

## ETH CHEMICAL ENGINEERING MEDAL

Wednesday, 29th June 2016, 5 pm, HCI G 3  
award ceremony and talk

In recognition of her outstanding contributions to  
the energy sector,

### Dr. Suzanne Thoma

CEO BKW Group

will be awarded the 2016 ETH Zurich Chemical Engineering  
Medal by ETH Rector Prof. Dr. Sarah M. Springman.  
The ceremony is followed by a talk on



## TRANSITION OF THE ENERGY SECTOR: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

**Abstract.** We are facing a global transition in the way we produce and use energy. Technological developments in grid infrastructure and energy storage, as well as sustained growth of renewables in the electric power sector will have a significant impact on our energy system. Not only the power grid, but all forms of infrastructure, e.g. water pipes, cables and roads will be influenced by technological innovations. Before long utility companies will have to develop new business concepts and diversify their sources of revenue. Suzanne Thoma, CEO of BKW, will illustrate how a long-established energy company is preparing for the energy and infrastructure future.



**Dr. Suzanne Thoma** graduated from ETH Zurich with a Ph.D. in chemical engineering in 1989 and has held various management roles at industrial companies in Switzerland and abroad. In 1990 she started her career at Ciba Specialty Chemicals Ltd. (today BASF) and was soon sent to Taiwan to oversee the commissioning of a production plant. Between 1997 and 2002 she held various management positions at Ciba, leading large business units towards more competitiveness in an increasingly global business environment. After 12 years with Ciba, she became CEO of Rolic Technologies Ltd., a high-tech company specialized in photo-alignment for innovative LCD Displays. As CEO of Rolic Technologies Ltd. she played a significant role in transforming the company into a globally successful and well-known high-tech firm. From 2007 to 2009 Suzanne Thoma was Head of the International Automotive Division of the WICOR Group. Joining the BKW in 2010 as a member of the Executive Committee, she was responsible for the network and network services business. Just two years later she was appointed CEO of the BKW Group. Suzanne Thoma serves on the board of directors of UPM in Finland, Schaffner Holding in Switzerland and Beckers Group in Germany.