

**20  
25**

Schaffhausen

**area  
for  
makers**

Annual Review  
Economic Development  
Agency Canton of  
Schaffhausen

# Political mandate

The Canton promotes the economy through an active and sustainable economic policy and the establishment of suitable structures.

(Art. 1 of the Economic Promotion Act)

- 1.** Optimizing the framework conditions for the cantonal economic development
- 2.** Achieving balance in the diversification and transformation of industry
- 3.** Attracting new companies
- 4.** Maintaining and creating new jobs
- 5.** Strengthening and profiling the canton as an area for business and living



Our

mission

# For the economic and living environment

**As an Economic Development Agency, we seek to position the Canton of Schaffhausen as an attractive location in the global marketplace. We initiate and launch targeted initiatives to strengthen the framework conditions for economic and social growth. As a key partner for politics, administration, industry and business, we drive ambitious projects with a pioneering spirit and a can-do mentality. Our mission is to further strengthen and develop Schaffhausen in the long term as an attractive place to live and work – and to break new ground as an “Area for Makers”.**

One-stop shop

# Schaffhausen gets things done



**As a one-stop shop for businesses considering settling in or enlarging their presence in Schaffhausen, the canton's Economic Development Agency provides support all the way from the initial exploratory phase to the successful launch or expansion of their activities in Schaffhausen.**

### **Company settlements**

- Promotion of the canton as a business location
- Active market development in selected countries
- Collaboration with international multipliers
- Support with the evaluation, settlement, and relocation processes

### **Residential marketing & regional employer branding**

- Promotion of Schaffhausen as a place to live
- Positioning and provision of support for the regional labor market
- Information and networking events for new employees
- Relocation support for businesses considering and employees moving to the area

### **Technology & innovation promotion**

- Strengthening high-tech capabilities in the region
- Transfer of knowledge and technology
- Development of clusters with specialist platforms

### **Business retention & growth**

- Support for resident companies
- Assistance with expansion projects
- Network development
- Procurement of premises, real estate, and building land
- Develop relationships between technology partners

### **Young entrepreneur & start-up support**

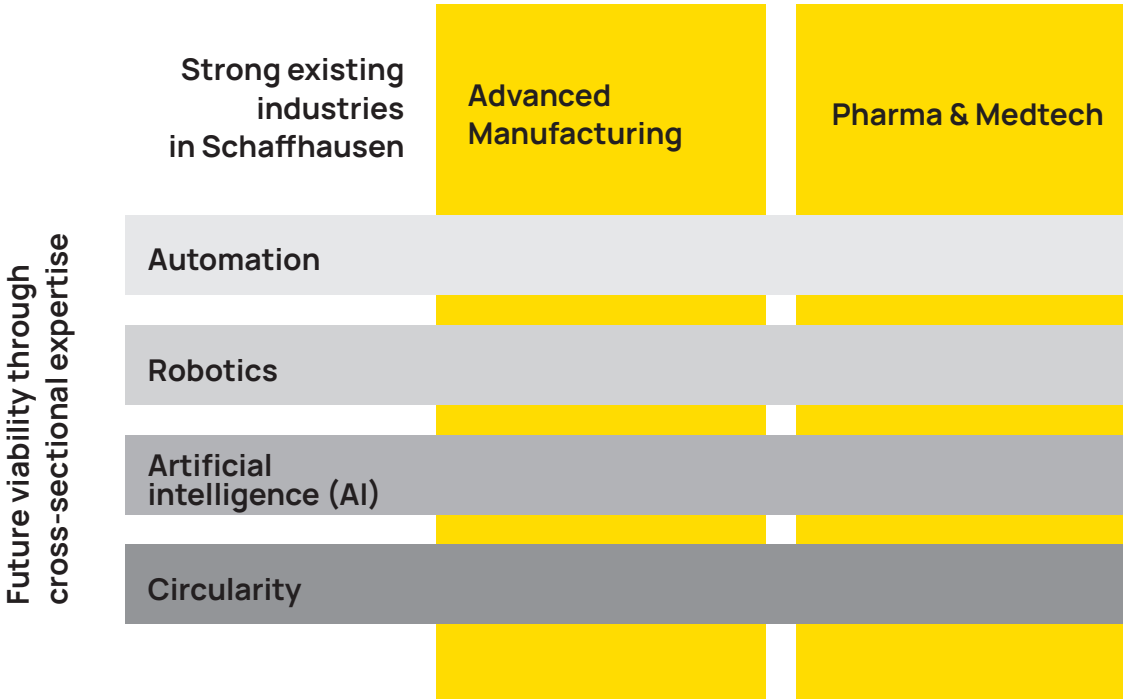
- Free consultations
- Information events for founders
- Networking with experts
- Start-up scouting and scaling support

