



CREATION OF A NEW SWISS CHRONOMETRIC CERTIFICATION

<http://www.observatoirechronometrique.ch/teaser/en/>

Embargoed until 31 March 2014

Press release – Geneva, 12 March 2014

At the next Baselworld fair, the TIMELAB Foundation will present the new chronometric certification, which is open to all mechanical watches made in Switzerland.

In the great tradition of Astronomical Observatories, and with the aim of fulfilling the needs of end customers more effectively, TIMELAB will issue individual **Chronometric+ Observatory** certificates for the chronometric performance of the finished watch, incorporating a “bulletin de marche” as well as reports on other aspects relating to its reliability: water resistance, magnetic resistance, power reserve and performance on the wrist.

Astronomical observatories in the history of watchmaking

Astronomy was at the origins of watchmaking, and since the 18th century observatories have been setting the standard for the measurement of time among watchmakers seeking to reproduce the movements of the stars and the passing time in their timepieces.

In fact, it was astronomical observatories who drew up the first rigorous criteria allowing timepieces that passed their tests to obtain the famous “bulletin de marche” and to be inscribed with the prestigious words: “certified chronometer”.

In Switzerland, a long tradition of chronometric certification dates back to the creation of the Geneva Observatory in 1772, which held its own chronometric competition from 1872 to 1968.

The Chronometric+ Observatory Certification, a recognised legal and technical guarantee for the end customer

The new **Chronometric+ Observatory certification** is a guarantee issued by TIMELAB. It certifies that a watch complies with the requirements drawn up by the laboratory and authorises it to bear the prestigious and official title of “chronometer watch” in accordance with the internationally recognised ISO/CEI 3159 standard. The guarantee covers the finished watch and extends to other aspects relating to its reliability such as water resistance, magnetic resistance, power reserve and performance on the wrist, in conditions representative of modern life.

The **Chronometric+ Observatory Certification** will be based on recognition at a state level (via law I 1 25 passed by the Canton of Geneva) and at a technical level (via the accreditations in process at the SAS, the Swiss Accreditation Service).

Taking into account the accreditations and the certified test protocols, the certification process will be carried out in the watch factories on each individual piece (100% tested), overseen by authorised TIMELAB auditors who will carry out regular inspections.

About TIMELAB

TIMELAB is a Swiss foundation created under the Canton of Geneva law I 1 25 and operating under the authority of the State of Geneva. Its employees have been approved and are required to remain neutral and independent. The same is required of the expert members of the technical committee, who oversee the technical operations of the laboratory.

Its experience in the watchmaking laboratory dates back to 1886 and the introduction of the voluntary testing of watches, which at the time was carried out by the Geneva Watchmaking School. It also awarded the prestigious “Poinçon de Genève” certificate, the standard-bearer of Geneva’s fine watchmaking industry, and from 1973 to 2013 it represented the official office of the Geneva COSC, which gave it extensive experience of the watchmaking laboratory.

TIMELAB has been in the process of becoming accredited by the SAS in the four following technical areas:

ISO/CEI 17065 Product Certification	ISO/CEI 17025 SCS Calibration Laboratory
ISO/CEI 17025 STS Test Laboratory	ISO/CEI 17020 Inspection.

Media contact: DC-Agencies

Anaïs Georges du Clos

Genève +41 79 800 70 84 / Paris +33 6 69 76 99 85

anaïs.georgesduclos@dc-agencies.com / www.dc-agencies.com

TIMELAB

FONDATION – LABORATOIRE D’HORLOGERIE
ET DE MICROTECHNIQUE DE GENÈVE
FOUNDATION – GENEVA LABORATORY
OF HOROLOGY AND MICROENGINEERING