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CERN is one of the world's best centres for fundamental research. However, the economic return has been disappointingly low. I have been active in the field of technology transfer from fundamental research in highenergy physics to other fields during the last 20 years, and this activity culminated in the creation of a spin-off company a few years sago.

I will analyse the reason for the low economic return of such fundamental research, on the basis of my personal experience over the last 20 years.

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