

3.7 AUSTRIA

Austria has a GDP of about C\$ 167 billion (1988) and a population of 7.6 million. R and D expenditures are about C\$ 2 billion or about 1.3% of GDP. ● ●

The main industries are (1987 production figures in billion dollars) food and beverage 8, 7, machinery and metal construction 6, 5, metal products 4, 3, electronics and electro 5, 3 (1988 6,0), chemical 7, 6, pulp and paper 3, 1, woodworking 2, 1, textile and clothing 4, 2.

The main economic centre is the Vienna area followed by Linz and Graz (approximately 200 km away from Vienna). Small centres are Salzburg and Innsbruck, even further away.

TECHNOLOGY TRENDS

Areas given specific government support are electronics, new material technology, and to a minor extent biotechnology and environmental technology.

Austria participates in many international research activities, e.g. EUREKA programs. Environment technology is becoming more and more important.

TECHNOLOGY STRENGTHS

As a small but highly industrialized country (almost 50% of local exports go to Germany and Switzerland) the local industry specializes in very small sectors of the total spectrum.

Areas of strength are mainly concentrated in:

- machine industry (machine tools, flexible mfg)
- transport material handling
- measuring and control technology
- construction technology
- forest, woodworking machines and equipment
- alcoholic & non-alcoholic beverages, milk products, fruits and vegetables, meat, sweets and bakery
- environment technology.

KEY ORGANIZATIONS

Technologies are developed at company and university levels. There are no key developers for technology. Places with several research labs are Seibersdorf with approximately 300 scientists and Arsenal which is smaller. Some larger companies like Alcatel and Benda have set up special research labs outside the company for artificial intelligence, gene technology. The Austrian nationalized industry is supporting a number of research labs in particular disciplines.

So-called technology parks support young companies starting with new technologies. An organization supporting the exchange of technology internationally is the Federal Economic Chamber, Wiedner Hauptstrasse 63, A-1045 Vienna, Technology Section Dr. Wilfrid Mayr., phone: (222) 501 05, telex: 111871.

KEY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Three key programs are:

- FFF, Forschungs Forderungs Fond (Research Support Fund) supporting research in companies to 50% of costs;
- ITF; Innovation Technology Fund (for companies);
- FFWF; Fond zur Forderung der Wissenschaftlichen Forschung (fund to support scientific research) at universities and similar organizations.