

Press release

Entry of BKW and Viteos into the share capital of CSEM

Neuchâtel, 15 April 2015 – During its meeting of 20 March 2015, the Board of Directors of CSEM SA in Neuchâtel approved the entry of Viteos, Neuchâtel and BKW, Berne into the share capital of the company. CSEM thus adds to its strategic partnerships with the main Swiss industrial sectors.

Since its creation in 1984, the Swiss business community has always actively supported the role and mission of CSEM, notably through stakes in the shareholding of this public-private partnership. After Swiss group Sonova, world leader in hearing aids, joined its Board of Directors in 2014, CSEM today announces acquisition of stakes by two companies in the energy sector, with the arrival of BKW and Viteos into its shareholding.

The entry of these two companies into the share capital of CSEM affirms the desire to commit more to applied research in new technologies. The two new shareholders get a seat on the Board of Directors, whilst maintaining their place on the CSEM's Scientific Board.

CSEM – a research and technology centre specialising in micro-technologies and energy, – continues to implement its mission to support the competitiveness of Swiss industry, which involves bringing the results of technological research to maturity and transferring them to industrial partners. Thanks to the commitment of Viteos and BKW, CSEM can strengthen its activities in the energy sector and in particular the photovoltaic sector, and contribute to supporting its sustainability. Within the framework of its medium and long term strategy, CSEM is keen to incorporate regional and national players into the development of renewable energies, through its PV-center expertise hub, launched in 2013 and benefiting from the support of the Swiss government. *"In order to best serve the interests of our industrial partners, it is essential to ensure the collaboration of key market players. The entry into the capital of these two energy specialists enables us to further increase our involvement in this important sector and its specific needs"*, said CSEM CEO, Mario El-Khoury. *"It is a seal of approval which goes beyond the area of renewable energies: all our technologies will benefit from the expertise and know-how of our new shareholders"*.

The Board of Directors is currently made up of strategic players who reflect the mission and activity of CSEM, with representatives from the key sectors which are watch-making, med-tech and energy, as well as Federal academic sectors (Swiss Federal Institutes), and the political worlds of the cantons and communes.

Shareholders will vote on the make-up of the Board of Directors at the next CSEM Ordinary General Meeting, which will take place in Neuchâtel on Friday 19 June 2015.

Additional information

CSEM

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About CSEM

CSEM – technologies that make the difference

CSEM, founded in 1984, is a research and development center (public-private partnership) specializing in microtechnology, nanotechnology, microelectronics, system engineering, photovoltaics and communications technologies. 450 highly qualified and specialized employees from various scientific and technical disciplines work for CSEM in Neuchâtel, Zurich, Muttensz, Alpnach and Landquart.

Further information is available at www.csem.ch

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