



NEWS RELEASE

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RJC AND DMCC ANNOUNCE COLLABORATION TO ADVANCE CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY IN THE JEWELLERY INDUSTRY

LONDON, Monday 16 October 2017 – The Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC), global standards-setting and certification organisation for the entire jewellery supply chain, announced it had agreed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with DMCC to work cooperatively on advancing their shared objectives of improving corporate social responsibility and responsible supply chain efforts in the jewellery supply chain.

RJC welcomes this new formal relationship with DMCC, through which the two organisations will work together to achieve common goals and strengthen collective efforts towards responsible business practices, supporting RJC membership growth and certification reach in the UAE. The RJC is making good progress in the UAE and is committed to working with the local industry and institutions to fully integrate with this market. As a key part of this increasing commitment Kinjal Shah, RJC Regional Director of India and Middle East will work closely with the DMCC and the industry on these efforts.

DMCC is a government entity and the world's most interconnected Free Zone, dedicated to enhancing Dubai's position as the global gateway for commodities trade by creating an environment for business to flourish, providing world class of physical, financial and smart infrastructure as well as services and expertise to build marketplaces for success. DMCC also encourages its 14,100 member companies to conduct business in a transparent and responsible manner through its regulatory standards and strong alignment with global entities such as the RJC.

Under the MoU, RJC and DMCC will:

- Work together to collect data intelligence to manage risk and enhance industry reputation in the UAE.
- Develop methods and bespoke materials to raise awareness and educate the local industry and beyond on solutions to implement robust sustainability efforts and ethical business practices.
- Develop joint communications and outreach programs to promote implementation of responsible business practices through various industry events.

Andrew Bone, Executive Director of the RJC said, "We are really pleased to work closely with the DMCC to promote sustainability and ethical business practices in the jewellery supply chain in the UAE. Together, the DMCC and RJC can leverage each other's knowledge and expertise regarding the challenges and issues the industry faces to instill a responsible supply chain and promote consumer confidence in the watch and fine jewellery industry. We are looking forward to a rewarding and mutually beneficial collaboration between our two organisations."

“At DMCC, we believe that a CSR roadmap is a step-by-step process of continuous improvement and collaboration with key global entities. This MoU with RJC is an important milestone for us that will enhance a better future of trade for all, and we are proud to lead this process in the UAE in close partnership with the RJC”, said Ahmed Bin Sulayem, Executive Chairman, DMCC.

For more information, please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions addendum below.

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About RJC

The Responsible Jewellery Council is an international not-for-profit standards and certification organisation. It has more than 1,000 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

About DMCC

Headquartered in Dubai, DMCC is the world’s most interconnected Free Zone, and the leading trade and enterprise hub for commodities. Whether developing vibrant neighbourhoods with world-class property like Jumeirah Lakes Towers and the much anticipated Uptown Dubai, or delivering high performance business services, DMCC provides everything its dynamic community needs to live, work and thrive. Made for Trade, DMCC is proud to sustain and grow Dubai’s position as the place to be for global trade today and long into the future. www.dmcc.ae



RJC and DMCC – MoU

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who is the Responsible Jewellery Council?

The Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC) is an international not-for-profit standards and certification organisation headquartered in London, United Kingdom. It has more than 1,000 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.

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2. What is RJC membership and certification?

Businesses trading in the diamonds and/or gold and/or platinum group metals jewellery supply chain can be eligible for RJC membership. The key benefit of RJC membership is access to the compulsory RJC Code of Practices certification for all commercial members, which must be achieved within the first 2 years of joining. RJC Certification is the jewellery industry's recognised standard for supply chain due diligence and a point of differentiation for any business.

Some of the tangible business benefits that result from implementing better business practices identified through the RJC certification process include:

- **Competitive Edge:** opportunities to build stronger commercial relationships and gain access to preferred customers and suppliers;
- **Demonstrate Compliance:** capacity to provide assurance of commitment to responsible business practices via an independent, third-party audit;
- **Protect Your Brand Reputation and Manage Your Risk:** the self assessment and certification process are ideal tools for identifying potential risk areas and managing them to avoid future challenges;
- **Complimentary Training and support:** to achieve conformance with international best practice including multiple supply chain initiatives and legislative standards;
- **Marketing:** an exclusive profile page on the RJC website; use of the RJC member logo for promotional/marketing collateral and opportunities to feature in RJC publications that get distributed to the entire RJC membership, global trade media and other stakeholders.

