



Connecting Science and Industry for Collaborative Early-stage Innovation
- Project Examples from Switzerland's Innovation Booster Photonics



Early-stage Innovation

- ▲ Challenges
- ▲ Opportunities
- ▲ Important Aspects

Photonics Collaboration Platforms in



- ▲ academia ↔ research
- ▲ platforms, ecosystems, competence centers

Innovation Booster Photonics

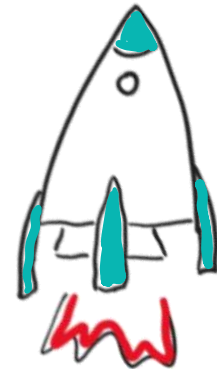
Project examples

- ▲ Bio
- ▲ Life-science
- ▲ Medtech

Early-stage Innovation

- ▲ Challenges
- ▲ Opportunities
- ▲ Important Aspects

- ~~Do you have a problem?~~



→ Better: Let's call it a ~~challenge~~

→ Even better: an **unmet need!**

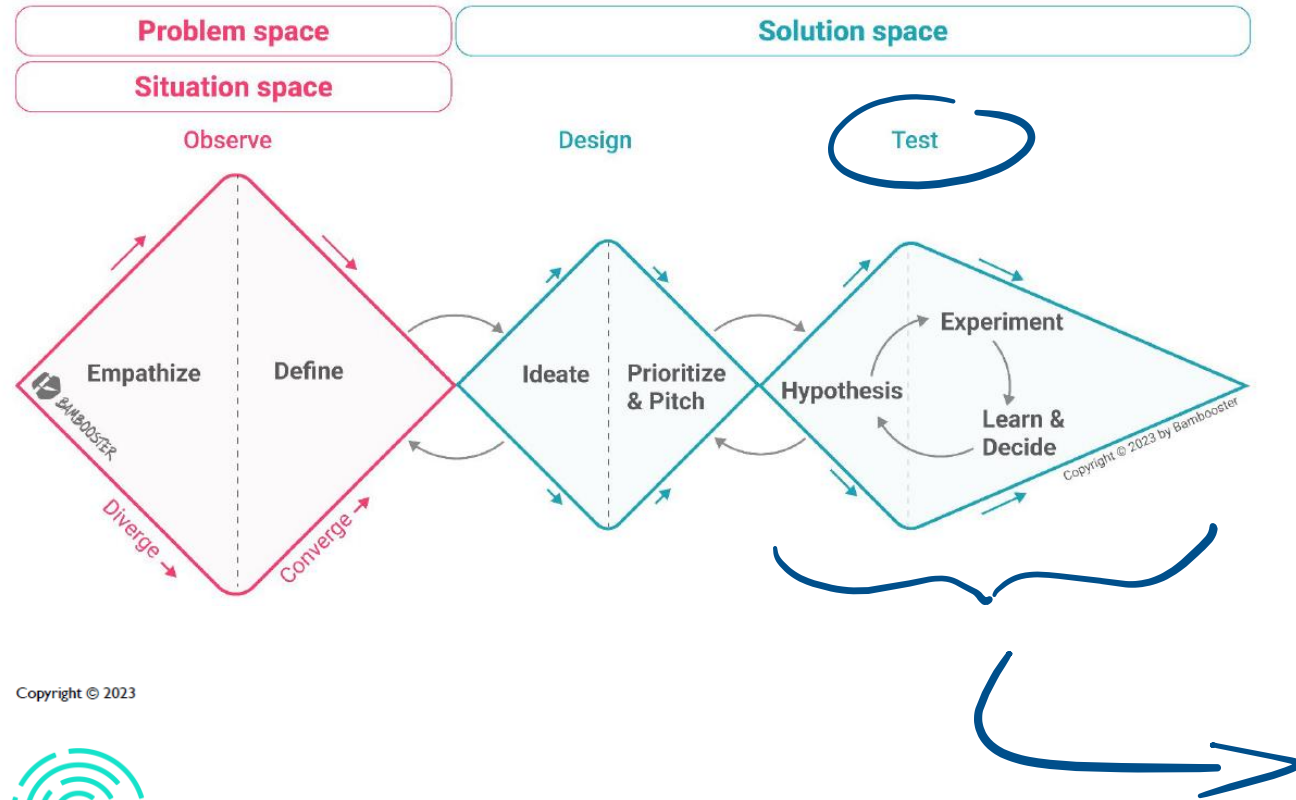
→ Let's start with some theory about early-stage innovation

Great!
Let's start the
innovation journey!

