

# Media Release

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## RobecoSAM publishes *The Sustainability Yearbook 2019*, under “SAM” branding

- Positive progress in ESG is shown by Emerging Market companies
- The Yearbook launch re-introduces SAM brand
- Percentile rankings of all assessed companies now publicly available

RobecoSAM, the investment specialist that has focused exclusively on Sustainability Investing (SI) for over 23 years, today announced the publication of [The Sustainability Yearbook 2019](#) which this year recognizes 458 companies from 36 countries. The Yearbook showcases the sustainability performance of the world’s largest companies and includes the top 15% of companies in each industry, awarding the best performing firms with Gold, Silver or Bronze class medals. This 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the Yearbook is launched under SAM, the brand now designated for distinct activities and offerings with, and for companies in connection with the Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA).

### Emerging Markets show increased ESG focus

The Yearbook is based on results from the [CSA](#). With over 2.4 million data points on the most financially material ESG criteria in each industry, the Yearbook continues to be a comprehensive guide to the strongest performing, largest companies in the world. This year, the Yearbook awards 236 medals to those companies achieving the best sustainability performance compared to peers in their respective industries.

The table below highlights the progress made by companies in Emerging Market (EM) countries, as the only region with an increase in both the number of companies included in The Sustainability Yearbook 2019, and in the number of medals awarded, year-on-year.

| Yearbook 2019 compared to Yearbook 2018 |                    |                      |                     |
|---|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Region                                  | Companies Included | Total Medals Awarded | Gold Medals Awarded |
| Asia Pacific                            | 113 (-1)           | 50 (-15)             | 12 (-2)             |
| EM                                      | 85 (+4)            | 51 (+7)              | 13 (+2)             |
| Europe                                  | 172 (-13)          | 104 (-19)            | 32 (-8)             |
| North America                           | 88 (-11)           | 31 (-6)              | 9 (+1)              |
| Total                                   | 458 (-21)          | 236 (-33)            | 66 (-7)             |

**Daniel Wild, PhD, Co-CEO, RobecoSAM:** “We congratulate all 458 companies for achieving their places in The Sustainability Yearbook 2019. The CSA, the cornerstone of the Yearbook, has continued to evolve since it was established 20 years ago, securing its position as a leading methodology for assessing the financially material ESG performance of companies. As a result, the Yearbook has become a highly credible source of corporate sustainability insights. To increase transparency of the Yearbook, for the first time, we are giving public access to percentile rankings of all assessed companies, enabling comparison with industry peers.”

### Welcoming back the SAM brand

The SAM brand is a familiar name from our past, and is now designated for distinct activities of RobecoSAM which specialize in providing ESG data, ratings, and benchmarking. The use of the CSA data by S&P Dow Jones Indices (S&P DJI) for well-established indices such as the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices and others is a significant reason for re-introducing the SAM brand. Having these activities under the SAM brand increases their prominence reflecting the growing interest from the market in these offerings. It also allows for broader use of the CSA results by S&P DJI and emphasizes the objectivity of the CSA process, making a clear distinction from asset management, in line with the European Benchmarks Regulation. [Read more on the SAM brand.](#)



ESG Data,  
Ratings &  
Benchmarking

**Marius Dorfmeister, Co-CEO, RobecoSAM:** “We are delighted to be re-introducing the familiar SAM brand. Through assessment of millions of data points, over the last 20 years, we have compiled one of the world’s most comprehensive databases of financially material sustainability information. From this we have built specialist business areas with unique

offerings. These include: company ESG assessment, supplying data for indices, as well as benchmarking companies' corporate sustainability performance against peers. These activities under the SAM brand, will strengthen the value of the CSA as a tool for understanding and improving corporate sustainability performance."

### Increased transparency of Yearbook

For the first time the percentile rankings of all assessed companies will be publicly available on [The Sustainability Yearbook 2019 microsite](#) giving access to the latest ESG company rankings. The percentile rank of each assessed company within its industry will be presented, providing an overview of ESG performance at company level and in relation to industry peers. The confidentiality of information between RobecoSAM and the assessed companies will be maintained in this move. The aim of broadening access to the percentile rankings is to further advance disclosure, transparency and decision-making with regard to corporate sustainability performance.

### The Sustainability Yearbook 2019 White Papers

Each year, RobecoSAM identifies some of the most important sustainability topics to share insights and expertise through publication of white papers. The Yearbook 2019 examines the theme of social capital for enhanced corporate sustainability performance in four newly published white papers:

- [Slowly but Surely: gradual progress towards gender equality](#)
- [Fair Wages – a key to effective social capital management](#)
- [No Firm is an Island: using the SDGs to bridge modern portfolio management to the future](#)
- [Five Years of Pushing for Change – assessing corporate tax strategies](#)

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For more information visit: [The Sustainability Yearbook 2019 microsite](#)

The Sustainability Yearbook: [download](#)

Individual company rankings: [visit](#)

Methodology overview: [learn more](#)

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### About RobecoSAM

Founded in 1995, RobecoSAM is an investment specialist focused exclusively on Sustainability Investing. It offers asset management, impact analysis and investing, sustainability assessments, benchmarking services, as well as ESG data. The company's asset management capabilities cater to institutional asset owners and financial intermediaries and feature a strong track record in sustainable and resource efficiency-themed strategies, as well as strategies focused on the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). 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 4,600 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 114 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, 2018, RobecoSAM had client assets under management, advice and/or license of approximately USD 21.5 billion.

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