

ABB appoints new general counsel

John Scriven to succeed Beat Hess, who joins Shell as Group Legal Director

Zurich, Switzerland, March 19, 2003 – After a distinguished 25-year career with Brown Boveri and ABB, Beat Hess, ABB's general counsel and secretary to the Board, has accepted an offer to join the Royal Dutch Shell Group of Companies as Group Legal Director, with group-wide executive responsibility for Shell's global legal function, effective June 16, 2003, ABB said today.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the ABB Group Executive Committee, Jürgen Dormann, ABB chairman and CEO, thanked Hess for his many years of loyalty and outstanding contributions to the ABB Group.

Hess, 54, was instrumental in the merger between ASEA of Sweden and Brown Boveri of Switzerland in 1988, and has since been in charge of the Group's legal and compliance matters.

In the past ten months, Hess has focused his time and efforts on resolving the asbestos-related exposure of Combustion Engineering, a U.S. subsidiary of ABB, and he said today he would continue to bring the related legal proceedings towards a successful conclusion.

"Thanks to the dedicated drive by Beat and his team, today we are more confident than ever that we will reach final closure of the asbestos problem in a timely manner," Dormann said.

Dormann said Hess's successor will be John Graham Scriven, previously general counsel and secretary to the Board of the Dow Chemical Company in the United States and currently of counsel with the Homburger law firm in Zurich.

Scriven, 60, has been working closely with Hess on the asbestos issue in the past several months.

ABB (www.abb.com) is a leader in power and automation technologies that enable utility and industry customers to improve performance while lowering environmental impact. The ABB Group of companies operates in more than 100 countries and employs about 139,000 people.

For more information please contact:

Media Relations:
ABB Corporate Communications, Zurich
Thomas Schmidt
Tel: +41 43 317 6492
Fax: +41 43 317 7958
media.relations@ch.abb.com

Investor Relations:
Switzerland: Tel. +41 43 317 3804
Sweden: Tel. +46 21 325 719
USA: Tel. + 1 203 750 7743
investor.relations@ch.abb.com