Design Thinking: Triple-Diamond Approach by *Bambooster*


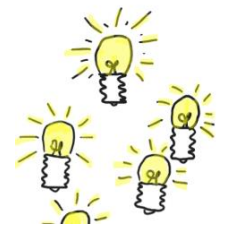



Innovation Journey

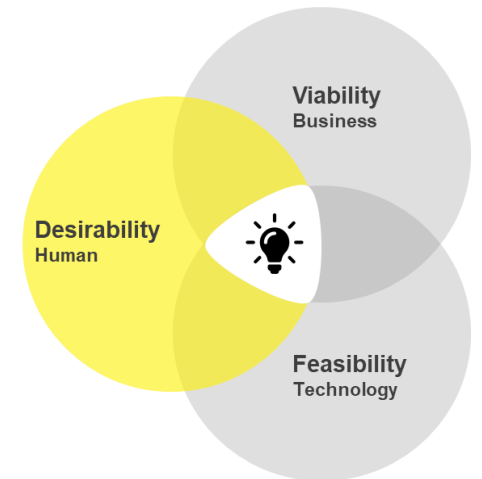


Copyright © 2023



- Carefully analyze your problem from different perspectives 
- Develop potential solutions 
- At this stage: don't fall in love with your solutions, fall in love with the problem! 
- Stay critical, reflect on the problem and test your idea:

- Feasibility ?
- Desirability ?
- Viability ?



Early-stage Innovation

- ▲ Challenges
- ▲ Opportunities
- ▲ Important Aspects

Innovation Booster Photonics

- How do we implement this theory in our early-stage innovation program?

We boost radical ideas in Photonics:

- **bring together players** from research, business and society
- **interdisciplinary** teams, **co-operate** with partners along the entire value chain
- Create **open innovation** culture
- address **customer needs** from start – **end user** is part of the team



Powered by:



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

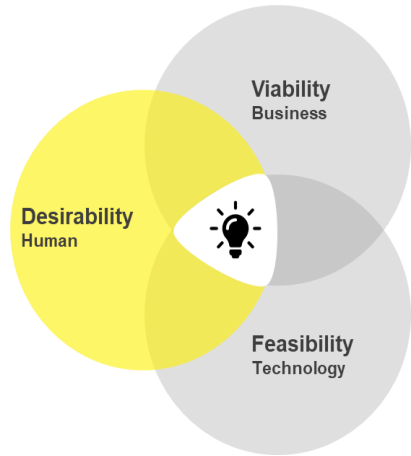
Innosuisse – Swiss Innovation Agency

With the leading house:



SWISSMEM

- ❖ For early-stage innovation: observe, design & test phase
- ❖ Other funding programs available for the implementation phase!



- Do you have an identified unsolved challenge?
- Build teams to test and verify innovation ideas!
 - Test the desirability, viability and feasibility of the idea
 - With an interdisciplinary team with an academic partner and an implementation partner / end-user involved

Grant up to
CHF 25'000

Simple, fast, little administrative effort

Applications from SMEs, startups, large companies, etc. are highly welcome!

Submissions possible at any time – no fixed deadlines



Expert support ⓘ

Matchmaking support ⓘ

Methodology support ⓘ

Funding ⓘ

How Projects are started

How do you get involved?
How are potential challenges and ideas identified?
How are teams formed?

**And collaboration with various
Photonics platforms in Switzerland:**

virtual platform
Web-based Ideation

Individual, bottom-up
Direct Ideation-Applications

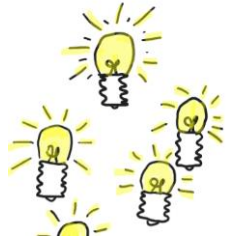


Workshops
Physically Presented Events

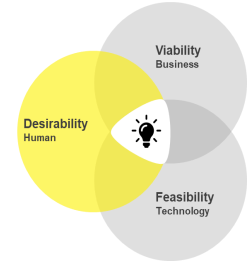
Webinars
Virtual Ideation-Workshops

Summary Important Aspects esp. Early-Stage Innovation

- Carefully analyze your problem from different perspectives
- Develop a broad range of potential solutions
- At this stage: don't fall in love with your solutions, fall in love with the problem!



