

Zurich, December 4, 2012

### Funds Europe names SAM “European Thought Leader” 2012

- SAM wins top prize in new category of 2012 Funds Europe Awards
- Jury stresses SAM’s topic selection, depth and innovative nature of its research studies
- Award underscores SAM’s pioneering role in driving sustainability thinking & investing

SAM, the investment boutique focused exclusively on Sustainability Investing, has won the Funds Europe Awards in the “European Thought Leadership” category for its sustainability foresight and its relentless efforts in educating the public at large on the importance of Sustainability Investing. Organized by Funds Europe magazine, the prestigious Awards recognize outstanding companies for innovative contributions to the advancement of the European funds industry. The winners were announced at a special ceremony at the Tower of London on November 29, 2012.

Funds Europe’s new “European Thought Leadership” Award honors companies for “ground-breaking research that is considered most relevant and vital to solving challenges faced by asset managers.” SAM convinced the jury with its forward-looking research on a wide range of topics that are essential to the successful implementation of Sustainability Investing strategies.

Over the past year, SAM’s in-depth studies have explored such subjects as global corporate sustainability ratings, key factors in corporate sustainability assessments, the macro trend toward healthy living, and the current state of the clean tech private equity market.

***The award’s judging panel states:*** “SAM won the award for the innovative nature of their research, in particular looking at non-standard subjects that affect investment decisions in the environmental and sustainable investment fields. It was the choice and depth of these subject areas that, in the opinion of the judges, differentiated SAM from other nominees.”

***Michael Baldinger, CEO, SAM:*** “Since our founding in 1995, SAM has been at the forefront of recognizing the importance of non-financial factors to business success and ultimately integrating such factors into our investment solutions. The ‘European Thought Leadership’ Award represents a validation of our unique approach and ability to generate foresight in sustainability and delivering foresight in investment for our clients.”

SAM’s unmatched expertise lies in its ability to identify material but under-researched sustainability risks and opportunities that impact companies’ financial performance, translate them into a proven corporate sustainability assessment methodology, interpret the sustainability information and incorporate it into a proprietary valuation model.

**For more information about the awards and the award criteria, please visit:**  
<http://www.funds-europe.com/awards/2012-results/business-awards>

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### About SAM

SAM is an investment boutique focused exclusively on Sustainability Investing. The firm's offering comprises asset management, indexes, private equity and sustainability benchmarking services. Its asset management capabilities include a range of sustainability theme and broad ESG integrated investment strategies catering to institutional asset owners and financial intermediaries internationally. SAM partners with Dow Jones Indexes in the publication of the globally recognized Dow Jones Sustainability Indexes (DJSI). Based on its Corporate Sustainability Assessment, SAM has compiled one of the most comprehensive sustainability databases and analyzes over 2,000 listed companies annually. SAM's proprietary research and sustainability insight – through its direct contact with companies – are fully integrated into its offering.

[SAM](#) is a member of the global pure-play asset manager Robeco, which was established in 1929 and offers a broad range of investment products and services. Robeco is a subsidiary of the Rabobank Group, which has the highest credit rating of all privately owned banks, according to rating agencies Moody's, Standard & Poor's, Fitch and DBRS. Robeco is committed to both practicing and implementing its [Responsible Investing](#) principles group-wide. Within Robeco, SAM acts as the center of expertise for sustainability insight. In its domestic Swiss market, SAM also represents Robeco by handling sales, client services and marketing for Robeco's product range.

SAM was founded in 1995 on the conviction that corporate commitment to sustainability practices enhances a company's capacity to prosper, ultimately creating stakeholder value. As a reflection of its own commitment to advocating sustainable investment practices, SAM is a signatory of the UNPRI and a member of Eurosif, ASrIA and Ceres. SAM is headquartered in Zurich and employs over 100 professionals. As of June 30, 2012 SAM's assets under management and advice amounted to a total of USD 11.5 billion.

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