



KMO

KILOMETER ZERO / MULHOUSE

km0.info

Km0: An industrial history

Mulhouse was an important industrial centre from the 19th and until the late 20th century. Back then, it was called the “city of 100 chimneys”, all dedicated to the textile industry.

Very quickly, the founders of the industrial revolution in Mulhouse understood both the necessity and value of creating an environment as a whole, combining the design and production of the textiles themselves but also of the machines producing them. As textile production becomes increasingly efficient, the processes from design to delivery must be equally innovative. So the machines were built on-site, producing Mulhousian textiles then delivered by train beyond country borders, using the first European railway. The SACM (*Alsatian Society of Mechanical Engineering*) was born, its production shaping the city.

Today, the legacy of this glorious history remains in the hearts and memory of most Mulhouse citizens but also in remarkable buildings like Km0.

Km0 stands for “kilometer zero”: at the exact point from which rail distances were counted, based in the former SACM industrial area.

In Mulhouse, the industries may have faded, but the energy of its people has not. Mulhouse has now turned toward the digital field: economy, communication and use.



Km0 - 15000 m² dedicated to digital

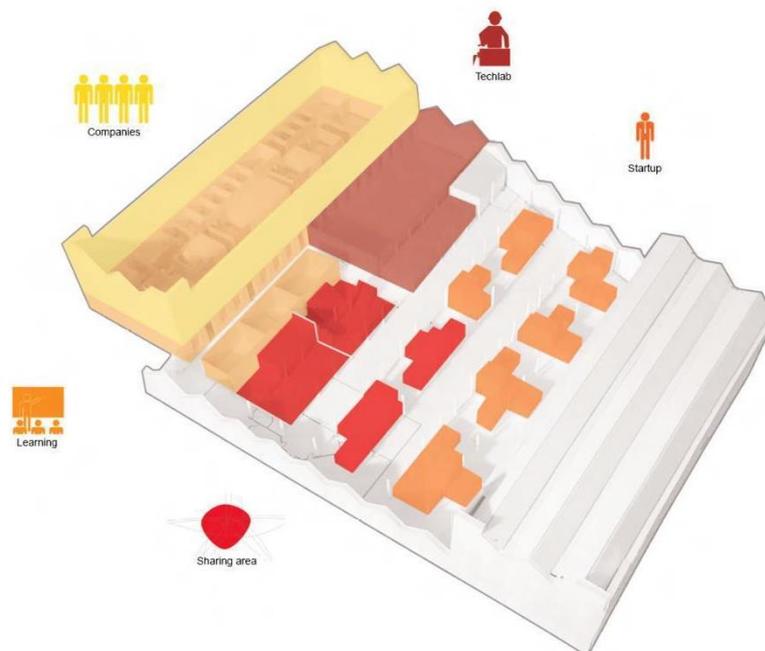
Located on a large, abandoned industrial site, Km0 will see the light of day in the former premises of the SACM, thus reusing a former manufacturing workshop area dating back from the 19th century.

The creation of Km0 falls within a large-scale development program, started in 2000, of increased digital skills in Mulhouse and the surrounding area – the region provides nearly 100 different training courses and university curricula in the digital field.



Km0 : Goals and ambitions

The main goals of Km0 are to bring together realms that rarely mix under the same roof – universities, entrepreneurs, companies, engineering schools, laboratories, and startup incubators – and to connect digital startups with prototyping solutions taking place at the TechLab. Beyond enhancing digital expertise, Km0 aims to create a complete ecosystem in favour of creativity, innovation and new projects via partnerships between people and companies on site.



Km0 is ideally located in town, within walking and cycling distance from the railway station, and easily accessible with public transportation. Moreover, there are plans to launch a number of partnerships to open Km0 to the companies in neighbouring Germany and Switzerland, and to invite startups from these countries to settle in the Km0 premises. Following the Mulhouse opening, Km1, Km2... could open in Basel, in Freiburg etc.

Km0 stands for « Kilometer 0 ». Soon, it will also mean a fresh start for the local economy.