VAUD



Vaud, a home for photonics

20 years of Swissphotonics · EPFL, 21 October 2026

Iohannès Bry, Head of Innovation and Business Intelligence

Office for Economic Affairs and Innovation (SPEI)

Academic & research institutions, **talents**

20+ universities & research centers, **80 000** talents (10% of the State population)

Strong community
of entrepreneurs, startups & investors

123 000+ SMEs in Léman region for 580 000+ jobs
650+ start-ups & **40+ scale-ups** for 6 000+ jobs
CHF 578 millions invested in 2025 in Vaud startups

Attractive key industries & **corporates**

Life sciences, precision engineering, AI, cybersecurity…

2 000 hightech businesses, **55 000** jobs, **100** HQ

Dynamic network of partners supporting innovation

8 innovation parks with **770** businesses and **9 500+** jobs on site

A wide variety of supports

Innovaud, your «one-stop-shop»!

VAUD

INNOVAUD

Photonics in Vaud: from lab to fab

23

photonics labs on EPFL's Lausanne campus (26 across EPFL, incl. Neuchâtel)

9,700

jobs (FTE) in electronics, optics and watchmaking: the core of Vaud's precision know-how

2 exits

Pi Imaging to ZEISS (2025) and Miraex to SEALSQ (2026), both still based in Vaud

Research & talent

- **EPFL:** lasers, integrated and quantum photonics, imaging, materials
- **EPFL Center for Quantum Science and Engineering**
- **HEIG-VD:** applied research and engineering talent
- **80,000 talents** in 20+ universities and research centres

Start-ups & scale-ups

- **Ligentec:** silicon nitride photonic chips
- **Luxtelligence:** lithium niobate photonic chips
- **Enlightra:** multi-colour lasers for AI data links (USD 15M, 2025)
- **Deeplight:** ultra-low-noise lasers
- **Miraex:** quantum photonic interconnects
- **Pi Imaging:** single-photon image sensors
- **Lyncée Tec:** digital holographic microscopy

Industry & infrastructure

- **Precision engineering** and watchmaking know-how
- **Synova:** laser micromachining
- **Lemo:** precision and fibre-optic connectors
- **Bobst:** high-precision industrial machines
- **8 innovation parks:** EPFL Innovation Park, Y-Parc, Technopôle Sainte-Croix…

Sources: EPFL Photonics research domain; PADE 2026 (State of Vaud); company announcements. Company lists are examples, not exhaustive.

An enabler for all four PADE domains

PADE 2026 focuses innovation on four domains of excellence. Photonics is a key enabler in each.

Health & longevity

Photonics for: Medical imaging, microscopy, diagnostics, biophotonics

In Vaud: Pi Imaging, Lyncée Tec, EPFL bio-imaging labs

Digital trust & AI

Photonics for: Optical interconnects for AI data centres, quantum-secure communication

In Vaud: Enlightra, Ligentec, Luxtelligence, Miraex

Robotics & advanced industrial systems

Photonics for: LiDAR and sensing, laser manufacturing, micro and nanotech, space

In Vaud: Deeplight, Synova, Lemo

Sustainability & environmental tech

Photonics for: Photovoltaics, energy-efficient computing, environmental sensing

In Vaud: Insolight, EPFL energy and photonics labs

"These sectors are not exclusive and may evolve with the state of research (…), for example quantum technology or photonics."

PADE 2026, Innovation pillar (free translation)

From lab to fab: how Vaud supports you

Start	Innovate	Industrialise	Grow & connect
• **FIT** (backed by the State of Vaud): grants and seed loans of CHF 100k, growth loans • **Innovaud:** coaching and one-stop shop • **Incubation** in 8 innovation parks	• **Non-repayable grants:** envelope of CHF 250k per company over 5 years • **50% co-funding** of product development, IP, certification • **Collaborative calls** and strategic programmes	• **Surety bonds** on investment loans, with Cautionnement romand • **Interest subsidies** on investment credits • **Industry Support Fund** for production tools	• **Trade fairs** and new market studies • **Training** of technical and scientific staff • **Promotion abroad** and access to investors

Track record: FIT backed Vaud photonics start-ups early: Miraex (2020), Deeplight (2023), Luxtelligence (2024). Miraex, acquired by SEALSQ in 2026, still operates from EPFL Innovation Park.

Sources: SPEI support schemes; FIT and company announcements (Startupticker, The Quantum Insider).

The State of Vaud financial support for businesses

Non-repayable grants

Enveloppe of **CHF 250’000.- per company***

*enveloppe open for a period of 5 years, renewable with conditions for 2 additional periods

Innovation

- New patents
- Intellectual property rights acquisition
- New product development
- Certification/homologation
- Production ressources optimisation

Internationalisation

- Participation to trade fairs
- Study/mandate to develop new markets

Training

- Technical staff training or scientific staff training

max. CHF 100’000.-

max. CHF 150’000.-







Investment aid

Surety bond with
Cautionnement Vaud & **SPEI**

Risk sharing

- Investment loan only
- max. 1/3 of the project costs guaranteed by the State
- bond of max. 50% of the bank credit over 10 years

max. CHF 150’000.-



Thank you!

