

Press release

Glattbrugg, 5 March 2018

SwissSign Group AG founded as driving force behind SwissID

- The foundation of SwissSign Group AG as a joint venture to create and implement a digital identity in Switzerland was carried out today.
- The founding partners consist of the biggest state-affiliated businesses, financial institutions and insurance companies.
- Thomas Flatt, “digitiser” from the very beginning and president of swissICT, was appointed president of the board of directors.
- SwissSign Group AG is developing a broadly-supported and efficient solution for the issuance of digital identities. In the coming years more than four million customers will benefit from SwissID.

The foundation of SwissSign Group AG, declared today, was announced by nine partners on Digital Day on 21 November 2017 in a memorandum of understanding. In the meantime, another eight partners, mainly from the insurance industry, have joined the group of founding partners. The aim of the new company is to combine know-how and existing initiatives in the field of digital identity under one umbrella and to establish SwissID as a broadly-supported, efficient solution.

Broad support from state-affiliated businesses, financial institutions and insurance companies

SBB, Swiss Post, Swisscom, Credit Suisse, Raiffeisen, the financial service provider SIX, UBS, Zürcher Kantonalbank, the insurance companies Axa, Baloise, Helvetia, Mobiliar, Swiss Life, Vaudoise and Zurich and also the health insurance companies CSS and SWICA are the broad, state-affiliated supporters of the joint enterprise. The joint venture will, with SwissID, provide an open, simple system for digital identification that fulfils all data protection law requirements and fully protects user data.

When establishing the consortium, the division of tasks between the state and the private sector, as proposed by the Federal Council, played a key role. The participating companies from different branches already count much of the Swiss population as their customers. In addition to their know-how in the processing and storage of personal data, the consortium partners are also bringing the full potential of more than six million future users to SwissSign Group AG.

SwissSign Group AG will integrate the activities of the current SwissSign AG (founded in 2001) and continue to develop the existing SwissID solution. SwissSign AG was, from May 2017, a joint venture of Swiss Post and SBB which, together with the new consortium partners, will be involved in SwissSign Group AG. The management of the new company will be led by Markus Naef (CEO).

CEO Markus Naef on today’s foundation of the company: “In recent months we have experienced a strong interest from the economic sector and were able to further consolidate the founding partners of

SwissSign Group AG. We want to benefit from this tailwind to continue to develop a broadly-supported and efficient solution for digital identities in Switzerland. The previous demand and use gives us the confidence that, with SwissID, we can make access to the digital world easier and more secure.”

Experienced board of directors with broad expertise

The newly elected board of directors of SwissSign Group AG consists of the following members: Peter Kummer (CIO and member of the group management, Schweizerische Bundesbahnen SBB AG); Claudia Pletscher (Head of Development and Innovation, Post CH Ltd); Roger Rolf Wüthrich-Hasenböhler (Chief Digital Officer, Swisscom (Switzerland) AG); Daniel Dahinden (Head Corporate Development, SIX Group AG); Andreas Kubli (Head Multichannel Management & Digitization, UBS Switzerland AG); René Beeler (Head of Business Development, Zürcher Kantonalbank); Rolf Trüeb (Head of IT, Schweizerische Mobiliar) and Armin Suter (Head of Finance, CSS Versicherung AG).

In addition to the shareholder representatives, Thomas Flatt was elected as the independent president of the board of directors. Thomas Flatt is a “digitiser” from the very beginning with management experience, both as a member of the group management of large corporations and also as the managing director of medium-sized companies and start-ups. As president of swissICT, for many years he has been dedicated to Switzerland as an industrial centre and has an established network in the Swiss economy and politics. Today he serves on behalf of various companies on the board of directors.

President of the board of directors Thomas Flatt on the foundation of SwissSign Group AG:

“The broad support of SwissSign Group AG is unique in Switzerland and illustrates the great significance of the digital identity for our country. We are pooling together the extensive expertise for a new standard so that the advantages of the digital world can be used safely by the population at large.”

SwissSign Group AG will now quickly be able to provide its customers and users with a confirmed identity based on SwissID. In the first half of 2018 the migration of the logins of Swiss Post was launched, in the second half of the year the logins of, for instance, SBB and other partners will follow. Soon solutions for the online service providers from the fields of e-commerce, e-government and insurance will also follow.

SwissID is simple and secure

SwissID will enable users to navigate securely through an increasingly digital world and use online services more easily. The use of the digital identity will be simple, secure and free of charge for private users. The aim of SwissID is to issue digital identities more efficiently and in a more user-friendly way. Today the identification with nearly each individual provider is in a separate process and therefore leads to high costs. With a broadly accepted and extensively usable digital identity, business and administration processes on the internet can be made much more efficient.

The protection of customer data is fully guaranteed here: the sovereignty and control over the use of the data remain with the user at all times. The Federal Data Protection and Information Commissioner (FDPIC) was involved in the project from the start and further discussions take place on a regular basis. The authority gives the project high priority and welcomes the fact that, with the newly founded company, it has a central contact partner available.

A photo of Thomas Flatt (president of the board of directors) is available for download [here](#).
A photo of Markus Naef (CEO) is available for download [here](#).

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About SwissSign Group AG

SwissSign Group AG is a leading provider of certificate-based IT security and a joint venture of state-affiliated businesses, financial institutions, insurance and health insurance companies (SBB, Swiss Post, Swisscom, Credit Suisse, Raiffeisen, Six Group, UBS, Zürcher Kantonalbank, Axa, Baloise, Helvetia, Mobiliar, Swiss Life, Vaudoise, Zurich, CSS and SWICA). As a trusted link between online services and users, its services provide the basis for secure, simple and efficient digital processes.

SwissSign Group AG has two cornerstones: identity services under the brand SwissID and certificate services. SwissID is the digital identity of Switzerland which enables simple and secure access to the online world. Thanks to electronic certificates, data can be exchanged in encrypted form and therefore protected against unauthorised access. As a Swiss trust service provider (TSP), SwissSign Group AG accompanies people and companies into a successful digital future, and protects data according to the highest security standards while keeping it in Switzerland. Further information is available on www.swissign.com and www.swissid.ch.