



Berne Economic Development Agency



As dynamic as your business ideas

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Welcome to the Canton of Berne!



Denis Grisel
Director



Why are we in Berne?



Nicholas Staheyeff
Vice President and CEO
eBay International
www.ebay.com



Uwe E. Jocham
Senior Vice President
and General Manager
CSL Behring AG
www.cslbehring.ch



The Canton of Berne enjoys a well-developed infrastructure, low rates of company taxation, an outstanding education and training system, and a well-qualified workforce able to speak several languages. Its central location within Switzerland and Europe makes it ideal for servicing European sales markets. As the capital city, Berne is the political center of Switzerland, thus providing for close contact with politicians and administrative authorities.

A key role in economic development is played by the various cluster organizations. Companies, research establishments and education and training establishments, along with the public sector, have pooled their forces and established industry-specific networks to facilitate networking as well as knowledge and technology transfer. Highly specialized SMEs have also located in the Canton of Berne, operating as suppliers all over the world.

Welcome to our region!

We are very pleased that we chose Berne as the location for eBay's International headquarters. The geographic position, the high standard of living and the culturally sensitive people are positive assets for eBay and its international workforce. We are grateful to the Berne Economic Development Agency for the support they provided us when we first started here in 1999, as well as the support they continue to provide to us as we grow.

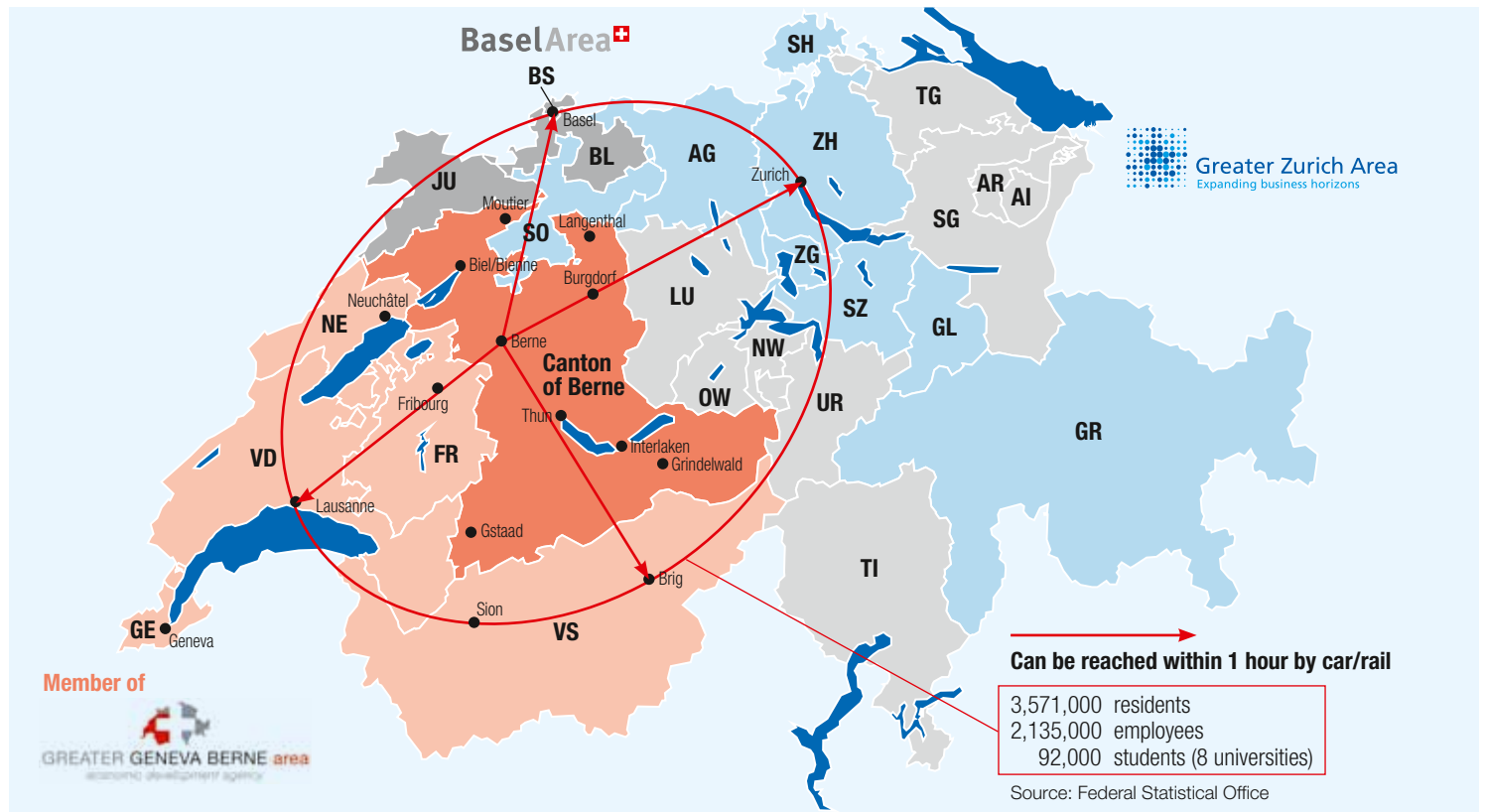
At the Berne site we very much appreciate the good cooperation with the authorities, the community and the cluster organizations. A high educational background, a stable personnel situation, multilingual skills of many employees, our site in a university town – all these things contribute to making Berne attractive on a global level. And of course the geographic position in the heart of Europe is a positive asset.

