

Press Release

Inauguration of Switzerland's first fully organic cocoa processing plant

Around 500 guests attended the inauguration of PRONATEC Swiss Cocoa Production

Winterthur, 21 September 2022 – Last weekend, Switzerland's first fully organic cocoa processing plant celebrated its opening. Around 100 customers from the national and international chocolate and food industry attended the VIP celebration on Friday, while another 400 guests visited the factory during the opening party on Saturday. Around 500 people took part in a guided tour of the new production facility and used the opportunity to taste organic cocoa mass, cocoa butter and cocoa powder produced here, as well as chocolate from PRONATEC's own brand AMARRÚ.

The new organic cocoa factory near Schaffhausen by the Rhine Falls was set up in an existing hall over a period of two years. The new plant uses badge processing and thus guarantees strict organic and fair trade criteria. Thanks to PRONATEC'S unique direct-sourcing system, every product can be traced back to the cocoa-growing smallholder. Around two tonnes of cocoa beans are processed per hour - up to 14,000 tonnes of cocoa beans are processed per year. The main customers for cocoa mass, cocoa butter and cocoa powder are various customers from the chocolate, food and cosmetics industries in Switzerland, Europe, North America and Japan.



Plant Manager Yannick Rihs, CEO David Yersin and Executive Board member Simon Yersin (from left to right) at the handover of keys for PRONATEC Swiss Cocoa Production in Schaffhausen by the Rhine Falls. (© PRONATEC)

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About PRONATEC

PRONATEC has been a pioneer in the global organic and fair trade movement and supplies its international customers in the food and cosmetics industries with premium-quality, certified ingredients. These include safe, traceable cocoa products, sugar, vanilla and spices that all meet the highest standards. This owner-run Swiss family company maintains long-standing partnerships with cooperatives in the countries of origin and makes a tangible contribution to improving the lives of smallholders and their families. Now, as of 2022, the company is processing organic cocoa beans into cocoa mass, cocoa butter and cocoa powder at its own Swiss cocoa-processing plant, PRONATEC Swiss Cocoa Production. From procuring the beans from small-scale farmers, through fermentation and export to processing and sale of the finished product, all stages of the process are in PRONATEC's own hands. Since it was first founded in 1976, PRONATEC has grown along with its customers and smallholders and in 2021 its turnover reached CHF 78 million. Now, in 2022, the company employs around 60 people at its headquarters in Winterthur and about 30 at the production site near the Rhine Falls in the canton of Schaffhausen.

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