

Our History in Short

Year	Event	Description
2015	Conceptualization of uptownBasel	Architect Hans-Jörg Fankhauser and investor Dr. Thomas Staehelin envision a futuristic innovation campus in Arlesheim.
2015	Investment Decision	Monique and Dr. Thomas Staehelin and their family commit to privately funding the project, aiming to foster innovation and counteract deindustrialization.
2022	Opening of "The Pioneer"	The first building on the uptownBasel campus is completed, receiving "Gold" certification by Standard Nachhaltiges Bauen Schweiz (SNBS).
Dec-22	Establishment of QuantumBasel	QuantumBasel, Switzerland's first commercial quantum computing hub, is founded as part of the uptownBasel ecosystem.
Feb-23	Establishment of QAI Ventures	QAI Ventures is launched to support startups in quantum computing and AI with funding and resources.
2024	Partnership with the University of Basel	QuantumBasel collaborates with the University of Basel to expand the Center for Quantum Computing and Quantum Coherence (QC2).
2024	Inauguration of IonQ Quantum System	QuantumBasel hosts Switzerland's first physical quantum computer, solidifying its position as a hub for quantum innovation.
2030+	Future Vision for uptownBasel	The campus is envisioned to include state-of-the-art facilities for Industry 5.0, sustainable urbanization, and advanced interdisciplinary research.

uptownBasel, envisioned in 2015 by architect Hans-Jörg Fankhauser and investor Dr. Thomas Staehelin, began as an innovation campus in Arlesheim near Basel. Rooted in a mission to foster technological advancement and counteract Switzerland's deindustrialization, uptownBasel was privately funded by the Staehelin family with an investment exceeding CHF 500 million. The project integrates cutting-edge quantum and AI technologies into an Industry 5.0 cluster focused on sustainability, digitalization, and innovation across sectors such as healthcare, logistics, and manufacturing.

Launched in 2022 as part of uptownBasel, QuantumBasel became Switzerland's first commercial quantum computing hub. It provides seamless access to quantum systems (IBM, D-Wave, and IonQ) for industries and academia, driving research and applications in quantum computing and artificial intelligence. QuantumBasel collaborates with renowned partners, including the University of Basel, to enhance quantum research and development.

Today, uptownBasel houses a growing ecosystem of global tech companies, startups, and research institutions. It exemplifies a visionary approach to integrating emerging technologies with sustainability, setting a model for future innovation clusters worldwide.

Historical Context

Year	Event	Description
Pre-1815	Historical Foundations of the Basel Region	The area around Basel, including Arlesheim, was part of the Duchy of Burgundy and later under Napoleon's French Empire. In 1815, it became part of the Swiss Confederation.
1829	Industrial Beginnings	Johann Siegmund Alioth established a Schappe spinning mill in Arlesheim, laying the foundation for industrialization in the region.
1885-1911	Expansion of Industry	Ludwig Rudolf Alioth founded an electrical machinery factory in Münchenstein, later sold to Brown Boveri & Cie (now ABB). The site became a key industrial center.
1988	Industrial Decline and Transition	After decades of production, ABB closed its plant in Arlesheim, leaving the site largely unused for over 20 years.
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The roots of uptownBasel and its modern achievements in quantum and AI technology can be traced back to the historical and industrial heritage of the Basel region. Before becoming part of the Swiss Confederation in 1815, the area, including Arlesheim, was part of the Duchy of Burgundy and later under Napoleon's French Empire. Its strategic location made it a hub for trade and industry, which flourished in the 19th century.



In 1829, Johann Siegmund Alioth established a Schappe spinning mill in Arlesheim, pioneering industrialization in the region. Later, in 1885, Ludwig Rudolf Alioth founded an electrical machinery factory in Münchenstein, which became a key industrial center before being sold to Brown Boveri & Cie (now ABB) in 1911. Production continued on the site until ABB closed the plant in 1988, leaving the area largely unused for over 20 years.

In 2015, the transformation began when architect Hans-Jörg Fankhauser and investor Dr. Thomas Staehelin envisioned a new innovation campus on the historic site in Arlesheim. Staehelin committed to privately funding the project, aiming to counteract Switzerland's deindustrialization and foster technological advancement. This vision materialized in 2022 with the opening of "The Pioneer," the first building on the uptownBasel campus, which achieved "Gold" certification by Standard Nachhaltiges Bauen Schweiz (SNBS).

In December 2022, QuantumBasel was established as Switzerland's first commercial quantum computing hub, embedded in the uptownBasel ecosystem. The campus further expanded in February 2023 with the launch of QAI Ventures to support startups in quantum computing and AI. In 2024, QuantumBasel partnered with the University of Basel to enhance the Center for Quantum Computing and Quantum Coherence (QC2). The same year, QuantumBasel inaugurated Switzerland's first physical quantum computer, an IonQ system, cementing its status as a hub for innovation.

Looking ahead, uptownBasel aims to become a global center for Industry 5.0, combining sustainability, emerging technologies, and interdisciplinary research. By 2030, the campus is envisioned to include cutting-edge facilities for sustainable urbanization, smart city solutions, and advanced industrial production. Today, uptownBasel stands as a bridge between its rich industrial heritage and a visionary future in quantum and AI technology.