

# Media Release

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## RobecoSAM kicks off annual Corporate Sustainability Assessment – leading companies will make it into the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices

- Over 2,500 of the largest companies can report on their sustainability practices
- Evaluation serves as basis for construction of prestigious DJSI World
- Further advancements due to alignment with CDP & GICS

RobecoSAM, the investment specialist focused exclusively on Sustainability Investing, invites the 2,500 largest companies in terms of free float market capitalization from all industries to participate in its annual Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA). In addition, 800 companies from the emerging markets are invited to participate and gain eligibility for inclusion in the recently launched *DJSI Emerging Markets*. The CSA is the research backbone for the construction of all the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI). After the assessment, companies are included in the *DJSI World*, the gold standard benchmark for corporate sustainability, if their sustainability performance ranks among the top 10% of their industry peers.

### RobecoSAM's approach to measuring corporate sustainability

The [CSA](#) focuses on a company's long-term value creation with over 100 questions on financially material economic, environmental, social and corporate governance practices. Over half of the questions are industry-specific as RobecoSAM is convinced that industry-specific sustainability risks and opportunities play a key role in a firm's long-term success. The other half includes questions on general sustainability issues such as corporate governance, product stewardship and talent attraction & retention.

*Daniel Wild, Head of Research, RobecoSAM: "We strongly encourage companies to participate in the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of the CSA. Going through this exercise helps companies to identify financially material sustainability issues that have an impact on their bottom lines. Sustainability issues dramatically change the competitive environment in which companies operate. Firms that take into consideration how sustainability affects their business will ultimately gain a competitive advantage over their peers."*

### Continuous development of methodology

The assessment process has continuously been refined over the years. This year, RobecoSAM has aligned several of its Climate Strategy questions with corresponding questions asked by CDP, the provider of the Climate Disclosure and Climate Performance Leadership Indexes. This will reduce the workload for 90% of DJSI participating companies which also respond to the request for climate change information through CDP.

Further, the 2013 CSA and DJSI family will be aligned with the Global Industry Classification System (GICS), thus meeting commonly accepted sector classification standards. The switch to GICS, which is a widely used standard in the financial industry, will therefore allow the DJSI to become more attractive for investors as it meets the need for one complete and consistent set of global sector and industry definitions.

The changes will be implemented into all the indices as they have historically used the Dow Jones Industry Classification (formerly ICB). This means that the former 19 ICB supersectors will be replaced with 24 GICS industry groups, and the 58 RobecoSAM sectors will be replaced with 59 RobecoSAM industries.

#### What is the benefit of participating in RobecoSAM's CSA?

Upon completion of the CSA, many firms use it as an internal management tool to identify gaps and initiate improvements in their business practices. Firms that participate in the CSA also receive a free Company Benchmarking Scorecard that compares their sustainability performance to that of their industry peers. Furthermore, sustainability leaders make it into the DJSI which can enhance a company's reputation and they become potential investments for DJSI-based portfolios.

For additional information, please contact:

RobecoSAM AG  
François Vetri  
Head of Corporate Communications  
Josefstrasse 218  
8005 Zurich / Switzerland  
T: +41 44 653 10 02  
E: [com@robecosam.com](mailto:com@robecosam.com)  
[www.robecosam.com](http://www.robecosam.com)

#### About RobecoSAM

RobecoSAM is an investment specialist focused exclusively on Sustainability Investing. Its offerings comprise asset management, indices, private equity, engagement, impact analysis and sustainability assessments as well as benchmarking services. Asset management capabilities include a range of ESG-integrated investment and theme strategies (in listed and private equity) catering to institutional asset owners and financial intermediaries across the globe. Together with S&P Dow Jones Indices, RobecoSAM publishes the globally recognized Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI). Based on its Corporate Sustainability Assessment, an annual ESG analysis of more than 2,000 listed companies, RobecoSAM has compiled one of the world's most comprehensive sustainability databases. RobecoSAM's proprietary research and sustainability insight, gained through its direct contact with companies, are fully integrated into the company's investment solutions.

RobecoSAM 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 also has a long tradition of practicing and advocating Sustainability Investing principles. RobecoSAM was founded in 1995 out of the conviction that a commitment to corporate sustainability enhances a company's capacity to prosper, ultimately creating competitive advantages and stakeholder value. As a reflection of its own commitment to advocating sustainable investment practices, RobecoSAM is a signatory of the UNPRI and a member of Eurosif, ASrIA and Ceres. Headquartered in Zurich, RobecoSAM employs over 100 professionals. As of December 31, 2012, RobecoSAM's assets under management, advice and license amounted to a total of USD 11.4 billion.

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RobecoSAM USA, Inc., 909 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022, T: +1 212 908 9500, F: +1 212 908 9672