### **Catalysts for location development**

- Initiation of projects to create USPs for the canton
- RSE office: Information and advice center for project initiators

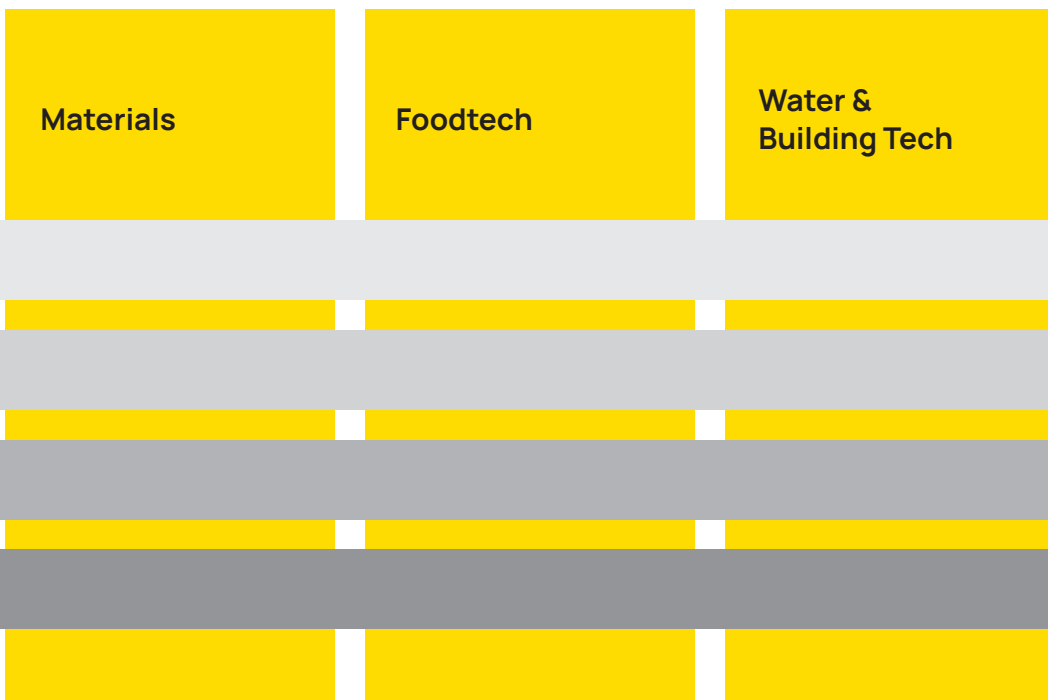
Technology meets energy

# Strategic industry focus



**Schaffhausen offers companies from the Materials, Pharma & Medtech, Advanced Manufacturing, Foodtech, and Water & Building Tech industries a location with industrial depth and strategic foresight.**

Five strong industry sectors form a dense ecosystem of technology partners, suppliers, and talented individuals that increases efficiency and ensures local value creation. Selective connections to automation, robotics, artificial intelligence, and circularity make Schaffhausen the platform for the industry of tomorrow – whether for HQ functions, research and development, or the production and application of the latest technologies.



# Applied research & scaling



Schaffhausen combines applied research with industrial scaling into thematic competence centers to bring key technologies of the future into companies.

The result is an innovation hub and an ecosystem with international appeal – one that attracts companies, retains talent, and strengthens the economy of tomorrow.

