

Written by Hawksford
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Hawksford, one of the Channel Islands' largest independent trust companies, has acquired L-S&S GmbH, based in Zurich, Switzerland, and its New Zealand trust company.

The acquisition forms a significant part of the company's growth strategy and follows its recent move into the Middle East where it opened a Dubai office in May. In addition, the award winning organisation recently appointed a new chairman, former senior partner of PwC Channel Islands, Philip Taylor, to assist the company with its global expansion.

Hawksford was established in 2008 following a management buyout of Rathbone Trust Company Jersey Limited, backed by UK private equity company, Dunedin. Since this date, the company has been focused on growth, both organically and through global expansion. Acquiring L-S&S GmbH, which specialises in capital tax and estate planning, private and estate administration services, trusts, wills and probate, makes significant strides to achieving the company's growth targets.

'Our recent acquisition in Switzerland will ensure that Hawksford's clients, and those of L-S&S GmbH, will have access to an even wider resource pool of experts across multiple jurisdictions – an opportunity we view as a great positive. As the firm's global footprint increases, so too will awareness of our unique service offering. We are delighted to welcome Geoffrey Shindler, Tim Urquhart, James Norman and Nicole Noti to the team,' said Peter Murley, chief executive, Hawksford.

'L-S&S GmbH will continue trading in Switzerland under its existing name, as the brand is already well established.' added Murley.

Geoffrey Shindler OBE, was one of the founder members of STEP and its chairman between 1994 and 1998 and is now its world president. Geoffrey is also a member of the International Academy of Estate & Trust Law and is consulting editor of Trusts & Estates Law & Tax Journal and a member of the editorial board of Wills & Trusts Law Reports.

Tim Urquhart, practised as an English solicitor for 22 years before retiring from practice in 1994 to join Rothschild Trust Group in Switzerland where he became chief executive officer and a

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member of the executive board of Rothschild Bank in Switzerland. He joined L-S&S GmbH in 2008.

Since its management buyout in October 2008, Hawksford has gone from strength to strength and was recently crowned Trust Company of the Year at the 2011 Citywealth Magic Circle Awards and has been recognised as a Top 25 Trust Company by Private Client Practitioner for the second year running. Last year Hawksford was awarded the title of Independent Trust Company Team of the Year for 2010/2011 at the STEP Private Client Awards.

Hawksford is a leading independent funds and fiduciary services provider with a range of differentiated product offerings, which include investment fund administration, employee solutions, law services including wills and probate, family office and the management of image and royalty rights.

L-S&S GmbH is a boutique private wealth law firm which was founded in Zurich by English lawyers Geoffrey Shindler, Roger Lane-Smith and Tim Urquhart. The firm provides specialist advice on all aspects of wealth planning and structuring, particularly using international and offshore trusts, private trust companies and other asset holding structures.