

MEDIA RELEASE

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connectis and Softix to become SPIE ICS AG

Following the takeover of connectis AG and Softix AG by European-based SPIE Group, both ICT companies will trade under the name of SPIE ICS AG with immediate effect. SPIE, the leading independent European multi-service provider, took over connectis and Softix in August last year.

The merger of connectis and Softix within the SPIE Group creates one of the largest ICS service companies in Switzerland, with around 410 employees. The name SPIE ICS stands for Information & Communication Services, which is the company's core area. "With an excellent line-up, the new SPIE ICS is a profitable company working in ground-breaking sectors. Its portfolio ranges from workspace, applications, communication services and data centres to consulting, managed services and cloud solutions. This is the ideal international complement to the service package already provided in Switzerland," explains Philipp Lücke, CEO of the new SPIE ICS AG. "With SOFIX AG as part of SPIE ICS AG we can significantly enhance our offering in customised hospitals solutions."

The renaming of connectis is another step in the dynamic development of SPIE Group to position itself as a pan-European service provider for global players. Both SPIE and connectis have worked with the same strategic partners in the past – for instance as Cisco gold partners in all countries where SPIE ICT is active or in European partnerships with Avaya and Microsoft. connectis and SPIE are also members of the Getronics Workspace Alliance (GWA).

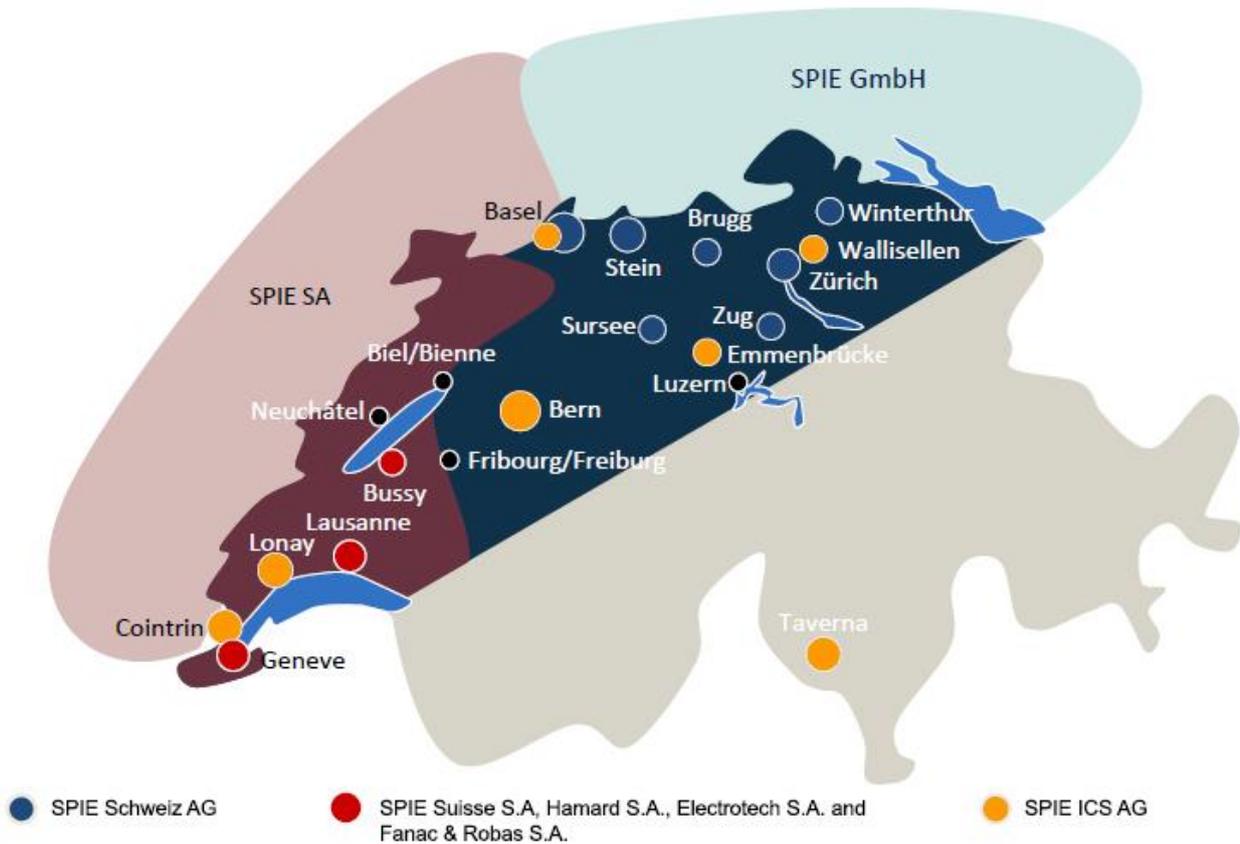
Synergies and operational integration

Synergies to be exploited in the future focus on managed cloud services and futuristic themes such as smart cities, smart ("e-efficient") buildings or FTTH (Fibre to the Home). In addition to organic growth, the company is not excluding the possibility of further expansion through acquisitions. Technology-based markets such as cloud services, managed services, workspace, Internet of Things (IoT) and IT consulting remain the focus.

The name change will have little impact on existing employees or customers. With SPIE ICS AG, the SPIE Group is now active on the Swiss market with three companies. In all, SPIE ICS AG, SPIE Schweiz AG and SPIE Suisse SA have around 20 sites across Switzerland dealing with ICT, facility management, infrastructure, construction, industry and energy.

Targeted competence development

connectis was established in 2008 out of Sunrise Business Integration. With the Aurelius investment group the company has repositioned itself in both strategic and operational terms; among other by focusing its service portfolio on tomorrow's world and investment in expanding its service business. connectis achieved this both by acquiring the ICT company Grouptec, an experienced provider of complex communication solutions in the Microsoft environment in 2011, and collaboration with Getronics Schweiz in 2012, which opened up access to the international market via GWA. These targeted acquisitions have enabled the company to improve its competitiveness in the long term and consolidate its undisputed position as number 2 on the Swiss market. As a strategic operator, SPIE now plans to reinforce its strategic realignment and foster continued growth.



About SPIE ICS AG

SPIE ICS AG, a subsidiary of the leading, independent, Europe-based multi-service provider SPIE, is a Swiss system integrator focusing on unified communication and collaboration technologies (UCC) and workspace management. The company has many years' experience in consulting, implementing and maintaining complex, customised voice and data communication solutions with seven sites throughout Switzerland. SPIE ICS AG works with leading partners such as Cisco, Microsoft and Avaya. Through the Getronics Workspace Alliance, SPIE ICS is globally networked and well placed to provide a full range of services, even to major international clients. These services are enhanced by an efficient service centre with 24/7 availability in four languages.

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