

*Press release*

## **Claude Nicollier will hand over office in June 2023**

- **Passing the baton after 16 years**
- **Strong growth experienced under his direction**
- **CSEM remains on course for success**

**Neuchâtel, 18th November 2022 – Effective June 2023, Claude Nicollier will step down from his position as CSEM’s Chairperson of the Board of Directors. This announcement was made during the company’s annual Board of Directors meeting. "CSEM is well-prepared for the future, meaning I can pass the baton over next year with gratitude for the past 16 exciting years," says the 78-year-old astronaut and honorary professor at EPFL (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne). Nicollier took over as Chairperson in June 2007, with CSEM experiencing significant growth. Under his guidance, the technology innovation center’s turnover grew from 53.1 to 96.9 million Swiss francs, and its employee count rose by over 75%.**

Nicollier's period of office will be remembered for the numerous significant achievements made during his tenure, including the opening of CSEM’s Sustainable Energy Center in 2013 and an EARTO Innovation Prize-winning machine capable of producing personalized skin. It also extends to the launch of Tissot’s first smartwatch, the T-Touch Connect Solar, which has exceptional autonomy thanks to its solar dial and ultra-low-power operating system, both of which were developed at CSEM.

“With Alexandre Pauchard now at the helm, CSEM’s path towards outstanding success has continued, despite the difficulties caused by the pandemic over the past two years and Switzerland's exclusion from the Horizon Europe program,” Nicollier continues. “CSEM’s teams have well and truly proven their skills as catalysts for innovation, accelerating Switzerland's industrial competitiveness. This is something I am very proud of,” concludes Nicollier.

On behalf of CSEM, Alexandre Pauchard, CEO, made the following statement of thanks: “It was and still is a huge honor to work with Claude Nicollier as the Chairperson of the Board. With his NASA-inspired leadership style, Claude ensures every team member can carry out their role and bring their individual experience to the table. His goal is to make sure that everyone can freely express themselves, which leads to fruitful and rewarding collaborations.”

CSEM is well-positioned for the future, and in 2022, the company opened two new sites in Allschwill and Bern (Switzerland). These locations will allow the company to better serve and integrate into the life science and MedTech sectors and their associated innovation and start-up ecosystems. In the photovoltaics sector, CSEM and EPFL have set two confirmed new world records for efficiency of over 30% on perovskite-on-silicon tandem solar cells. And in recent months, several other technologies and knowledge packets have been successfully transferred to the company’s industrial partners, boosting the Swiss economy. This year the company has also supported the creation of two new start-ups. MATIS is revolutionizing the identification of artworks with multispectral imaging analysis and artificial intelligence. Meanwhile, Alpamayo IQS is helping Swiss manufacturing companies to exploit the opportunities provided by artificial intelligence.

### Press contact

Ada Hinrichs, Marketing & Communications Leader

+41 (0) 78 658 40 42, [media@csem.ch](mailto:media@csem.ch)

### CSEM – Facing the challenges of our time

CSEM is an internationally recognized Swiss technology innovation center developing disruptive technologies with a high societal impact, which it then transfers to industry. A public-private organization, its mission is to support the innovation activity of Swiss companies and strengthen the economy. CSEM is active in the domains of precision manufacturing, digitalization, and sustainable energy. Daily, CSEM's 550 employees from 44 countries collaborate with leading universities, research institutes, and industrial partners. With its six locations in Allschwil, Alpnach, Bern, Landquart, Neuchâtel and Zurich, CSEM is active throughout Switzerland. [www.csem.ch](http://www.csem.ch)

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