

Media release

BERNEXPO AG: co-chairship of the Board of Directors

Bern, 27 August 2020 – With immediate effect, the role of Chair of the Board of Directors of BERNEXPO AG will be exercised under the co-leadership of Franziska von Weissenfluh and Peter Stähli, former Deputy Chair. Owing to health reasons, Franziska von Weissenfluh no longer wishes to exercise the overall management of the company alone. She will step down from the Board of Directors of BERNEXPO AG and Messepark Bern AG at the 2021 general meeting.

Franziska von Weissenfluh has been a member of the Board of Directors of BERNEXPO AG and Messepark Bern AG since 2009. She has been running the group of companies as Chair of the Board of Directors since 2015. For health reasons she wishes to share the responsibility for the overall management of BERNEXPO AG with Peter Stähli with immediate effect. Management duties will be shared by the two executives. Franziska von Weissenfluh will step down from the Board of Directors of BERNEXPO AG and Messepark Bern AG at the next ordinary general meeting. She will stay on as Deputy Chair of the Board of Directors of Messepark Bern AG until the next general meeting.

“This is not a decision I have taken lightly, but my sense of responsibility towards the company has made this step inevitable. BERNEXPO AG is a solidly positioned company which is pressing ahead with the strategic switch from venue rental company to a modern live communications company and implementing the development steps triggered by the coronavirus pandemic even faster. I am confident that, thanks to measures initiated, our future as a leading Swiss live marketing company will be a successful one”, explains Franziska von Weissenfluh.

Peter Stähli has been on the Board of Directors of BERNEXPO AG since 2019 and was appointed Deputy Chair of the Board of Directors at the end of May 2020. He will run the company as co-chair up until the general meeting in spring 2021. “I am very well acquainted with the conference and event business and I will continue to consistently pursue the path we have embarked upon. Together with the Board of Directors I will do everything in my power to successfully overcome the severe impacts caused by the coronavirus crisis”, says Peter Stähli. Whether he will continue to be available for the position of Chair beyond the 2021 general meeting remains to be seen.

Franziska von Weissenfluh intends to continue to dedicate herself in her role as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of Messepark Bern AG to the urgently needed renovation of the old Festhalle. Finalised in May, the purchase of the majority shareholding in the infrastructure company Messepark Bern AG has made it feasible for the Bern trade fair venue that the Neue Festhalle generation project might be achieved in the foreseeable future. The newbuild meets the core criteria for creating a contemporary infrastructure for the Bern trade fair venue and will thus contribute significantly to preserving the draw of Bern as a location.

For enquiries, please contact:

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About BERNEXPO AG

Every year, the live marketing company BERNEXPO AG stages more than 30 exhibitions and guest exhibitions, over 300 congresses, trade shows and other events of all sizes. Live communication allows BERNEXPO AG to deliver memorable moments, create spaces where people can come together and offer a wide variety of platforms. The BERNEXPO site is one of Switzerland's largest exhibition premises. Eight exhibition halls across two building complexes offer around 40,000 m² of event floor space and 100,000 m² of outdoor areas. BERNEXPO AG employs a team of around 130 people. Generating a gross added value of around CHF 260 million, it is a leading economic driving force for the city and region of Bern – with a nationwide impact.