

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Embargoed until 12 January 2012** 

## IGI – NORTH & SOUTH AMERICA - CERTIFIED BY THE RESPONSIBLE JEWELLERY COUNCIL

LONDON - The Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC) announced today that the International Gemological Institute (IGI) - North & South America, the well known independent laboratory for testing, grading and evaluating gemstones and fine jewellery, has achieved certification by meeting the ethical, social and environmental standards established by the RJC's Member Certification System.

"RJC congratulates IGI - North & South America on its certification. The completion of the verification assessment was conducted by UL Responsible Sourcing (STRRS), one of the independent third-party auditing firms accredited to the RJC's Member Certification System," says Michael Rae, RJC's Chief Executive Officer.

"As a proud RJC member, we are thrilled to have achieved this essential recognition, as we feel the Council's standards fully align with IGI's principles, values and mission to provide accurate and reliable product information to consumers," says IGI President and CEO Jerry Ehrenwald, GG and Accredited Senior Member of the ASA. "We look forward to continuing to work alongside the RJC and its members to further the industry by way of ethical practices and gemological educational initiatives," concludes Mr. Ehrenwald.

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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 <a href="https://www.responsiblejewellery.com">www.responsiblejewellery.com</a>

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## **About IGI - North & South America**

IGI – North & South America's New York headquarters and Los Angeles and Canadian laboratories have been certified by the Responsible Jewellery Council. IGI began in Antwerp in 1975 and is currently the largest independent gemstone and fine jewelry certification institute in the world with offices in Antwerp, New York, Hong Kong, Bombay, Bangkok, Tokyo, Dubai, Tel Aviv, Cavelese, Toronto, Los Angeles, Kolkata, New Delhi, Thrissur, Ahmedabad, Surat, Chennai and Shanghai. IGI is a worldwide organization and has ISO accreditation. For more information, please visit <a href="www.igiworldwide.com">www.igiworldwide.com</a> or <a href="www.igionline.com">www.igionline.com</a>.

RJC Certification Information – IGI - North & South America

**RJC Certified Members** 

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