TURNING INNOVATION INTO BUSINESS
The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, situated in the heart of Europe, is well-known for its economic performance and political stability—a solid foundation to generate future economic diversification and growth. Research, technological development and innovation are key drivers to ensure the long-term sustainability of this first-rate-performance.

In a rapidly changing global market, the competitiveness of a country or region is more and more dependent on effective innovation networks involving both the private and public sectors. Luxembourg has therefore implemented various initiatives in order to strengthen the R&D and innovation potential of companies and to reinforce links with public research organisations and academia.

One key element of the National R&D and Innovation Policy is the Luxembourg Cluster Initiative, which aims to develop cutting-edge technologies whilst supporting Luxembourg’s current technological expertise and providing impetus for the further development of national centres of excellence.

The Luxembourg Cluster Initiative, launched in 2002 by the Luxembourg Government, actively encourages networking between the private and the public sectors both on a national and an international level with the goal of fostering collaborative innovation projects, enhancing the visibility of its members and exploring new business opportunities. The focus of the Luxembourg Cluster Initiative is placed on key technology domains that have been identified as being important for the future sustainable development of the Luxembourg economy, such as:

- Eco-Innovation Technologies
- Healthcare and Biotechnologies
- Information & Communication Technologies
- Materials Technologies
- Space Technologies
- Logistics and Maritime activities

Logistics and Maritime activities represent other innovation sectors in which Luxembourg is positioning itself, placing emphasis particularly on innovative solutions for multimodal transportation and high value-added supply chains.
“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.”

Henry Ford, American industrialist (1863-1947)
Turning innovation into business

The various activities of the Luxembourg Clusters aim at fostering the communication and exchange of knowledge and know-how among Cluster members in order to identify and to develop new collaborative projects on a national, European or an international level, thereby increasing the visibility of Luxembourg’s technological and scientific excellence.

**Development of collaborative R&D and innovation projects**
- Identify and support new project ideas
- Establish contacts between potential project partners
- Provide specialist advice on funding opportunities

**Transfer of knowledge and good practice**
- Organise themed seminars, workshops and working groups
- Arrange study visits to renowned research centres and companies

**Value-added information and communication**
- Provide tailor-made and up-to-date information corresponding to the needs of the members, e.g. customised technology surveys, IP-related information
- Maintain an interactive platform for communication and exchange among Cluster members ([www.clusters.lu](http://www.clusters.lu))

**International networking**
- Foster collaboration with comparable and/or complementary Clusters, both regionally and internationally
- Participate in international technology fairs and brokerage events
- Identify new business and market opportunities
- Facilitate participation in EU projects

**Marketing and promotion**
- Enhance the national and international visibility of the Cluster members
- Create a cluster identity by providing targeted promotion
- Define common cluster domains and fields of interests

The Luxembourg Cluster Initiative is animated by Luxinnovation, the National Agency for Innovation and Research, which is comprised of the following partners:
- Ministry of the Economy and Foreign Trade
- Ministry of Higher Education and Research
- Ministry of Small and Medium-sized Businesses and Tourism
- Fedil - Business Federation Luxembourg
- Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce
- Luxembourg Chamber of Trades

Luxinnovation also works in close collaboration with various representatives of public research in Luxembourg:
- National Research Fund (FNR)
- University of Luxembourg
- CRP Gabriel Lippmann
- CRP Henri Tudor
- CRP Santé (Health)
- CVCE (Virtual Resource Centre for Knowledge about Europe)
- CEPS/INSTEAD (Multi-disciplinary research institute specialised in the collection and analysis of socioeconomic and geographic data)
An ideal infrastructure for R&D and innovation
The Luxembourg Government puts a premium value on providing a well-adapted infrastructure in order to facilitate research, development and innovation (RDI). A new milestone will be the completion of the Belval Science, Research and Innovation Park, which will become the flagship of RDI in Luxembourg, hosting the university of Luxembourg and all major public research organisations, as well as private companies, spin-offs, start-ups and cultural centres, thus providing excellent working and living conditions.

