

Media release:

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Orell Füssli: Investigation of theft in the banknote printing plant

Zurich, October 1, 2013 – Irregularities have come to light in Orell Füssli's security printing plant. The Office of the Attorney General of Switzerland has been investigating since October 2012. These investigations are still in progress.

The Swiss authorities were informed by the Serious Organised Crime Agency on October 5, 2012, that suspicious 1000 Swiss franc banknotes had turned up in a London bureau de change. The Office of the Attorney General of Switzerland then informed the Swiss National Bank and Orell Füssli. Subsequent checks revealed that unfinished notes from current production at Orell Füssli had been stolen. In consultation with the Office of the Attorney General of Switzerland no announcement has been made to date in view of the ongoing investigations.

Orell Füssli has painstakingly reviewed its security measures in detail, arranged for a security audit to be conducted by an independent agency and taken action in organisational and personnel terms to tighten its security precautions.

The Swiss National Bank will provide information today regarding the unfinished 1000 Swiss franc notes which have come into circulation.

Orell Füssli is liable for losses incurred by customers. Holders of the Swiss franc notes in question will be recompensed at their nominal value via the Swiss National Bank. The resulting loss has been quantified by Orell Füssli's Board of Directors and was taken into account in the profit warning issued on September 9, 2013.

Orell Füssli is an international industrial and trading group focusing on the core businesses of banknote & security printing, industrial systems used in the individualisation of security documents and branded products, and book retailing. The book publishing business is the traditional basis of the Zurich-based company. Orell Füssli generates sales of some CHF 300 million with about 1 000 employees at locations in 10 countries and is listed on the Swiss Stock Exchange.

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