



NEWS RELEASE

RJC WELCOMES NEW BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS AT 2019 AGM

- *ENSURES REPRESENTATION ACROSS THE SUPPLY CHAIN*
- *FIRST VIRTUAL GATHERING*

London, UK: 15 May 2019 – The Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC), the jewellery industry’s foremost standard setting and certification body, held its first virtual annual general meeting (AGM) this week – appointing a series of new Board members.

The event, held in partnership with leading software and audience engagement technology provider, Lumi, was broadcasted to all RJC member companies globally from Chatham House in London on Tuesday 14 May 2019.

During the meeting, David A. Bouffard, RJC Chair, announced a series of appointments to the RJC Board of Directors and its Standards, Assurance and Communications Committees.

The newly appointed Board members will represent their respective forum in the jewellery supply chain, from mine to retail. The new appointments are:

- **James Pounds from Dominion Diamond Corporation** and **Nelson Zarzosa from Minera Sotrami S.A** who will be representing the diamond, gold and/or platinum group metals producer forum
- **Michael Steinmetz from Leo Schachter Diamonds LLC** will represent the diamond traders, cutters and polishers forum
- **Gregory Magid from Kusasa Refining Pty Ltd** will represent the gold, platinum metals traders, refiners and/or hedgers forum
- **Patrick Addor from Jaeger-LeCoultre** will be representing the jewellery manufacturer and wholesaler forum
- **Bernard Malek from Cartier** will represent the jewellery retailer forum
- **Rajesh Neelakanta from BV Chinai & Co. (India) Pvt. Ltd** will represent the service industries forum
- **Bernadette Pinet from Union Francaise de la BJOP** will be representing the trade association forum

The new Board members will join current Board members and work closely with the RJC’s Executive Committee and management team as the organisation continues to position its recently launched 2019

www.responsiblejewellery.com

The Responsible Jewellery Council is the trading name of the Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices Ltd.
The Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices Ltd, 9 Whitehall, First Floor Front, London, SW1A 2DD, United Kingdom.
The Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices Ltd is registered in England and Wales with company number 05449042.

Code of Practices and drive continuous improvement in responsible business practices across the jewellery supply chain.

New appointments were also made to strengthen the RJC's Standards, Assurance and Communications Committees who work closely with the management team to help drive and realise its vision and mission of responsible worldwide supply chain.

Additions to RJC's Standards Committee includes industry representation from Alrosa Group, De Beers Group, Bonas & Co, Lazare Kaplan International Inc., Argor-Heraeus SA, Donze-Baume, Pomellato S.p.A, Cartier, Fair Trade Jewellery Company, HRD Antwerp, IGI India Pvt Ltd, Antwerp World Diamond Centre and IDMA.

Several non-industry appointments were also made to the Standards Committee, including representations from Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM) and the Diamond Development Initiative (DDI), who hold permanent seats on the committee.

Additions were also made to the Assurance and Communications committees with representation from Dominion Diamond Corporation, El-Ran BVBA, Varinor SA, Corona Jewellery Company Ltd, CTF Diamond Trading Co Ltd, House of Gems Ltd, Van Cleef & Arpels, Piaget, Richline Group, Inc., Day's Jewelers, GIA, Leo Schachter Diamonds LLC and IWC Schaffhausen.

Speaking on the new appointments, RJC Executive Director, Iris Van der Veken said: "Partnerships with our members will achieve transformative change and play a key role in driving the SDG agenda forward. I look forward to engaging with them further in pursuit of our shared goals."

David Bouffard, Chair of the RJC, said: "It's great honour to welcome our new Board and Committee members at a very important time as the organisation continues to strengthen its position as the leading industry standards-setting and certification body. We will continue our tireless work toward the continuous improvement in the integrity of the global jewellery supply chain."

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About RJC

The Responsible Jewellery Council is an international not-for-profit standards and certification organisation. It has more than 1,100 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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