

## **NEW OPERATIONS MANAGER AT ALU MENZIKEN**

*Alu Menziken Extrusion AG presents new operations manager & “Master Black Belt” Bernard Bourqui, a highly regarded luminary in the field of aluminium production.*

**Reinach/Menziken, May 2019. Alu Menziken Extrusion AG, headquarters of Alu Menziken Group is one of the key locations for the continuous growth and the increase of profitability of the entire corporate group. Extensive technological know-how about casting, extrusion as well as the processing of aluminium is bundled in the two Swiss production plants in Reinach and Menziken. CEO Ingolf Planer selected Bernard Bourqui, an internationally highly-regarded specialist with decades of experience as new operations manager. With a sound basis Bernard Bourqui will prepare the two plants for upcoming demands of international customers and set the course for a successful future.**

Alu Menziken Extrusion AG is a company with a more than 120 year old history – needless to say, the light metal construction sector has experienced major changes over the decades. New technologies and processes have emerged that, in turn, also change the parameters for Alu Menziken Extrusion AG. Today, more than ever, the Alu Menziken group focuses on growth and the increase of profitability.

“In order to reach strategic goals, like for example the expansion of our company group, it is of the utmost importance to concentrate on the needs of our customers. Long term success will only be accomplished by understanding the market demands. This is why constant optimizing and adjusting our business to the changing markets are necessary and with Bernard Bourqui we found the ideal operations manager,” Ingolf Planer, Chairman of the Board of Directors and CEO of Alu Menziken Group, is convinced.

“We are proud to welcome Bernard Bourqui, a renowned expert in our team who will support us in our ambitious mission. His extensive experience concerning the entire value chain of light metals is a decisive factor for success in order to be an even stronger engineering development partner for our clients in the future,” says Alice Godderidge, CSO of Alu Menziken Group.

“With the two Alu Menziken Extrusion AG plants in Reinach and Menziken we have access to enormous technological know-how in the areas of casting processes, extrusion or aluminium processing. In addition, also the employees have extensive process knowledge as most of them have been with the company for a long time. Those two points were the decisive factors for me to join the Alu Menziken team. It’s sort of a “coming home” after having spent so many years abroad – first of all, I now can be closer to my family and second, I am also returning to the aluminium industry, my favorite industry sector,” Bernard Bourqui, the new operations manager of Alu Menziken Extrusion AG is pleased.

**About:**

Bernard Bourqui is a “Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt” with more than 25 years of experience in the fields of operations, R&D, production and finance. The Swiss national, who holds a degree in physics, grew up at the shores of Lake Geneva. He started his professional career at the age of 27 after completing his education/training at Alusuisse, one of the most renowned aluminium plants in Europe, in the Swiss canton of Wallis. At the company headquarters Bernard Bourqui researched various topics concerning fused-salt electrolysis as well as the optimization of aluminium extrusion plants. Among other things he also concentrated on his personal area of expertise “thermal exchange”, referring to the cooling of the bolts in the casting process. Later on, the family man became head of the R&D division and the tool making department for the production of aluminium products for multiple international companies. During his professional career he won the “China Golden Silk Ball Award” for his contribution to the economic rise of the Guangxi region. Furthermore he is regarded as accomplished overseas expert and responsible for numerous successful audits, patent applications and introductions of certifications. Bernard Bourqui is considered a luminary in the area of the continuous improvement of manufacturing processes. With his experience in plant management and the 5S-method, he consulted top executives concerning productivity improvements. On March 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 Bernard Bourqui returned to his roots and started in his position as operations manager of Alu Menziken Extrusion AG.

**The Alu Menziken Group:**

Alu Menziken Group is a Swiss metal processing company with its head office in Reinach (AG). The group of companies with four locations in three countries focuses on the production of high-tech lightweight components for the aerospace, automotive and special application sector of manufacturing industries.

Customers around the globe rely on the expertise and know-how of the hidden-champion in the field of high quality aluminium profiles, complex extrusion line products and sophisticated aluminium lightweight components. Alu Menziken is a development partner with decades of experience who supports customers all around the globe with comprehensive technological knowledge.

Alu Menziken Group consists of Alu Menziken Extrusion AG (production sites in Reinach and Menziken/Aargau, Switzerland), Alu Menziken Euromotive GmbH in Ranshofen, Austria and Alu Menziken S.R.L. in Satu Mare, Romania.

Alu Menziken is a subsidiary of the Swiss industry group Montana Tech Components.

Inquiry information:

**Alu Menziken Group**

Therese Oberschmidleitner

Public Relations

Mobile: +43 664 6148809

E-mail: [therese.oberschmidleitner@ame-euromotive.com](mailto:therese.oberschmidleitner@ame-euromotive.com)