing and thriving on the location of an old aluminium plant. The plant supplied two-thirds of the national aluminium demand at the height of production. Today, NOI Techpark represents the transition from heavy industry to a factory of ideas. The historical architecture has been completely renovated and upgraded and is now home to creativity and innovation instead of transformers and furnaces.

Here in Bozen-Bolzano, we have gathered around 70 companies and 27 innovative start-ups, 3 research institutions and 3 faculties of the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano. The project focuses on a few leading sectors in which South Tyrol particularly specialises: **Green, Food & Health, Digital, and Automotive & Automation**. Researchers from the three institutes and the university work in 52 high-tech laboratories in precisely these **technology sectors**. A total of around **2,400 people** are already working, doing research and studying at NOI Techpark.

### MISSION

NOI Techpark is where companies, universities and research institutions come to work together. Our services are aimed at all those who conduct research and development in South Tyrol. The main contributors are the companies – from high-tech companies to SMEs with technology potential to innovative start-ups. We support them, connect them with the academic and scientific world and provide them with access to research partners, research infrastructure and EU funding. Throughout various phases of development, we are transforming the site into an innovation hub and bringing it to life with services for businesses and a tailor-made arts and culture programme for everyone.

### FACTS & FIGURES

**Area: 12 hectares**, 40% of which have been built on

**52 scientific and prototype laboratories**

**27 start-ups**

**70 companies**

**3 research institutions:**

Eurac Research

Fraunhofer Italia

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Laimburg Research Centre

**3 faculties of the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano:**

Agricultural, Environmental and Food Sciences

Economics and Management

Engineering

**11 Institutions**

EDIH – European Digital Innovation Hub

EEN – Enterprise Europe Network

EIT Digital – European Institute of Innovation and Technology

hds unione – Competence Center of Urban Development, Sustainability & Digitalization

HGV – Innovation department

KlimaHaus – The Agency for Energy South Tyrol

lvh.apa – Innovation & New Markets department

SABES – Innovation, Research and Teaching Service

SBB – Innovation & Energy department of the Farmers' Association of South Tyrol

SMACT Competence Center

NOI S.p.A. – In-house company of the Autonomous Province of Bozen-Bolzano and operating company of NOI Techpark

**8 service areas**

Labs

Technology Transfer

Start-up Incubator

Innovation Management

EU Opportunities

Open Data Hub

Public Engagement

Area & Spaces

**ARCHITECTURE PROJECT**

It was a record-breaking construction site: the building was completed in just two years – between 2015 and 2017 – based on a well-thought-out project set up by the Autonomous Province of Bozen-Bolzano to increase public and private investment in innovation. The founding of NOI Techpark dates back to an international ideas competition in 2007 that paved the way to reclaiming the former 'Alumix' site. The first tangible result of this project followed one year later when Polish artist Mariusz Waras (aka M-City) transformed the iconic water tower in the entrance plaza into a work of art during the seventh European art biennale 'Manifesta', which was held at various venues around the provincial capital of South Tyrol. The project, developed by Chapman Taylor Italia (Milan) and Studio CLEAA (Claudio Lucchin & Architetti Associati, Bozen-Bolzano), together with Andrea Cattacin (Trient-Trento), underscores the rationalist architecture of the two aluminium factories, built in the 1930s. These are juxtaposed with the 'Black Monolith', an elevated cuboid covered with black oxidised aluminium foam panels.

**FUTURE DEVELOPMENT**

NOI Techpark is a dynamic place that is constantly growing in terms of people and ideas, as well as buildings and infrastructure. The module A6 building housing Eurac Research's Institute of Biomedicine was completed in the autumn of 2022. Two new expansion buildings for private companies and laboratories were opened in 2024, as well as the new Faculty of Engineering of the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano. The latter opens a new chapter for the area and turns the innovation hub into a real campus. Hundreds of students study and research here and grow to become the specialists of tomorrow.

Parallel to the developments in Bozen-Bolzano, a new competence centre for sustainable mobility was being built in Bruneck-Brunico. With its opening in May 2023, it now combines the concentrated know-how of South Tyrol's automotive supply industry in a space of around 6,000m<sup>2</sup>. In addition to the academic and research areas of the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, NOI Techpark Bruneck-Brunico offers special services to support companies, research institutions and start-ups, as well as a co-working space and a new event centre, a restaurant and an underground car park.

## TIMELINE

- **2007-2008:** Autonomous Province of Bozen-Bolzano invites bids in an International Ideas Competition
- **2008:** Polish artist Mariusz Waras transforms the water tower into a work of art to celebrate the 7th 'Manifesta'
- **2008-2012:** Architectural planning by Chapman Taylor Italia (Milan) and Studio CLEAA (Claudio Lucchin & Architetti Associati, Bozen-Bolzano) with Andrea Cattacin (Trient-Trento)
- **2015-2017:** Two years of construction completed on time and within budget
- **20 October 2017:** Opening of NOI Techpark
- **28 March 2019:** Opening of Building Module D1, the first building for private companies
- **30 September 2019:** Opening of Building Module A3 with nursery and kindergarten
- **October 2022:** Completion of Building Module A6 with the Eurac Research Institute for Biomedicine and office premises
- **5 May 2023:** Opening of the NOI Techpark in Bruneck-Brunico
- **30 August 2024:** Opening of the two new expansion buildings D2 and D3
- **19 September 2024:** Opening of the Faculty of Engineering of the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano in building module B1