

New production unit at Konolfingen expands job opportunities

La Tour-de-Peilz, 1 September 2011 – Nestlé has today inaugurated a new production unit at Konolfingen (Canton of Berne), in a ceremony attended by the Swiss Federal Councillor Johann Schneider-Ammann, head of the Department of Economic Affairs, Paul Bulcke, CEO Nestlé SA, and Eugenio Simioni, general manager of Nestlé Suisse SA. This factory will produce the latest-generation probiotic infant formulas, enabling Nestlé to respond to the growing demand from consumers in over 80 countries. “The choice of Konolfingen for this investment, totaling over 200 million Swiss francs, is an indication of our confidence in the quality and creativity of Switzerland as an industrial base and of the expertise developed in the region,” said Eugenio Simioni.

This inauguration marks the final stage in expanding production capacities at the site, which has seen a series of investments over four years totaling close on CHF 400 million, with the creation of 370 new positions for qualified staff. With these expansions, Konolfingen is strengthening its position as a global competence center for highly-specialized infant formulas and health nutrition products. It therefore represents a significant advance for producers in the region, who will see milk purchases doubling over the next 5 years. This new production unit will benefit directly from synergies with Nestlé’s Product Technology Center (PTC), based on the same site.

Equipped with the latest technologies, this new production unit has been designed from the start to be a model factory when it comes to consideration of the environment. For instance, the new installations will permit a 58% reduction in CO2 emissions, a 34% cut in water consumption, and a 37% saving in energy consumption per ton of products. These are significant savings, which make this new factory a “best in class” unit.

With this new production unit, Nestlé will have invested no less than CHF 3 billion in Switzerland over the past ten years, and created some 2,700 new jobs. This makes Nestlé one of the major employers in the country, with over 9,500 employees. “All these investments are not just an investment for Nestlé, but also an investment for Switzerland,” Paul Bulcke reminded the audience.