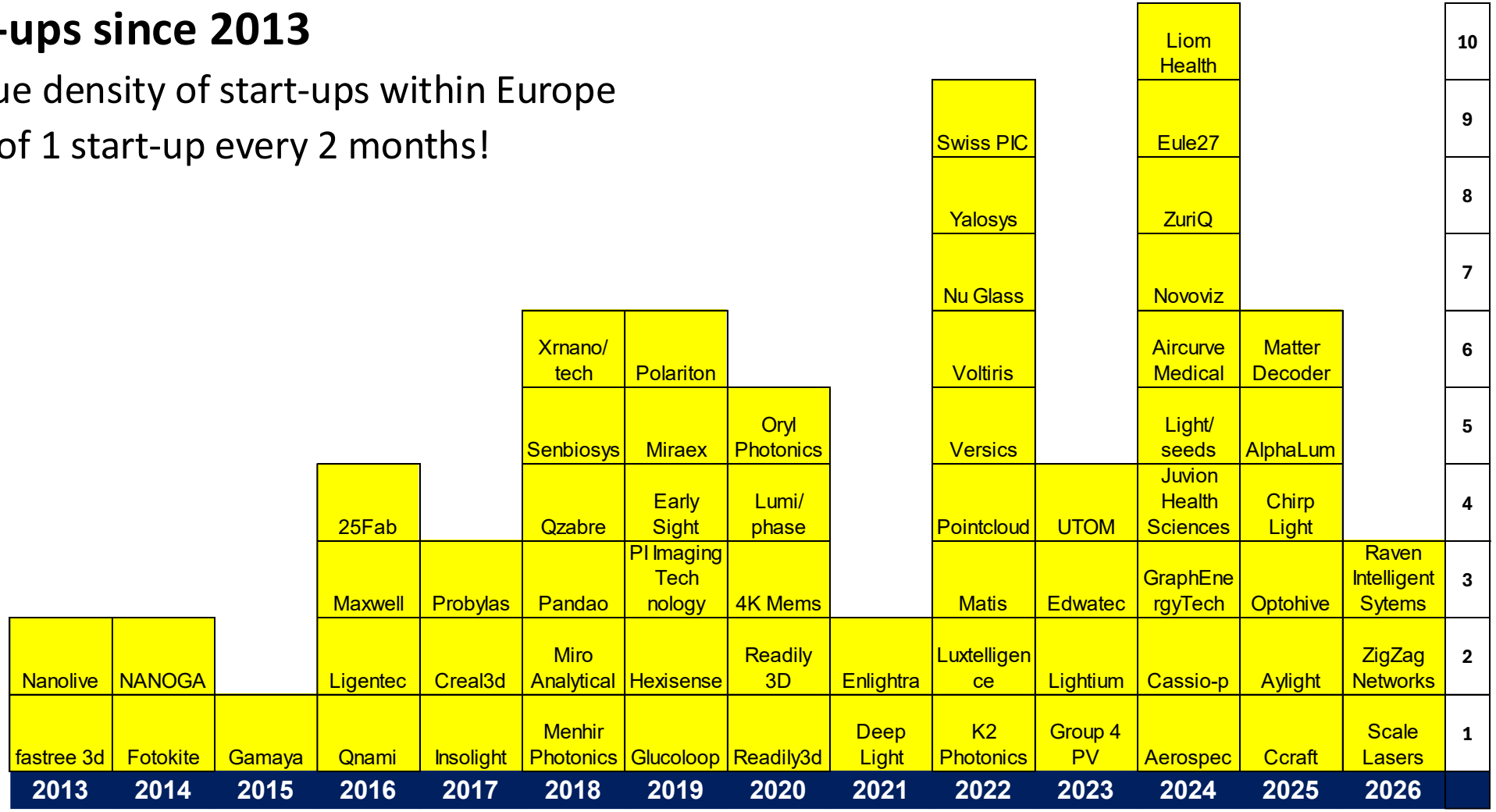
20 YEARS SWISS PHOTONICS

20+ years of

Photonics in Switzerland

Photonics start-ups in Switzerland

- **63 start-ups since 2013**
  - Unique density of start-ups within Europe
  - Rate of 1 start-up every 2 months!



Swiss Innovation System

- **The Good**
  - First in WIPO's Global Innovation Index for 16 consecutive years!
  - Large pool of start-ups to be selected from for scale-ups (survival of the fittest)
  - 265 scale-ups, Valuation of CHF 26.6 billion, 43% from academia
- **The Challenge**
  - Switzerland has a relatively small domestic venture capital market, particularly for later-stage financing
- **The Opportunity**
  - Persistence to keep growing to 100M+ to keep economic value in Switzerland

Country	Innovation rank 2026	Scale-up rank 2026	Scale-up score	$100m+ companies per 100 startups
Sweden	2	4	80.8	2.4%
USA	3	1	93.2	1.6%
Germany	11	7	60.5	1.5%
China	10	2	86.2	1.3%
Switzerland	1	8	56.5	1.3%
Singapore	5	14	35	0.7%
South Korea	4	17	30	0.7%

Emerging trends

SESSION	SPEAKER
Chair & Introduction	**Christoph Harder** Swissphotonics
New Materials and Devices for Pushing Present Speed Barriers	**Jürg Leuthold** ETHZ
High Q Optical Resonators: From Beautiful Physics to Practical Devices	**Tobias Kippenberg** EPFL
Quantum Needs Photonics: The Opportunity for the Swiss Photonics Ecosystem	**Rebecca Garreis** SQC
AI and Photonics: Transforming Swiss Innovation	**Andrea Dunbar** CSEM