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The Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM) and SCS Global Services (SCS) Announce a Collaboration on FAIRMINED Supply Chain Protocols for North American Traders of Ethically Mined Gold and Precious Metals

The [Alliance for Responsible Mining \(ARM\)](#) and [SCS Global Services \(SCS\)](#) have announced a new collaboration to develop a Third Party Certification and Auditing System for traders and licensees operating in North America under the FAIRMINED Standard for ethically mined gold and associated precious metals.

The FAIRMINED Standard was developed with ARM's network for responsible mining and includes requirements for all actors from mine to market. Traders and licensees wishing to be certified to use FAIRMINED gold and associated precious metals are audited by a third party who will determine their compliance with the FAIRMINED standard requirements of traceability, claims and product composition. Mining organizations are likewise audited by a third party and must follow strict requirements for traceability, social development, economic development, environmental protection and labor conditions.

"We selected SCS Global Services as our partner in North America because of their proven expertise in third-party certification and standards development in the sustainability and ethical sourcing arena," said Ronald Koepke of the Alliance for Responsible Mining. [SCS Global Services](#) has been providing global leadership in third-party environmental and sustainability certification, auditing, testing, and standards development for three decades.

The collaboration between ARM and SCS has been formally initiated under the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which serves as the foundation for the partnership during the implementation phase of the certification services. The two organizations expect to execute the final, more detailed contract by the end of 2013.

"We are pleased to have been selected to partner with the Alliance for Responsible Mining to support their ethical mining and sourcing objectives," said Stowe Beam, Managing Director for SCS' Environmental Certification Services division. "ARM's strong commitment to traceability, environmental protection, ethical treatment of workers, and communities establishes an important benchmark for this industry."

The certification and auditing system will be in line with international recognized procedures and methodologies for third party certification and auditing systems, and shall provide all users with transparent and comprehensive information on requirements, fees and procedures.

For more information on the certification and auditing system please contact:

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Notes to editors:

About the [Alliance for Responsible Mining \(ARM\)](#)

- **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 vision** is for ASM to become a formalized, organized and profitable activity that uses efficient technologies and is socially and environmentally responsible. **ARM's work** is focused on four strategic areas: Standard Setting, Producer Support, Market Development and Advocacy and Communications.
- **On the local level ARM works through partners such as Cumbre del Sajama in Bolivia, Red Social in Peru and ASOMIRCOL in Colombia.**
- **FAIRMINED Gold** is ethical gold extracted by Artisanal and Small-scale miners certified under the **FAIRMINED Standard**. FAIRMINED gold is the achievement of the world's pioneering and industry leading network of responsible Artisanal and Small-scale miners. An initiative and movement led by and for the miners. The FAIRMINED model is open to all market players wishing to make a positive impact on responsible mining.
- Currently, four mines in Bolivia, Peru and Colombia are certified in the FAIRMINED system, with over 30 other mining organizations working towards certification in Latin America. Furthermore, ARM partners with UNIDO, GEF, FFEM and AGC to begin the certification process for ASM communities in Senegal, Burkina Faso and Mali; and in 2012 the organization began the expansion of its efforts into Mongolia.

About [SCS Global Services](#)

- SCS been providing global leadership in third-party environmental and sustainability certification, auditing, testing, and standards development for nearly 30 years.
- Its programs span a wide cross-section of industries, recognizing achievements in green building, product manufacturing, food and agriculture, forestry, retail, and more.
- SCS provides accredited services under a wide range of internationally recognized certification programs.
- SCS is a chartered benefit corporation in the State of California, and a Certified B Corp™, reflecting its commitment to socially and environmentally responsible business practices.