

United to re

IN

force clean technologies

The CleantechAlps cluster and DuPont challenge clean technologies in Western Switzerland



Have you ever wondered why Switzerland is associated with a clean image? Beyond its charming mountains and tidy cities a recent reason is in the growing presence of many innovative companies and academic research centers active in the area of renewable energies. These institutions seek to decrease the dependence on fossil fuels and all agree on one topic: **Clean technologies are the way of the future**. What exactly are clean technologies, also known as cleantech?

While no standard definition exists, typically included are all those technologies like solar power, wind power and biofuels that produce energy for our planet with a smaller environmental footprint than the traditional oil and coal.

Reinforcing clean technologies is also the mission of **CleantechAlps**, created in June 2010. This platform is the result of a public initiative in Western Switzerland, backed by all French speaking cantons and the State Secretariat for economic affairs (SECO).

CleantechAlps acts as an intermediary among the cluster members coming from the political, economic and academic environment of the region.

INDuPont met **Eric Plan**, COO of CleantechAlps.

He describes the mission of his platform by using two key terms "reinforce business and increase visibility". His vision is to transform Western Switzerland into a pool of excellence for clean technologies. The key steps are to open up and



Eric Plan, COO of the cluster CleantechAlps

exchange ideas as well as competencies. This network concept is a good match for DuPont: Do business by practicing open innovation.

Eric Plan explains what he thinks of DuPont as a partner:

"I see DuPont as a catalyst for open innovations that can help CleantechAlps to open up and gain an international scope. The tendency within clean technologies is to look for lateral cooperations in order to find integrated solutions that are applicable in different areas. DuPont responds to this challenge with its expertise in material science. We need to look for materials that are applicable in different areas of clean technologies."