

NEWS RELEASE

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HOPE BELGIUM NV CERTIFIED BY THE RESPONSIBLE JEWELLERY COUNCIL

LONDON - The Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC) announced today that Hope Belgium NV, the Antwerp-based diamond trader and polishing manufacturer, has achieved certification by meeting the ethical, social and environmental standards established by the RJC's Member Certification System.

"RJC congratulates Hope Belgium NV on its certification. The completion of the verification assessment was conducted by Stefaan Beirens from WF&Co., one of the independent third-party auditing firms accredited to the RJC's Member Certification System," says Michael Rae, RJC's Chief Executive Officer.

"Hope Belgium NV is delighted to become an officially certified member of the Responsible Jewellery Council, 10 years after its establishment in July 2001. The company gave and will give full support to the guide lines and principles issued by RJC, and hopes that this commitment increases worldwide confidence to clients and suppliers in the diamond business," says Masahiko Narikawa, Hope Belgium's Managing Director.

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About RJC

The Responsible Jewellery Council is an international not-for-profit organisation bringing together more than 350 member companies committed to promoting responsible ethical, human rights, social and environmental practices in a transparent and accountable manner throughout the jewellery industry from mine to retail. Their commitment aims to reinforce consumer and stakeholder confidence in diamond, gold and platinum group metals jewellery products. The Council has developed the RJC Member Certification System, a certification system, which will apply to all Members' businesses that contribute to the diamond, gold and platinum group metals jewellery supply chain. All Commercial Members of the RJC are required to be audited by accredited, third-party auditors to verify their conformance with the RJC's Code of Practices and become certified under the RJC Member Certification System. A full list of its Members can be found on the web at www.responsiblejewellery.com

About Hope Belgium NV

The activity of Hope Belgium started 10 years ago in Antwerp. Mr. Masahiko Narikawa has always been in charge of the daily management. In the complex world of rough buying, he developed a pattern to be followed by each purchase, large or small. Because of these selected and always daily adjusted standards, Hope Belgium supplies the production unit with similar high quality stones, so that every manufactured stone has the same finished level. All polished stones are finished

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'Triple Excellent' in the range from 0.05 till 2.00 cts. Beside this production of round stones, Mr. Narikawa and his team created the 'Brillia Cut', always offered to clients with GIA or AGS certificate.

RJC Certification Information – Hope Belgium NV

RJC Certified Members

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