

**International Chronometry Contest 2009
Watch museum Le Locle, Château des Monts**

Media release : October 20, 2008

Reopening of the deadline for participants at the International Chronometry Contest 2009

At its meeting on September 17th, 2008, the Swiss Society for Chronometry announced the participants chosen by the Jury to take part in the International Chronometry Contest 2009.

In view of numerous requests by watch making companies and individuals, the jury of the International Chronometry Contest 2009 exceptionally decided to postpone the deadline for participants till December 31st, 2008. The general conditions and terms remain strictly the same.

This is consistent with the mission of the contest, to revive the chronometry spirit and to reunite the watch making world around these values. Thus, the jury and the organizing committee favor the participation of as many watchmakers as possible around these values.

This decision will be officially proclaimed on Monday, October 20th, 2008, after the participants have been informed.

Why have an International Chronometry Contest in 2009?

In view of celebrating its 50th anniversary at the Château des Monts, the watch museum of Le Locle will organize in May 2009 the first International Chronometry Contest of the 21st century.

This Contest was developed based on the contests of the observatories. The goal is to revive the interest in chronometry of today's watch making. With an innovative method, the traditional competences are adapted to the modern technologies of testing the presented pieces at the Contest. It is also one of the first times that we will test performance and reliability. This event requires scientific, technical and cultural methods to show off the competences of the watchmakers and watch companies, who live for the passion of perfection and precision that is at the origin of the history of watch making.

Le Locle is the City of Precision, its reputation literally crossed over the oceans thanks to its marine chronometers that were produced here in great numbers. Thus the scientific and technological challenge of the contest recalls the importance of this City and the Canton of Neuchâtel in the search for precision. It is also an opportunity to promote the interest of the public for the technology by showing practical explanations and by promoting the image of the

excellence of European watch making, guardian of the highest precision and continually working on improving its standard.

The revival of mechanical watches in the past years has heightened the interest concerning their precision and so the perfect time has arrived for reviving an International Chronometry Contest, adapted to the products and measuring methods of today and corresponding to the expectations of the customers. This Contest is international because it is open to several countries and because the tests will be done in two countries. You may find the rules of the International Chronometry Contest 2009 on our homepage: www.chronometrie2009.ch

The International Chronometry Contest 2009 has been organized in cooperation with the official Swiss Chronometry Control Authority (COSC), the observatory of Besançon (France), the University of Applied Science ARC Ingénierie of Le Locle (Switzerland), with assistance of the Swiss Society of Chronometry and in partnership with the watch forum "Forumamontres".

The members of the honorary committee

With the presence of famous personalities involved in the contest, visibility and credibility of the contest is promoted, not only in scientific circles but also among the public. The honorary committee of the International Chronometry Contest 2009 assists the jury in promoting the contest.

Its members are:

The president: Claude Nicollier, astronaut, EPFL

- Ludwig Oechslin, curator, International Watch museum, La Chaux-de-Fonds
- René Beyer, Beyer Chronométrie A.G., Zurich
- Jean-Philippe Arm, journalist, Neuchâtel
- Keith Strandberg, journalist, Pomy
- Aurel Bacs, Christie's, Geneva
- Jean-Claude Sabrier, Paris

Members of the jury

Its members are:

President : Michel Mayor, astrophysicist, Observatory of Geneva

Technical commissary : Laurent-Guy Bernier, Federal office of Metrology, METAS

Members :

- Jonathan Betts, National Maritime Museum of Greenwich
- Girolamo Ramunni, University Professor, Professor of the history of science and technology at Cnam, Paris
- Philippe Blochlinger, Witschi Electronic AG, Büren a/Aare
- Raymond Besson, University Professor, Besançon
- Anne-Marie Jacot-Oesch, lawyer and notary, Le Locle

- Cécile Aguilhaume, curator of the watch museum Le Locle – Château des Monts, Organizer of the International Chronometry Contest 2009.

Current participants

As already announced at the occasion of the 12th meeting of the Swiss Society of Chronometry on September 17th, 2008, and in complying with the rules and the decision of the Jury, we publish the list of the participants and models that will be tested at the International Chronometry Contest 2009:

The accepted candidates are, in alphabetical order:

Chopard manufacture SA, Fleurier	
Model	L.U.C. Tourbillon Steel Wings Classic 16/1906. Caliber: Tourbillon 4 T/F
Le petit-fils de L.-U. Chopard & Cie S.A., Genève	
Model	Tourbillon 1869, caliber Luc 1.02
De Bethune, L'Auberson	
Model	Caliber DB 2005 mechanic
Doxa SA, Bienne	
Model	Doxa Sub, 11 ½ 2892 ETA CHRONOMETER
Fabrication de Montres normandes, Brionne	
Model	Caliber with manual windup, diameter of 37,30 mm
Manufacture Jaeger-LeCoultre, Le Sentier	
Model	Master Tourbillon, caliber 978
Manufacture Jaeger-LeCoultre, Le Sentier	
Model	Reverso Gyrotourbillon, Caliber 174
F. P. Journe, Invenit et Fecit, Genève	
Model	Chronomètre Souverain, caliber 1304
Urban Jürgensen SA, Bienne	
Model	P8
Olivier Randin, Vufflens le Château	
Model	Serge W et Olivier R, new automatic bidirectional watch movement CLARO
Swatch SA, Bienne	
Model	Swatch Diaphane, Caliber ETA 2824

Tissot SA, Le Locle	
Model	Tissot Le Locle, caliber ETA 2824-2
Christian Umscheid & Thomas Gneuss, Austria	
Model	ME1, Base ETA A07.111
Kari Voutilainen, Môtiers	
Model	Caliber 27, rectangular form

Thus we have 14 models from 13 participants, coming from 3 countries. 11 companies and 2 individuals are participating.

Procedure of the International Chronometry Contest

The official start of the International Chronometry Contest is May 23rd, 2009. The pieces must be deposited at the watch museum of Le Locle – Château des Monts.

The test will start by the end of May 2009. The results will be announced by the end of the year 2009 or beginning of 2010 and the participating models will be exhibited at the watch museum of Le Locle – Château des Monts – during the first semester 2010.

Now we hand over to the current and future participants, who only have a short time left to prepare their pieces. We have been greatly impressed by the commitment and enthusiasm of the participants.

The responses we have received since the launch of the contest prove that it is important to promote the chronometry quality of the mechanical watches.

In the name of the Jury:

The curator
Cécile Agillaume

Watch museum of Le Locle – Château des Monts