

Press release

Expansion of expertise, Michael Düringer new partner

Zurich, 18 August 2004. Effective as of 1 October 2004, Michael Düringer (39) joins IR Firm, Zurich, as a new partner, bringing broad experience and specific knowledge of the medical technology industry in the consultancy. During the past six years, Michael Düringer was responsible for Investor Relations und Corporate Communications at the internationally active Phonak-Group, headquartered in Stäfa (Switzerland). At IR Firm, Michael Düringer will specifically focus on maintenance and expansion of services offered to small & mid cap companies.

Michael Düringer, who earned a PhD degree in law, expands the expertise of IR Firm in a market environment that is increasingly regulated by laws and new requirements. IR Firm now covers all special knowledge that is decisive for successful communication with the financial market's participants: investor relations, financial communications, compliance management, and financial analysis. With the appointment of Michael Düringer, IR Firm expands its position as the leading independent Investor Relations and Financial Communications specialist in Switzerland.

Prior to his role at Phonak, Michael Düringer worked for several financial communications companies, amongst them Wirz Investor Relations, Zurich, in the company's start-up period, and the international investor relations agency Gavin Anderson & Company in New York. Michael Düringer studied law at University of Zurich. In 1996, he completed a visitor program at Fordham University in New York and broadened his knowledge in finance.

For further information please contact

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Profile IR Firm

IR Firm, an Investor Relations organisation which arose from the Wirz Group in Zurich through a management buyout, advises listed companies in the conception and realisation of their communication activities towards the financial community. IR Firm assists companies in ongoing investor relations programs as well as in capital market transactions such as initial public offerings or mergers & acquisitions. IR Firm is a market leader in Switzerland and co-operates closely with international partner firms.

More information is available on www.irfirm.biz

THE
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