

INTERVIEW: MARKUS MACK-EVEN



In the November issue we wrote about the opening of the new Ticiland in Switzerland. The owners are the Swiss showmen Peter Hablützel and Markus Mack-Even, son of Christel (longstanding partner of Mack Rides), and Kurt Mack-Even (longstanding Manager of Mack Rides).

Text: Frank Lanfer

Photos: Ticiland

✔ Markus Mack-Even (left) pictured with Peter Hablützel and the park mascots



? *Mr Mack-Even, during your professional career you were significantly involved in the realisation of new theme parks for many years, last in Dubai. Was it always your intention to open your own park at some time?*

! *I grew up in the industry from a small child. My playground was the company grounds of Mack Rides, and over many years I was able to gather experience in Asia, North America and Europe, before I completed my studies in Switzerland. After many years abroad, it was always my dream to become self-employed in Europe, and to develop my own project. The fact that this was possible in the form of Ticiland, is naturally super.*

? *Could you rely on family support?*

! *Of course, I could always rely on family support during the whole of my career, and not first with the realisation of Ticiland. There was never a no when I needed a contact or advice.*

? *At Ticiland there are mainly attractions from Zierer. Why none from Mack?*

! *The attractions that we chose for Ticiland did not exist as such in the Mack Rides portfolio, and with the coaster we received a turnkey layout from the Zierer Company that fits perfectly into the hall area. In conclusion I can only say that we are extremely happy with our chosen manufacturers for phase 1, Zierer and Bertazzon.*

? *And why of all things a theme park in Switzerland?*

! *My partner Peter Hablützel had a dream and a vision of a theme park in Switzerland for a long time. He even had a project in the 90s that couldn't be realised. After that, he built the world's largest Ferris wheel with which he worked at two World Expos, before he returned back from the pension to the drawing board, and revived his vision. After a location search, he had the possibility to realise the project in 2018, and asked if I would like to be his partner.*

? *How many visitors do you anticipate annually? Are you open all year round (despite the corona crisis)?*

! *Ticiland at this point in time is completely indoor, which gives us the basis for a 365-day operation, and we are independent of weather conditions also. We have, as every other park, developed a hygiene concept, and implemented it in consultation with the authorities. According to the current volatile situation we can naturally not evaluate how the next months will develop, but are encouraged. Unfortunately, we also had to close at the beginning of November, but we have been luckily open again since November 14th.*

? *Are there expansion plans in the drawer!*

! *The project is divided into two parts. Phase 1 is the indoor part that is now open, and phase 2 is the outdoor part planned for spring 2021.*

? *Can you imagine other locations?*

! *We are a new and young company. Our complete focus is on Ticiland in Stein am Rhein.*

? *Thank you for the interview. We wish you and your partner a lot of success with Ticiland.* ■