

## Press release

Bad Kötzting 28 May 2021

# Erlebnis Akademie AG with reopening and new opening of 10 of 11 treetop walks

Bad Kötzting, 28 May 2021 - Erlebnis Akademie AG will have ten of its eleven treetop walks open by the cut-off date of 1 June 2021. While the European locations had already reopened without exception since Whitsun - including a new opening in Alsace in France - the German locations could now also successively welcome visitors again. In addition, the new location on Usedom will start on 1 June 2021. After the interim closures of all existing sites due to the pandemic, only the treetop walk in the Black Forest has not yet been approved for reopening.

"After a long forced break, we are finally able to reopen our German sites step by step. This includes our new, fifth location on the island of Usedom," says Christoph Blaß, CFO of Erlebnis Akademie AG. "With the course of the current infection and the progress of the vaccination, we also expect to be able to operate our locations for the rest of the summer without any further major interruptions. Although we lost five months due to the closures until the end of May, the first quarter is not so significant due to seasonal factors - and we have already seen last year that we were able to make up all the lost ground in a good third quarter, which the first lockdown in 2020 brought with it. Corona restrictions still exist in the gastronomic area and in merchandise as well as in feeder services. We expect these to fall over the summer."

Last week, Erlebnis Akademie already opened the new location in Alsace and will open another new German location on 1 June with the Treetop Walk Usedom, making it the market leader with five locations in Germany and six other treetop walks in Europe. The only treetop walk that is currently not allowed to open until 1 June 2021 due to a state regulation with a corresponding step-by-step plan is the Treetop Walk Black Forest. Here, the company expects an opening permit by 20 June 2021 at the latest.

"We are very happy that we are now reopening ten of eleven sites and are looking forward to the summer months, which we hope will bring good momentum. The only downer at the moment remains the location in the Black Forest, but here we are working with the authorities to find a solution," reports Bernd Bayerköhler, CEO of Erlebnis Akademie AG. "Nevertheless, with the two

### **About Erlebnis Akademie AG**

Erlebnis Akademie AG was founded in 2001 in Bad Kötzting, Upper Palatinate, Germany, and is now one of the leading providers of nature-based leisure and adventure activities in Germany. To date, the company has built eleven treetop walks, including complementary facilities, with a total investment of around 60 million euros. The German sites are located in the Black Forest, the Bavarian Forest National Park, on the islands of Rügen and Usedom and at the Saarschleife. In addition, two sites were built in the Czech Republic [Lipno nad Vltavou (2012); Krkonose (2017)] and one each in Slovakia [Bachledova/High Tatras (2017)], Austria [Gmunden, Salzkammergut (2018)], Slovenia [Pohorje (2019)] and France [Alsace (2021)]. In each case, the educational content was implemented in cooperation with renowned partners, such as the German Federal Foundation for the Environment. In 2020, a total of more than 1.8 million visitors visited the treetop walks of the eak group. In addition to the planning of an average of three new treetop walks per year, there are additional concrete potential growth opportunities through the expansion of existing facilities, the expansion of merchandising, catering offers and cooperation marketing - as well as, in perspective, through concept transfer to other nature experience worlds.

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new locations as additional sales drivers and the expected large rush for nature-based leisure activities this summer, we are expecting a good year in 2021. In addition, we are on track with our new projects and work in Canada and preparations in Ireland are progressing."

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