



“Industry 4.0!” Can anyone stand the term anymore?!

Granted, the term and discussions on the topic are now omnipresent. But why? Why is the topic so ever present?

Industry 4.0 describes the zeitgeist of our epoch; the way to an increasingly digital society. Too big and important are the opportunities and challenges associated with this phenomenon to be ignored.

Other countries have taken the lead: American developers are constantly amazing us with what artificial intelligence and robotics are capable of today. Recent examples are [Boston Dynamics](#) or Google [Duplex](#). South Korea has the most [industrial robots](#) per employee and, in terms of GDP, puts more [money into research and development](#) than any other country. China is in the starting blocks to become an [AI superpower](#).

And Switzerland? A year ago we established the Swiss Smart Factory here with modest resources but great commitment. Since then our activity has received much interest. In the first year of our existence, we set up the test and demonstration platform at the Ipsach site and together with our partners successfully completed more than ten innovation projects.

Our new membership programme is attracting a great deal of interest and already has 30 members. Together we form an ecosystem in which unique innovations relating to the topic of Industry 4.0 can be realized.

Our aim is to keep up with international developments in the field of AI, robotics and co. and to make Switzerland fit as a workplace and innovation location for future challenges. This can only succeed by working together.

Do you have any digitization projects? Then let's talk about what we and our network can offer you concerning Industry 4.0.

I hope you will enjoy reading our latest newsletter.

Sincerely,

Dominic Gorecky

Head of Swiss Smart Factory

One year of the Swiss Smart Factory (SSF): In May 2017, the SSF opened its doors. You can read what has happened at the Swiss Smart Factory in the first year, and what is planned for the future, in our first newsletter of 2018.



Flashback: 1 year ago

Opening Ceremony, May 2017

On 23rd May 2017, we opened the first Smart Factory in Switzerland under the name SSF. Within a short time the event was fully booked. Government Councillor Christoph Ammann, Roland Steinemann, Vice-President of Industry 2025, and Felix Kunz, CEO of Switzerland Innovation Park Biel/Bienne AG, welcomed the more than 120 visitors from industry and research at the fully booked SSF location. “With our open, neutral platform, we invite SMEs, startups, researchers and other interested people to delve into the digital world together,” said Dominic Gorecky in his opening speech. Today, just one year later, the SSF already has 30 members.





Visit of Federal Councillor Schneider-Ammann, November 2017



Applause from politics and business, Federal Councillor Schneider-Ammann, Government Councillor Christoph Ammann and Felix Kunz, CEO of SIP BB

Federal Councillor Johann N. Schneider-Ammann and Government Councillor Christoph Ammann visited the Swiss Smart Factory at the Switzerland Innovation Park Biel/Bienne on the occasion of the national conference Digital Switzerland on 20th November 2017 at the Kongresshaus Biel together with a small circle of business leaders. “We want to position Switzerland through first-

class research and innovation. In this way we can ensure competitiveness, prosperity and jobs. As part of Switzerland Innovation Park Biel/Bienne AG, the Swiss Smart Factory is an example of how our country is capable of putting a great idea into practice,” said Federal Councillor Schneider-Ammann after visiting the state-of-the-art “factory of the future”.

Christoph Ammann, member of the Bern government and director of the economy, addressed the representatives of SMEs and start-ups from Bern: “The Greater Biel Region is the heart of industrial Switzerland. The machine tool, precision engineering and watchmaking industries have a strong position here. That's why we want to take a pioneering role in Industry 4.0.”

[MORE PICTURES](#)

Hanover Fair, April 2018

Together with its partners Fanuc, Abas, MyLiveZone, SideEffects and Schaltag, SSF took part in the Hanover Fair for the first time, presenting Industry 4.0 at the world's most important industrial trade fair from a Swiss point of view. With a stand at the Swiss Pavilion, the SSF put on demonstrations of Cobotics, Artificial Intelligence, Remote Training and Virtual Reality.



Source: <https://ictswitzerland.ch/themen/auslandsaktivitaeten/hannover-messe/>

A great success: At the joint Swiss stand, a partnership was forged with Industry 2025 and the German and Austrian Industry 4.0 platforms.

MORE PICTURES

Membership Programme of the SSF

In March 2018, we launched the official SSF membership programme with the aim of building a unique network of SME partners, start-ups, large companies and research institutes. Membership provides access to SSF's infrastructure and innovation projects.



BECOME A MEMBER

What SSF membership means to us – view of an SSF member:

Thomas Zürcher, CEO MyLiveZone GmbH

<http://mylivezone.com>

The proximity to the Switzerland Innovation Park Biel/Bienne and especially to the Swiss Smart Factory is a key component of our concept. We are convinced that the upcoming industrial revolution cannot be won on one's own.

Partnerships and communities will be a decisive factor for success in the new world of work in the future. With our platform, we actively support this idea and can thus make a contribution to the success of the Swiss Smart Factory. ”



Project and partner news:

SmartTools Innosuisse Project: Together with Fraisa, Bosch, BFH and Balluff, the SSF is researching on embedding intelligence in drilling and milling tools. The embedded communication units will provide the technical basis for new business models targeting to control the life cycle of high-quality tools. With the realization of two functioning test tools, the first phase of the project has been completed successfully and an extensive testing phase initiated.

Partnership with PwC: In the future SSF and PwC will work closely together on the future topics Robotics and AI. In May, a smart assembly workstation was handed over to the PwC Experience Center in Zurich, which is now being continually enhanced with new features. The project has also received support from Abas Consulting, ACUBE, BFH, Fanuc, Minitec Smart Solutions and Schunk among others.



Industry 2025: As a close partner of this initiative, SSF was once again present at the industry 2025 annual conference with its own stand.

Would you like to know more about the current state of Industry 4.0 in Switzerland? Swissmem, Swissmechanic and Industry 2025 are conducting their second joint survey on Industry 4.0 in Switzerland. Are you a manufacturing company? Then take part in the latest survey. (in german)

[TO THE SURVEY](#)

[RESULTS OF THE 2016 SURVEY](#)

Events & Outlook

International Smart Factory Summit in Biel, Switzerland - Save the date!

On 22 and 23 November 2018, the Swiss Smart Factory is launching the first International Smart Factory Symposium on the practice-oriented dialogue of global smart factories. Topics will include Industry 4.0 training, support of SMEs as well as architectures and standards for smart factory implementation.

Are you also interested in the topics of additive manufacturing technology and/or medical and health technology? The SIP BB competence centres regularly organize relevant events.

EVENTS



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