



## NEWS RELEASE

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### ARGOR-HERAEUS SA ACHIEVES RJC CHAIN-OF-CUSTODY CERTIFICATION

LONDON - RJC today announced that Argor – Heraeus SA, the Swiss gold refiner, has achieved Certification against the new RJC Chain-of-Custody (CoC) Standard.

“RJC is delighted to congratulate Argor – Heraeus SA on achieving the 13<sup>th</sup> CoC Certification granted by RJC, covering gold, platinum and palladium. CoC Certification provides a mechanism for refiners to demonstrate how they are implementing the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains and refiner uptake supports the responsible sourcing practices of downstream jewellery companies,” says Ashish Deo, RJC’s Chief Executive Officer.

Argor – Heraeus SA’s CoC Certification results from a successful verification assessment conducted by Simone Olmo from Bureau Veritas Italia, an international auditing firm accredited by the RJC.

“This is another important milestone for us. Argor-Heraeus SA just this year has passed successfully the RJC COP Re-Certification after the first three year period and, as a next step, the – not only in the industry, but as well in the bullion banking sector – highly regarded Chain-of-Custody Certification. The RJC and CoC principles correspond perfectly with our ambition to combine commercial success with social responsibility and a commitment to environmental protection. We are proud to have with this important Certification an official confirmation of our practices being in place already for a long time as an important link in the entire precious metals markets – from the primary producer, recycling market and grandfathered gold market up to the consumer, as well investment sector as industrial sector – that offers fine gold, platinum and palladium of certified origin from conflict-free and ethically responsible sources. This principle is applied and documented throughout the entire production chain of Argor-Heraeus SA be it fine gold, fine platinum or fine palladium in its various product forms, or semi-finished products made of precious metal alloys,” says Dr. Wilfried H. Hörner, Co-CEO, Argor-Heraeus SA.

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#### About RJC

The Responsible Jewellery Council is an international not-for-profit standards and certification organisation. It has more than 500 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

[www.responsiblejewellery.com](http://www.responsiblejewellery.com)

The Responsible Jewellery Council is the trading name of the Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices Ltd.  
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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](http://www.responsiblejewellery.com)

#### **About Argor – Heraeus SA**

Argor-Heraeus is one of the world's largest processors of precious metals. With a global perspective and strong Swiss identity, we generate value for our customers at every step of the production chain thanks to state-of-the-art technology, quality, financial stability and responsibility.

The Argor (from the French "Argent et Or", silver and gold) refinery was originally established in Chiasso, Switzerland in 1951 and was taken over by Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS) in 1973. A partnership was agreed in 1986 with Heraeus Holding GmbH of Hanau. In 1999 UBS shares were taken over by Heraeus & Management. Later in 1999 Commerzbank International joined the shareholders, and in 2002, Austrian Mint also joined the shareholders. In 1988 the refinery moved from Chiasso to the new plant in Mendrisio. For more information please visit [www.argor.com](http://www.argor.com)

#### **[RJC Certification Information Argor – Heraeus SA](#)**

#### **[Chain of Custody Certified Members](#)**

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