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Embassy of Switzerland
Swiss Business Hub United Kingdom

SWISS BUSINESS HUB UK Newsletter No 17 – May 2012

Dear Reader,

On 20 July, the House of Switzerland - the official Swiss hospitality centre at the London 2012 Olympic Games - will open its doors. Based in Glaziers Hall in the City of London, this Swiss House will be the scene of exciting activities: receptions, media conferences, client events and medal celebrations.

We will be supporting different organisations and companies with their promotional events and will also host a networking reception of our own. Further down you will find further details about some of those events.

So please do join us and let's celebrate this exciting and unique occasion!

With best wishes for an Olympic summer!

The Swiss Business Hub Team

BUSINESS INFORMATION

British Business Club

In the summer of 2012, the biggest sporting event in the world will attract not just sports enthusiasts. Tens of thousands of international business representatives will visit London, providing businesses with a unique opportunity to showcase their skills and expertise.

To take advantage of this opportunity, we have developed the British Business Club <https://britishbusinessclub.innovateuk.org/> in partnership with UK Trade & Investment, London & Partners and the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills. Membership of the British Business Club is free. Businesses can join, wherever they are based in the world, to take advantage of an environment supporting and encouraging business networking during the Games.

At the heart of the British Business Club is an online platform providing up to date information about London 2012-related business events and networking opportunities in the lead up to and during the Games:

<https://britishbusinessclub.innovateuk.org/events>.

TRADE SHOWS

RWM show, NEC Birmingham, 11 – 13 September 2011

www.rwmexhibition.com

The exhibition will host the largest group of recycling and waste management professionals in the industry under one roof over three days. The visitor audience will attract serious buyers including senior management decision makers, representing all sectors of the industry. Switzerland's cleantech industry offers many world class products and services in waste management and treatment. To showcase these solutions, Swisenviro.ch is organising a Swiss Pavilion at this event.

Information about the Swiss Pavilion is available from:

Mr Urs Heutschi

Swisenviro.ch, P.O. Box 165, CH-8308 Illnau

Phone +41 52 355 21 11, Email info@swisenviro.ch

NEWS FROM SWISS COMPANIES IN THE UK

Geberit onsite for sustainability at Dublin's Aviva Stadium

(Source: <http://www.geberit.co.uk/web/app/uk/wcmsuk.nsf/pages/new-rel-80>)

Dublin's stunning new architectural triumph, the Aviva Stadium, was designed to provide first-class facilities for spectators, players, media and backroom staff. But behind this beautiful poly-carbonate façade, the nuts and bolts of the stadium needed to comply with some strict ground rules. The contractor Mercury Engineering had to ensure the venue was constructed as sustainably as possible, working towards the BS8901 certification of sustainable management for events and event venues and this is where Geberit stepped in.

Geberit played a key role in helping the venue achieve this level of sustainability by supplying its HDPE pipes throughout the stadium. Not only is this material completely recyclable, it also provides a total solution for all types of drainage, including soil, waste and rainwater.

Geberit also provided a full technical back-up service and on-site training for joint coupling to the installation team, ensuring complete peace of mind throughout the project.

Sika concrete admixtures used in Busway beams

Sika concrete admixtures are being used in the production of high quality precast concrete beams and slabs on the major Luton Dunstable Busway project.

The Luton Dunstable Busway is being constructed by BAM Nuttall for Luton Borough and Central Bedfordshire Councils. The 13.4km busway will be the second longest in the world, and the longest in an urban environment, running from Houghton Regis, through Dunstable and into Luton town centre, from where it continues using a new bus lane towards Luton Airport

Full article: <http://www.buildingtalk.com/news/sik/sik407.html#ixzz1mT6d2IMt>

News from the Swiss army knife maker Victorinox

Swiss Army knife adapts to remain a cutting-edge tool (BBC News, 16 May 2012).
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-18005145>

Swiss army knife maker Victorinox adds 'lifestyle' range to its box of tools (The Guardian, 29 April 2012).
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2012/apr/29/swiss-army-knife-victorinox-lifestyle-range?INTCMP=SRCH>

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Enterprise Europe Network 'Internet of Things' speed dating event, Tuesday 12 June

This event will bring together technology provider and application developer companies keen to exploit new opportunities in M2M, sensor networks, ambient intelligence and remote monitoring for applications such as supply chain management, logistics, telehealth, assisted living, transport, gaming, entertainment, security and smart grids. Participants will be encouraged to make new contacts leading to commercial partnerships to address these new markets, and consortia to bid for funding opportunities such as Framework 7 and Horizon 2020.

