



# VARIOPRINT AG news

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## The Award - Worldwide unique competition

Ernst&Young are the only organisation in the world to carry out an entrepreneurial competition according to standardized criteria.

Almost 10'000 enterprises in about 40 countries compete each year for the coveted title of "Entrepreneur Of The Year®". Of the 40 nominated entrepreneurs in Switzerland eleven reached the finals this year, and have thus fulfilled the challenging admission criteria for the election of Entrepreneur Of The Year®.

The criteria comprise the personality of the entrepreneurs and their active position in the enterprise, an extraordinary growth rate of the enterprise, the degree of innovation and internationality, as well as social commitment. The participants are assessed by a qualified, independent jury. The selection process is complex: the jurors lead in-depth interviews with the finalists, visit the companies in person, and examine the annual balance of the enterprise.

As every year the programme was again supported by the Credit Suisse Bank as the exclusive programme partner. Furthermore the sponsors Audi, Allianz Suisse, Amrop Hever, Capvis, IWC and SWISS supported the competition.

## Varioprint AG wins the Ernst&Young Award Entrepreneur Of The Year 2008

Three award winners from 40  
nominated enterprises

The number of nominees comprised the three firsts from the regional Swiss Venture Club Awards (Varioprint won the Entrepreneurial Award of Eastern Switzerland in March 2008) as well as various companies who entered their business plans to Ernst & Young for the nomination.

Varioprint was visited twice by a jury, who was particularly impressed by the lasting profitable development of the company since the management buyout in 1993 in a grossly competitive, globalised market, and was enthused by the company culture as well as the highly motivated staff they encountered on their tour through the plant.

Varioprint managed to enter the innermost circle of candidates for the Swiss finals.

On 24th October 2008 the secret was revealed in Lucerne. Andreas Schmidheini, General Manager, was proud to accept the Entrepreneur Of The Year® Award on the stage in front of 800 invited guests. The honour was even more unexpected as the last two competitors were a company operating in the field of nanotechnology and a company that had developed a medication for Alzheimer's disease. The PCB does not exactly look sexy in such a neighbourhood, except for its latest success in the field of optical PCBs.



*A proud and happy Andreas Schmidheini after receiving the Award*



*The presenter Monika Schärer interviewing the winner Andreas Schmidheini*



*The winners of the different categories High Tech/Life Sciences, Industry and Services*

### VARIOPRINT END-OF-YEAR CELEBRATION

As it is our tradition the Vario-print workforce was again invited to an end-of-year party at the Hotel Restaurant Krone. More than one hundred employees gathered to spend pleasant hours together and enjoyed the varied entertainment programme and the delicious buffet.

Once again 50 members of the VP-team were rewarded with a golden coin, the so-called "Golden Vreneli" for their complete presence at work without any absences during the past year.

The unique atmosphere in the hall where the dancing continued until 2.30 a.m. and the bar hours that followed gave evidence of the company culture, the team spirit and the cohesion within the staff – an invaluable asset in the present time as well as for the challenges in the year to come.



*The happy and well-deserved winners of the "Goldvreneli"*

## Entrepreneur Of The Year 2008

### LAUDATIO

"An entrepreneur excels by his economic foresight, his routine-breaking energy as well as his strong power of innovation".

This short definition of the economist Joseph Alois Schumpeter applies perfectly to the Entrepreneur of the Year 2008 in the category High-Tech/Life Sciences in the eyes of the jury.

With your outstanding personality, your capacity to make use of the most difficult moments, to motivate in a unique way, and to master both economical and technical challenges equally, you have made your company a magnificent specimen in the highest segment of technology, which receives everybody's respect and recognition.

Looking at the list of your customers one is tempted to think of a new list of the stock exchange quotes, which contains the most renowned and successful companies - but no, it is about your customers, pardon me, your partners.

In your lovely region, which is called "peripheral" by certain elitist circles, you have proven that the word "impossible" does not exist in your vocabulary.

You have combined the enormous resources of your team with those of your environment by cooperating cleverly with the efficient educational centres our country has produced and which still exist everywhere. You have hereby succeeded in turning the location that first seemed to be a drawback into a veritable triumph.

When you found the speed of electricity a limiting obstacle you tamed the light, and your innovation of optical PCBs, which already guarantee you a promising future, will – as we are absolutely convinced – revolutionise our everyday life in many respects.

And all this is marked with the character of contagious cheerfulness and delight.

Ladies and gentlemen, allow me to ask you to congratulate the Entrepreneur Of The Year 2008 in the category High-Tech/Life Sciences, the co-owner and CEO of the Appenzell company Varioprint AG, Mr. Andreas Schmidheini.

*Pierre-Alain Schnegg  
Pro Concept SA  
Member of the jury*



*The finalists*



*The much-coveted prize....*



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