Competence centers

**Competence Center  
for Sustainability Robotics**

- Robotics, materials, and AI technology
- Water & Building tech



**be circular**

- Recycling solutions for materials
- Pharma and medtech industry



**Knorri Park**

- Manufacturing, packaging and distribution
- Food industry



# Seven good reasons



# od



1. **Attractive cost mix** – from real estate all the way to tax benefits.
2. **Quick decisions** – thanks to short distances to authorities and network partners.
3. **Strong innovative capacity** – as a region for the application of pioneering technologies.
4. **High quality of life** – with a diverse range of leisure options and a moderate cost of living.
5. **Popular working environment** – in the catchment area of leading universities, competence centers, and metropolitan areas.
6. **Considerable high-tech expertise** – characterized by global headquarters functions and a strong industrial tradition.
7. **Excellent connections** – to Zurich, southern Germany, Europe, and the world.



[www.schaffhausen-area.ch/why](http://www.schaffhausen-area.ch/why)

The economic environment remained highly challenging in 2025. Trade tensions, new tariffs, and a volatile geopolitical landscape created uncertainty worldwide – and put pressure on Schaffhausen’s highly connected, export-oriented economy. At the same time, shifts in tax competition further eroded traditional locational advantages. Against this backdrop, attracting new investment and companies to the region became increasingly difficult.

Rather than waiting it out, Schaffhausen took action and leaned into its strengths: innovation, industrial excellence, and collaboration. The Economic Development Agency put emerging technologies front and center – driving targeted initiatives to strengthen the regional innovation ecosystem.

Early results are already visible: the establishment of the Competence Center for Sustainability Robotics with Empa and EPFL, the continued development of Knorri Park in Thayngen, and the launch of the be circular project. The balanced combination of global headquarters and strong production operations positions Schaffhausen for sustained long-term growth.

# Review

# 20 25

## Company settlements

# From Dublin, Muscat & Philadelphia

**The Economic Development Agency's mandate is to attract high value-added companies in innovation and production, as well as global operators seeking a headquarters location. In 2025, 13 companies chose Schaffhausen.**

The majority of the 13 companies assisted came from the agency's targeted technology fields. Support was also provided to several existing companies looking to expand their local footprint, helping to create and preserve additional jobs in the region. Recently settled companies such as Aptiv, FMC, and Vertiv have already created more than 80 new jobs – despite an uncertain global tax environment. The message is clear: attracting companies delivers lasting impact. They are not just short-term taxpayers, but long-term employers that strengthen the regional labor market.

### **Network for promoting the location**

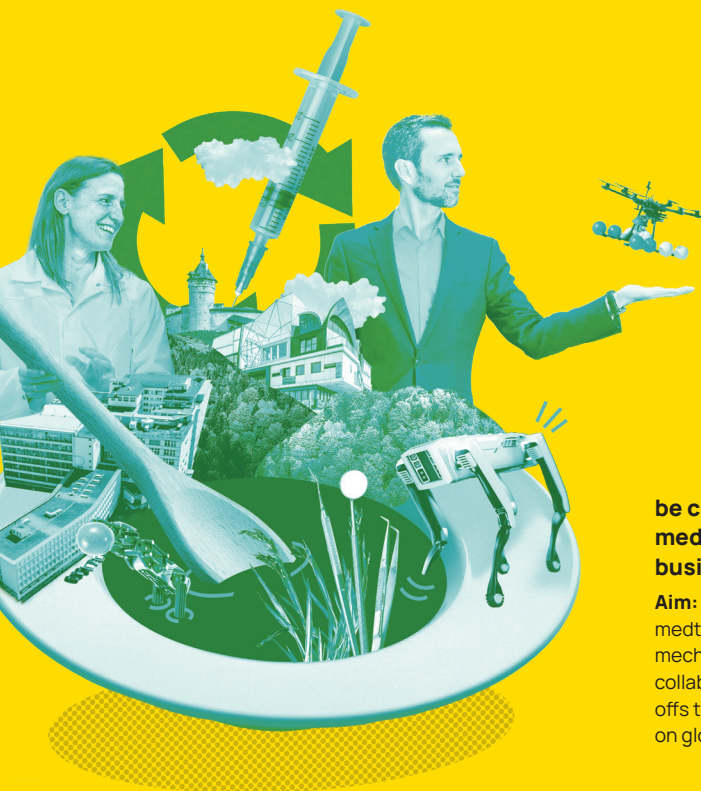
International uncertainty and a shifting cost environment have fundamentally changed location competition. The Economic Development Agency has responded: deepening direct contact with its international network, stepping up outreach in target markets (USA, Germany, Great Britain, Scandinavia, China), and strengthening collaboration with the Greater Zurich Area (GZA) and Switzerland Global Enterprise (S-GE).



