

Zurich, June 5, 2008

## **SAM (Sustainable Asset Management) Awarded “Runner-up” Financial Times Sustainable Investor of the Year**

- **SAM has been awarded “Runner-up” Sustainable Investor of the Year in the Financial Times and IFC (part of the World Bank Group) Sustainable Banking Awards, the first year this category featured.**
- **The jury particularly valued SAM’s pioneering and globally leading position, as well as its innovation and thought leadership, in the area of sustainability investing.**

Based on its unique research & investment methodology, SAM translates sustainability trends into investment risk & opportunities. This approach is based on SAM’s philosophy of discovering companies that are better than their peers in seizing opportunities and managing the risks associated with global and industry-specific trends and challenges as attractive investment opportunities. This has been SAM’s focus since its inception in 1995. SAM’s corporate sustainability assessment starts by identifying all trends and challenges of relevance to shareholder value creation in each sector. SAM’s structured investment process aims at identifying the best companies in terms of sustainability by assessing general and industry-specific economic, social and environmental criteria.

The market has rewarded this approach and enabled SAM to double its assets under management in 2007 to CHF 8.5 billion. Assets under management and advice (via consulting and licensing agreements) amounted to a total of CHF 15.1 billion in the same year.

The surging interest in investment solutions that address the problems associated with global warming, the need for alternative energy sources and heightened resource efficiency, as well as the scarcity of natural resources such as water and foodstuffs, are just a few of the sustainability themes that have led to SAM’s success as a pioneer in this area. Since its foundation by Reto Ringger, CEO, in 1995, SAM has focused on the development and management of innovative sustainability investments strategies. In May 2008, SAM has assisted as the investment advisor to Sustainable Performance Group AG, Zurich (SWX: SPG) in the successful issuance of the world’s first CHF-denominated sustainability convertible bonds (issue volume: CHF 50 million). Owing to its many years of experience, expertise and substantial growth as well as international expansion, SAM is excellently positioned to meet the worldwide growing demand for sustainability investments.

**Reto Ringger, Founder and CEO of SAM:** “We feel honoured that SAM’s pioneering work and achievements in Sustainability Investing have been recognised by the runner-up award for Sustainable Investor of 2008 by the Financial Times. Even though we have achieved a lot since we started, the greatest opportunities still are ahead of us. SAM is well positioned and has a great and experienced team to explore those opportunities.”

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**About SAM (Sustainable Asset Management)**

SAM (Sustainable Asset Management) was founded in 1995 as the world’s first asset management company for sustainability investments. Today, the company ranks among the globally leading managers of sustainable investments and theme-based funds in the areas of water, climate and clean energy. Its worldwide clientele comprises banks, insurance companies, pension funds, family offices and private investors.

SAM has a comprehensive portfolio of theme-based products in the areas of new energy sources, water, new materials, healthy living and climate. In addition, it offers institutional investors a broad range of various investment solutions. SAM affords investors a great sense of responsibility and transparency in terms of their investments.

SAM evaluates and analyzes leading companies on the basis of industry-specific sustainability criteria considering economic, environment and social dimensions. Integrating those future-oriented investment criteria into the company-valuation and investment process represents the foundation of its investment philosophy. SAM’s know-how is based on its proprietary, independent research approach and an active, international sustainability network.

Together with Dow Jones Indexes and STOXX, SAM has launched an entire family of sustainability indices to measure the performance of companies that hold a top position in their industry in terms of sustainability. Within the framework of this collaboration, SAM has compiled the world’s largest sustainability database and analyzes annually more than 1,000 exchange-listed companies for the added value they generate in terms of economic, environmental and social criteria.

SAM and Robeco, a member of Holland’s Rabobank Group (S&P AAA), have entered into a strategic alliance in order to establish the world’s leading platform for sustainability investments in terms of product

development, innovation and distribution. Within the framework of this collaboration, the managers and staff of SAM own a 35% and Robeco a 65% equity interest in SAM.

SAM directly managed client assets in the amount of CHF 8.5 billion and indirectly (via consulting and licensing agreements) a further CHF 6.6 billion (as of 31-12-2007). Assets under management and advice amounted to a total of CHF 15.1 billion.

SAM is headquartered in Zurich (Switzerland) and is present in Europe, Australia, the USA and Canada. The company employs more than 90 individuals.

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