



## NEWS RELEASE

Embargoed until 27 July, 2011

### ARGOR-HERAEUS CERTIFIED BY THE RESPONSIBLE JEWELLERY COUNCIL

LONDON – The Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC) today announced that Argor-Heraeus, the Swiss-headquartered precious metals refiner, has become certified against the ethical, human rights, social and environmental standards established by the RJC Member Certification System.

“The RJC is delighted to congratulate Argor-Heraeus on their Certification. The successful verification assessment of Argor-Heraeus was conducted by Melisa Cerizza from Specialized Technology Resources, Inc. (STR). As a member from the refining sector, Argor-Heraeus is positioned strategically at the mid-point of the precious metals supply chain. This sector provides an important link between suppliers and consumers,” said Michael Rae, RJC’s Chief Executive Officer.

Founded in 1951, Argor-Heraeus exclusively processes precious metals, with a focus on refining precious metals from mines and industrial scrap and transforming precious metals into alloys and semi finished products for the watch and jewellery industry.

“We believe that truly lasting business success is only possible when our growth is founded on sustainable practices. This commitment to sustainability has been in place for many years, far longer than its recent rise as a popular business trend. We have long been aware of the responsibility we carry in our activities and always strive to make a positive, lasting contribution through our actions. Achieving RJC Certification is a further testimonial of our solid commitment to responsible business practices,” said Erhard Oberli, CEO and Vice Chairman, Argor-Heraeus.

For further information please contact:

Mila Bonini, Communications Manager, Responsible Jewellery Council

Telephone +39 02 48002801, Mobile +39 334 5488723, [Mila.bonini@responsiblejewellery.com](mailto:Mila.bonini@responsiblejewellery.com)

[www.responsiblejewellery.com](http://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, First Floor, Dudley House, 34-38 Southampton Street, London, UK, WC2E 7HF.  
The Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices Ltd is registered in England and Wales with company number 05449042.

## **About RJC**

The Responsible Jewellery Council is an international not-for-profit organisation bringing together more than 310 member companies 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. Their commitment aims to reinforce consumer and stakeholder confidence in diamond, gold and platinum metals jewellery products. The Council has developed the RJC Member Certification System, a certification system – which will apply to all Members’ businesses that contribute to the diamond, gold and platinum metals jewellery supply chain. All Commercial Members of the RJC are required to be audited by accredited, third party auditors to verify their conformance with the RJC’s Code of Practices and become certified under the RJC Member Certification System. A full list of its Members can be found on the web at [www.responsiblejewellery.com](http://www.responsiblejewellery.com)

## **About Argor-Heraeus**

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 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. Austrian Mint in 2002 joined the shareholders too. 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 Certified Members**

[Gay Frères](#)

[Cartier](#)

[Raymond Bloch SA](#)

[Metalor Technologies SA](#)

[Rubel & Méнасché](#)

[Fred Meyer Jewelers and Littman Jewelers](#)

[CHANEL](#)

[AV10](#)

[Signet Jewelers](#)

[Chaumet](#)

[Aurum Holdings Ltd](#)

[Venus Jewel](#)

[Charles Perroud](#)

[Regal Imports Ltd](#)

[Crossworks Manufacturing Ltd](#)

[R Steinmetz & Sons](#)

[Oteline](#)

[Argor-Heraeus](#)

###

[www.responsiblejewellery.com](http://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, First Floor, Dudley House, 34-38 Southampton Street, London, UK, WC2E 7HF.  
The Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices Ltd is registered in England and Wales with company number 05449042.