Facts and figures

- Second-biggest canton in Switzerland, with 1 million residents
- Around 36,300 companies and a workforce of 580,000
- 72% service sector, 22% industry
- GDP: CHF 58,500 per capita
- 1,894 working hours per year (Germany: 1,866; France: 1,575)
- Exports: 6% of Swiss exports
- Corporation tax between 17.4% and 21.5%, with a reduced tax rate for head offices and international service companies
- Tax holidays for up to 10 years



Advantages of the Canton of Berne at a glance



Advantages of the Canton of Berne

- In the heart of Europe, the Canton of Berne is ideally placed for dealing with both European and Swiss markets
- Two official languages (German/French), with widespread use of further languages such as English and Italian
- A business-friendly climate, political stability, and peaceful employment relations
- Capital city of Berne, the political center of Switzerland
- Longstanding and extensive know-how in precision working, and cluster in the precision industry, information and communication technology, medical technology, the energy and environmental technology, design and services
- Low corporate taxation below Swiss and international average
- Renowned education establishments with R&D institutions
- High quality of life and security
- Wide range of leisure and cultural activities

The Canton of Berne in the Internet

- American Women's Club of Berne, www.awcbern.org
- Berne Economic Development Agency, www.berneinvest.com
- Berne University of Applied Sciences, www.bfh.ch
- British Embassy, <http://ukinswitzerland.fco.gov.uk>
- Canadian Embassy, www.canadainternational.gc.ca
- Ecole Française de Berne, www.ecole-francaise-de-berne.ch
- Indian Embassy, www.indembassybern.ch
- International School of Berne, www.isberne.ch
- Packimpex, www.packimpex.ch
- Reloc Expat Services GmbH, www.reloc.ch
- Rochester – The Berne Executive MBA, www.executive-mba.ch
- University of Berne, www.unibe.ch
- US Embassy, <http://bern.usembassy.gov/>



International and national networks

For companies

The Canton of Berne provides access to company networks (clusters), research centers, technoparks and universities that support companies

in their projects. The collaboration between companies and researchers is ensured via knowledge and technology transfer platforms.

