

## Innovation Process Key Actors | Glossary

**A key part of the NTN Swiss Smart Cities is the cooperation and collaboration of a wide range of actors, working together in interdisciplinary teams to develop new and radical ideas contributing to the Swiss Smart Cities of tomorrow.**

Actors include non-commercial research partners with their researchers, students, scientific staff, etc., representatives of the economy (start-ups, SMEs, larger companies, industry associations, etc.) as well as public actors (including the public administration, governmental or semi-governmental organizations such as hospitals, transport companies, etc.) and the civil society in the form of individuals or associations.

<b>Consortium</b>	The NTN Swiss Smart Cities is supported by a consortium consisting of representatives of stakeholders from universities and business/society, who together wish to assume responsibility for the successful implementation of the NTN Swiss Smart Cities. The consortium is therefore the responsible body of the NTN and jointly represents it to the outside world.
<b>Implementation Partners</b>	<p>Implementation partners are those actors who implement the innovation ideas and thereby create economic added value. These can be start-ups, SMEs or larger companies that offer products or services or implement processes.</p> <p>But they can also be non-profit organizations, such as municipalities, that create added value for society and can reduce public costs by implementing innovations. Implementation partners do not always have to be commercial entities. The definition depends on the nature of the idea being supported idea.</p> <p>Ideas that are further away from the end customer, or B2B projects, can also benefit from a research institution or a non-commercial organization as an implementation partner that can conduct initial concrete tests with a limited number of users, or that or applies the idea in an initial limited area.</p> <p>For ideas and projects close to the market or for B2C products and services, the implementation partners must also provide industrialization or mass production capabilities, commercialization capabilities, product or service support, as appropriate. It is the responsibility of the NTN Swiss Smart Cities to assess the implementation partners of the funded innovation teams according to this definition.</p>
<b>Innovation Teams</b>	Innovation teams comprise implementation partners, university representatives and ideally, customers who are expected to benefit from the planned innovations. They may also include other key stakeholders who play a role in developing the idea, such as regulatory authorities.
<b>Leading House</b>	The Leading House is a non-profit organization that acts as the applicant vis-à-vis Innosuisse and on behalf of the consortium. The leading house assumes responsibility vis-à-vis Innosuisse for processing the «NTN – Innovation Boosters». The leading house supports the consortium in the conception and implementation of the «NTN – Innovation Boosters». The Leading House of the NTN Swiss Smart Cities is the Bern University of Applied Sciences (BFH).
<b>Research Partners</b>	Research partners are those actors who develop an idea with implementation partners on the basis of their research findings and competencies. These include university research institutes, non-commercial research institutes outside the university sector, departmental research institutions with their own research projects, and national research institutes.