



«Connecting people and offering adequate infrastructures – including laboratories, workshops and offices – is essential for success and innovation.»

Mathieu Piller,
co-managing director

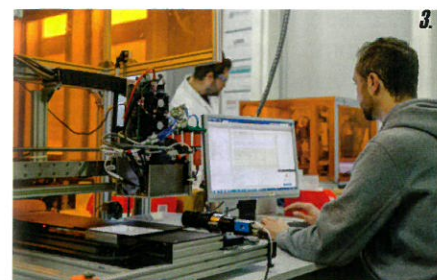
Awesome. Do you know the common denominator between the characteristic Ferrari-red, contact lenses and resins for 3D printers? Marly. These jewels are actually invented and developed in Fribourg at the former Ciba Research and Development Campus, which became Ilford later on. Today, one of the most promising state-of-the-art technology parks in Switzerland, the Marly Innovation Center (MIC) has replaced the photo production factory. A boosting hot spot.

WE TALKED WITH MATHIEU PILLER, ONE OF THE TWO MANAGING DIRECTORS

High-growth technology park connecting people



1. Marly Innovation Center: 370 000 m² dedicated to innovation and value chains.
2. First autonomously driving shuttle integrated into public network.
3. International Competence center for Digital Printing (iPrint).
4. 7000 m² of laboratories.
5. Flexible offices and business center.
6. Workshops. 7. Logistics.



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The Marly Innovation Center (MIC) was launched in 2014 following the Ilford bankruptcy and hosts over 130 enterprises today. More than 400 jobs were created and growth continues steadily. What is your recipe for success?

Key elements are definitely our high-quality and diverse infrastructure – in particular laboratories, workshops and offices – and our attractive rents that are relatively low for Switzerland. We are flexible and have an open ear for our tenants. This enables us to offer customized services. Beyond that, we benefit from our well-established network to the Marly authorities and to the Fribourg canton as well as to the major players in regional economy, like the Fribourg Cantonal Bank, Public Transport Fribourg, Groupe E (energy company) and graduate schools, like the School of Engineering and Architecture of Fribourg, the Fribourg university and its Adolphe Merkle Institute, the CSEM in Neuchâtel. This ecosystem of private, public and university co-operation is part of our strength.

We must underline that there is still space for development?

Absolutely. The MIC comprises a surface of 370 000 m², which makes us definitely one of the largest technology centers in Switzerland. Adding to the current facilities with a surface for rent of 72 000 m², of which 7000 m² are fully equipped and secured laboratories, five buildings with an additional surface of approximately 11 500 m² are being constructed. In the future, a green eco dwelling will be built in the immediate surroundings. This will provide an entire ecosystem to the people who work on site. Quality of life is essential to success.

What are the main fields of activity at the MIC?

Our site is fully dedicated to cutting-edge research, manufacturing, craftsmanship and services. We have companies from various industries, from research and development in ink and polymers to beer production and fine

chemistry, medical analysis and numerous companies in the service business.

Your philosophy is to generate a value-added chain by creating and growing innovative ideas. How does this work in concrete terms?

Our aim is to create a strong community beyond providing the working space. Diversity is key. Those who want to can work together, foster exchange and share their knowledge to go a step further. Direct contacts are crucial. This is why we organize events and meeting opportunities for our tenants. For example at the moment we are building a new restaurant to foster encounters. Innovation requests exchanges.

Innovation is anchored in the DNA of the site, whose construction started back in 1961. The chemical company Ciba from Basel established then a research and development Campus, later owned by Ilford, the leader in photo-chemical technologies.

Yes, innovation is central to the history and current projects on site. Did you know that Ferrari-red, disposable contact lenses or resin for 3D printing were all developed in Marly? Since December 2017, the first two autonomously driving shuttles have been in use here in our public transport network. And it is definitely no coincidence that iPrint, international competence center for digital printing (iPrint.heia-fr.ch), opened under our roof. At MIC, innovative ideas are surrounded with ideal conditions for future development.

Is 3D printing your battle horse?

Yes, it is an important field of development. Besides the companies already active in this sector on site, our facility is ideal for a value chain requiring laboratories, workshops and offices. Printing is a field of the future. A real pool of competence is emerging. And, of course, this innovative activity needs a lot of know-how and interactions, including micro-mechanics, microelectronics, software and robotics.

www.marly-innovation-center.org