

Congrex Switzerland Announces Management Buy-Out

The Management of Congrex Switzerland together with strong investors have successfully acquired the shares of Congrex Schweiz AG and Congrex Travel AG as well as the Congrex Brand.

Congrex Schweiz AG and Congrex Travel AG, former subsidiaries of the Congrex Group, announce the acquisition of both companies through a management buy-out with the support of experienced local investors. The agreement has been signed today. The acquisition will be completed in the next days. The Company will continue to use Congrex in its brand name and will merge the two companies to Congrex Switzerland Ltd before the end of 2013.

Congrex Switzerland is providing consultancy and management services in the areas of association and conference management including accommodation handling and flights. The management team at Congrex Switzerland consists of Sabine Adam, Julia Bicher and Carola Ebert, all as Account Directors, Claudia Jeker as Human Resources Director, Franziska Widmer as Operations Director and Alain Pittet as Managing Director. The 40 staff members are based in its current premises in Basel.

Alain Pittet says: “Most of the management of Congrex Switzerland worked already for the well-known AKM, founded in 1982, which was bought in 2007 by the Congrex Group. Fortunately, the major part of our clients were already clients of AKM and have worked with our staff for many years. And exactly these clients encouraged us to offer for a management buy-out”.

Congrex Switzerland works with over 25 Swiss and international associations. For the European Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (ECTRIMS, since 1999), the European Neurological Society (ENS, since 1995) which is merging with the European Federation of Neurological Societies (EFNS), the European Stroke Conference (ESC, since 2003) and the European Sleep Research Society (ESRS, since 2010) the company delivers both their association management in Basel and their conferences across Europe. The most long-lasting Swiss client is the Swiss Society for General Internal Medicine (SGIM, from 1984 to 2004 and again from 2011).

Congrex Switzerland is currently developing its new corporate identity and plans to launch its branding early next year. The team can be contacted via our temporary website www.congrex-switzerland.com and the corresponding e-mail addresses firstname.lastname@congrex-switzerland.com. The Twitter account is @CongrexCH.

About Congrex Switzerland:

Congrex Switzerland provides consultancy and management services in the areas of association and conference management including accommodation handling. Congrex Switzerland AG and Congrex Travel AG have been founded in the 1980's as AKM Switzerland AG and AKM Travel AG. Some of the management staff are more than 20 years with the company and bring a vast experience and profound knowledge in the Association industry. This will guarantee a seamless delivery of all contracted and future conference, housing and association management services. An important part of Congrex Switzerland's clients base are national and international associations for which already AKM served as Association Management Company and Professional Conference Organiser.

Alain Pittet, Managing Director

Alain has the overall responsibility for Congrex Switzerland. He studied Economics, French and Italian at the University of Basel. Since 1993 Alain has continuously enhanced his knowledge in the meetings and exhibition industry with International General Management seminars in Switzerland, Germany and France as well as in the USA. Before Alain joined Congrex in August 2009 he was Director of the Business Unit Trade Fairs & Exhibitions at MCH Group (Messe Schweiz) and in this role responsible for 15 trade fairs in Basel and Zurich. He speaks German, English, French and Italian.

Sabine Adam, Account Director

Sabine has 23 years experience in the Association Management and Conferences services. In addition she has led the secretariat of the European Neurological Society for many years. Sabine has started in the Hotel business before changing to Conference and Association Management. She has a degree in Hotel Management and is currently doing a MBA course at Heriot-Watt University, Business School of Edinburgh. Sabine speaks German, English and French

Julia Bicher, Account Director

Julia joined Congrex in 2005 and since then she has developed a thorough understanding of the industry by working in registration, exhibition and meeting planning for conferences. In addition, she has led the secretariat of various national and international associations. Julia has a BA degree in International Hospitality and Tourism Management and speaks English, German, French, Spanish and Italian.

Carola Ebert, Account Director

Carola joined the former AKM in 1996 as a Meeting Planner and – after AKM has been sold to Congrex in 2007 – took the position as Account Manager. Since then she has been responsible together with her team for delivering projects in Switzerland, Europe and Overseas. She is also responsible for developing new technologies like the Congrex Mobile App together with experienced partners. Carola speaks fluently German, English and French.

Claudia Jeker, Human Resources & Administration Director

Since 1991 Claudia has been providing her expertise to the company. As Assistant to the Management she was involved in a variety of tasks related to the international congress management. Since 1999 she has been responsible for the Human Resources Management. In this function she built up professional and contemporary processes and developed and implemented new working contracts and associated regulations, including a new annual working time model with the appropriate software. Parallel to the above tasks, she also has been responsible for all aspects related to the company building. She is fluent in German, English and French.

Franziska Widmer, Operations Director

Franziska has been in the industry since 1987. After two years working as a project manager for an international stand building company, she joined Congrex Switzerland in 1989, where she built up and headed the exhibition department until 2007. Her portfolio covers exhibition projects organised all over Europe, Middle East and North America with up to 200 exhibitors. Since January 2008, Franziska acts as Operations Director for Congrex Switzerland. She speaks German, English, French and Italian.

Visit www.congrex-switzerland.com

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