



NEWS RELEASE

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RJC HOSTS ITS 2016 AGM AT JCK LAS VEGAS ELECTING ITS NEW CHAIRMAN

LONDON – On Sunday 5 June 2016 RJC, the global standards-setting and certification organisation for the entire jewellery supply chain, hosted its AGM at the JCK jewellery fair in Las Vegas. This was the first time the RJC has held its AGM in the US. During the meeting the RJC Membership elected Dr. Wilfried Hoerner (Argor Heraeus SA) as its new Chairman of the Board and re-appointed Mr. Mark Jenkins (Signet Jewelers Ltd) as Honorary Secretary.

RJC's members also elected to the Board Michael Steinmetz (Leo Schachter Diamonds LLC), Ankur Goyal (MMTC-PAMP India Pvt Ltd), Jean-Baptiste Dembreville (Baume & Mercier), Bernard Malek (Cartier SA) and Harriet Kelsall (Harriet Kelsall Jewellery Design Ltd), representing their respective fora.

"I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the RJC Membership for electing me as Chair of its Board of Directors. I'm conscious of the duties and tasks ahead and the honour you've bestowed upon me. Although there are challenges ahead, I look forward to working with the Management Team to take advantage of the many opportunities as we prepare for the next decade of the RJC," says Wilfried Hoerner, Chairman of the RJC Board of Directors.

RJC Executive Director Andrew Bone added, "On behalf of the Management Team I'd like to warmly congratulate Wilfried on his appointment. We are looking forward to working with him and the Board to build on the success of the last ten years. I'd also like to thank Charles Chaussepied for his service as Interim Chair. His tireless dedication to promoting the RJC and its objectives has been inspiring. His wise counsel and support have been critical during a period of transition and he leaves us well equipped to face the future. I am both delighted and grateful that he has agreed to be vice-Chair for the next few months."

Following the AGM, RJC hosted an open discussion with a selection of panelist guests from the jewellery pipeline – mine to retail. The interactive session panelists focused on the value proposition of RJC Certification and its impact on their companies' performance against such issues as mandatory legislation, access to global markets and how businesses can prepare for the next wave of discerning consumers. The panel included representatives from De Beers, Metalor, Venus Jewel, Richline, the Fair Trade Jewellery Company, and DDI and moderated by Signet Jewelers Ltd.

The panel session stimulated animated discussion amongst other attendees. Retailer Jeff Corey, from Day's Jewelers, noted that as an independent US retailer, RJC certified twice, "I have seen a tangible impact to

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The Responsible Jewellery Council is the trading name of the Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices Ltd.
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The Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices Ltd is registered in England and Wales with company number 05449042.

my business as a result of putting my employees, my company and my management systems to the rigour of this certification.”

The day concluded with the launch of the RJC 2016 Annual Progress Report. The Report reflects the RJC’s 2015 accomplishments and demonstrates it’s continuing work across membership growth, certification benchmarks, standards development and auditor engagement. The Report is now available in hard copy from the RJC Office in London and a digital copy will be made available on the RJC website very soon.

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About RJC

The Responsible Jewellery Council is an international not-for-profit standards and certification organisation. It has more than 750 Member companies that span the jewellery supply chain from mine to retail. RJC Members commit to and are independently audited against the RJC Code of Practices – an international standard on responsible business practices for diamonds, gold and platinum group metals. The Code of Practices addresses human rights, labour rights, environmental impact, mining practices, product disclosure and many more important topics in the jewellery supply chain. RJC also works with multi-stakeholder initiatives on responsible sourcing and supply chain due diligence. The RJC’s Chain-of-Custody Certification for precious metals supports these initiatives and can be used as a tool to deliver broader Member and stakeholder benefit.

The RJC is a [Full Member of the ISEAL Alliance](#) – the global association for sustainability standards. For more information on RJC Members, Certification, and Standards please visit www.responsiblejewellery.com

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