A dynamic research community
Luxembourg can boast one of the highest concentrations of public and private research facilities in Europe. Internationally renowned technology companies such as Goodyear, Delphi and DuPont de Nemours have set up major RDI facilities in Luxembourg. In addition, more than 100 research units belonging to the various public R&D organisations are currently carrying out research in areas that reinforce the sustainable development of Luxembourg’s economy.

A young, research-driven university
The University of Luxembourg, founded in 2003, is one of the youngest universities in Europe. Built directly on the Bologna system, it offers a range of high-quality Bachelor degrees, however the focus of teaching is on Master and PhD studies. The university is one of the few in the world to be truly multilingual. The academic staff members come from all over the world and often work in interdisciplinary teams. Special emphasis is given to research and knowledge transfer at the highest international level.

A full range of support measures
The Luxembourg Government provides a full range of support measures to foster R&D and innovation. Luxinnovation, the National Agency for Innovation and Research, is the first-stop shop for information and guidance on innovation and R&D funding in Luxembourg including national and European funding programmes, including the European Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development, ESA, Eureka, etc.

A highly-skilled, multinational workforce
Cross-border thinking, regional mobility and the cosmopolitan nature of its workforce, with more than a 150 different nationalities, all contribute to the competitiveness of Luxembourg’s economy. Many employees in Luxembourg are fluent in at least three languages, mainly French, German and English. These multilingual and multicultural capabilities provide a fertile ground for innovation to flourish.

An interesting IP destination
An important competitive advantage of Luxembourg is its interesting fiscal environment relating to Intellectual Property (IP). Income from patents, trademarks, designs, models, software copyrights or domain names acquired or created after December 31st 2007 can benefit from a tax exemption of up to 80%. This may also apply for deemed IP-income if the IP is created for a company’s own use.
Did you know it's from Luxembourg?

Luxembourg's contribution to the world record breaking tower
Guardian Luxguard S.A. plants based in Luxembourg were
chosen to provide approximately 600,000 m² of coated glass
for the construction of the 206-storey Burj Khalifa Tower in the
United Arab Emirates. For this ambitious project to construct a
tower reaching a height of 828 m, Guardian Luxguard S.A. was
unrivalled in its ability to produce the advanced architectural
glass required.

Satellite pioneers from Luxembourg
SES S.A., created in Luxembourg in 1985, is one of the world’s
leading providers of satellite communications and broadcast
services. SES operates a fleet of more than 40 satellites that
reach 99% of the world’s population and transmit vital services
to keep billions of people connected around the globe.

First zero-emission polar station stands on foundations
"Made in Luxembourg"
The Luxembourg company Prefalux S.A. played an important role
in realising the Princess Elisabeth Antarctica station, the first
and only polar base operating entirely on renewable energies.
Prefalux S.A. was responsible for developing, producing and
mounting the structure’s wooden frame as well as for the
coverings for the façade and roof.

Freedom Tower is based on giant steel sections produced in
Luxembourg
ArcelorMittal’s steel plant in Differdange, Luxembourg, is the only
mill worldwide capable of producing the high-strength, recycled
giant steel beams for the columns of New York’s One World Trade
Center, formerly called the Freedom Tower. The 9 m to 17 m long
steel beams have been shipped to the United States to reinforce
the new 541 m structure of one of the world’s most iconic and
awaited buildings.

Innovative tyre technologies invented in Luxembourg
With a staff of more than 900 engineers, scientists and
technicians, Goodyear Innovation Center Luxembourg [GIC*L]
develops car, truck and farm tyres for the entire world. Goodyear
was recently honoured for its OptiGrip tyre with SmartWear
Technology. A totally new tyre, the Goodyear Biosoprene, in
which rubber compounds have been derived from renewable
raw materials, is another example of cutting-edge innovation.
Goodyear also produces the tyres of president Obama’s
limousine and tailor-made tyres for a lunar vehicle in collaboration
with NASA.

Useful links

www.luxembourgforbusiness.lu | www.innovation.public.lu

Contact

Luxinnovation G.I.E | National Agency for Innovation and Research | 7, rue Alcide de Gasperi | L-1615 Luxembourg-Kirchberg
Phone: +352 43 62 63 - 1 | Fax: +352 43 81 20 | info@luxinnovation.lu | www.luxinnovation.lu

info@clusters.lu | www.clusters.lu

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