

Research Barometer

Research and innovation have a long tradition in Austria

From printed circuit boards and batteries to turbines and sewing machines – inventions from Austria have had a significant impact on the world of science and technology. This innovative spirit shows no sign of abating. In the European Innovation Scoreboard's EU comparison, Austria ranks 8th and is thus in the 'Strong Innovators' group. With a research expenditure ratio of 3.34 per cent, the country ranks 3rd in the EU. Businesses benefit from direct funding and a research bonus of 14 per cent.

Unique in Europe Railway test rig



Graz University of Technology has opened the Railway and Infrastructure Laboratory (RaIL). There, complete track systems can be tested under realistic conditions. This enables new components to be developed, tested and prepared for approval before being put through their paces in live railway operations.

Source: [TU Graz Opens a Railway Test Rig That Is Unique in Europe](#)

First commercial satellite from Austria



The Viennese startup Tumbleweed developed 'Oasis Alpha' in less than nine months and successfully launched it into low Earth orbit. Austria's first commercial satellite is enabling four European institutions to conduct experiments in microgravity for the first time and is intended to make it easier to carry out research in space.

Source: [Oasis Alpha is in orbit: Austria's first commercial satellite successfully deployed](#)

60 million euros for innovation ecosystems



With 'Leading Companies & Ecosystems', the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) is launching an initiative for key technologies. Leading companies will work with SMEs, startups and research institutions to develop multi-year R&D roadmaps. From 2027, these are expected to give rise to three to four innovation ecosystems for research and industrial implementation.

Source: [Leading Companies and Ecosystems - The Initiative](#)

Wood for new industrial applications



In Weiz, Styria, the Wood Vision Lab is being established as a new research and development facility for timber and hybrid components. Researchers and industry partners are working there to develop new applications for mobility, mechanical engineering and other industrial sectors.

Source: [Start of construction Wood Vision Lab](#)

Direct current for a climate-neutral industry



The Austrian DC Pilot Factory, led by the AIT Austrian Institute of Technology, combines photovoltaics, production facilities and bidirectionally chargeable electric vehicles within a direct current network at Fill in Gurten, Upper Austria. The nine partners are conducting tests under real-world industrial conditions to determine how renewable electricity can be utilised more efficiently and how peak loads can be reduced.

Source: [Austrian DC Pilot Factory: Direct current for a climate-neutral industry](#)

New battery cells for energy storage



VIRTUAL VEHICLE is working with VARTA, the Materials Centre Leoben and AVL to develop the next generation of lithium-ion cells based on lithium manganese iron phosphate (LMFP). Experimental research, AI-supported data analysis and simulation are intended to make stationary energy storage systems more efficient, safer and more cost-effective.

Source: [PHOENICS: Advancing sustainable battery technologies for Europe's energy transition](#)

The ABA Research Barometer of the Austrian Business Agency (ABA) provides an overview of current issues and projects in Austria as a research location.

For further information:
investinaustria.at/en/why-austria/research-location