A vision becomes reality

Centre for Knowledge and Technology Transfer in Medicine
A health district

Even 100 years ago Graz was a cosmopolitan city of medicine: this reputation was established with the founding of the revolutionary Landeskrankenhaus (Styrian State Hospital). Now Graz stands before another such once-in-a-lifetime project: in a first step towards the new MED CAMPUS Graz, the Wirtschaftsressort des Landes Steiermark (Styrian Department of Economics) and the Medical University of Graz are jointly establishing the Centre for Knowledge and Technology Transfer in Medicine (ZWT), which will comprise 10,800 m² of laboratory and office space for research institutions, spin-offs and company premises. At the same time, the ZWT is the first step for the new MED CAMPUS Graz.

10,800 m² for science and industry

The ZWT is to enable cooperation projects between science and industry (mainly in the field of Life Sciences) on an area of around 9,100 m² above ground and 1,700 m² underground. In addition to the existing enterprises, headquarters and centres of competence for international operations in the field of Bio- and Human Technology, there are plans for institutes and spin-offs for the Medical University of Graz. The business areas offer optimum conditions for promising work: laboratories with adaptive basic equipment, modern offices and sufficient space for communications infrastructure (conference zones, café, etc.).
**FACT BOX:**

**Advantages of the ZWT:**

- High-quality, state-of-the-art laboratory, office and communications space
- Flexible room layout in laboratories and offices
- Immediate access to core facilities of the MED CAMPUS/ Center for Medical Research (ZMF)
- Existing workplace approval for S1 and S2 laboratory use
- Special infrastructure for micro-enterprises
- Special infrastructure for spin-offs (Life Sciences incubator)
- Meeting rooms, kitchenettes, bistro
- Professional facility management

**Technology:**

- 8 x air-renewal with optimised, free cooling potential
- User-specific utilities (nitrogen, compressed air, etc.)
- Optimum ceiling height for laboratories
- Ventilated storage area for hazardous substances
- Fibre-optic internet connection

**Building technology:**

- Low energy standard
- Electronically controlled sun protection
- Daylight-dependent lighting control
- Emergency-powered ventilation
Styrian research companies and private firms from the field of Life Sciences will rediscover themselves at the ZWt, the Centre for Knowledge and Technology Transfer in Medicine. The ZWt is the first step towards the Med Campus Graz, which will house all non-clinical research and teaching institutions in the vicinity of the LKH University Hospital Graz.

Univ. Prof. Dr. Josef Smolle
RECTOR OF THE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ

The ZWt is the first Austrian technology and research centre to achieve full physical and organisational integration into a university campus. The ZWt thus offers the perfect venue for cooperation between science and industry. Upon commencement of full operations in May 2014, the ZWt will provide 250 new highly qualified jobs. The spectrum of professions ranges from medical researchers and laboratory staff to statisticians and technicians. One of the centrepieces of the new ZWt will be the Biobank Graz: biological samples are currently so valuable for medical research that in future they will have their own storage banks. Europe’s largest is already located in Graz and will move into the ZWt once it is completed. The Biobank Graz currently stores over 5 million biological samples, which constitute the basis for many branches of research.

At the same time, the ZWt is the first step towards the new Med Campus Graz, which will become the core of an entire district exclusively devoted to a real issue for the future: health. Construction will begin in Graz-Ries in 2013. Healthtech is one of 3 key topics for Styria’s Economic Strategy 2020.

In the last few years, the Austrian Federal State of Styria has been able to make a name for itself as a global player in the Life Sciences and establish itself as a location for state-of-the-art Engineering and Life Sciences. Specialist areas include “Pharmaceutical Process and Production Technology”, “Biomedical Sensor Technology & Biomechanics” and “Biobank & Biomarker Technology”.

In addition to Austrian and international companies and the Styrian universities (the Medical University of Graz, Graz University of Technology and the University of Graz), research institutions such as the JOANNEUM RESEARCH / HEALTH - Institute for Biomedicine and Health Sciences, the Austrian Centre of Industrial Biotechnology (acib) and the Research Center Pharmaceutical Engineering GmbH (RCPE) are international leaders in these fields of technology. Approximately 10,500 employees achieve an annual turnover of more than €2.4 billion throughout the core area of Human Technology in Styria.

Dr. Burghard Kaltenbeck
MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE STYRIAN BUSINESS PROMOTION AGENCY (SFG)
Together with the LKH-2020 construction project, the ZWT and the MED CAMPUS mark Graz’s and Styria’s largest infrastructure project in recent years: a location dedicated to topics surrounding the Life Sciences and Human Technology. More than 10,000 people are currently employed in this area; some 100 companies generate a turnover of € 2 billion. A dynamic environment with potential for innovation.
CONTACT:

Mag. Anke Dettelbacher, MSc
Auenbruggerplatz 2/1
8036 Graz, Austria
Mobile: +43(0)664/88455493
Telephone: +43(0)316/385-72026
Fax: +43(0)316/385-72034
anke.dettelbacher@medunigraz.at

Mag. Thomas Mrak
Auenbruggerplatz 2/1
8036 Graz, Austria
Mobile: +43(0)664/80793325
Telephone: +43(0)316/7095-325
Fax: +43(0)316/38572034
thomas.mrak@sfg.at

Auenbruggerplatz 2/1, 8036 Graz, www.zwt-graz.at you can find the online presentation here.

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