

JEWELRY

## Swiss-made Frederique Constant purchased by Citizen Watch

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*Frederique Constant Horological Smartwatch*

By STAFF REPORTS

Swiss watchmaker Frederique Constant has been acquired by Japan's Citizen Watch Co. for an undisclosed sum.

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The acquisition was announced May 26 under Citizen's mid-term business plan titled "Citizen Global Plan 2018." The purchase of Frederique Constant is part of Citizen's multi-brand strategy to complete its portfolio through the acquisition of Swiss watch manufacturers.

### Move toward accessibility

Citizen's purchase of Frederique Constant will strengthen its brand portfolio and up its variety of accessible luxury watches. The purchase also includes Frederique Constant's sister brands Alpina and DeMonaco.

The Japanese brand has ensured Frederique Constant's present management and staff that their positions will remain after the acquisition.

In a statement, Aletta and Peter Stas, founders of Frederique Constant Holdings SA, said, "As we feel a tremendous commitment to the Frederique Constant Group and its people, we started to explore a potential collaboration to secure the company beyond ourselves."



*Frederique Constant's Slimline Moonphase timepieces*

"We have become increasingly impressed by the innovative technologies of Citizen Group," they said. "We see the opportunity of Swiss-Japanese partnership to develop and market accessible luxury watches for the 21st century and beyond."

Similarly, in 2011 Louis Vuitton acquired La Fabrique du Temps, a workshop located near Geneva that specializes in designing and fabricating movements such as tourbillons and minute repeaters. La Fabrique du Temps reopened Oct. 7, 2014, allowing Louis Vuitton to house all of its watchmaking in one place for quality control and spur technological developments.

With Swiss roots, horologists may now take Louis Vuitton's timepieces more seriously at industry events and in the market ([see story](#)).

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