



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Department of the Environment,  
Transport, Energy and Communications

**Federal Office for the Environment FOEN**  
Economics and Environmental Monitoring Division

# **Financing environmental technology innovation: 12 years experience by the Federal Office for Environment**

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## **The promotion of environmental technologies through concrete funding of projects from the swiss federal government exists since 1997, based on art. 49 al. 3 of the federal law on environmental protection:**

*„The Confederation can promote the development of installations and processes which allow in public interests to reduce damages to the environment.*

*In general, the federal financial contributions cannot exceed 50% of the costs.*

*If the results are used for commercial aims, the federal financial contributions must be returned in function of the realised benefits. The federal Council evaluates every 5 years the effects of the promotion measures and presents a report to the federal Chambers of Parliament.“*



## Basics about promotion of environmental technologies (UTF)

- Support program UTF is working since 1997
- The UTF program is administrated by the Section Innovation of the Federal Office for Environment
- Informations available on [www.bafu.admin.ch/innovation](http://www.bafu.admin.ch/innovation)
- 34 mio CHF have been given for 320 projects from 1997 to 2009, leading to private investments of 90 mio CHF
- The UTF program has been included in the federal austerity program KOP 2011-13 and is proposed to be closed by end of 2010, Parliament has to decide in autumn 2010



# Conditions for access to the UTF program

## Criteria:

- advances in the fields of environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources
- market potential
- innovation

## Entitled to support:

- universities / universities of applied sciences
- companies
- others (professional associations, NPOs, cantons, etc.)

## Project costs covered:

salaries, facilities, material

## Other conditions:

- at least 50% of the total costs have to be covered by commercial partners
- federal contributions have to be repayed in case of commercial success

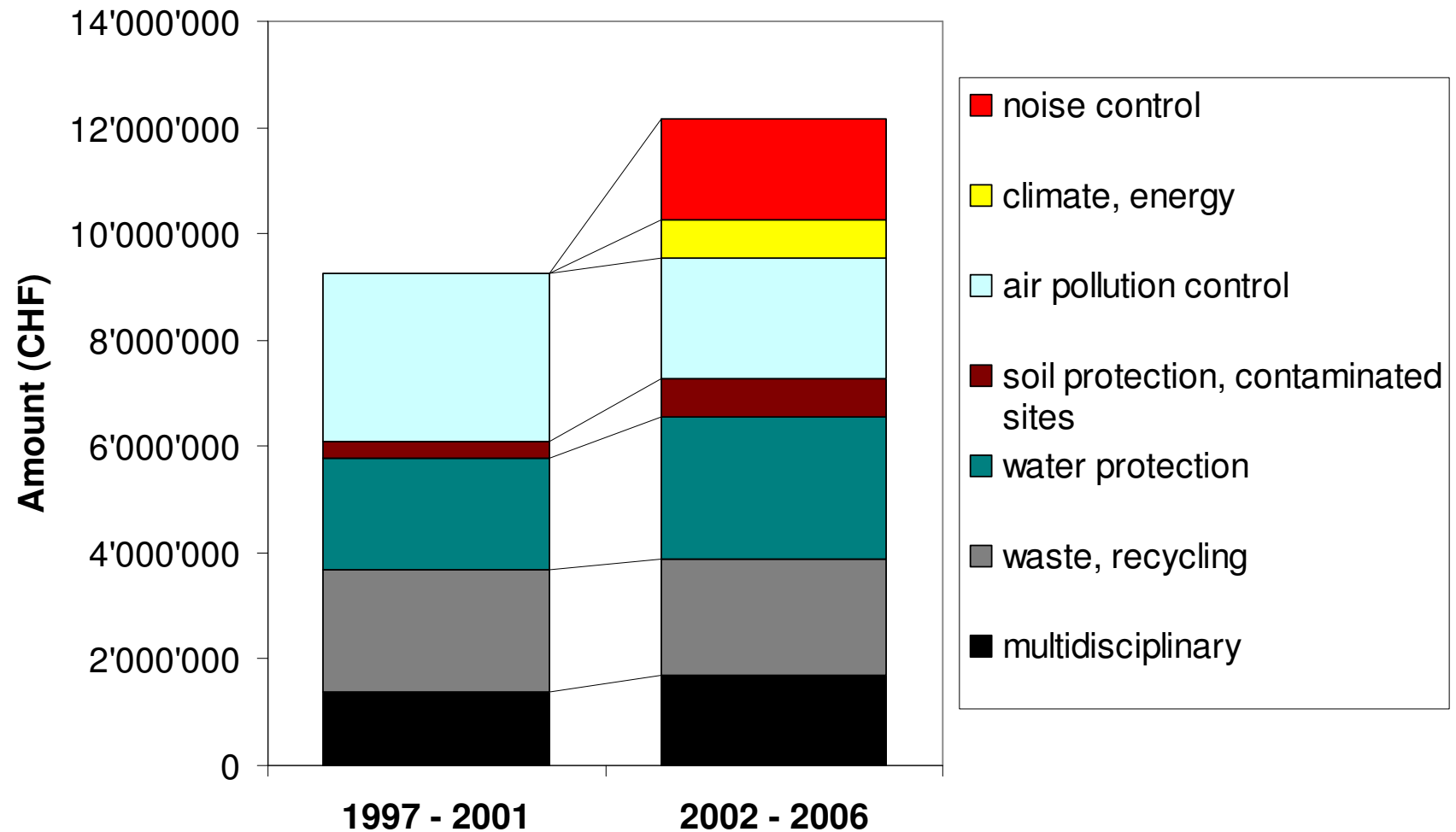


## The 3 main action fields of the swiss environmental technology promotion are:

- Technological innovations to improve the **environmental situation**: development of pilot plants and prototypes in environmental technologies, products and processes (80% of budget)
- Improve the **competitiveness** of the swiss environmental economic branch (10% of budget)
- Improve the **eco-efficiency** of the whole swiss industry and economy (10% of budget)