Where: National Physical Laboratory, Hampton Road, Teddington TW11 0LW, UK

This event is free to attend, but delegates must register in advance. Places are limited so early registration is advised:
www.regonline.co.uk/SMEspeeddating. For registration assistance please contact nancy.moore@npl.co.uk

The House of Switzerland at the Olympic Games 2012 in London

The House of Switzerland – the official Swiss hospitality centre at the Olympic Games - is moving to the banks of the Thames and opening its doors from 20 July to 12 August 2012 in the heart of London. Glaziers Hall near London Bridge will be the centre of a vibrant, innovative and surprising Swiss presence.

The House of Switzerland is project managed by Presence Switzerland, part of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, and acts as a meeting point and social hub for the Swiss Olympic Team, its sponsors and partners. It will also be used for receptions, media conferences, client events and medal celebrations.

The official caterer Mosimann's will ensure an excellent Swiss gastronomic experience.

For more information, please contact the House of Switzerland team at info@houseofswitzerland.org

Stay up to date and check out how the House of Switzerland UK 2012 is taking shape!

www.facebook.com/houseofswitzerland

www.twitter.com/HoSLondon2012

www.houseofswitzerland.org/newsletter

Events:

Embassy/Swiss Business Hub UK Summer Networking Reception in co-operation with the British-Swiss Chamber of Commerce

Tuesday 24 July 2012, 6pm to 8.30pm

The Swiss business community goes Olympic. On the occasion of the Olympics the Economic Section of the Swiss Embassy and the Swiss Business Hub UK are holding an annual networking reception in co-operation with the British-Swiss Chamber of Commerce.

The event will bring together representatives of other Embassies, trade promotion offices, chambers of commerce as well as Swiss and British business representatives, some of whom are members of our bilateral Chamber of Commerce.

Amongst the British business representatives will be members of the Osec Pool of Experts www.poolofexperts.ch.

Guests will be able to enjoy a warm and welcoming atmosphere and also be able to make use of the excellent networking opportunity.

Location: House of Switzerland at Glaziers Hall, 9 Montague Close, London SE1 9DD near London Bridge

Participation is free

For more details contact:

Nathalie Granier, nathalie.granier@eda.admin.ch or Thorsten Terweiden, thorsten.terweiden@eda.admin.ch

Berne Investor Seminar

The Berne Economic Development Agency is organising an investor seminar on 8 and 9 August 2012 in the House of Switzerland at Glaziers Hall, London. The seminar is aimed at all interested companies and will provide information on the many attractive business opportunities offered by the Canton of Berne.

The British have been coming to Switzerland for hundreds of years. And they have always been captivated by Berne – not only our capital city, but also the canton of the same name. Berne and Britain are linked by strong and truly traditional ties of friendship. And a unique and enduring relationship.

Participate in our investor seminar free of charge and have a chance to win one of our fabulous prizes: a holiday in a 5-star Swiss Chalet in Grindelwald or in the 4-star Hotel Steigenberger in Gstaad.

Free registration and competition: www.britslopeberne.ch

LATEST NEWS

British – Swiss Chamber of Commerce (BSCC) unveils new logo Press release, 11 April 2012

To strengthen the refined vision and new emphasis on the bilateral nature of the Chamber, the BSCC proudly introduces a new branding initiative – the first such endeavour in close to two decades. The launch is being supported with a new website, which also serves as a directory for British-Swiss businesses, as well as a fresh new logo, the work of Swiss-based British designer Adrian Snodgrass.

“Our previous branding served us well for some 15 years during which the BSCC has undergone considerable development”, says Alexis Lautenberg, President of the BSCC. “Our new, modernized image reflects this and, with its more contemporary use of national colours, represents our membership in Britain, Switzerland and Liechtenstein in a refreshing and appropriate manner.”

For full press release

http://www.bscc.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=495:british-swiss-chamber-of-commerce-bscc-unveils-new-logo-and-branding&catid=21:recent-news&Itemid=216

For further information, please contact: Ms Fiona Rhodes, Membership & Marketing Manager
Tel +41 43 443 06 81; fiona.rhodes@bscc.co.uk

Switzerland remains the most innovative country in Europe

According to the Innovation Union Scoreboard, Switzerland is the overall Innovation leader continuously outperforming all EU27 countries.

