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ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

Photon Chairman Brian Bickmore resigns; John Porter elected Chairman



The Board of Directors of Photon Group Limited (ASX:PGA) today announced Brian Bickmore had resigned as chairman and Austar United Communications CEO John Porter had been elected as his successor.

Mr Porter, who has been CEO of satellite subscription TV provider Austar since 1999, will take up the role of chairman on 24 April 2012.

Mr Bickmore said Mr Porter would bring to the role tremendous international executive experience and a successful record of building businesses with strong brands.

"We are fortunate to have attracted someone with John's track record of building businesses in which marketing and advertising skills are paramount," Mr Bickmore said.

Mr Porter said he was looking forward to joining Photon's Board as the company works to grow its digital offering and strengthen its operations in Australia and internationally.

"Photon holds some of the world's most respected names in marketing and advertising and the company is in a good position to expand organically," Mr Porter said.

"I look forward to working with Matt Melhuish and his executive team as the company builds stronger and broader client offerings across our agencies."

Mr Porter and Mr Melhuish worked closely together when Photon advertising agency BMF partnered with Austar during a period of strong growth at the subscription TV company.

Mr Porter has more than 25 years of management experience in the US and Australian subscription television industries. He will leave his role as executive director and CEO of Austar upon completion of the company's merger with FOXTEL later this month. Mr Porter led the establishment of Austar Entertainment Pty Limited in 1995, and in doing so played an integral role in the development of Australia's subscription television industry.

Before joining Austar, Mr Porter spent 10 years in various senior management roles for Time Warner Cable, a subsidiary of Time Warner, Inc.

Mr Bickmore informed the Board earlier this year of his intention to step down as chairman once a search for a successor had been completed. The Board today thanked Mr Bickmore for his leadership over the past two years after he agreed to become chairman on a short-term basis at a particularly difficult time in Photon's history in 2010. He will remain on the board as a non-executive director.

"When I became chairman, my immediate priority was to help repair Photon's balance sheet. With the company now debt-free, it is the perfect time to hand over to a new chairman to oversee the company's future," Mr Bickmore said.

Contact

Andrew Butcher, Butcher & Co
+61 400 841 088