3. What is the purpose of the MoU between RJC and DMCC?

RJC and DMCC, each operating under its own authority, have specific responsibilities for fostering corporate social responsibility and promoting the responsible management of gold and diamond supply chains. The MoU sets forth a framework for mutual cooperation which will assist each organisation in meeting its responsibilities and goals. Implementation of this MoU is intended to maintain and enhance organisation effectiveness in the areas of corporate social responsibility and responsible business practices, while avoiding duplication of efforts by both organisations to achieve common objectives.

4. How will the RJC and DMCC work together to advance their shared objectives of improving corporate social responsibility and responsible supply chain efforts?

For the duration of the MoU, RJC and DMCC will seek to maximise communication and information sharing on all industry issues through meetings and events. Key areas of engagement can include:

- Knowledge sharing on emerging issues and challenges in the industry.
- Developing tailored educational and promotional materials on the importance of:
 - Robust due diligence measures
 - Benefits of corporate social responsibility efforts.
 - Identifying and understanding supply chain risks and how to address these risks.
 - Learning how to manage and address emerging sector issues
 - Complying with and achieving legal compliance with global and local legislation on conflict minerals.
- Developing joint communications and industry outreach programs to raise enhanced awareness on responsible ethical, social and environmental practices, which respect human rights, throughout the diamond, gold and platinum group metals jewellery supply chain.
- Participate in each organisation's respective programs and events, where possible, to promote corporate social responsibility objectives with stakeholders and encourage supplier and consumer confidence in the watch and jewellery supply chain.

5. What will the key priorities be for the RJC?

The RJC's key priorities for the duration of the MoU will include:

- Advocating a responsible world-wide supply chain that promotes trust in the fine jewellery and watch industry.
- Increase RJC membership in the Middle East.
- Promoting and encouraging certification against the RJC standards to help address industry risks and issues. The two standards are:
 - *RJC Code of Practices* – A peerless full supply chain standard that provides members evidence of their responsible business practices to suppliers, customers and other stakeholders.
 - *RJC Chain of Custody* – A precious metals supply chain standard applicable to gold and platinum group metals (platinum, palladium and rhodium) to support claims for responsibly sourced materials produced, processed and traded through the supply chain.
- Increased industry outreach efforts through events and trade fairs to raise awareness of current and emerging issues and promoting how RJC membership and certification can support addressing these issues.
- Promote RJC's cross-recognition agreements with related industry programs and initiatives including the DMCC Rules for Risk Based Due Diligence in the Gold and Precious Metals Supply Chain, the Signet Responsible Sourcing Protocol, the LBMA Responsible Gold Guidance, the De Beers Best Practice Principles and the CFSI Conflict Free Smelter Program (CFSP) to help reduce audit burden and support harmonisation between related initiatives.

6. How will the RJC's increase in material scope affect the MoU?

The second review of the RJC Code of Practices is presently underway and is expected to be completed by the end of 2018. As part of the review process, RJC's current material scope (diamonds, gold and platinum group metals) will expand to include coloured gem stones. As DMCC facilitates trade of diamonds and gold commodities only, the RJC material scope expansion will have no effect on the status of this MoU with DMCC.

7. Will DMCC member companies trading in the diamonds and/or gold supply chain be required to become RJC members?

No. Membership of the RJC will remain voluntary. DMCC member companies trading in the diamonds and/or gold supply chain may choose to join the RJC at their own will. To be eligible for membership, businesses must be commercially active in the gold, diamond and/or platinum group metals (PGM) jewellery supply chain. If a business does any trade in gold and/or diamonds and/or PGM (e.g. rhodium plating), it will be eligible to apply for RJC Commercial membership.

8. How will RJC demonstrate the impact of the MoU?

The RJC will undertake regular in-depth evaluations to try and draw conclusions on whether activities under this MoU are successfully contributing to the achievement of its objectives. Outcomes and findings will be utilised in collaboration with DMCC as described in question 4.

An increased understanding of responsible business practices in the local industry, improved due diligence efforts and growth in RJC membership and certification will constitute as positive outcomes for the RJC.

9. How long will the MoU between RJC and DMCC be effective?

The MoU will be effective until August 2019. Throughout this period, both RJC and DMCC will regularly consult internal and external stakeholders as well as review the impacts and results of this collaboration to assess the effectiveness of this MoU.