

# SWISSMETAL Media release

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## **Change in Swissmetal's Executive Management – Yvonne Simonis, CFO, passes the baton to Joachim Blatter**

Swissmetal is today announcing a change in its Executive Management. Mrs. Yvonne Simonis, the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the Swissmetal Group since March 2004 has decided to leave the company at the end of June 2008. After a total of six busy years at Swissmetal she is going to take a sabbatical and then seek new challenges.

Mrs. Simonis played a leading part in the refinancing of the Swissmetal Group in 2004 and in several acquisitions. In addition, she successfully introduced the highly innovative borrowing base financing (borrowing against metal stock) in the Swiss and German subsidiaries of the Swissmetal Group in 2007, a first for Switzerland. Swissmetal is grateful to Yvonne Simonis for her outstanding commitment and for her circumspect and farsighted management of the company's finances in sometimes extremely challenging circumstances.

From 1<sup>st</sup> October 2008 Mr. Joachim Blatter will be taking on the important role of CFO. In the meantime Martin Hellweg, CEO of Swissmetal, will be responsible for the Finance Department on an interim basis alongside his other duties.

Joachim Blatter (born in 1959) is a German citizen who studied business management and corporate finance at Cologne University and in the USA. He has many years of experience in the financial management of industrial companies and was recently the CFO of Alcan Singen GmbH and Managing Director of Alcan Holdings Germany. Swissmetal is pleased to be able to engage another experienced finance specialist and manager as Chief Financial Officer in the person of Joachim Blatter.

Swissmetal produces and sells worldwide high-quality special products made of copper and copper alloys that are used mainly in the electronics, telecommunications, air travel, petroleum, stationery and watch and clock industries and also in the architecture sector. In the 2007 financial year Swissmetal achieved turnover of CHF 407 million. As at the end of April 2008 the company had 658 full-time employees. Swissmetal with its registered office in Dornach (Switzerland) is quoted on the SWX Swiss Exchange under the name of UMS Schweizerische Metallwerke Holding AG.

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