



Press Release

Antwerp's first participation in the Mine Entra Fair

Antwerp, 23 July - The Antwerp World Diamond Centre (AWDC), the world leader in diamond trade, participated for the first time in this week's Mine Entra Fair in Zimbabwe. "By participating in this event the Antwerp World Diamond Centre wishes to reaffirm its strong commitment to the sustainable development of the Zimbabwe mining industry to ensure a long term benefit for the country's economy," said Ari Epstein, CEO of the Antwerp World Diamond Centre.

The recent collaboration with the Zimbabwean mining authorities was made possible thanks to the lifting of the European sanctions.

Antwerp is an optimal market for Zimbabwean rough diamonds due to the large number of potential buyers located in the city. A total of about 1700 diamond companies operate in Antwerp.

Ari Epstein, CEO of AWDC stated: "The recently organized tenders in Antwerp have had a dramatically positive impact on the prices for the Zimbabwean rough diamond production. The greatly improved prices have had an overall positive impact on the market, the local mining revenues and the increasing demand for transparency in the market," said Ari Epstein. "These higher revenues are a crucial element for the sustainable social and economic development of Zimbabwe."

AWDC, short for Antwerp World Diamond Centre, is an industry-established foundation, whose mission is to serve and support the diamond business in Antwerp, the world's most important diamond trade hub. AWDC is the coordinating body and the official representative of the Antwerp diamond sector, and as such are recognized internationally as the host, spokesperson and intermediary for the Belgian diamond community. In this capacity, AWDC liaises on behalf of the Belgian diamond sector with governments and actively promotes support for the diamond sector at home and abroad.

84% of all rough diamonds and 50% of all polished diamonds pass through Antwerp. Diamonds represent 5% of the total Belgian exports and 15% of all Belgian exports outside the EU, making diamonds the most important export product outside the EU.

Press contact:
Margaux Donckier
Spokesperson Antwerp World Diamond Centre
Margaux.donckier@awdc.eu

Diamonds love Antwerp

Private Stichting – Antwerp World Diamond Centre (AWDC) ☐ Hoveniersstraat 22, BE-2018 Antwerpen, Belgium
T +32 3 222 05 11 ☐ F+32 3 222 05 99 ☐ info@awdc.be ☐ www.awdc.be ☐ BTW – BE 0885 969 987