



## NEWS RELEASE

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### RJC BOARD ANNOUNCES JAMES COURAGE TO SUCCEED MATT RUNCI AS RJC CHAIRMAN

LONDON - The Board of the Responsible Jewellery Council today announced that James Courage will succeed Dr. Matt Runci as RJC Chairman.

The appointment of James Courage, the Chief Executive Officer of Platinum Guild International (PGI), was unanimously endorsed by the RJC Board at its recent meeting. James will assume the position of RJC Chairman-elect upon Matt Runci's retirement at year's end.

"The RJC Board and I are delighted to announce that James Courage will succeed me as RJC Chairman", said Dr. Matt Runci. "I am sure all RJC Members will welcome James to the role of RJC Chairman as he applies his renowned knowledge, passion and extensive international experience to this important leadership role in the jewellery industry."

"The RJC undertook a thorough appointment process to identify my successor. The RJC Board fully endorsed the recommendation of the Chairman Recruitment Committee, who, after having sought nominations from all RJC Members, preparing a short list, and conducting interviews amongst that short-list, had no hesitation in proposing James to the Board", said Dr. Runci.

"I am honoured that the RJC Board has appointed me to this important position. Matt Runci has achieved an enormous amount for the jewellery industry in his almost eight years of service as the founding RJC Chairman. I am fortunate to be assuming the chairman's role of an organisation exhibiting exceptional institutional health. RJC is a vibrant and successful trade association with a rapidly growing international membership of more than 400 Members throughout the jewellery supply chain. More than half of the Commercial Members have already achieved independent, third-party certification against the RJC's Code of Practices. In assuming the role as the non-executive Chairman, I look forward to assisting RJC's Members, its Board and its Management Team build on the successes of Matt's term, so as to achieve the RJC's mission: To advance responsible ethical, social and environmental practices, which respect human rights, throughout the diamond, gold and platinum group metals jewellery supply chain, from mine to retail", said James Courage.

James Courage has over 30 years of extensive experience in the jewellery industry, with De Beers in the 1980s and from 1996 with the Platinum Guild. James has worked and lived in Europe, Africa and

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The Responsible Jewellery Council is the trading name of the Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices Ltd.  
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Asia and he is well respected by all his extensive contacts in the jewellery industry and related national and international organisations and regulatory agencies.

James will assume the role as Chairman-elect following Matt Runci's retirement on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2012. James will be formally confirmed as Chairman by the full RJC membership at the RJC's Annual General Meeting in May next year.

**For further information please contact:**

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**About RJC**

The Responsible Jewellery Council is an international not-for-profit organisation bringing together more than 400 member companies. RJC and its Members are committed to promoting responsible ethical, human rights, social and environmental practices in a transparent and accountable manner throughout the jewellery industry from mine to retail. This commitment aims to reinforce consumer and stakeholder confidence in diamond, gold and platinum metals jewellery products. The RJC has developed the RJC Member Certification system which applies to all Members' businesses that contribute to the diamond, gold and platinum metals jewellery supply chain. All Certified Members of the RJC are audited by accredited, third party auditors to verify their conformance with the RJC's Code of Practices. A voluntary Chain-of-Custody Standard has also been developed for gold and platinum group metals. 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)

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