

Media release

## **BERNEXPO AG annual general meeting**

**Bern, 11 May 2021 – This year's BERNEXPO AG annual general meeting took place once again without the shareholders being present due to the pandemic. Long-standing Chair of the Board of Directors, Franziska von Weissenfluh, was duly honoured and given a small-scale send-off. Peter Stähli, known for being a co-founder and long-standing CEO of the Swiss Economic Forum, is to be elected as the new Chair of the Board of Directors at the inaugural meeting on 21 May 2021.**

During the annual general meeting which, once again, had to be carried out in the absence of the shareholders, Franziska von Weissenfluh, the long-standing Chair of the Board of Directors, was given a fitting farewell and tribute was paid to her great achievements. Councillor Christoph Ammann and Mayor Alec von Graffenried offered personal words of thanks to Franziska von Weissenfluh, highlighting her strong track record at the trade fair and event location over the last twelve years, along with her successful involvement in the Neue Festhalle.

### **2020 – a challenging year**

The BERNEXPO GROUPE looks back on a difficult financial year, as in 2020, the core business was at a virtual standstill from March to December. As such, the pandemic has had a negative effect on annual results for 2020 in all business areas of the company. As reported in the media release on 24 March 2021, the company reported a drop in sales revenue of approximately 51%, to CHF 24.4 million, for the past financial year (previous year: CHF 49.7 million). EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation) is CHF –10.9 million (previous year: CHF 8.8 million) while consolidated annual earnings were CHF –16.1 million (previous year: CHF 2.1 million). The annual financial statement was approved at the annual general meeting and the decision was also taken in favour of the proposal by the Board of Directors not to award a dividend. The Board of Directors and the Management Board were granted discharge and all other proposals were also accepted by a broad majority. Peter Stähli, the previous Co-Chair of the Board of Directors and known for being a co-founder and long-standing CEO of the Swiss Economic Forum, is to be elected as the new Chair of the Board of Directors at the inaugural meeting on 21 May 2021.

### **A positive look ahead**

«We look forward with confidence to the second half of 2021 and hope that all the planned live events are able to go ahead including our trade shows [ORNARIS](#) and [SINDEX](#)», stated Peter Stähli, the future Chair of the Board of Directors. «The appropriate safety measures for large events have already been developed and signs of restrictions being eased are now definitely on the horizon.»

**For enquiries, please contact:**

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**About the BERNEXPO GROUPE**

Every year, the live marketing company BERNEXPO GROUPE stages more than 30 exhibitions and guest exhibitions, over 300 congresses, trade shows and other events of all sizes. Live communication allows the BERNEXPO GROUPE 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 square metres of event floor space and 100,000 square metres of outdoor areas. The BERNEXPO GROUPE employs a team of around 125 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.