

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 90 companies and innovative start-ups, three research institutions and three 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 45 high-tech laboratories in precisely these **technological fields**. A total of around **1,100 people** are already working 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, 30% of which have been built on
45 scientific and prototype laboratories
26 start-ups
63 companies
3 research institutions:
Eurac Research
Laimburg Research Centre
Fraunhofer Italia

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3 faculties of the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano:

Computer Science

Economics

Natural Sciences and Technology

8 Institutions

KlimaHaus – The Agency for Energy South Tyrol

Ivh.apa – Innovation & New Markets department of the Trade Association for Craftsmen and Service Providers South Tyrol

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

EEN – Enterprise Europe Network

SMACT Competence Center

SABES – Innovation, Research and Teaching Service of the South Tyrolean Health

hds – Competence Center of Urban Development, Sustainability & Digitalization of the Association of entrepreneurs in trade, services and gastronomy in South Tyrol

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

Area & Spaces

EU Opportunities

Open Data Hub

Public Engagement

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. The completion of the Faculty of Engineering of the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano is scheduled for 2024. The latter will open a new chapter for the area and turn the innovation hub into a student hub as well. In the future, hundreds of students will study and research here and grow to become the specialists of tomorrow. The creative power that emanates from a university location will further strengthen the players already present at NOI and increase their competitiveness and spending on research and development.

In addition to the new faculty, two additional buildings are being built, which will primarily provide space for private companies. Each of these modules will be dedicated to a specific theme, the so-called D2 to food technologies (Food) and the D3 to green technologies (Green). And the next expansion modules are already being planned in response to the consistently high demand. For example, D4 will deal specifically with digitalisation and artificial intelligence (Digital), while D5 will focus on automation and robotics (Automotive & Automation). The companies themselves will benefit from this mono-thematic structure because they will be able to leverage the proximity and heterogeneity of work areas and content. Moreover, the focus on a single theme leads to an acceleration in the growth of knowledge and competence and, last but not least, to an increase in attractiveness.

Parallel to the developments in Bozen-Bolzano, a new competence centre for sustainable mobility is being built in Bruneck-Brunico. Opening in early 2023, it will combine the concentrated know-how of South Tyrol's automotive supply industry in a space of around 6,000m². In addition to the academic and research areas of the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, NOI Techpark Bruneck-Brunico will offer 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
- **2024:** Completion of the Faculty of Engineering of the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano in building module B1
- **2024:** Completion of building modules D2 and D3 with office space for private companies and new laboratories.