

NEWS RELEASE

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RJC CERTIFIES TURKISH JEWELLERY MANUFACTURER, ARPAS

LONDON - RJC announced today that Arpas Ihracat Ithalat Ve Pazarlama Anonim Sirketi (Arpas) has become the first Turkish RJC Member to achieve Certification against the 2013 Code of Practices (COP) at its manufacturing facility in Istanbul, Turkey.

"It is a pleasure to announce Arpas has been certified against the 2013 COP. The new provisions under the 2013 COP address important issues for our Members and their supply chain. We are delighted to see Members achieving Certification against the standard and warmly congratulate Arpas," says Andrew Bone, RJC's Executive Director.

The successful verification assessment was led by Serap Tumen from SGS United Kingdom Limited, one of the independent third-party auditing firms accredited by the RJC.

"Arpas is pleased to be a member of the RJC and very proud to be the first Turkish member to become RJC certified. With this achievement we believe we have taken another step towards reaching our goals such as giving the best possible service to our customers and honoring our social, human and environmental responsibilities as a business," says Fatih Kemahli, CEO at Arpas.

For further information please contact:

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About RJC

The Responsible Jewellery Council is an international not-for-profit standards and certification organisation. It has more than 700 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 <u>Full Member of the ISEAL Alliance</u> – the global association for sustainability standards. For more information on RJC Members, Certification, and Standards please visit <u>www.responsiblejewellery.com</u>

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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, SW1A 2DD, London, UK. The Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices Ltd is registered in England and Wales with company number 05449042.

About Arpas

Arpas was founded in 1982 with a relatively small operation but now has become one of the world's largest gold jewellery manufacturing companies. Arpas specialyzes in gold, silver and diamond jewellery manufacturing, meeting all jewellery tastes throughout the world. For more information about Arpas please simply click on <u>www.arpas.com</u>

RJC Certification Information – Arpas

RJC Certified Members

www.responsiblejewellery.com

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