Precision industry cluster

Network
 ■ www.precision-cluster.ch

Medical cluster

Network
 ■ www.medical-cluster.ch

ICT cluster

Network
 ■ www.tcbe.ch

Energy and environmental technology cluster

Network
 ■ www.energie-cluster.ch

Design competence center

Network
 ■ www.designnet.ch

Services / Headquarters

Network
 ■ www.consultingcluster.ch

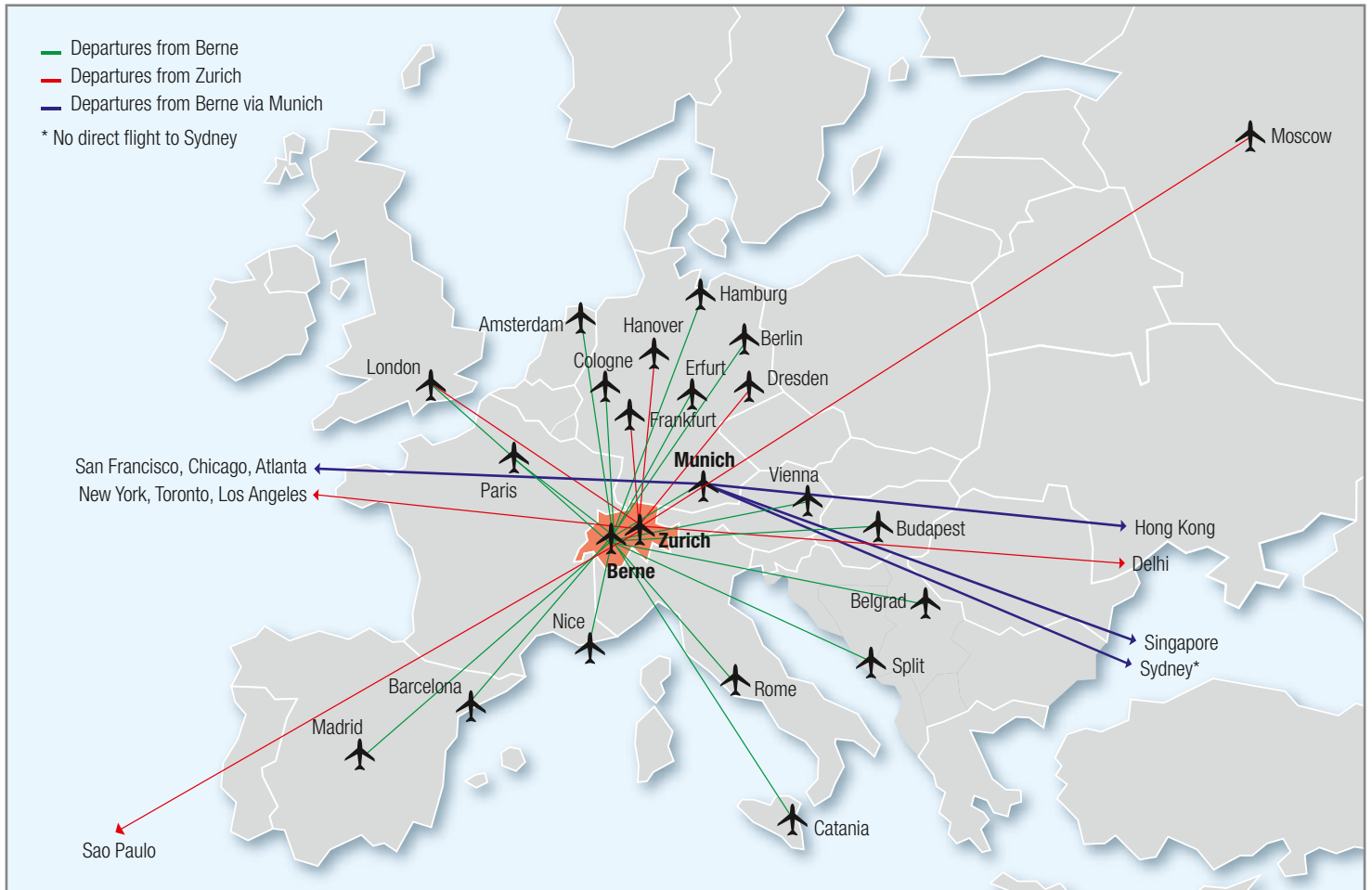
For expatriates

The Canton of Berne offers expatriates access to well-functioning social networks. Attractive platforms for exchange include the Berne Expat Breakfast (3x per year), international clubs and the Berne International Business Cocktail (in November each year).

Many embassies and consulates are located in the City of Berne. The Canton of Berne offers excellent opportunities for education and further training for children, teenagers and adults from all countries.



Central geographical location



Travel time for Swiss and European cities by rail

From Berne to	No. of trains	Travel time
Zurich	3 per hour	55 min
Zurich Airport	2 per hour	1 hour 15 min
Basel	4 per hour	50 min
Geneva	3 per hour	1 hour 40 min
Geneva Airport	3 per hour	1 hour 50 min
Paris	12 per day (1 direct TGV per day)	4 hours 40 min
Milan	9 per day	3 hours
Stuttgart	1 per hour	4 hours (ICE)
Frankfurt	1 per hour	4 hours (ICE)

From Berne, you have a choice of four international airports (Berne, Basel, Geneva and Zurich), which fly to continental and intercontinental destinations. Berne Airport serves 17 destinations, which offer a large number of international and intercontinental connections by passing through hub airports such as Munich and Madrid.



Our services

The Berne Economic Development Agency supports and assists free of charge companies wishing to locate to the Canton of Berne.

- Individual site evaluation visits
- Tax holidays and other financial contributions
- Arranging grants for R&D activities
- Assistance in your site search and in provision of premises and realty
- Information on work permits and residence permits, national insurance, building permission, etc.

To make your start-up in the Canton of Berne as easy as possible, we can put you in touch with

- local authorities and federal institutions
- education institutes (universities, universities of applied sciences)
- industrial and cluster organizations
- financial services providers and venture capitalists
- consultants and lawyers
- other networks

The Berne Economic Development Agency is a one-stop shop for companies wishing to locate and grow in the Canton of Berne.

Contact persons



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■ Impressum



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