

Press Release

**Second Highest Research Expenditures in Europe:
Austria Invests More Than Three Percent of GDP in R&D**

- **Research expenditures have climbed to 3.09 percent of GDP since 2006**
- **Europe's second highest research ratio**
- **Further increase in the research tax to 14 percent as of 2018**

Vienna, December 4, 2017 – Austria and Sweden are the only countries in Europe which invest more than 3% of GDP in research and development. On average, the research ratio within the EU i.e. research and development expenditures as a percentage of the gross domestic product, is 2.02 percent. These are not the only conclusions of the latest data supplied by Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Union. In European comparison, Austria also showed the highest rise in its research expenditures, from 2.36 percent in the year 2006 to 3.09 percent in 2016. This increase is due not least to Austria's innovation policy which makes it possible particularly for research-oriented companies to make investments in R&D.

Increase in the research tax credit to 14 percent

However, this is not the only reason for companies to implement innovative research projects in Austria. In addition to numerous public funding programs, for example those offered by the government funding bodies FFG (Austrian Research Promotion Agency) and aws, firms carrying out R&D in Austria benefit from a research tax credit. Starting in January 2018, companies will be able to claim a tax refund of 14 percent of their research expenditures.

Corporate sector invests the most in R&D

For these reasons, it comes as no surprise that companies in Austria are increasingly investing in research.

The corporate sector accounts for about 71 percent of all R&D expenditures in Austria, one of the highest levels in the EU. The Austrian Federal Government has made research and innovation a top priority. The declared goal is to further enhance business-oriented and scientific research in the country and firmly establish Austria in the group of "innovation leaders" within the EU.

Editorial note:

ABA - Invest in Austria is the national investment promotion company owned by the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy. It provides professional consulting services to interested companies free of charge, supporting them in selecting a business location, with labor and tax issues, identifying cooperation partners and dealing with public authorities. www.investinaustria.at

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