

March 25th 2015

Fairmined Standard for gold and associated precious metals improves conditions of artisanal and small-scale miners

In order to transform artisanal and small-scale mining and improve the quality of life of miners, the Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM) has developed the Fairmined Standard. An increasing number of buyers have shown that ethical values, fair working conditions and environmental issues also have become relevant purchasing decision criteria in the gold and precious metals industry. In the context of the increasing demand and the recent expansions in Europe and the US, ARM has decided to implement Ecert - a professional IT solution for traceability and certification management from the Austrian-based company Intact Consult.

But what does compliance with the Fairmined Standard actually mean? Gold and associated precious metals that are certified according to the Fairmined Standard are ethically mined metals from artisanal and small-scale miners. Certified mining organizations have to fulfil a number of requirements regarding the social, environmental and economic management of their operations. The purchase of Fairmined metals supports responsible miners and their families through a guaranteed price and a differential Fairmined Premium to be invested in continuous improvement of the mining organizations' sustainability.

The Alliance for Responsible Mining is an independent, global-scale, pioneering initiative, which was founded in 2004 to enhance equity and wellbeing in artisanal and small-scale mining communities. ARM is committed to promoting social justice and environmental responsibility, which it considers crucial factors for a dynamic transformation of the artisanal and small-scale mining sector.

Software solution from Austria

Due to the increasing number of buyers who are interested in Fairmined Gold and complex inspection and certification processes, ARM has brought a new partner on board this year.

"We are very pleased that ARM have chosen us to support them in achieving their goals regarding ethical mining and procurement", says Thomas Lorber from Intact Consult. "In our view, ARM's strong commitment in the fields of traceability, environmental protection, the fair treatment of miners and locals is rather progressive for this kind of industry and therefore very much in line with our company philosophy".

With the Austrian company Intact Consult, which is based in the town of Lebring, ARM has chosen an experienced specialist in the field of audit and certification management. With this step, ARM intends to provide a robust system ensuring maximum transparency and comprehensive information to enhance the confidence of its customers.

"We have chosen Intact because of their proven track record in developing solutions for audit and certification management. We are excited about beginning the implementation of this information system that will further



back-up the credibility of the Fairmined Certification System” says Ronald Koepke, ARM’s Ecert Project Manager. The information system is expected to be fully implemented later this year.

###

For more information, Interviews and photos please contact:

Katharina Stelzer, Marketing & Communication at Intact Consult GmbH, katharina.stelzer@intact-systems.com, 0043 318 252 403

Siri Teilmann-Ibsen, Communications Coordinator at the Alliance for Responsible Mining siriteilmann@responsiblemines.org, +574 332 4711.

[About the Alliance for Responsible Mining](#)

The Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM) is an independent, global-scale, pioneering initiative established in 2004 to enhance equity and wellbeing in Artisanal and Small-scale Mining (ASM) communities. ARM is committed to social justice and environmental responsibility as the values driving the transformation of ASM.

ARM's mission is to set standards for responsible ASM and to support and enable producers to deliver Fairmined certified metals and minerals through economically just supply chains to the markets, in order to contribute towards the transformation of ASM into a socially and environmentally responsible activity, and to the improvement of the quality of life of marginalized artisanal miners, their families and communities.

[Fairmined](#) is an assurance label that certifies gold from empowered responsible mining communities. It is backed by a rigorous 3rd party certification and audit system that ensures that small entrepreneurial mining communities meet world-leading standards for responsible practices. Fairmined transforms mining into an active force for good, ensuring social development and environmental protection providing everyone with a source of gold they can be proud of.

There are currently 4 Fairmined certified Mining organizations in Colombia, Peru and Mongolia and 25 organizations working towards Fairmined certification with ARM in Colombia, Bolivia, Peru, Senegal and Burkina Faso.

[About Intact Consult GmbH](#)

Target-Oriented Solutions with Competence and Experience

Intact Consult GmbH, the expert in the field of Integrity Management Solutions was founded in 2001 in Lebring and is specialized for Software within Audit and Certification Management, Traceability and Quality Management. The international company offers over-all solutions, from professional consulting over software, customer-specific development, implementation and subsequent customer support. Due to comprehensive industry know-how, Intact is able to create, together with the customer, tailor-made



solutions and sets worldwide benchmarks within it. Some example International customers from Intact are MSC – Marine Stewardship Council or Coop.