# A vibrant innovation ecosystem

As it seeks to develop the innovation ecosystem, which particularly benefits the strong manufacturing industries and production-related service companies in the canton, the efforts of the Economic Development are focused on establishing application-oriented competence centers

with a national and international reputation. The marketing and business retention activities of the Economic Development Agency complement its core activities in regional and location development.



## Competence centers

### **Competence Center for Sustainability Robotics (CCSR) with Empa/EPFL**

**Aim:** To position Schaffhausen as a region for the application of sustainability robotics at the interface of robotics, materials technology, and environmental sciences, transfer innovation to local industry, and serve as a bridge between fundamental research and market-ready products.

### **be circular: material circularity in pharma & medtech; an interdisciplinary network of business and science**

**Aim:** To close the materials cycle of the Swiss pharma and medtech sectors by connecting materials technology and mechanical engineering, and to drive innovation projects in collaboration with industry and research, scaling, and spin-offs to ensure greater resilience and reduced dependence on global supply chains.

### **Knorri Park: Swiss Food Competence Hub**

**Aim:** To establish of a food competence hub on the Unilever site in Thayngen with companies from the food industry and innovation development. New skills, new life to the site, new jobs.

Customer relationship management

# Strong base, strong trans- formation

200+

consultations

2,500+

visitors to the 1st Night of Industry

123

exhibitors at the Table Fair

**When the world gets harder, Schaffhausen showed up for its companies. In approximately 220 consultations, the agency identified challenges early and provided guidance on advancing innovative projects.**

Acting as a single point of contact, the Economic Development Agency provided guidance and supported companies through transformation and further development in more than 220 consultations. Topics covered included connecting businesses with service and technology partners, advising on employment and permit procedures, and sourcing office space, production facilities, and building land.

Concrete expansion projects from 2025 reflect the confidence companies have in this location: Moser Uhren is planning a new development at the SIG site in Neuhausen am Rheinfall, while tool manufacturer WefaSwiss AG doubled its production capacity in Thayngen – a clear commitment to the region in globally uncertain times.

### First Schaffhausen Industry Night – June 12, 2025

The first Industry Night offered over 2,500 visitors an insight into the production processes of ABB, CTI Vascular, Georg Fischer, Johnson & Johnson, SIG Group, Syntegon, go tec!, and Wibilea. This highlighted the importance of Schaffhausen's industry for the population, skilled workers, and young professionals.



### 14th Schaffhausen Table Fair – May 16, 2025

With 123 exhibitors and more than 700 visitors, the 14th Schaffhausen Table Fair connected the regional economy, facilitated cooperation, and added value locally.



## Technology and innovation promotion

# From idea to impact

To unlock and expand the region's existing innovation potential, the Economic Development Agency works closely with regional technology platforms and cross-regional networking organizations.

The primary local partner for the Economic Development Agency is the Industry and Technology Center Schaffhausen (ITS), which serves as the central point of contact for established companies seeking technology and innovation support, and access to the Innovation Network of Eastern Switzerland (INOS). The ITS support offering is widely recognized as a model – both regionally and nationally. Last year, 17 regional SMEs received ITS coaching for specific innovation projects.

Through INOS, companies gain broad access to services and cross-border networking across the region. The Economic Development Agency also connects businesses with universities to facilitate technology transfer, and organizes joint booths at technology trade fairs to position the canton as an innovative business hub.



The start-up 2HS wants to transfer graphene technology from research to industrial practice.

**“We realized Schaffhausen had exactly what we were looking for. The Economic Development Agency made the case – and we were convinced.”**

