

My Regensburg

In 2019 BioPark Regensburg celebrated its 20th anniversary. During this time, the company from the City of Regensburg has supported 64 startup teams from the life sciences (biotech, pharma, medtech diagnostics). 661 million Euro, including 154 million Euro in venture capital, 326 million Euro in equity and 180 million Euro in funding, were invested in the development - 42 million Euro alone in the three laboratory buildings of the BioPark with a total area of 18,000 m². There are currently 35 leaseholders with 718 employees working here. The BioRegion Regensburg Cluster with 61 companies and 4093 employees in Eastern Bavaria is managed from here. Via the Healthcare Regensburg Initiative, the BioPark links the health industry with over five hospitals and over 20,000 employees at the site.

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The secret of success of the boomtown Regensburg with over 150,000 inhabitants has many layers of complexity. On the one hand, there are the two young universities, the University of Regensburg, founded in 1962, and the East Bavarian Technical University of Regensburg, founded in 1971. The 33,000 students not only enliven the cathedral city, which was founded by the Romans and has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2006, but also contribute with their research to the innovation potential of the location. On the other hand, the consistent, cross-party economic development of the City of Regensburg has settled high-tech industries here over the past 25 years and pursued a pioneering cluster policy.

European clusters, business incubators and tech campuses

Of the ten municipal cluster initiatives set up here, five have already been certified by the European Cluster Initiative. The city operates two start-up centers with over 30,000 m² with more than 100 innovative leaseholders on the university campus. A former barracks area right next to it has been successfully converted into a tech campus, where high-tech SMEs have successfully settled.

Life sciences and AI as focal points

The location is just the right size to promote interdisciplinary potential between the industries. With several location analyses, BioPark Regensburg GmbH has taken the initiative right from the start. In addition to the life sciences, new cluster initiatives in the areas of sensor technology and healthcare were launched. Most recently, the city used the cross-cluster approach AIR Regensburg (Artificial Intelligence Regensburg) to link the topic of artificial intelligence across industries and clusters.

Startup network established

Sandwiched between the top clusters in Munich and Erlangen-Nuremberg, the location has built up its own considerable

startup network. The “Startup Guide Regensburg” published by the BioPark lists 16 institutions and contacts alone. In the BioPark with the experienced Brain 8 Network personalities, mostly former founders and old-hands, are available in-house. With BioPark Jump, an accelerator program has been brought to life to create the best possible startup conditions for selected teams. Startup weekends and investor evenings are organized together with the subsidiary company R-tech GmbH at Tech-Base. The Digital Startup Offensive Upper Palatinate (DGO) is located at TechBase, an initiative funded nationwide by the Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs. This has also supported many activities in the BioPark and is an essential reason for the success of the founding State of Bavaria.

Conclusion

I am often asked why successful companies do not move to Munich or abroad. The spirit of the city is deeply rooted. Anyone who has spent a relaxing night in Regensburg’s old town or on the Danube appreciates the manageable, not so large and culturally not too small northernmost city to Italy. If possible, stay true to the location, even if more money could be earned elsewhere.

Dr. Thomas Diefenthal

is Managing Director of BioPark Regensburg GmbH and Managing Director of the German Association of Innovation, Technology and Business Incubation Centres (BVIZ) in Berlin.



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