



Heading confidently into the New Year

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a very difficult economic year that will soon be behind us, and the Christmas holidays are fast approaching. We would like to thank our customers and business partners most sincerely for working with us!

2009 will be remembered in most sectors as a year of crisis and Andres AG hasn't been spared, either, having to cope with a massive drop in turnover.

After a fairly good first semester and a very bad second one, we are proud to be able to say we have managed to avoid any redundancies so far. On the contrary, we have been able to employ our ex-poly-technician apprenticeship on a full-time contract following the successful completion of his vocational qualification. And it is with great pride that we announce that it was this apprentice who finished the apprenticeship exams with the highest grade of all his sector category within the Union of Swiss Turned Parts Industry, Swiss Precision!

We are confident that the worst of the economic recession has passed and that a slow recovery will begin in 2010.

Since we are still partly on short-time work, we have decided to work only until Friday, December 18. Our plant will be closed over the holidays, up until and including Friday, January 1, 2010. We will be at your disposal again from Monday, January 4, 2010.

This year, in lieu of Christmas cards and presents for our customers, we have once again made a charitable donation. We are supporting a local institution this time, the Solothurn Oberwald Centre in Biberist, which is a specialised hostel and training centre for children, youngsters and adults with severe learning disabilities or neurological and other limitations.

We wish you and your families peaceful and restorative holidays and a successful business year for 2010!

*Our best wishes.
Dominic Andres
Andres AG Turned Parts*



Screwed balance wheel
with hairspring



Comeback in the watch industry

In the time of my grandfather, Konstantin Bärtschi, what is now Andres AG (then Bärtschi Décolletage AG) provided almost only screws and other turned parts for the watch and spectacle industries. Thanks to the renaissance of the complex mechanical luxury watch and the interest of a manufacturer, we have launched a project which is just beginning to yield fruit.

We are now producing complex balance wheels (balanciers) for the luxury watch industry. This is a big challenge, bringing us a further step forward in the fabrication of high-tech micro parts.

Medical Norm ISO 13485

Due to our growing activity in the medical sector and our strategic intention of expanding this mainstay further, we have decided to expand and certify the medical norm ISO 13485 in addition to the medical norm ISO 9001:2008. The kick-off meeting already took place in December. Our schedule sees certification by the latest at the end of 2010.

What is ISO 13485?

ISO 13485 is the international norm for quality management systems. It corresponds to the Swiss and European norm SN EN ISO 13485:2003. All organisations whose activity is connected to medical equipment are affected. Not only the manufacturers of medical products but also the suppliers, ancillary companies, distributors and intermediaries (from the maker to the end-user) are involved. The ISO 13485:2003 is an independent norm and stipulates demands in the area of medical products which ISO 9001:2000 had not yet covered.

What are the significant advantages?

The ISO 13485:2003 norm is based on ISO 9001:2000. It integrates additional demands and alters others, as follows:

- Traceability
- Meeting legal demands
- Guidance on design transfer (integrating risk



- management and clinical tests)
- Guidance on special processes (e.g. sterilisation)
- Distribution and implementation of warnings
- Market surveillance
- Hygiene concepts



Oberwald Centre

The foundation of the Solothurn Oberwald Centre supports people of all ages with the most severe mental, physical and combined limitations in a precise and individual manner and offers them continuous, lifelong encouragement and care in a most professionally competent manner. These people are guided towards extended perception and an ability to act, so that they can be integrated into everyday life and take part in an active life.

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