

Press Release

Vienna, 19 February 2020

STRONG TOGETHER FOR A HEALTHY AND LONGER LIFE IN EUROPE

Top companies bring large EU network to Austria

On 1 January 2020, the AIT Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT), Austria's largest non-university research institute, together with four leading industrial companies, Boehringer Ingelheim Regional Center Vienna (RCV), Kapsch BusinessCom, UNIQA Insurance Group AG and the WILD Group, as well as the successful Viennese start-up incubator INiTS, joined the largest European health network EIT Health as the first Austrian partners. The aim is to jointly bring new products and services more quickly to the European market, to promote young companies in a targeted manner and to make new educational offers available.

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) brings together innovative organisations from industry, research, universities and entrepreneurs in a unique network for open innovation to specifically increase Europe's innovation capacity. With 150 leading players from the European health sector, €500 million in expected funding (2021 - 2027) and a total budget of €1.5 billion, EIT Health is the largest network of its kind. To date, the EU has already invested €291 million in EIT Health (2016-2020). Joint projects within the network pool expertise across national borders to bring patient-centred solutions to the European market. Innovation, entrepreneurship and education are thus combined and promoted in one network.

In addition to the EIT Health headquarters, there are six regional innovation hubs and a deep network in South-Eastern Europe (InnoStars). All partners in the DACH region are brought together in the EIT Health Germany hub in Germany. In close coordination with EIT Health Germany, the AIT, as the driving force, has succeeded in bringing together national partners from different areas of the healthcare sector to jointly bring this EU network to Austria. The initiative of the Austrian partners for EIT Health is supported by stakeholders from the national life science clusters (LISAVienna, Cluster Life Science Tirol, Human.technology Styria), the FFG and public authorities.

The advantages of the network are obvious: long-term partnerships, market-oriented projects at a medium technology maturity level with a business plan, simplified project applications, access to about 1000 linked start-ups, up-to-date educational offers for students, young medical professionals and citizens - all under one roof.

The life science sector in Austria is a vibrant market (60% pharma, 40% biotech, more than 1000 companies, more than 55,000 employees) and a significant and future-oriented driver of economic growth, innovation and talent. In addition to the established industry, numerous SMEs are represented, including start-ups. The membership of the Austrian partners is intended to anchor the EIT Health Network in the national life science sector and create synergies. This will promote a healthier lifestyle in Austria, improve health care and strengthen the health economy.

Health Network of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology:

EIT Health was established in 2015 and is one of the eight Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) currently funded by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). Since 2016, EIT Health has supported projects that create solutions for high-performing health systems, healthier citizens and a sustainable health economy in Europe. With its work in the "knowledge triangle", EIT Health creates an optimal environment for innovation and connects EIT Health experts from business, research and education with the important challenges of our time on the topic of health across European borders. EIT Health draws on the expertise of over 150 leading players in the European healthcare sector - pharmaceuticals, medical technology, diagnostics, consumer goods industry, universities, research institutions, healthcare providers as well as payers, politics and administration - to make innovations a reality and commercialise patient-oriented solutions. EIT Health (<https://eithealth.eu/>)

The Austrian partners

AIT Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH (www.ait.ac.at)

With around 1,300 employees, the AIT is Austria's largest non-university research institution. With its eight centres, the AIT sees itself as a highly specialised research and development partner for industry.

Boehringer Ingelheim RCV GmbH & Co KG (www.boehringer-ingelheim.at)

The Boehringer Ingelheim Regional Center Vienna is responsible for the prescription and veterinary medicines business in more than 30 countries. In addition, Vienna is a global cancer research centre and one of four production sites for biopharmaceuticals in the group of companies.

INiTS Universitäres Gründerservice Wien GmbH (www.inits.at)

INiTS is the Vienna centre of the AplusB programme of the BMVIT and a company of the University of Vienna, the Vienna University of Technology and the Vienna Business Agency.

Kapsch BusinessCom AG (www.kapsch.net/kbc)

As a leading digitalisation partner in the DACH region, Kapsch supports companies and institutions in increasing their performance and developing new business models based on secure ICT solutions and services.

UNIQA Insurance Group AG (www.uniqa.at)

The UNIQA Group is one of the leading insurance groups in its core markets of Austria and Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). In Austria, UNIQA is the second largest insurance group with a market share of around 21 percent.

WILD Group (www.wild.at)

WILD is a system partner and develops and manufactures exclusively on behalf of customers for the realisation of products in the fields of optics, precision mechanics, electronics, application software and plastics technology. WILD is in demand wherever precision is required and innovations take place.

Press contact:

Fabian Purtscher

Marketing & Communications

Center for Health and Bioresources

AIT Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH

Giefinggasse 4 | 1210 Wien

fabian.purtscher@ait.ac.at | www.ait.ac.at

T +43 (0)50550-4406 | M +43 (0)664 8251322

Daniel Pepl, MAS

Corporate and Marketing Communications

AIT Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH

Giefinggasse 4 | 1210 Wien

daniel.pepl@ait.ac.at | www.ait.ac.at

T +43 (0)50550-4040