



Press Release

Zurich, October 5th, 2005

SAM Research Launches New Service: SAM Ranking™

SAM Group, the Swiss based leading manager of sustainability equities, launches today a ranking service based on the SAM methodology for the assessment for the Dow Jones Sustainability Indexes (DJSI). SAM Ranking™ allows companies to learn the ranking of their sustainability performance within their sector and relative to their peers. This service will provide companies with better information on their sustainability performance relative to their peers than available before.

Companies around the world are looking at the SAM methodology as a benchmark for the assessment of corporate sustainability performance.

Until present SAM reported a company's sustainability performance as a score vis-à-vis the sector average, the sector leader and the lowest score within the DJSI. Increasingly, companies have approached SAM and expressed the wish to receive their performance expressed as a rank within the sector. With SAM Ranking™ we now respond to this demand.

SAM Ranking™ offers companies the possibility to have their sustainability performance ranked against their sector peers. The ranking is provided for the aggregated score as well as for each of the approximately 20 criteria such as corporate governance, environmental performance or human capital development.

Companies can use their individual sector rank in public communications or retain the knowledge for proprietary purposes.

SAM Ranking™ is available to the companies participating in SAM's annual assessment or its affiliates.

SAM Ranking™ is available as of now for companies that have been assessed for the DJSI.

For more information please contact:

SAM Group
Eric Gelfgren
Head Marketing & Sales
Phone: +41 44 397 1081
E-mail: eric.gelfgren@sam-group.com
Web: www.sam-group.com

Questions & Answers

Why is SAM offering this new service?

To meet increasing demand from companies participating in the SAM assessment for the DJSI that have the desire to learn more about their sustainability performance in various dimensions relative to their sector peers.

Why Sustainability “Ranking” and not “Rating”?

In the financial markets the term “rating” is often used to describe a level of risk across different industries. A specific credit rating denotes a certain probability of default irrespective of the sector of the borrower and is useful for comparisons between industries.

Companies on the other hand tend to focus more on exposures, risks and opportunities within their own sector and their performance versus their sector peers. Providing companies with their ranking within their sector can help them understand their sector position better as well as assist them in developing action plans for improvement. Here a ranking is a more suitable tool.

What will the companies receive?

The companies will receive their absolute ranking within their sector. Index members can learn their position relative to the other DJSI members and use this in internal or external communication, if they wish. Non index members can learn how close to index membership their performance is and where their relative weaknesses lie. Companies will receive details on their performance on a total company level, as well as on approximately 20 specific sustainability criteria.

How does this new offering affect the SAM assessment?

This report does not impact on the SAM assessment. As before, participation in the annual SAM assessment for the Dow Jones Sustainability Indexes continues to be free of charge. Companies participating in the assessment will also continue to receive a free of charge feedback report comparing the company scores with its overall sector performance.

Why doesn't SAM make the Sector Rankings publicly available?

SAM Research believes the assessed companies should decide on making their sector ranking publicly available.

SAM Group was founded in 1995 as an independent asset management company for sustainability investments. Today SAM is one of the world's leading institutions in this sector. Its clientele includes banks, insurance companies, pension funds, foundations and private clients.

SAM carries out systematic research to identify successful companies that meet sustainability criteria. The integration of these future-oriented criteria into the investment process provides investors with a high degree of security, transparency and an attractive return.

In addition to individual mandates for institutional investors and private clients, SAM offers financial products in the areas of global & European equities, innovative energy technologies, sustainable food production, water, resource efficiency, sustainability pioneers, sustainability leaders and private equity.

SAM's expertise is based on its own independent research and an active worldwide sustainability network. Together with Dow Jones Indexes and STOXX, SAM has launched a family of sustainability indexes to track the performance of companies that are sector leaders in terms of sustainability. As part of this process, SAM assesses over 1'000 companies every year.

SAM Group is headquartered in Zurich (Switzerland), with branches and representative offices in Barcelona (Spain), Melbourne (Australia), Milan (Italy), Montreal (Canada), Sonoma (California, USA), Stockholm (Sweden).