Dr. Kishan Thodkar, CEO

## Residence marketing & employer branding

# You just have to love it

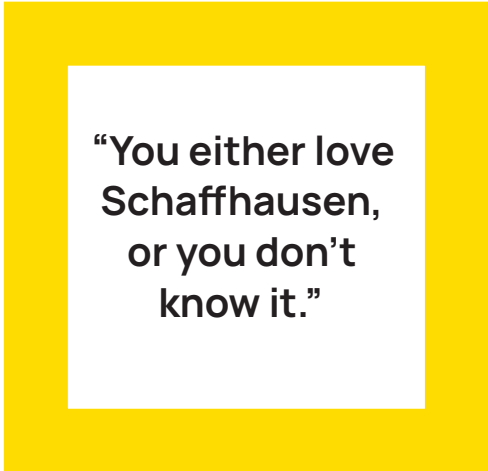
**With the campaign message “You either love Schaffhausen, or you don’t know it,” the Economic Development Agency positioned the canton as an attractive place to live and work in the greater Zurich metropolitan area.**

Residential marketing positions the canton as an attractive destination for young families and high earners in the greater Zurich metropolitan area. The drivers behind this effort are the canton’s demographic situation, the regional economy’s demand for skilled workers, and the comparatively lower tax base of the local population.

The Economic Development Agency promotes Schaffhausen through social media campaigns on Facebook, Instagram, and other digital channels. The campaign “You either love Schaffhausen – or you don’t know it” used text ads and short videos to showcase the canton’s quality of life and work with a touch of humor. The digital campaign achieved over 5 million impressions, with the campaign website attracting more than 57,000 visitors.

### **Skilled workers welcome**

Attracting skilled workers remains a challenge for many Schaffhausen companies. The Economic Development Agency supported businesses with welcome packages – including guides and fact sheets to help new employees quickly get oriented in the canton. Two welcome events gave new arrivals the opportunity to start building connections in the region.



**“You either love  
Schaffhausen,  
or you don’t  
know it.”**

**Entrepreneurs and start-up support**

# Next gen makers

**By supporting early-stage businesses, the Economic Development Agency is investing in the next generation of entrepreneurs – and in a thriving startup ecosystem across the canton.**

The Economic Development Agency supports aspiring entrepreneurs with resources and events. In 2025, more than 60 people took advantage of the free initial consultation service – ten of whom went on to found a company. Three Events “Ich mache mich selbständig” (I’m going Self-Employed) events attracted more than 50 participants from across the canton. An in-depth “Meine Gründerreise” (My Founder’s Journey) workshop was held as part of the table and apprenticeship fair in Stein am Rhein.

At the Power Pitch – now in its second year – five gaming start-ups in cooperation with the Swiss Game Developers Association (SGDA) and three startups from other sectors pitched to a room of regional entrepreneurs and fund managers. The format delivers real support for founders and puts Schaffhausen on the map as a startup ecosystem for innovative entrepreneurs.

To surface promising startup ideas early, the Economic Development Agency also deepened its engagement with universities and established contacts with potential spin-offs.

**60+**

young entrepreneur and initial consultations

**10**

new companies founded

**5**

events

Regional and location development

# Less talk, more action

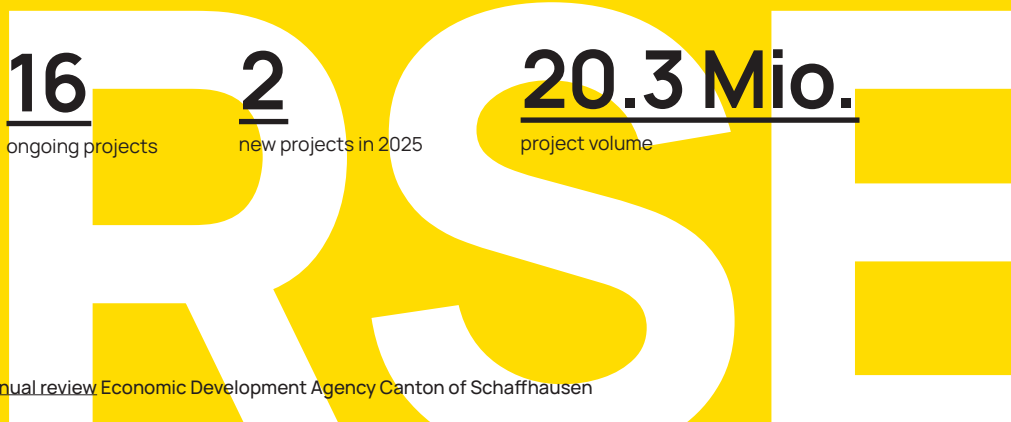
**The Regional and Location Development (RSE) office supports makers and innovators who want to move Schaffhausen forward.**

The Regional and Location Development office provides the Canton of Schaffhausen with an instrument to increase the attractiveness of the location. It focuses on the three funding priorities of "Industry, Commerce, and Services," "Tourism", and "Local Economy and Cooperation" – with the tourism and the local economy priorities geared toward rural areas. The RSE office supports project initiators from the initial idea through to implementation.

