

Ad hoc media release

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Reorientation at Atlantic Zeiser: Focus on core business of serialising banknotes and security documents

Zurich/Emmingen-Liptingen, May 17, 2018 – Orell Füssli subsidiary Atlantic Zeiser is selling its activities in the card personalisation systems and packaging business segments as well as its shareholding in Tritron GmbH to the Italian Coesia Group. It has been agreed not to disclose the purchase price. Atlantic Zeiser will in future focus entirely on the core business of serialising banknotes and security documents.

Atlantic Zeiser GmbH in Emmingen-Liptingen (DE) has signed an agreement with Coesia S.p.A. in Bologna (IT) for the sale of parts of its activities in the card personalisation systems and packaging business segments. Closing is planned for the second half of 2018. This transaction does not include the company's activities in the field of software for serialisation/Track & Trace. A purchaser for these is being sought in a separate process.

In the context of this reorientation Atlantic Zeiser will in future concentrate on its offering of products and services in the field of banknote serialisation as well as the individualisation of other security documents, and will generate sales on the order of some 20 million euros.

Orell Füssli firmly believes that it has created a future-proof basis for the development of all existing business segments with this transaction, which in particular also offers employees solid and sustainable prospects for the future.

Coesia is an Italian corporate group comprising companies operating internationally, providing industrial and packaging solutions. The group, which also operates in Switzerland and Germany, includes 18 companies with some 7 000 employees and generated sales of around 1.6 billion euros in 2017.

Atlantic Zeiser manufactures installations and industrial systems for the digital printing and encoding of banknotes, passports and securities, plastic and credit cards, as well as packaging, and holds a 51% stake in Tritron GmbH, which produces special inks for digital industrial printing. Atlantic Zeiser has been part of the Orell Füssli Group since 2003 and currently has some 340 employees at eight locations in Europe, the USA and Asia.

As a consequence of the sale of parts of Atlantic Zeiser's operations, exceptional expenses of some CHF 67 million will have an impact on the net income of the Orell Füssli Group in the current 2018 financial year. Goodwill originally offset against equity and previously accumulated currency translation differences account for some CHF 42 million and CHF 12 million of this total respectively. This sale will have a positive impact on liquidity on the order of single-digit millions.

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Orell Füssli is a diversified industrial and trading group engaged in the core businesses of banknote and security printing, industrial systems used in the individualisation of security documents and branded products, and book retailing. Orell Füssli generates sales of some CHF 300 million with about 900 employees at locations in eight countries and is listed on the Swiss stock exchange.