

Press-Release

H2i joins the Acrotec Group



Cortailod (Neuchâtel), April 19, 2017 - The Acrotec Group and Petitpierre SA announce the acquisition of, H2i, a company specialized in the design of customized precision measurement tools for mechanical watches, under the brand ONEOF. Acrotec is one of the major centers of Swiss micromechanics, of which Petitpierre is a member and this acquisition strengthens the Group's competences in the field of measurement.

"By joining Petitpierre and the Acrotec Group, we are addressing small gaps in our offering/competences: The design office for the mechanical concept, precise and rapid industrial assembly and, the commercialization of our designs. Taking advantage of Petitpierre's structure within the Acrotec Group, H2i will focus on developing instruments," said Emmanuel Baudet, co-founder of H2i. "H2i offers a functional and aesthetic approach to the measuring instruments it designs," added Boris Petitpierre, member of the Executive Committee of the Acrotec Group.

H2i develops measuring instruments to meet specific chronometric and magnetic needs. "Whatever the machine, we want it to be beautiful and well finished. We also want to maximize the user experience. Even if it is a very technical laboratory machine, our instruments are well designed. The computer interface is very ergonomic and, above all, these instruments are Plug & Play," said Jean-Charles Rousset, the other co-founder of H2i. Their customers are essentially watch brands and laboratories. At the same time, H2i developed ONEOF, a line of measurement tools for watch collectors and retailers, to monitor the accuracy of watches and demagnetize them.

Acrotec adds a string to its bow, turning to chronometric measurement. "H2i is trying to accomplish with measuring devices what Apple has accomplished with computers. The Acrotec group is enthusiastic about this partnership." said Philippe Metzger, Chief Marketing Officer of the group.

Jean-Charles Rousset began his career in 2008 as a laboratory engineer (mechanics and materials) at Tag Heuer in La Chaux de Fonds. He then integrated the avant-garde watchmaking department, the very exotic range to the high frequency movements of the same brand. It is there that he met Emmanuel Baudet, EPFL's electronics engineer. In 2015, these two engineers decided to create H2i which means "Watchmaking, Innovation and Instrumentation". It develops very exotic movements for other brands, which require skills outside clockwork, either quartz or mechanical.

Acrotec Group

About Groupe Acrotec SA Acrotec is an independent group, employing around 600, created by professionals from the watch and micro-mechanical industry with the aim of supplying the watch manufacturers and brands with “Swiss made” quality products. The objective of the Group is to simplify the complexity of subcontracting by offering its clients with a variety of watch and industrial competences: metal cutting, crimping, surface treatment, etc. The companies of the Group provide finished elements for watch movements (springs, shock absorbers, oscillating weights, etc.) and components used in medical equipment. Acrotec also produces components used in end-markets such as: connectors, telecommunications, IT, mobile, automotive, turbochargers, aerospace and aeronautical.

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