



Responsible Jewellery Council

NEWS RELEASE

Embargoed until 4 June 2010

RESPONSIBLE JEWELLERY COUNCIL ANNOUNCES FIRST ACCREDITED AUDITORS AND ADDITION OF PLATINUM GROUP METALS

Las Vegas (JCK) - The Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC) today announced **STR Responsible Sourcing** as the first auditing firm accredited by the RJC to carry out verifications of Members' business practices. The announcement was made at RJC's press conference at JCK.

"RJC is delighted to announce STR Responsible Sourcing as RJC's first accredited auditing company. We anticipate that STR Responsible Sourcing will be the first of many accredited auditors offering competitive professional services to RJC Members for the certification of Members by the RJC System," says Michael Rae, RJC's Chief Executive Officer.

"RJC has received a number of auditor accreditation applications from other firms and these are currently being assessed under the RJC's accreditation process. RJC will announce additional accredited auditing firms in the coming weeks," says Michael Rae.

STR Responsible Sourcing works with over 6,000 manufacturers, importers, raw materials suppliers, and retailers around the globe assessing the quality, safety, and social standards of their products and systems.

"We also carry accreditations from the International Council of Toy Industries CARE Process certification (ICTI), the Worldwide Responsible Apparel Production (WRAP), and Social Accountability International's (SAI) SA8000. RJC accreditation will extend to 245 STR auditors in around 30 countries," says Russ Childrey, Director of Business Development and Vice President, STR Responsible Sourcing.

The availability of RJC accredited auditors enables Members who have carried out Self Assessments against the RJC system to commission their certification audits. The list of RJC Accredited Auditors will be made available to Members on the RJC website to enable Members to select an auditor from amongst the accredited auditing companies most appropriate to the nature of the Member's business and geographical location.

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“A number of RJC Members are ready to hire Accredited Auditors to conduct the independent third party verification process required by the RJC System. RJC looks forward to being able to announce the first RJC Certified Members this year,” says Michael Rae.

“At its recent AGM, the RJC’s Members voted to include platinum group metals in the scope of the RJC System. These are the first materials to be added to the RJC’s original target materials of diamonds and gold. The Members also voted to give the RJC Board the responsibility to determine when other materials should be added to the RJC System’s scope. Now that the RJC System scope has been officially expanded to include the platinum group metals, RJC is positioned to welcome new members who are part of the jewellery supply chain in these important jewellery metals,” says Michael Rae, Chief Executive Officer, RJC.

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About RJC

The Responsible Jewellery Council is an international not-for-profit organisation bringing together more than 230 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 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 System. A full list of its Members can be found on the web at www.responsiblejewellery.com

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The Responsible Jewellery Council is the trading name of the Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices Ltd.
The Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices Ltd, First Floor, Dudley House, 34-38 Southampton Street, London, UK, WC2E 7HF.
The Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices Ltd is registered in England and Wales with company number 05449042.