Two projects were approved from the Generational Fund in 2025. A total of 16 RSE projects with a project volume of CHF 20.3 million ran – all funded by the

federal government and the Canton, as well as a disproportionately high share of third-party and project sponsorship funds.

Together with Schaffhauserland Tourism and the Regional Nature Park, the RSE office launched a series of events advertised as "Zukunftswerkstatt – Gestalte deine Region" (Workshop of the Future – Shape Your Region). The events took place in Wilchingen, Stein am Rhein, Thayngen, Schleithem, and Buchberg, and attracted more than 100 participants.



# What's next

2025 showed that Schaffhausen is continuing to strengthen its locational factors. The foundations have been laid: The innovation-based location approach is gaining momentum, the flagship projects have been launched, and the investment promotion package is awaiting political approval.

In 2026, the aim will be to translate this progress into visible results – with further business partnerships for the Competence Center for Sustainability Robotics and the development of the be circular platform.



**“2025 demonstrated that Schaffhausen’s efforts to strengthen its locational factors are paying off. The groundwork has been laid: the innovation-driven approach is gaining momentum, the flagship projects are up and running, and the Location Promotion Package (Standortförderungspaket) is moving through the political process. In 2026, the focus will be on turning this momentum into tangible results – through further business partnerships for the Competence Center for Sustainability Robotics and the continued build-out of the be circular platform.”**

Dino Tamagni  
Member of the Executive Council of the Canton  
of Schaffhausen

# Economic promotion has an impact

What we invest today pays off tomorrow – for companies, for talent, and for the entire Canton. In Schaffhausen, economic development is a shared commitment with lasting positive impact.

**“With the support of the Economic Development Agency, H. Moser & Cie. found a new home at the SIG site. This gives us the opportunity to write a great new chapter.”**

Edouard Meylan, CEO of H. Moser & Cie.



# ↑ 5 places

since 2016 (10th place, 2025)  
UBS cantonal competition indicator

# +290%

cantonal tax income from  
legal entities since 2011

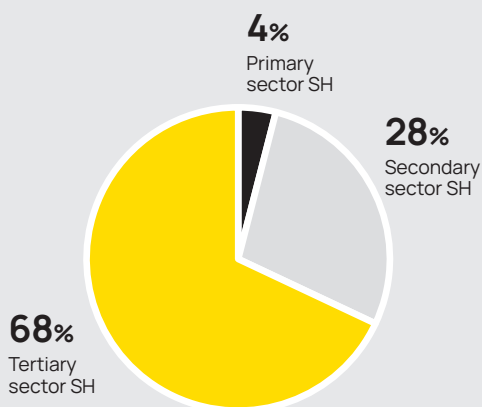
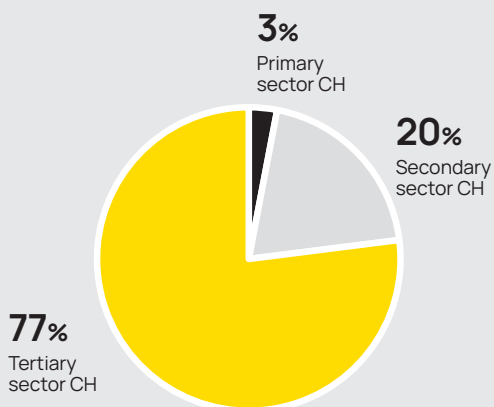
# +5%

cantonal tax income from  
natural entities since 2011

# ↑ 6 places

since 2018 (8th oldest canton)  
Proportion of people aged 65 and over in the total  
population

Development of employment in the sectors  
in Switzerland and in the Canton of Schaffhausen



Economic Development Agency  
Canton of Schaffhausen  
Freier Platz 10  
8200 Schaffhausen, Switzerland  
+41 52 674 03 03  
[www.schaffhausen-area.ch](http://www.schaffhausen-area.ch)

