

COMET Centre (K1)

RCPE	
Research Center Pharmaceutical Engineering GmbH	
Main location	Graz (Styria)
Other locations	-
Research programme	RCPE is organized in three Areas. The focus of Area I is on Modeling and Simulation, the focus of Area II is the development of drugs and delivery systems, and Area III addresses on process technology and manufacturing science.
Planned realisation and outcomes	
The aim of RCPE is to bring together multi-disciplinary approaches of process engineering, pharmacy, chemistry, biotechnology, materials science, as well as nanotechnology into a coherent basis for a rational and scientifically based pharmaceutical process and product development. The needs of patient-centered and personalized medicine are addressed specifically. Continuous Manufacturing is the second field of research activities, in combination with modern technology for quality assurance.	
History of establishment	In 2006 RCPE was conceived at the Institute for Process and Particle Engineering at Graz University of Technology. In September 2007 the Center was approved as COMET K1-Competence Center. Together with the global players in the pharmaceutical industry, the K1 Competence Center of Graz University of Technology (65%), Joanneum Research (15%) and University of Graz (20%) RCPE GmbH conducts research in the field of pharmaceutical process and product development, since 1 st of July 2008. Currently, the Center has a network of more than 100 partners and recently achieved a turnover of 11.9 Mio Euro (2017/2018).
Selected company partners (max. 10)	Selected scientific partners (max. 5)
1. AVL List GmbH	1. Graz University of Technology
2. Baxter AG (Shire)	2. Joanneum Research GmbH
3. Boehringer Ingelheim	3. Medical University of Graz
4. F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd	4. University of Cambridge
5. G.L. Pharma GmbH	5. University of Graz
6. Janssen Research & Development	Selected international partners ¹ (max. 5)
7. MG2 Srl.	1. Chiesi Farmaceutici S.p.A.
8. Siemens AG Österreich	2. Evestra, Inc.
9. VTU Engineering GmbH	3. Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp.
10. ZETA Biopharma GmbH	4. Novartis Pharma AG
	5. Pfizer Inc
Duration of the COMET Centre	July 2015 – June 2023 (8 years)
Staff employed at the Centre	93 FTE (thereof 60 scientists)
Total costs	1 st Funding period: EUR 20,82 Mio (4 years) 2 nd Funding period: EUR 20,82 Mio (4 years)
Management of the Centre	Prof. Dr. Johannes Khinast, RCPE GmbH, Scientific Director Dr. Thomas Klein, RCPE GmbH, Business Director
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¹ Partners with headquarters outside Austria