

Wettingen, September 1, 2006

Media release

Thomas Ernst named as the new CEO of Nagra

Nagra's Board of Directors has named 48-year old Dr. Thomas Ernst as the new CEO of Nagra. He will take over from Hans Issler, who will continue to serve as the Chairman of the Board. Dr. Ernst will officially start in his new position on May 1, 2007. He has long experience in the management of hazardous waste and site remediation. Since 2004 he has been the CEO of Eberhard Recycling AG in Kloten (Canton Zurich).

Dr. Thomas Ernst completed his degree in Chemical Engineering at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (Zurich), where he also earned his doctorate. After one year of post-doctoral studies in the USA, he returned to Switzerland and started his career as Project Manager for Process Technology in an engineering company in the waste disposal sector. Thirteen years ago Dr. Ernst joined Eberhard Recycling AG, the market leader in site remediation in Switzerland. Initially in the position of Development Manager, he was successful in completing, among other projects, the largest European soil remediation facility. In 1996 he became Head of the Department of Soil and Toxic Waste. Since 2004, as CEO of Eberhard Recycling AG (with a total of 50 employees), he has been responsible for the operational and administrative leadership and the financial performance of the company.

Dr. Ernst will join Nagra on December 1, 2006 and will take responsibility as CEO of Nagra on May 1, 2007. At the end of this transitional phase, Hans Issler will resign from his double mandate – he has been the CEO of Nagra since 1977 – but will continue to serve as the Chairman of the Board of Directors, as confirmed at the last General Assembly of Nagra (June 2006).

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According to Swiss nuclear energy legislation, the producers of radioactive waste are responsible for its safe management and disposal. In 1972, the Federal Government and the nuclear power plant operators set up the National Cooperative for the Disposal of Radioactive Waste (Nagra) to perform this task. Nagra, which has its headquarters in Wettingen (AG), is the national technical competence centre in the field of deep geological disposal of radioactive waste.

Out of a strong sense of responsibility for the long-term protection of man and the environment, 80 employees are involved daily in performing this important work. The high level of competence is secured by targeted research programmes in two Swiss underground rock laboratories and intensive international collaboration.