

3.8 SWITZERLAND

Switzerland spends about 2.9% of its GDP of over \$99 billion (U.S.) on R&D. Some 80% is financed by industry. ● ●

The country's traditional industrial strengths are in chemicals, precision instruments, agriculture and food, machinery, clocks and watches and heavy engineering.

TECHNOLOGY TRENDS

The main fields of technology development activity are:

- agricultural research, especially biotechnology applications;
- defence, especially in opto-electronic observation, information technology, anti-tank armours, aircraft terrain reinforcement, weapons protection, materials science;
- telecommunications, especially in networks, propagation and new materials;
- energy especially in newer fields such as solar and geothermal energy;
- environmental protection, and
- microelectronics.

TECHNOLOGY STRENGTHS

Strengths lie in traditional areas such as precision instruments, chemicals pharmaceuticals, engineering products and agri-food industries.

KEY ORGANIZATIONS

Key technology development organizations are in the private sector which spends 80% of the country's R&D expenditures. Government organizations with a mandate to support industry include:

- *The Commission for the Promotion of Scientific Research (CERS)* which encourages contacts between scientists and industries. This grant-giving body contributes up to 50% of the cost of a project. The focus

of activity is on materials, processes and manufacturing. The CERS also assesses EUREKA and RACE projects.

- *The Swiss Centre for Electronics and Microtechnology (CSEM)* supports the electronics and precision instruments industries through joint university/industry projects. It also gets involved in improving contacts with foreign sources of technology. The main areas of activity are microelectronics, optoelectronics, sensor technology, micro-engineering and materials technology).

KEY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

The "Impulse" program provides financial support in specialized areas such as electronics, sensors for measurement and control as well as training in informatics, mechanical engineering, and new construction techniques.

The "measures to strengthen the Swiss economy" program set up in 1983 centered on large-scale procurement. Some funds were set aside to finance mechanical engineering and informatics projects.

TECHNOLOGICAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR CANADIANS

Opportunities exist in plastics/chemicals, textiles, leisure products, mineral processing and consulting engineering services.

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