SO NORD FRANCHE-COMTÉ
THE PLACE TO BE FOR YOUR BUSINESS
North Franche-Comté is a land of inventors, scientists and industrialists. It is the home of Oehmichen’s helicopter, the foundation of clock-making and modern industry with companies like Japy and clock manufacturer l’Épée, bicycles, motorcycles, scooters and cars made by Peugeot as well as Alstom’s TGV high-speed train. And there are other neighboring industrial celebrities: Lumière, Schlumpf, Lipmann, Bugatti, Clemessy, Schlumberger, Dreyfus and Koechlin.

This richness testifies to more than a century of industrial successes and it is the breeding ground for tomorrow’s development.

North Franche-Comté is fortunate to have one of the 46 global companies that form the Henokiens: family-owned companies that have been operating for 200 years or more. Viellard Migeon Compagnie (VMC) was founded in 1679 in the Territoire de Belfort and it maintains its industrial tradition within an international group having a workforce of over 10,000 employees.

AN INDUSTRIAL DNA FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE

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Alstom, General Electric, PSA Group and other key figures of the economy have developed in the heart of the territory articulated around the Belfort and Montbéliard conurbations. A host of industry stakeholders are at their side and they have generated a remarkable capacity to offer innovative and competitive industrial solutions.

Other fields – healthcare, agri-food, digital and top of the range leather goods – are enjoying a growing position in the economic landscape alongside the key branches: automotive, rail transport and power.

A few other industry players such as industrial doors and gates or special materials processing may be less prominent but they are at the cutting edge of competitiveness.

25% of global power generation is based on GE-ALSTOM technology and services. GE Belfort has provided the 9HA turbine to the world’s most performing combined gas cycle power plant in Bouchain (north of France).

DID YOU KNOW?

THE MOST INDUSTRIALIZED REGION OF FRANCE

10,000 EMPLOYEES IN PSA, THIRD LARGEST INDUSTRIAL SITE IN FRANCE

25% THE SHARE OF INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT

2016 LAUNCH OF THE THIRD HERMÈS MANUFACTURE
THE PLACE TO BE FOR YOUR BUSINESS

WORLD-CLASS PRIVATE RESEARCH CENTERS

60% OF PUBLICATIONS ON FUEL CELL SYSTEMS ISSUED FROM NORTH FRANCHE-COMTÉ

2015

IN ITS BELCHAMP TEST CENTER, PSA WON THE WORLD RECORD OF CONSUMPTION FOR A VEHICLE WITH AN INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE

The growth of North Franche-Comté is due to its skilled labor force as well as bold and imaginative industry leaders with a strong capacity for innovation: R&D represents 5% of local jobs compared to 2% at national level. The presence of major global industries boosts innovation in both public and private research.

There are four competitiveness clusters – Vehicle of the Future, Microtechnologies, Plastipolis and Vitagora – working at the service of innovative companies. North Franche-Comté is definitely in line with the “Industries of the Future” momentum.

The FC Lab research federation is developing the power generator of the future by integrating a hybrid hydrogen fuel cell to an electrical energy storage device.

AN INNOVATIVE ECOSYSTEM

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1. thermal spray setup
2. Intencity concept car by Espera Sbarro School / UTBM
3. CAD design
4. laboratory at the University of Franche-Comté
The Place to Be for Your Business

400,000 visitors annually in Montbéliard’s Christmas Market

140,000 festival-goers at each Eurockéennes music festival

1932: The Sochaux-Montbéliard football club competes in the first French championship, impelled by Peugeot’s visionary sports patronage.

You will be surprised by the riches of North Franche-Comté. Leave gray towns behind you and marvel at the very colorful architecture. Here towns are in the country and the country brings oxygen to the towns. Nature is resting and the territory offers big city services without the inconvenience of a metropolis.

Looking for thrills? You can snowboard, paraglide, go rock climbing, waterboarding or mountain biking. Is your family with you? Discover the hiking paths, visit the parks and zoos. Enjoy the gastronomy and the rich cultural life with theaters, movies, concerts, street performances, the Eurockéennes music festival, the Christmas markets, amateur or high-performance sports, renowned restaurants. Take your pick!

North Franche-Comté is the only territory in France with an American international section from elementary school to junior high. It is possible for your children to choose both the junior certificate and the baccalaureate with an international option.

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Montbéliard cattle is the heir of an ancient breeding tradition and it was officially recognized at the 1889 Universal Exposition. Today, this international star is exported on the five continents and its milk is the most used in cheeses bearing the AOC quality label throughout France.

DID YOU KNOW?

1. Malsaucy leisure park
2. The Belfort Lion
3. Bond Stadium, home of the Sochaux-Montbéliard football club
4. Alliance of local produce and upscale cookware
5. Christmas market in Montbéliard
6. On the slopes of the Ballon d’Alsace

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A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE
North Franche-Comté is a key economic area located between Strasbourg and Lyon. History has given it a strong and distinct industrial character inspired by French creativity, stimulated by German rigorousness and influenced by Swiss precision.

In 2015 EuroAirport Basel-Mulhouse (at 45 minutes from North Franche-Comté) saw 7 million travelers fly to and from 30 countries serviced daily.

DID YOU KNOW?

1. Courcelles-lès-Montbéliard airport
2. the TGV high-speed train station
3. highway A36 connecting Belfort and Montbéliard

300,000

POPULATION OF NORTH FRANCHE-COMTÉ

3rd

TRADE GATEWAY TO SWITZERLAND

2011

THE RHIN-RHÔNE TGV HIGH-SPEED TRAIN LINE OPENED, PUTTING PARIS AT 2 HOURS AND 15 MINUTES FROM HERE
Let’s Create a Common DNA!

Project holders, entrepreneurs, investors: join the momentum and benefit from the infrastructures that have been designed for you. Here, everything has been organized to accompany you in your success.

The Agency for the Economic Development of North Franche-Comté (ADN-FC) is at your service. In the heart of the most industrialized region of France, we will provide all the necessary support to make your project come to life and flourish.

www.sonordfranchecomte.fr