# Pilot and demonstration projects by category (periods 1997-2001 and 2002-2006)





# Highlights in technological innovation

- 1) **Air pollution:**  
Technology for soot particle measurement
- 2) **Water protection:**  
Solar water desalination with vacuum technology
- 3) **Waste treatment:**  
Recycling of zinc metal from ashes of incineration plants
- 4) **Noise reduction:**  
LEILA (Light and silent freight train bogie)
- 5) **Climate/Energy:**  
REPIC (Renewable Energy Promotion in the International Cooperation)



# Highlight 1

**Development of a novel technology for soot particle measurement leading to a new quality standard for particle filters eliminating 99.99% of all particles**

**Contact:**

[www.matter-engineering.com](http://www.matter-engineering.com)

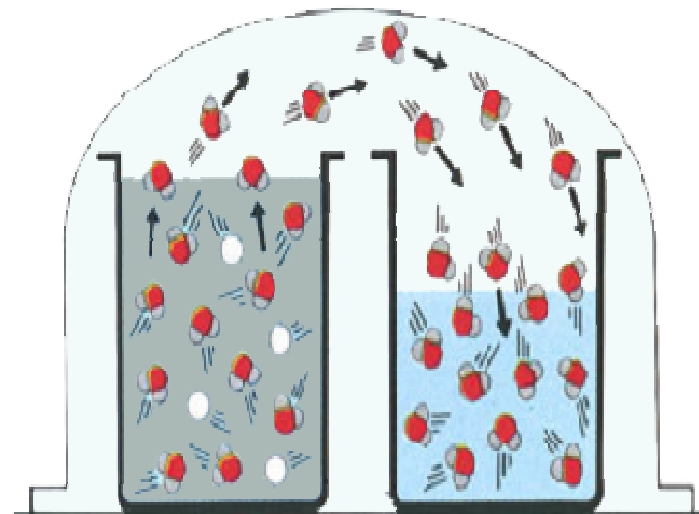




## Highlight 2

**Solar water  
desalination with  
vacuum technology**

**Contact:**  
[www.watersolutions.ch](http://www.watersolutions.ch)





## Highlight 3

**Recycling of zinc metal  
from ashes of  
incineration plants**

**Contact:**  
[www.techform.ch](http://www.techform.ch)

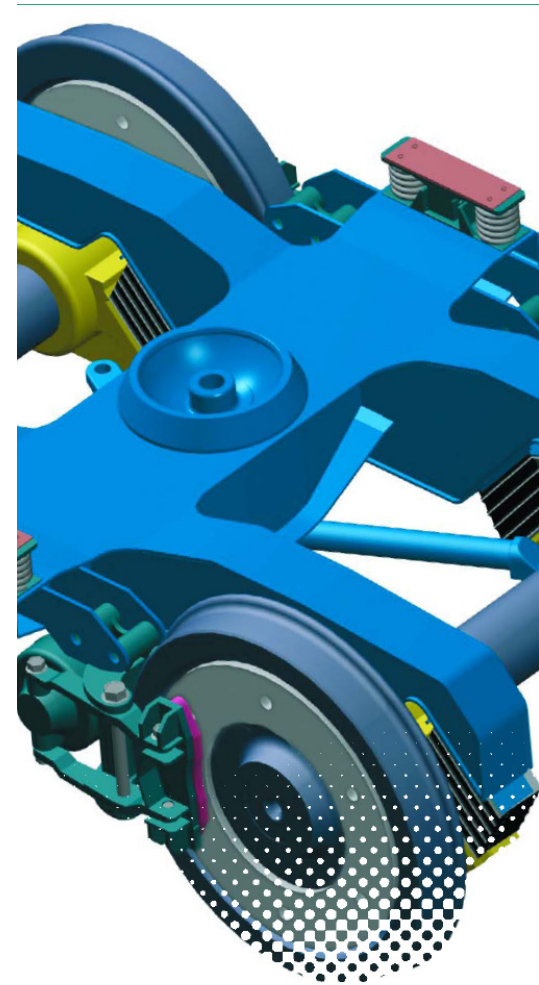




## Highlight 4

**LEILA**  
(Light and silent freight train bogie)

**Contact:**  
[www.josefmeyer.ch](http://www.josefmeyer.ch)





# Highlight 5

**REPIC  
(Renewable Energy  
Promotion in the  
international cooperation)**

**Contact:**  
[www.repic.ch](http://www.repic.ch)





# Improve the competitiveness

- Eco-net is a Consortia dedicated to Knowledge and Technology transfer between science and economy. It helps to find the right partners to form a project team.  
→ Informations on [www.eco-net.ch](http://www.eco-net.ch)
- Sustainable Engineering is a Consortia dedicated to assist teams who want to design a collaborative project for CTI, FOEN, SFOE or European funding  
→ Informations on [www.sustainableengineering.ch](http://www.sustainableengineering.ch)
- The new Cleantech Exportplattform is developing all the support necessary for swiss companies to be successfull abroad  
→ Informations on [www.cleantech-switzerland.com](http://www.cleantech-switzerland.com)



# Improve the Eco-efficiency

**Eco-Efficiency is promoted with following projects:**

- Platform [www.proofit.ch](http://www.proofit.ch) which contains:
  - a self-check for companies to assess their potential for eco-efficiency
  - an infotheque containing reports about state-of-the art technologies and examples of good solutions implemented
- Execution of Deeper assessments using the tool **Quickscan** promoted by the Institute for Ecopreneurship at the FHNW (Engineering school) and the Effizienzagentur Schweiz AG