



## Press release

### New Sympany Head Office

**Sympany opened its new head office at Peter Merian-Weg 4, next to the Basel SBB train station, on 4 December 2009. The customer and advising centre will remain in the Basel city centre, at Spiegelgasse 12.**

Basel, 7 December 2009 – The new head office of Sympany is part of the Jacob Burckhardt House. Sympany acquired parts 2 and 4 of the House as its own property, then planned and implemented the interior fittings work itself.

With the move to the Jacob Burckhardt House, around 480 employees are brought together at a common location. They had previously been divided, working at several sites in the town centre. "We are not moving into this new head office to boost our prestige," emphasises CEO Beat Ochsner, "but rather due to our growth, that had us bursting at the seams and was causing our processes to suffer. United under a single roof, we can optimise the way we work to the benefit of our customers."

Zwimpfer Partner Architects, together with Jakob Steib Architects, are responsible for the overall Jacob Burckhardt House construction project. The 220-metre-long, metallically gleaming building has a distinctive presence and forms an attractive way to enter the city of Basel. Great importance was attached to ecological aspects of the building's construction and interior fittings. The overall architectural approach of the Jacob Burckhardt House is to achieve maximum quality while using a minimum of resources. The rooms are ventilated naturally thanks to the noise protection glazing of the enclosed courtyards. Direct sunlight and ventilation via windows contribute towards increasing the quality of the working areas. There is an extensive green area on the roof that is ecologically valuable and serves as a natural climate buffer.

#### **Customer centre stays at Fischmarkt**

The customer and advising centre at Fischmarkt will stay at its current location, Spiegelgasse 12, which is very well-known to Basel residents. "It's important for us to remain visible in the city centre and easily accessible for our clientele," stresses Mr Ochsner. "We will continue to assist our customers at Fischmarkt."

#### **For further information, please contact:**

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**About the Sympany Group**

Sympany is the refreshingly different insurance group that provides made-to-measure protection and assistance, with no red tape. Across Switzerland Sympany stands for comprehensive, affordable security and a close customer relationship. Vivao Sympany, Moove Sympany and Trust Sympany offer innovative solutions for various customer groups. The Lucerne-based health insurer Xundheit was made one of Sympany's subsidiaries on 1 July 2009.

The Sympany Group grew out of the ÖKK Basel and generated a total premium volume of CHF 781 million in 2008. Sympany has its head office in Basel and employs a workforce of around 500 people, throughout Switzerland. The company caters to the needs of 196,000 private customers, just under 181,000 of whom have basic insurance. Sympany has 7,500 companies in its corporate customer portfolio. The acquisition of Xundheit has brought another 35,000 private customers and 160 employees to the Group.