- Stay critical, reflect on the problem and test your idea reg. Feasibility, Desirability, Viability
- Interdisciplinary team - co-operate with partners along the entire value chain, create open innovation culture, with:
 - players from research, business and society
 - Methodology, Technology, Implementation and Application (End user) Experts involved



Collaborations!!!!

Early-stage Innovation

- ▶ Challenges
- ▶ Opportunities
- ▶ Important Aspects

Photonics Collaboration Platforms in



- ▶ academia ↔ research
- ▶ platforms, ecosystems, competence centers

Innovation Booster Photonics

Innovation Booster Photonics network and collaborations



Innosuisse
Swiss Agency for Innovation Promotion



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra
Swiss Confederation
Innosuisse – Swiss Innovation Agency

Innovation Board
30 representatives from industry & academia



SWISSMEM
Leading Industry Association in Switzerland

Innovation Booster Management Team and Board of Directors

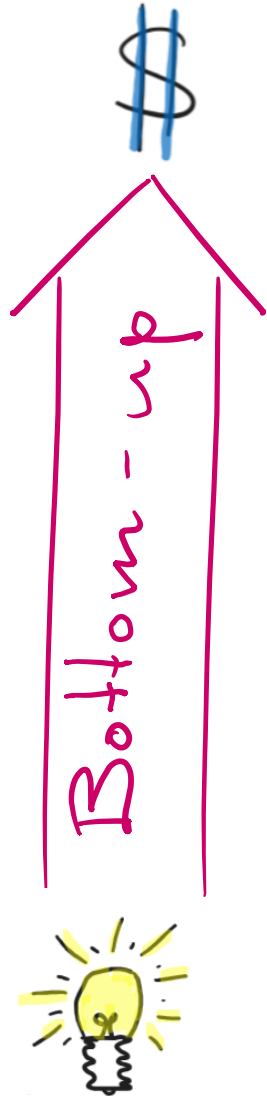
Project Experts
Project evaluation & support (methodology, expertise, etc.)

Partners



- Other Innovation Boosters
- Universities, UASs
- Other organizations (Swissphotonics, EPIC, etc.)

Innovation Promotion in Switzerland vs. EU/USA



- **Bottom-Up Approach:** Swiss innovation begins with industry-defined needs, not government directives.
- **Collaboration Teams:** Industry and research partners collaborate, applying for tailored project funding.
- **Emphasis on Industry:** The Swiss model highlights industry's role in shaping innovation.
- **Driving Force:** Industry needs drive Swiss innovation, fostering demand-driven innovation.

⇒ Result & Key: Dynamic Innovation Ecosystem



Photonics platforms in Switzerland for collaborative approaches



Technology providers:

Universities /
ETH / EPFL

UAS –
Universities of
applied sciences

Needs providers:

Industry

Organisations / Associations:

Swissmem

CSEM



EPIC, etc.

Swissphotonics



Innovation Parks:

- Infrastructure: Offices, labs, cleanrooms, prototyping workshops
- Tech Transfer Centers - SwissPIC
- Industry Clusters & Competence Centers
- Ecosystem integration with relevant Industry, Academia, Risk Capital & Government
- Support Services

Financing:

Innosuisse



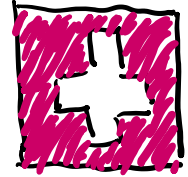
Eu-Funding

Photonhub, etc.

