

SWX Swiss Exchange

Fact sheet (Status: January 2002)

1. The SWX Swiss Exchange

The SWX is one of most technologically advanced securities exchanges in the world. It boasts not only an extensive product range, but also a fully integrated electronic trading, clearing and settlement system which is still the only one of its kind in the world. With a single mouse-click, trading, payment, settlement and confirmation are completed in the space of two minutes. Participants benefit from moderate transaction costs and low error rates.

2. The SWX Group

The SWX Swiss Exchange operates internationally through its shareholdings (the SWX Group). It offers integrated solutions in specific market segments on a cross-border basis: Eurex is the world's number-one derivatives exchange, virt-x is the first pan-European exchange for integrated trading in blue chips, STOXX has established its index family as the benchmark and EXFEED is a provider of high-quality raw financial data.

3. Meeting point for investors and companies requiring capital

Underpinned by the strength of the Swiss financial marketplace, the SWX Swiss Exchange brings together participants, issuers and investors and ensures excellent liquidity. It regularly holds conferences, forums, panel discussions and workshops, thereby promoting an understanding of the capital market.

4. Various segments with specific profiles ensure increased visibility

Issuers can choose from five different segments, each of which has its own regulations: the main market (for the greater part of the Exchange-traded securities), the segment for investment companies, the SWX New Market (for rapidly growing companies in future-oriented sectors), SWX Local Caps (for companies with local significance or a limited circle of investors) and the segment for real estate companies.

5. The SWX New Market – the sector-oriented growth segment

The SWX New Market was created for young growth companies operating in future-oriented sectors such as life sciences (pharmaceuticals, medicine, biotechnology, etc.), information technology (Internet, software, telecommunication, multimedia, etc.) and micro- and nanotechnology. In these areas, Switzerland boasts an excellent network of relationships between the worlds of academe, science, industry and finance and is among the global leaders in many subsectors.

The SWX New Market is geared toward rapidly growing Swiss and foreign companies requiring large amounts of capital. Being listed in Switzerland is particularly interesting to foreign issuers, since investors tend to diversify their portfolios internationally, emphasizing quality rather than origin.

6. An IPO in Switzerland offers companies the following advantages:

- Access to a broad international group of investors
- Market participants (investors, analysts, fund managements, media) with sector-specific expertise
- High visibility and low market-entry costs and service fees
- High market liquidity and a technologically highly advanced trading platform
- Special attention to foreign issuers

↳ www.swx.com