

PRESS RELEASE

11 December 2009

Luther advises the first PPP project in Switzerland

Hamburg/Dusseldorf, 11 December 2009 - The Swiss-German Zeughaus PPP AG has been awarded the contract for the construction of the new city centre "Neumatt" in Burgdorf in the Swiss canton of Bern. Luther Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft mbH advised the canton from the initial structuring of the procurement process up to and including the signing of the contract.

Within the scope of a public private partnership model, the new city centre "Neumatt" will be built on the former Zeughaus site in Burgdorf. The planning, building, financing as well as the running of the city centre, which will have a regional prison and an operations centre, over the next 25 years are part of the agreement, which was executed at the end of November between Zeughaus PPP AG and the canton's public authorities. The application for the building permit was made immediately on 1 December 2009. The canton remains the owner of the land and the buildings. Zeughaus PPP AG will receive an annual fee for its services. The Grand Council (*Grosser Rat*) of the canton of Bern has approved 18.15m Swiss francs per annum for the project. This is the first and largest PPP project of its kind and will be financed within the scope of project financing.

On behalf of the canton of Bern:

Luther Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft mbH Hamburg, Dusseldorf: Dr.

Bernhardine Kleinhenz (Lead Partner), Dr. Michael Fritzsche (Partner),

Isabel Heydorn (all Real Estate)

Ernst & Young Legal Services, Bern: Daniel Bachmann (Partner),
Bernhard Blum

Economic/technical advisor: Ernst & Young Real Estate GmbH,
Dusseldorf - Monica Schulte Strathaus (Partner), Anna Weiss

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Brief Profile of Luther Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft mbH

Luther is one of the leading German commercial law firms providing comprehensive services in all the relevant fields of legal and tax consulting. The full-service law firm employs more than 320 lawyers and tax advisors and is represented at 12 German economic centres and at important investment locations in Europe and Asia with its five international offices in Brussels, Budapest, Istanbul, Shanghai and Singapore. Our clients include medium-sized enterprises and large corporations, as well as the public sector. Luther is also part of the PMLG international group of law firms and is the German member of Taxand, a worldwide network of independent tax firms.

Luther is a law firm with an entrepreneurial approach: our innovative awareness aspires us to provide our clients with customised legal advice that addresses individual needs and delivers the greatest possible economic benefit. Our lawyers and tax advisors have a solid understanding of interdisciplinary matters and a wealth of experience in collaborating on complex tasks.

Further information is available at: www.luther-lawfirm.com

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