Early-stage Innovation

- ▲ Challenges
- ▲ Opportunities
- ▲ Important Aspects

Photonics Collaboration Platforms in

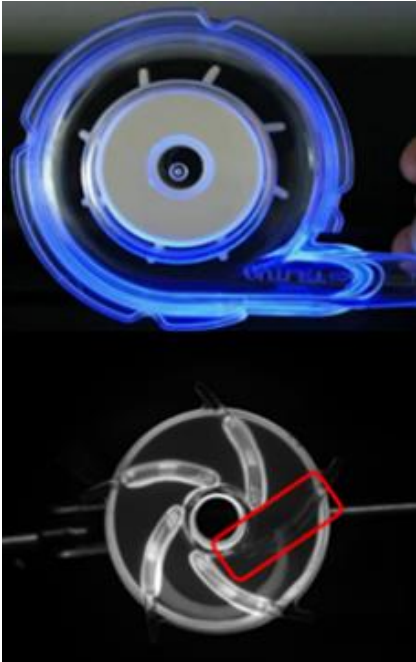


- ▲ academia ↔ research
- ▲ platforms, ecosystems, competence centers

Innovation Booster Photonics

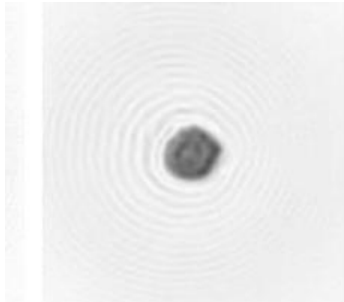
Project examples

- ▲ Bio
- ▲ Life-science
- ▲ Medtech

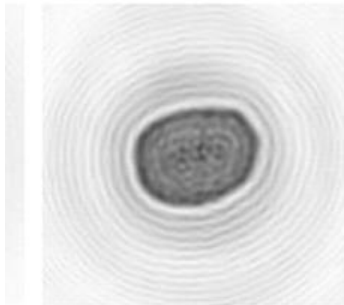


Automated visual inspection of a life-supporting blood pump

- *Thoratec Switzerland GmbH, part of Abbott Laboratories with ZHAW Zurich University of Applied Sciences, OST Eastern Switzerland University of Applied Sciences*
- Sensor technology for a visual inspection of the transparent Thoratec blood pump
- The visual inspection will be fully integrated into an automated assembly process which includes a quality decision with a zero tolerance for wrong pass-fail decisions.



Fraxinus excelsior



Fagus sylvatica

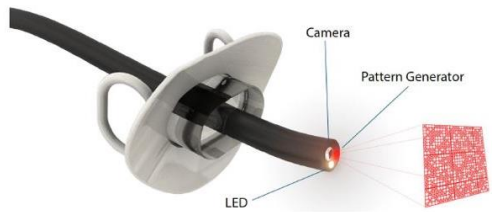
Adaptation of Pollen Classifier to Local Flora

- *Swisens AG with FHNW, HT*
- Sensors based on holographic imaging and fluorescence spectroscopy measure pollen concentrations in the air. The determination of the type of pollen is achieved by a deep learning-based classifier which has been trained on a large, annotated dataset.
- Adapting their system to new regions should be simplified so that the expensive collection and annotation of data with local pollen can be largely avoided.



Solubility is made practically easy

- *Oryl Photonics with CSEM Neuchâtel and CSEM Landquart*
- Measurement of the solubility of substances from small molecules to proteins, peptides and macromolecules
- with a light-scattering solution that saves days of repetitive work, minimizes the use of compounds, chemicals and consumables at the same time, maximizes cost and time savings



A miniaturized device to measure premature babies' palate and clefts

- *Ostschweizer Children's Hospital, Feinwerkoptik Zünd with OST-IMP, Machine Vision Group, OST-IMP, Optics and Optics Manufacturing Group*
- Miniaturized measuring diagnostic system for cleft palate of babies or prematures in a very small space of the oral cavity, ideally in a pacifier to support doctors and hospitals for non-invasive testing
- The measurement system is based in triangulation combined with endoscope technologies

Monitor Platform for Digital Workplace Health



- *Vivior AG with academic and implementation partners*
- Platform to improve vision, vitality and performance and thus to manage digital eye strain caused by the growing amount of time people spend with all types of digital devices.
- innovative approaches to reduce asthenopic discomfort and sketched guidelines for the further development and redesign of our monitor using SLAM and LIDAR technologies



What can photonics contribute to monitoring the medical use of cannabis?

- *Swissqueen GmbH with FH OST – OnkOS and ESA and IMP, clinics, health professionals, patients*
- Medical use of cannabis products in the therapy of various symptoms and indications. For their use, easy-to-use and cost-effective methods for dosage and effect monitoring are required.
- study to investigate whether and how photonic non-invasive technologies can contribute to photonic monitoring methods, evaluation by users.


Follow us

Innovation
Booster
powered by
Innosuisse

Stay updated about our events and activities:


www.ntnphotonics.ch



- Register for our newsletter
-  Innovation Booster Photonics
- Contact us directly: info@ntnphotonics.ch



Our Partners:

 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Innosuisse – Schweizerische Agentur
für Innovationsförderung



databooster



University of Applied Sciences and Arts
of Southern Switzerland
SUPSI



SWISS*PHOTONICS



EPFL

OPTICA



IMES | Institut für Mikroelektronik
und Embedded Systems

ETH zürich