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SUMMARY

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The Technologieradar Berlin study identified around 35,000 inventions originating in Berlin that have resulted in almost 90,000 patents in the past 20 years. The patents were grouped into five main categories – electrical engineering, instruments, chemistry, mechanical engineering and other technologies – encompassing a total of 35 technology fields.

Berlin's invention-related activities focus on different fields than those of the rest of Germany. In the German capital, the categories of electrical engineering, instruments (including measuring and monitoring instruments for photonics and medical technology) and chemistry dominate, whereas in Germany as a whole, around one-half of the patents are in mechanical engineering. These results reflect the specific structure of Berlin's processing industries, whose main areas of focus are electrical engineering and chemistry. Automotive engineering has a major impact on the overall German economy, but it plays a marginal role in Berlin. The German capital's invention profile is more similar to the global invention profile, which is shaped by the US – the world's dominant political economy.

Looking at the percentage shares of Berlin's patents in each of the technology fields, it becomes clear that there are well-defined focal areas. The technology field with the most patent grants is electrical machinery, devices and energy, followed by pharmaceuticals, transport and measuring technology.

Within the overall German patent landscape, Berlin is above average in the technology fields of electrical engineering, instruments and chemistry. Taking the individual technology fields into consideration, pharmaceuticals is above-average, followed by electrical machinery, devices and energy, telecommunications and biotechnology. Overall, Berlin's strength in the technology fields related to modern information and communication technologies is striking. This is another area in which Berlin's profile is more similar to the global profile than to Germany's national profile. The development of the individual technology fields over the course of time shows differences between the short-term and long-term growth rates in the capital. With regard to long-term growth – within the past 10 years – computer technologies, engines, turbines and pumps and measuring technology are the three top fields.

But looking at the growth of the past 3 years yields a different picture. In the short term, medical technology is the field with the most dynamic development, followed by engines, turbines and pumps and transport. But also semiconductors, IT-based management methods and computer technology show better growth trends in Berlin than in Germany as a whole.

The patent map of Berlin is a visual representation of Berlin's technology or patent landscape.

The study is available in German.
www.technologiestiftung-berlin.de/publikationen

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