

# Media Release

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## RobecoSAM Publishes “The Sustainability Yearbook 2018”

- Increasing number of companies prioritize ESG
- European companies remain at the forefront of ESG performance
- The Sustainability Yearbook 2018 companies are “pushing the boundaries of the status quo toward a more sustainable future”

RobecoSAM, the investment specialist that has focused exclusively on Sustainability Investing (SI) for over 22 years, today announced the publication of “[The Sustainability Yearbook 2018](#)”. The Yearbook showcases the sustainability performance of the world’s largest companies and includes the top 15% per industry, which are awarded Gold, Silver or Bronze Class medals.

RobecoSAM has analyzed the corporate sustainability performance of the world’s largest listed companies every year since 1999. The assessment for the 2018 Yearbook looked at 60 industries from 43 different countries – close to 150,000 documents were examined and over 2,200,000 data points were collected on financially material ESG criteria. The Yearbook therefore provides a telling picture of every industry in terms of ESG performance.

### Number of Yearbook companies increases despite fierce competition and tougher assessment criteria

This year, 479 companies<sup>1</sup> qualified for inclusion in the Yearbook, that is 9 companies more than last year and reflects companies’ efforts to push the boundaries of sustainability practices despite fierce competition from industry peers, and tougher ESG assessment criteria. 73 RobecoSAM Gold Class medals, 78 RobecoSAM Silver Class medals and 118 RobecoSAM Bronze Class medals were awarded 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 continue to be located in Europe.

Region	Companies Included	Gold Class Medal Companies
1. Europe	185	40
2. Asia Pacific	114	14
3. North America	99	8
4. Emerging Markets	81 <sup>2</sup>	11

**Aris Prepoudis, CEO, RobecoSAM:** “We have entered a period of change where investors, governments, institutions, and companies are rising to face global challenges head-on. As the interest in generating positive impact grows and the ambition to achieve the UN Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs) becomes more widespread, sustainability thinking is not only becoming more sophisticated, but also critical for companies to consider. The companies included in The Sustainability Yearbook 2018 are moving the needle and will help us realize the SDGs. I congratulate them whole heartedly for their achievement and encourage them to continue pushing the boundaries of the status quo toward a more sustainable future.”

**Daniel Wild, PhD, Head of Sustainability Investing Research & Development and Member of the Executive Committee, RobecoSAM:** “Year after year we have seen an increasing number of companies actively participate in our Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA). This not only speaks to the growing importance of materiality for companies seeking to assess their ESG performance, but it also highlights our leading position as a sustainability standard-setter. At RobecoSAM, we take a holistic approach to assessing a company’s ESG performance. We do not only look at a company’s operations, but we also assess the impact of companies’ products and services to identify companies that excel in ESG and demonstrably contribute toward achieving the SDGs.”

## The Sustainability Yearbook 2018 White Papers

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 2018. This year, these papers include:

- [“Capitalism coming of age: using the SDGs to bridge business strategy and social responsibility”](#) explores how increased public and investor pressure is forcing corporations to change attitudes and methods for conducting corporate philanthropy and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs.
- [“The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Corporate Policy Influence under scrutiny in the age of SDGs”](#) offers insights on the importance of corporate influence for providing information and perspective to the policy-making process.
- [“Putting commitment into practice in financial services”](#): an interview with one of Europe’s largest financial services providers about its approach to sustainability and CSR initiatives.

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For more information visit **The Sustainability Yearbook 2018** microsite: <https://yearbook.robecosam.com>

You will find:

- The Sustainability Yearbook 2018 ([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](mailto:com@robecosam.com)  
[www.robecosam.com](http://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. The company’s asset management capabilities cater to institutional asset owners and financial intermediaries and cover a range of ESG-integrated investments, 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) as well as the S&P ESG Factor Weighted Index series, the first index family to treat ESG as a standalone performance factor using the RobecoSAM Smart ESG methodology. Based on its Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA), an annual ESG analysis of over 3,900 listed companies, RobecoSAM has compiled one of the world’s most comprehensive databases of financially material sustainability information. The CSA data is also included in USD 104 billion of assets under management at Robeco.

RobecoSAM is a sister company of Robeco, the Dutch investment management firm founded in 1929. Both entities are subsidiaries of ORIX Corporation Europe N.V., the center of asset management expertise for ORIX Corporation. As a reflection of its own commitment to advancing sustainable investment practices, RobecoSAM is a signatory of the PRI, UN Global Compact and Climate Action 100+, a supporter of the Task force on Climate-related Financial Disclosure (TCFD), as well as a member of Eurosif, Swiss Sustainable Finance, Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), and Portfolio Decarbonization Coalition (PDC). As of December 31, 2017, RobecoSAM had client assets under management, advice and/or license of approximately USD 20 billion.

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<sup>1</sup> In a previous version of this press release the number of companies that qualified for inclusion in the Yearbook was 478. The press release was updated on February 22, 2018, to reflect the inclusion of Celsia SA ESP in The Sustainability Yearbook 2018. The company was erroneously omitted during the Yearbook production process.

<sup>2</sup> In a previous version of this press release the number of companies located in Emerging Markets that qualified for inclusion in the Yearbook was 80. The press release was updated on February 22, 2018, to reflect the inclusion of Celsia SA ESP in The Sustainability Yearbook 2018. The company was erroneously omitted during the Yearbook production process.