

# The BT & SOB join forces

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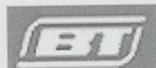
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## David Stevenson

## THE BT & SOB JOIN FORCES

**SOB SÜDOSTBAHN**



**SOB**

**SÜDOSTBAHN**

The merger between the BT and the SOB has taken place. It was agreed at respective Special General Meetings on the 17th December 2001. The vision of a unified railway from the Bodensee to well inside Switzerland became a reality.

The merged companies appointed a new Board under the Chairmanship of Dr Georg Hess and which has seven other members. The Managing Director is Dr Guido Schoch, formerly the Managing Director of the BT. Incidentally the former MD of the SOB has become the Operational Director of Thurbo, the new Mittel-Thurgau Bahn/ SBB joint operation in N E Switzerland. The HQ of the new SOB, as it is to be renamed, is to be in St Gallen and shareholdings were split 60/40

between the former companies shareholders with the former BT taking the majority share.

The assets of the old companies' were transferred and in due course they will be wound up, shares being converted into the new stock. The aim of the merger was to provide synergy in an increasingly competitive situation.

A completely new livery has been designed, grey and red. On a personal level I am devastated that the most attractive livery in Switzerland will ultimately be replaced. In Worcester at least the BT's green and cream will remain supreme! Having said that I would like to wish the new enterprise all the best for the future.

*For pictures of the new and old liveries see the next two pages.*

**BT**

**SOB** SÜDOSTBAHN

# THE BT AND THE SOB MERGE A Reminder of the old Liveries





Four pictures from the Editor's favourite railways.

LEFT ABOVE: BT BDe4/4 no. 50 Egnach at Wil on 8 June 2001. John Atkinson

LEFT BELOW: SOB 477 910 waits at Rapperswil with the 3-coach 16.46 train for Einsiedeln on 8 June 2001. John Atkinson

ABOVE: A BT Re4/4 and coaches in the beautiful classic livery. Photo © BT

BELOW: The new order which I suppose I will eventually get used to. Photograph SOB via George Hoekstra.



**THE NEW ORDER**

