Press Release

New President for Switzerland Innovation

The Switzerland Innovation Foundation Board has elected Andreas Rickenbacher, entrepreneur and former Head of Canton of Bern's Department of Economic Affairs, as its new President. He follows Ruedi Noser, Member of the Council of States, who has decided to step down after seven years. Member of the Council of States for Fribourg Johanna Gapany will take office as Vice President of Switzerland Innovation.

Bern, November 25, 2021 Under the aegis of Ruedi Noser, Switzerland Innovation was set up as a generation project in 2015 and has since successfully developed into a symbol of Switzerland's innovative power as a research location both at home and abroad. With the launch of Switzerland Innovation, a national network was created that currently consists of six entities in charge of sites with 16 locations and 23 participating cantons, enabling Swiss and international enterprises to team up with universities and to push ahead with their research and development activities. In all, more than 240 enterprises have joined the network, over 50 international companies have established locations, and more than 800 new jobs have been created thanks to Switzerland Innovation. "It fills me with pride to see that an idea went on to become an established fixture within the Swiss innovation scene. Now it is time to pass on the baton," says Ruedi Noser, Member of the Council of States and co-founder of Switzerland Innovation.

Andreas Rickenbacher: New President With a Wealth of Know-How and a Wide Network of Contacts

At its meeting today, the Foundation Board appointed Andreas Rickenbacher to succeed Ruedi Noser as its new President. The 53-year-old business and political expert is an entrepreneur and Board of Directors and Foundation Board member. He is active in several national and international industrial and services enterprises. Andreas Rickenbacher will take office on January 1, 2022.

He is well-acquainted with Switzerland Innovation. As former Head of Canton of Bern's Department of Economic Affairs and then President of the Conference of Cantonal Directors of Economic Affairs (VDK), he played a significant role in establishing Switzerland Innovation. He has held office as Vice President since the foundation's inception. As its President, Andreas Rickenbacher aims to take Switzerland Innovation to new heights: "In the upcoming years, we will focus on strengthening the ecosystem of entities in charge of sites, consolidating the network, and making the most of its synergies to further expand Switzerland Innovation's

national and international reputation. This will be our contribution to maintaining Switzerland's capacity for innovation."

Johanna Gapany: New Vice President to Forge Links With National Policy Makers

The Foundation Board has elected Johanna Gapany as its Vice President. She will take up her post on January 1, 2022. Johanna Gapany has represented the Canton of Fribourg in the Council of States since 2019, having previously been a member of Bulle City Council and the Cantonal Council of Fribourg. An economist by training, the 33-year-old holds seats on the finance, health and science committees of the Council of States, and has already proven her ability to highlight the importance of innovation for Switzerland's future. Her appointment follows the departure of State Councilor Ruedi Noser, and will ensure that Switzerland Innovation remains well connected to Swiss politics and decision-making at national level.

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About Switzerland Innovation
Switzerland Innovation is a network of six innovation parks across Switzerland based on a joint initiative of public institutions, academia, and the private sector with a statutory mandate from the Swiss government. Switzerland Innovation forms an ecosystem that allows universities and innovative companies to collaborate and use their knowledge and research results for the development of new marketable products and services. www.switzerland-innovation.com