



## Media Release

### Longer working hours at AFG

Arbon, 25 September 2011 - **AFG Arbonia-Forster-Holding AG's Group Management has decided after consultation with the Personnel Commission to increase the length of the working week from 42 to 44 hours at all Swiss companies in the Kitchens and Refrigeration, Steel Technology and Surface Technology Divisions and in the Asta (logistics) business area. The new arrangement, which takes account of existing employment contract provisions, comes into effect on 1 January 2012 and runs until 30 June 2013. This measure has been taken in accordance with overall contractual employment regulations; the social partners have been informed.**

The economic environment, which the strong Swiss franc has made particularly difficult for the three affected divisions, has not just made it harder to sell the products abroad; foreign providers are also benefiting from the low value of the euro against the Swiss franc and offering their products in Switzerland at very low prices. The only way to counter the damage this is doing to the competitiveness of AFG's products is to increase the productivity of the company's Swiss operations. Alongside other measures to stimulate sales and optimize costs, the decision to lengthen the working week should help to achieve this goal.

#### Contact

AFG Arbonia-Forster-Holding AG

Ernst Wälter

Head of Human Resources

Tel. +41 71 440 51 65

[ernst.waelter@afg.ch](mailto:ernst.waelter@afg.ch)

This press release and further information on AFG Arbonia-Forster-Holding AG can also be found on our website at [www.afg.ch](http://www.afg.ch).