

Media Release

Zurich, January 19, 2017

Page 1 of 2

RobecoSAM Publishes the Annual Sustainability Yearbook 2017

- The annual Sustainability Yearbook is the flagship reference guide to the ESG performance of the world's largest listed companies
- Investors can identify companies that have a competitive edge based on sustainability criteria
- Institutional investors are lagging behind corporates in embracing ESG, but picking up speed

RobecoSAM, the investment specialist focused exclusively on Sustainability Investing (SI), today announced the publication of its [2017 Sustainability Yearbook](#). The Yearbook showcases the sustainability performance of the world's top companies and includes the top 15% per industry, which are awarded **Gold, Silver** or **Bronze medals**.

RobecoSAM has assessed the corporate sustainability performance of the world's largest listed companies every year since 1999. For the 2017 Yearbook, 2,473 companies in 60 industries from 49 different countries were assessed – more than 136,000 documents were analyzed and over 2,000,000 data points were collected on financially material ESG criteria. The market capitalization of the assessed companies represents an average of approximately 93% of the total market capitalization of each particular industry, which means that the Yearbook provides an excellent picture of every industry in terms of ESG performance.

The world's most sustainable companies are located in Europe

This year, RobecoSAM awarded **77 RobecoSAM Gold Class medals**, **83 RobecoSAM Silver Class medals** and **107 RobecoSAM Bronze Class medals** to the evaluated companies. From a regional perspective, the greatest number of companies included in the Yearbook and the most RobecoSAM Gold Class medal winners are located in Europe.

Region	Companies included	Gold Medal Companies
1. Europe	198	39
2. Asia Pacific	122	13
3. North America	82	14
4. Emerging Markets	68	11

Aris Prepoudis, CEO RobecoSAM: "I would like to congratulate all companies that made it into the 2017 edition of the Sustainability Yearbook. The companies selected have proven that they are among the best in their class, which is quite an accomplishment because sustainability standards are being pushed higher every year. Although sustainability has become a requirement among investors, we feel that there is still a gap between the efforts made by corporations and the ESG integration of their pension funds. However, as more companies report the positive financial impact of their sustainability initiatives, we believe that pensions will make the connection between ESG integration and generating value for beneficiaries."

Daniel Wild, PhD, Head of Sustainability Investing Research & Development: "Since launching the Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA) in 1999, we have continually developed it to reflect the dynamics of sustainable trends and insights. The data is not only used to further the sustainability goals of companies, but also to empower investors who want to execute better informed investment decisions, make an impact and promote the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Investors who allocate capital towards firms that create long-term value provide an incentive for companies to act more sustainably, which ultimately benefits society at large. So today, this valuable dataset has triple-function usage: by companies, investors and the general public."

Every year, RobecoSAM identifies some of the most important sustainability topics and shares its expertise through white papers in the introduction to the Sustainability Yearbook. This year, these papers include:

- [Knowledge for the Ages](#) How working with CSA data can create value for investors and companies alike.
- [Impact: What's it worth?](#) How companies and investors can measure and value the impact of their strategies.
- [Corporations and Human Rights: Is the Elephant Finally Leaving the Room?](#) What role should businesses play in securing human rights?
- [Akzo Nobel: 4 Dimensions of Profit & Loss](#) How the 4D impact valuation approach (financial, natural, social and human capital) can benefit a firm.

#

For more information visit the **RobecoSAM Sustainability Yearbook microsite**: yearbook.robecosam.com

You will find:

- The RobecoSAM Sustainability Yearbook ([download](#))
- [Individual Company results](#)
- [Methodology Overview](#)

For any additional inquiries, 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
www.robecosam.com

Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).

About RobecoSAM

Founded in 1995, RobecoSAM is an investment specialist focused exclusively on Sustainability Investing. It offers asset management, indices, impact analysis and investing, sustainability assessments, and benchmarking services. Asset management capabilities cater to institutional asset owners and financial intermediaries and cover a range of ESG-integrated investments (in public and private equity), featuring a strong track record in resource efficiency themed strategies. Together with S&P Dow Jones Indices, RobecoSAM publishes the globally recognized Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI). Based on its Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA), an annual ESG analysis of over 3,800 listed companies, RobecoSAM has compiled one of the world's most comprehensive databases of financially material sustainability information. The data of the CSA is also included in USD 87.3 billion of assets under management by the subsidiaries of the Robeco Group.

RobecoSAM is a sister company of Robeco, the Dutch investment management firm founded in 1929. Both entities are subsidiaries of the Robeco Group, whose shareholder is ORIX Corporation. 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. Approximately 130 professionals work for RobecoSAM, which is headquartered in Zurich. As of June 30, 2016, RobecoSAM had assets under management, advice and/or license in listed and private equity* of approximately USD 10.8 billion.

Important legal information: The details given on these pages do not constitute an offer. They are given for information purposes only. No liability is assumed for the correctness and accuracy of the details given. The securities identified and described may or may not be purchased, sold or recommended for advisory clients. It should not be assumed that an investment in these securities was or will be profitable. *RobecoSAM Private Equity is the marketing name of the combined private equity divisions of Robeco Institutional Asset Management B.V. ("Robeco") and RobecoSAM. Any funds or services offered by RobecoSAM Private Equity are managed and offered by Robeco, who may have delegated certain investment advisory functions to RobecoSAM. Copyright© 2017 RobecoSAM – all rights reserved.