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/files/ius-2011_en.pdf

Energy System Rabtherm wins Energy Globe Awards Switzerland

RABTHERM AG develops a comprehensive system which uses and produces renewable energy.

www.rabtherm.com

Embassy of Switzerland now on Facebook! Join us!

<http://www.facebook.com/swissembassyuk>

The luxury Swiss chalet experience: chalet Rotstöcki



Located in the beautiful village of Grindelwald and with breathtaking views of the famous Eiger North Face from every room, Chalet Rotstöcki is the epitome of Alpine luxury. Ski lifts, shops, restaurants and the station are nearby, providing easy access to the ski slopes in winter and mountain trails in summer.

For more information, please contact Robert Simpson,
T: +44 7881 881 958; Email: info@swisschaletresort.com
or visit: www.swisschaletresort.com



© Thorsten Terweiden
Lutz-Peter Berg, Science & Technology
Attaché (left) and Thorsten Terweiden,
Head of SBHUK (right).

Austrian-Swiss football team plays in mini Euro 2012

On Saturday 19 May, the Head of the Swiss Business Hub joined a mixed football team from the Austrian and Swiss Embassies which did quite well. After a 2:1 win over Ireland, 0:1 loss against Russia and a goalless draw with England (who came second overall) the team had to play Lithuania (later the bronze medal winner) in the qualifying round and played a remarkable 0:0 during the official playing time. Unfortunately the team went out after a dramatic penalty shootout.

Although it was a short tournament for the team a great time was had, not least because the event was very well organised.

Watch this space for news about the 2014 Diplomatic European Football Championships.

LOGBOOK OF PAST EVENTS AND PROJECTS

SkyWork Airlines celebrates first anniversary in the UK



©SkyWork: Tomislav Lang, CEO SkyWork AG blowing out the candle on the birthday cake

SkyWork Airlines of Switzerland celebrated its first anniversary in the UK on 3 April at an event held at the Embassy of Switzerland. To celebrate the occasion H.E. Mr Anton Thalmann, the Swiss Ambassador, greeted representatives from SkyWork Airlines and guests. In his speech Ambassador Thalmann said that it is “encouraging to learn that not only is this connection doing well but also about to be increased in terms of daily flights.”

The airline’s CEO Tomislav Lang thanked the Swiss Ambassador and the Swiss Business Hub UK for their support. Mr Lang said that he was pleased with the positive results of the London route which confirmed that the high initial investment had paid off. Tricia Handley-Hughes, Marketing Director for London City Airport, expressed her delight at how well the airline has done in its first year.

The service is the only direct flight between London’s City Airport and Switzerland’s capital. The UK’s capital is served with one morning and one evening flight from Monday to Friday and with one flight on Saturday morning and Sunday evening. **Since its launch a year ago 11,160 passengers have flown from Berne to London City. This makes it one of the most successful routes of the Berne home carrier.** Because of the high demand, SkyWork had to replace the initially used Dornier 328 (31 seats) with the DASH-8 Q400 (72 seats).

SkyWork Airlines was founded in 1983 initially offering flight training and air taxi services. Today it has evolved into a regional carrier flying Dornier 328 Turboprop and Bombardier Q400 aircraft. SkyWork Airlines is headquartered in Belp and currently employs 170 staff. In its summer schedule the airline will offer 25 European destinations from Berne in total.

For further information: www.flyskywork.com

POOL OF EXPERTS - MEMBERS



©Thilo Schneider

Thilo Schneider joins Pool of Members

Thilo is a German-born, English-qualified Solicitor with McGrigors LLP (www.mcgrigors.com), a UK top 50 law firm with offices in London, Manchester, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Belfast.

Thilo has been advising Swiss businesses on English law matters for more than 10 years, specialising in mergers and acquisitions and general corporate work. Many of his clients are active in the renewable energy, infrastructure or technology sectors and benefit from Thilo's experience in cross-border transactions.

McGrigors is a full service law firm and also has a dedicated team of UK tax lawyers who advise on a variety of corporate and personal tax issues (including on the 2011 UK/Swiss Tax Agreement).

Thilo's full profile can be viewed at <http://www.poolofexperts.ch/en/experts/thilo-schneider/>. You can contact Thilo on +44 20 7054 2658 or by email at thilo.schneider@mcgrigors.com or follow him on Twitter: www.twitter.com/Thilo_Schneider

PS: Following its merger with Pinsent Masons LLP later this year, McGrigors will operate worldwide under the name and brand of Pinsent Masons.



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