

## **Olivier Rihs appointed new Managing Director of the Motor Show**

**The Foundation Council of the Geneva International Motor Show (GIMS) has unanimously named Olivier Rihs as GIMS' new Managing Director. The 49-year-old manager will take over the reins from André Hefti, who has decided to retire on 1 July 2019. To ensure the seamless transfer of responsibilities, Olivier Rihs will work alongside André Hefti during the 89<sup>th</sup> GIMS in March 2019.**

In Olivier Rihs GIMS has found a new Managing Director who knows both the automotive sector and the digital world inside out. He kicked off his career as the manager of a garage in Biel, before taking on the role of District Manager for two automotive brands in Bern and Biel. Between 2002 and 2017, Olivier Rihs held various positions within Scout24 in Flamatt, including four years as Managing Director of AutoScout24. In 2011, he was elected Managing Director of the group, which manages various digital platforms. He held this role until he left the group last April. His rich experience in the digital world, especially in combination with the automotive sector, was one of the main reasons he was named Managing Director by the Foundation Council. Olivier Rihs will start his new, full-time role on 1 February 2019.

Olivier Rihs, the future Managing Director of GIMS, says: "I thank the members of the Foundation Council for their confidence in me, and I look forward to this new challenge. The Motor Show is the largest trade show in Switzerland. It takes place every year, making it an unmissable event for the automotive industry in Europe and around the world. I want to work with the Motor Show and Palexpo teams to cement GIMS' appeal at a time when mobility is radically evolving. Electrification, digitisation, connectivity and new types of use are just a few examples of the major changes taking place within the automotive sector. We want to secure Geneva's role as the best platform for 21<sup>st</sup> century mobility, for both exhibitors and visitors." Maurice Turrettini, President of the GIMS Foundation Council, says: "We are delighted to have found in Olivier Rihs a real digital expert to take on the role of GIMS Managing Director. He also knows Switzerland's automotive industry and environment in particular like the back of his hand, so he is the best person to expertly guide GIMS towards an ever-more prosperous future."

André Hefti will take on full responsibility for the organisation of the Geneva International Motor Show 2019 and will remain the main point of contact for exhibitors, the general public and media representatives for this event. The Foundation Council would like to thank André Hefti for his unwavering commitment and consummate professionalism over the past eight years as Managing Director of a successful trade show: "We are sorry to see him go, but understand André Hefti's decision to retire after the 2019 Show. We wish him all the best for the future".

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **The Geneva International Motor Show**

The 89<sup>th</sup> Geneva International Motor Show will take place on 7-17 March 2019 at Palexpo. It is the only international motor show recognised by OICA (International Organisation of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers) that takes place every year in Europe and is one of the Top 5 worldwide.



HD picture under [this link](#)

Geneva, 17 September 2018

*(approx. 3,300 characters, including spaces)*