GREATER ZURICH AREA

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Flying high

Why Switzerland for drone companies

Unrivaled expertise in robotics and microsystems
Inspired by its watchmaking and innovation heritage, Switzerland has developed unique know-how in precision mechanics, microelectronics, and robotics.

World-class education and research hub
Among the best universities worldwide, the Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL) and Zurich (ETH), and the University of Zurich are at the forefront of R&D in flying robotics and unmanned systems. Renowned for their practical orientation, the Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences are especially strong in training engineers.

Close ties between research and industry
Collaboration between research and industry in Switzerland is strong and highly promoted. The National Center of Competence in Research (NCCR) for Robotics connects leading experts from universities and research institutes such as the Dalle Molle Institute for Artificial Intelligence Research with innovative companies and start-ups. Entrepreneurship is encouraged and promotes the creation of successful spin-offs.

Ideal test environment
Innovations in drone technology can be tested right at your own doorstep in Switzerland: the outskirts of cities, dedicated innovation parks, or military and civilian airfields offer official test grounds for drones.

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«Switzerland has established itself as one of the most advanced countries in the world for scaled drone delivery operations»

Andreas Raptopoulos, Founder and CEO of Matternet

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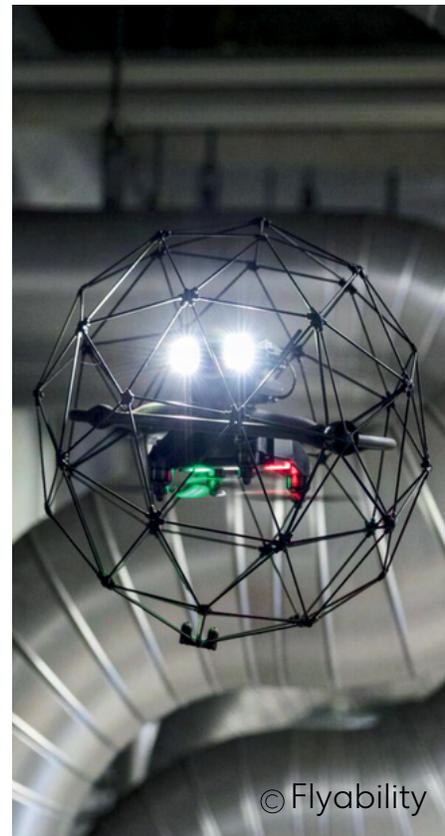
Pioneering drone traffic management
In 2018, Swiss air navigation service provider Skyguide introduced Europe's first drone traffic control system. The U.S. and Switzerland announced in 2020 a joint effort to co-develop harmonized standards for the safe use and integration of unmanned aircraft into civilian airspace.
In 2023, the Swiss drone industry harmonized its legal framework with the EU to set safety standards for the manufacturing, certification, and operation of drones.

Leading talent pool of expert technologists
Switzerland attracts the best talent from around the world thanks to its unparalleled quality of life and leading technology ecosystems. Tech companies such as Google, Meta, Disney, and Hewlett Packard Enterprise have chosen Switzerland as their R&D location because of the high availability of engineers and specialists.

Business-friendly regulations
The Swiss regulatory authorities are innovation-friendly, progressive, and pragmatic, allowing fast and flexible adaptation to new technologies such as BVLOS authorizations. Further, companies get direct access to local authorities thanks to the decentralized government structure.

Join the Silicon Valley of Robotics

You're in good company: Switzerland is home to over 50+ drone companies developing innovative technology for a variety of industries, including agriculture, construction, photography, security, and more.

Invest in Switzerland
Greater Zurich Area Ltd is the economic promotion agency of the Greater Zurich region. We offer tailor-made services to guide companies in their investment journey.
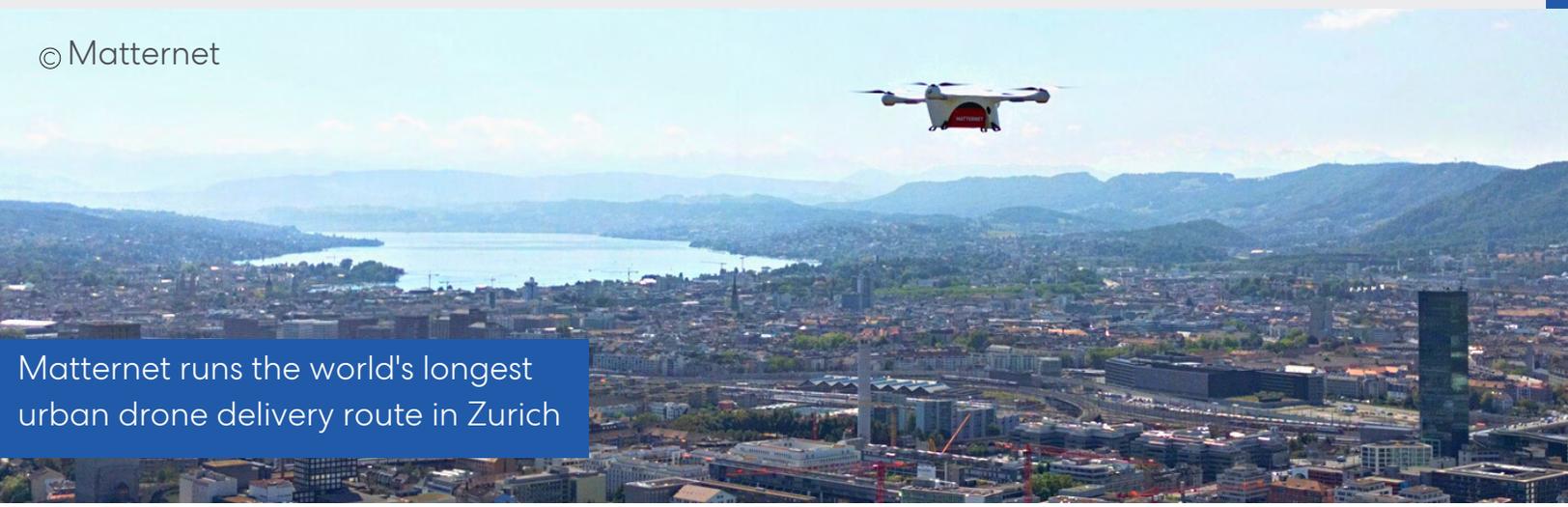
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Matternet runs the world's longest urban drone delivery route in Zurich