

## Media release

# Positive annual result thanks to a soaring start

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Bern, 2. Juni 2023

**BERNEXPO GROUPE has successfully weathered the coronavirus pandemic. Despite the start of the preceding year being shaped by widespread restrictions, the rapid moves to re-open society in the second quarter of the 2022 business year led to a positive overall result. This is highlighted by the financial figures presented at today's annual general meeting.**

### **A soaring start after a two-year hiatus.**

The BEA that began on 29 April 2022 marked the starting shot for the return to normality for trade fairs. This successfully completed trade fair was followed by others such as the Swiss Caravan Salon, HeroFest, the BAM.LIVE trade fair for employment and vocational training, and AGRAMA. The pleasing visitor and exhibitor figures serve as confirmation to BERNEXPO GROUPE of just how important and popular its trade fairs are. "This success clearly highlights the value of live events, face-to-face conversations and the trade-fair experience for visitors as well as exhibitors", concludes Peter Stähli, Chair of the Board of Directors.

### **Business is booming again**

Following a first quarter that was limited by the pandemic in the previous business year, operations have now returned to normal. Turnover almost doubled compared to the previous year. Operating expenses rose by 25.2% to CHF 42.1 million, which can be traced back to the higher number of trade fairs and events held. Despite higher operating expenses, we were able to progress with efficiency savings and strict cost management. The annual result of BERNEXPO GROUPE is CHF 0.9 million. The average number of employees rose to 109 full-time positions over the last year and reflects the company's positive restart.

## **New members of the Board of Directors**

Re-elections and new elections to BERNEXPO AG's Board of Directors were also held as part of the annual general meeting. The exiting Pascale Bruderer Wyss will be replaced by Sandra Banholzer (CEO Rausch AG Kreuzlingen) and Sascha Zahnd (former VC Tesla Europe, Non Executive Director Logitech, etc.), who were voted in by a large majority of the shareholders. Chair of the Board of Directors Peter Stähli stood for re-election and was appointed for a three-year term.

## **The Neue Festhalle: the excitement is building**

On 15 May, construction got under way for the new multifunctional conference and events hall, which will open for the BEA 2025. In future, this venue will be able to host cultural events, shows, conferences, trade fairs, sports events and other types of event with up to 9,000 people. The Neue Festhalle is also a major component of the Congress Hub Bern, an initiative launched in January this year by Bern Welcome AG, Kursaal AG and BERNEXPO GROUPE. The aim is to bring new and existing conference formats to Bern and create sustainable value for the entire region. Amongst other things, this will include the Swiss Cyber Security Days, which will be organised by BERNEXPO GROUPE in collaboration with our partner Dreamlab Technologies in autumn 2023.

### **Please address any questions to:**

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**About BERNEXPO GROUPE**

BERNEXPO GROUPE, a live marketing company, stages more than 30 proprietary and guest exhibitions, over 300 congresses and specialist events, as well as event engagements of all sizes every year – either in person or in hybrid or virtual form. BERNEXPO GROUPE’s live communication approach produces eventful moments, creates space for encounters and offers innovative platforms. The BERNEXPO site is one of the largest exhibition premises in Switzerland: Six exhibition halls in two building complexes have a total of around 40,000 m<sup>2</sup> of event space and 100,000 m<sup>2</sup> of outdoor areas. The opening of the Neue Festhalle in 2025 will expand the range of events in the Swiss capital. BERNEXPO GROUPE has a staff of around 100 employees. It achieves gross added value of around CHF 260 million, making the company an important economic driver for the city and region of Bern, as well as a familiar name throughout Switzerland.