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## MEDIA RELEASE

22 May 2012  
For immediate release

### **MFO building at Oerlikon railway station, Zurich**

### **Relocating a building at the press of a button**

**Olten, 22 May 2012 – With considerable advance preparation down to the minute detail, one of the most spectacular building translocations ever undertaken in Switzerland – if not even in Europe – kicks off today. Hence, the brick structure located at Oerlikon railway station and weighing 6,200 tons will remain intact.**

The event kicks off at 11:00: With a symbolic touch of a start button, the hydraulic presses will be activated, setting the translocation process of the 6,200-ton-heavy building in motion. The relocation by roughly 60 metres paves the way for the Swiss Federal Railways (SBB) to expand its tracks, enables the local residents to preserve the 123-year-old brick building, and expands Swiss Prime Site's portfolio by an additional property situated in direct proximity to Switzerland's seventh-largest railway station.

Swiss Prime Site AG Chief Investment Officer Peter Lehmann explains: "We hold around 200 properties valued at CHF 8.2 billion, but have never carried out a real estate acquisition in our portfolio in such an unconventional way. We are filled with pride and satisfaction that the apparently impossible task will now become reality, in centimetre-by-centimetre steps." Switzerland's leading real estate investment company has invested roughly CHF 12 million in order to preserve the former executive office building of the tool and machinery factory Oerlikon (MFO) and ensure the long-term leasing opportunities. Indeed, the MFO building should constitute a solid investment property based on the existing rental agreements.

"The fact that the MFO building is retaining its location in Oerlikon is impressive evidence that the will – and most notably, the willingness to cooperate on the part of all participants – can move mountains," according to remarks expressed by Dr. André Odermatt, Zurich City Council member and Head of the Department of Planning and Building Engineering. However, the task also requires the requisite know-how and professionals capable of executing such a translocation.

Rolf Iten, owner of Iten AG, describes the building's relocation as "a routine project carried out under extremely difficult overall conditions," i.e. the restricted space and elaborate construction site logistics, proximity to the Swiss Federal Railways' tracks and nature of the 123-year-old structure as well as the tight timetable.

The actual relocation of the 80-metre-long building by approximately 60 metres is merely a brief episode, in terms of time span, of a noticeably complex project involving numerous parties. ABB is providing a decisive contribution as the previous owner of the property, which it divested in September 2010, relinquishing the land to the city of Zurich and Swiss Federal

Railways and the building to Swiss Prime Site. Project planning activities commenced in August 2010, and the building's utility lines were disconnected and moved off last summer. The excavation work at the new location – in addition to the construction of the shift-tracks, comprising two steel girders intermeshed with steel rollers – took place from autumn 2011 until spring 2012. The actual translocation process will probably take two days, with the restoration activities beginning thereafter. Completion of the reconstruction work on the MFO building is scheduled for November 2012.

### **Live broadcast on SF 2**

The spectacular event – one of Europe's most significant building translocations – has expectedly drawn tremendous interest on the part of the media from all over Switzerland and neighbouring countries too. Swiss TV station SF 2 will be broadcasting live on the scene when the building begins to roll on Tuesday, 22 May 2012, from 10:30 to 13:45 with a show titled "Switzerland news exclusive – the journey of a house." There will also be another half-hour live broadcast from the construction site at 16:00. And on Wednesday, 23 May, SF 2 will be broadcasting live starting from 06.00 non-stop, until the building arrives at its new home probably later in the afternoon. The MFO translocation will also be the focal point of the Swiss news program "Schweiz aktuell" on SF 1, from Monday to Wednesday, 21 to 23 May at 19:00.

### **Further information**

You will find additional information and photo material starting from 12:00 at [www.swiss-prime-site.ch/mfo](http://www.swiss-prime-site.ch/mfo)

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### **Swiss Prime Site**

Swiss Prime Site AG is Switzerland's leading real estate investment company. The company's portfolio is valued at CHF 8.2 billion and comprises first-class, value-retaining commercial and retail properties situated in prime locations. Swiss Prime Site is distinguished by its experienced management team, with stream-lined structures and low costs, high earnings and capital potential as well as an excellent risk/return profile. The company has been listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange since 2000 and reports market capitalisation of around CHF 4.1 billion.

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