

Media Release

Zurich, 22 January 2013

Page 1 of 3

Companies from the USA, Germany and South Korea are top gold medal winners for sustainable business according to *The Sustainability Yearbook 2013*

- **Europe no longer the exclusive bastion of CSR: leading Asian and North American companies also perform strongly**
- **Unilever the first and only company to achieve “Sector Leader” status for 10 consecutive years**
- **Samsung Life Insurance Co shows biggest improvement in one year**

Companies from the USA, Germany and South Korea are at the top of the 2013 international gold medal-table for sustainable business, according to *The Sustainability Yearbook 2013*.

The 10th edition of *The Sustainability Yearbook* will be published by RobecoSAM, the investment specialist focused exclusively on Sustainability Investing and KPMG International at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland on 23 January 2013.

Every year RobecoSAM rigorously assesses the sustainability performance of more than 2,000 companies across 58 sectors. Based on an in-depth analysis, each company is scored on up to 120 financially material economic, environmental, social and governance criteria specific to its own industry with a focus on long-term value creation.

The results are published in *The Sustainability Yearbook* as a guide to investors worldwide on which companies are doing the most to address the risks and opportunities of sustainability.

And the gold medals go to...

Gold medals are awarded to the top-performing company within each sector and to those companies whose scores are within 1% of their sector leader's score. A total of 67 companies have been awarded gold medals in *The Sustainability Yearbook 2013*, which corresponds to just 2.5% of all companies assessed.

The country with the highest number of gold medal winners was the USA, with nine companies shining: Molson Coors Brewing Co (Beverages sector), Alcoa Inc (Aluminium), Sonoco Products Co (Containers & Packaging), Herman Miller Inc (Furnishing), UnitedHealth Group (Healthcare Providers), Baxter International Inc (Medical Products) and Waste Management Inc (Waste & Disposal Services). All these companies are leaders in their respective sectors. PepsiCo (Beverages) and MeadWestvaco Corp (Containers & Packaging) also scored highly enough to be awarded gold medals.

Germany and South Korea each account for six gold medal winners. German gold medalists are Siemens (Diversified Industrials), SAP (Software), BMW (Automobiles), Henkel (Non-durable Household Products), Adidas (Clothing, Accessories & Footwear) and TUI (Travel & Tourism). Each one of them is a leader in its respective sector.

In South Korea, GS Engineering & Construction Co (Heavy Construction), Amorepacific Corp (Personal Products), SK Telecom (Mobile Telecommunications), KT Corp (Fixed Line Communications) and Lotte Shopping (General Retailers) set the standard as industry leaders. In addition, Hyundai Engineering & Construction Co is awarded a gold medal, which in total puts South Korea in second equal place internationally.

Australia, Taiwan and Canada also feature on the list of top 10 gold medal-winning countries proving that Europe is no longer the exclusive bastion of corporate sustainability and that sector-leading sustainability performance can now be found all over the world.

Gold medal table

POSITION	COUNTRY	NO. OF GOLD MEDALS
1 st	United States	9
2 nd	Germany	6
2 nd	Korea	6
4 th	United Kingdom	5
4 th	France	5
4 th	Spain	5
7 th	Netherlands	4
7 th	Australia	4
7 th	Taiwan	4
10 th	Canada	3
10 th	Italy	3

Michael Baldinger, CEO, RobecoSAM, said: “Since we launched our first *Sustainability Yearbook* 10 years ago, it has become the reference book on corporate sustainability. Over the last decade, sustainability has become an essential item on corporate agendas and companies have made such great strides that today it is much harder for them to stand out against their peers and make into the Yearbook. We congratulate them on their success and are convinced that this competition benefits all stakeholders and shareholders.”

Yvo de Boer, Special Global Advisor on Climate Change & Sustainability, KPMG International, said: “Business is entering a period of unprecedented opportunity and risk due to a potent cocktail of megaforges including climate change, population growth, water scarcity, urbanization and ecological decline. Investors should consider the companies awarded gold medals in *The Sustainability Yearbook 2013* as among the best prepared within their own sectors to manage these challenges and make themselves fit for the future.”

Other highlights of the jubilee edition of *The Sustainability Yearbook 2013*

- Unilever (Sector leader: Food Producers) is the only company that has achieved sector leader status every single year since *The Sustainability Yearbook* was first published in 2004
- The number of North American companies that have participated in the RobecoSAM Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA) has almost doubled since 2004 from 111 to a total of 194 companies in 2012
- Among the five largest sectors, Banks and Real Estate have had the biggest improvement in average scores since 2004 (+14% for Banks and +8% for Real Estate)
- The five companies that have most improved their scores since 2012 are: Samsung Life Insurance Co (Insurance), Baker Hughes Inc (Oil Equipment & Services), Liberty Global Inc (Media), Infosys Ltd (Computer Services & Internet) and Microsoft Corp (Software)

Useful Links

- [List of the RobecoSAM Sector Leaders in *The Sustainability Yearbook 2013*](#)
- [Full list of companies in *The Sustainability Yearbook 2013*](#)
- [Electronic version of *The Sustainability Yearbook 2013*](#)

-ends-

Note to editors:

Also in The Sustainability Yearbook 2013

Sector Overviews:

For each of the 58 sectors, *The Sustainability Yearbook 2013* provides a summary of the associated sustainability opportunities and risks. In other words, this edition has 58 individual summaries, in which different sustainability topics are addressed depending on the sector. Furthermore, it highlights the unique economic, environmental and social dimensions that are relevant to the sustainability analysis of each sector. Overall it gives readers the opportunity to magnify what is happening at the sector level with regard to sustainability.

Articles:

Looking Back and Looking Ahead (by Gabriela Grab Hartmann, Deputy Head of Research, RobecoSAM, and Edoardo Gai, Head of Sustainability Services, RobecoSAM)

Supply Chain Management: The New Frontier of Corporate Sustainability (by Ida Karlsson, Sustainability Analyst, RobecoSAM)

Building Business Value in a Changing World (by Yvo de Boer, KPMG's Special Global Advisor, Climate Change and Sustainability)

Sustainability Yearbook Construction: Methodology Overview

Over 3,000 of the world's largest companies, including 800 companies based in the emerging markets, are invited to participate in RobecoSAM's Corporate Sustainability Assessment every year. Only the top 15% from each of the 58 sectors qualify for inclusion in The Sustainability Yearbook. [To view a methodology overview for The Sustainability Yearbook construction click here](#)

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
www.robecosam.com

KPMG International
Samantha Arditti
Center of Excellence for Climate Change & Sustainability
1 Laan van Langerhuize
1186DS Amstelveen / Netherlands
T: + 44 7815 778 798
E: sustainabilitycomms@kpmg.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. Together with S&P Dow Jones Indices, RobecoSAM publishes the globally recognized Dow Jones Sustainability Indexes (DJSI). 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. 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.

About KPMG

KPMG is a global network of professional firms providing Audit, Tax and Advisory services. We operate in 156 countries and have 152,000 people working in member firms around the world. The independent member firms of the KPMG network are affiliated with KPMG International Cooperative ("KPMG International"), a Swiss entity. Each KPMG firm is a legally distinct and separate entity and describes itself as such.

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.