

Press release

Two foundations join forces to strengthen the Swiss start-up ecosystem

- *Zurich, 18 December 2024* – The Swiss Entrepreneurs Foundation (SwissEF) and the Deep Tech Nation Switzerland Foundation (DTNSF) today announced that they are joining forces.
- The aim is to create outstanding framework conditions to build a significantly larger capital base for innovative start-ups that have the potential to grow globally.
- The goal is to mobilize around CHF 5 billion annually over the next decade for Swiss start-ups and scale-ups in the deep tech sector, doubling current investment volumes. This initiative is expected to indirectly create up to 100,000 jobs and reinforce Switzerland's position as a leading deep tech nation.

Both organizations share the same foundational purpose: to promote Switzerland's innovation ecosystem. Together, the foundations can now pursue these objectives more consistently, with a longer-term vision and with greater strength.

The ambition behind joining forces is to create internationally outstanding framework conditions and incentives to build a larger capital base for innovative future solutions. The goal is to mobilize around CHF 5 billion annually over the next decade for Swiss start-ups and scale-ups in the deep tech sector, doubling current investment volumes. This initiative is expected to indirectly create up to 100,000 jobs and reinforce Switzerland's position as a leading deep tech nation.

The Deep Tech Nation Switzerland Foundation is building on the key pioneering and development work of the Swiss Entrepreneurs Foundation and carrying it forward into the next decade. The founding partners from 2017 – die Mobiliar, UBS, Swisscom, Gebert Rüt Foundation and Wenger Vieli – will still be represented on the Deep Tech Nation Switzerland Foundation's Board.

The new organization in a nutshell:

- While SwissEF and DTNSF will remain legally independent entities, they will be merged in terms of personnel and organizational structures.
- Operations will be consolidated under the Deep Tech Nation Switzerland Foundation. Implementation is scheduled to take place on 1 January 2025.
- There are plans for the industry associations SWESA (Swiss Entrepreneur & Start-up Association) and SSA (Swiss Start-up Association) to merge at a later date.

'The Deep Tech Nation Switzerland Foundation is building on the key pioneering and development work of the Swiss Entrepreneurs Foundation and is developing it further into the future,' **commented Stefan Mäder** (Chair of the Foundation Board), before going on to add: 'By doing so, it is making a key contribution to Switzerland's innovation capabilities and competitiveness.'

'The two foundations are joining forces to strengthen Switzerland's innovation ecosystem in the long term and help Switzerland to gain global recognition as a deep tech nation,' **remarked Christoph Aeschlimann** (Chair of the DTNSF Foundation Board).

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