

For Immediate Release

**Joint Press Release: HRD Antwerp and Rapaport Group**

**HRD Antwerp and Rapaport Group Announce Laboratory Take-In Service**

PRESS RELEASE, May 12, 2014, New York: HRD Antwerp and the Rapaport Group are pleased to announce an agreement whereby Rapaport will be providing global access to HRD diamond grading laboratories in Antwerp and Mumbai. The service will include everything necessary for clients to have their diamonds graded by HRD laboratories and will be initially provided to clients in New York, Ramat Gan, Mumbai, Surat, Dubai, and Hong Kong.

The announcement was made during Antwerp Diamond Week at the New York Diamond Dealers Club. HRD Antwerp and Rapaport thank the Antwerp Diamond Bourse and New York Diamond Dealers Club for their support.

Serge Couvreur, CEO of HRD Antwerp said “This new cooperative venture with Rapaport will enable HRD Antwerp to significantly expand its global reach. Customers in major diamond centers will now have fast and easy access to international HRD Antwerp laboratories. We will now be expanding our campaign to develop new customers for our authentic European quality diamond grading reports.”

Martin Rapaport Chairman of the Rapaport Group said “This agreement with HRD Antwerp will support the expansion of the U.S. diamond trade as diamond companies obtain easier access to important European and Arab markets through HRD Antwerp diamond grading reports. HRD Antwerp is expected to provide new opportunities for companies to expand the global market for high quality diamonds as HRD Antwerp diamond grading reports provide opportunities for differentiated product brands that increase consumer confidence among diamond buyers.”

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**About HRD Antwerp:** Founded in Antwerp in 1976, the HRD Antwerp Diamond Lab is today one of the largest and most respected diamond grading labs worldwide, with its certificates accepted internationally as documented assurances of a diamond's quality and authenticity. As the most prominent laboratory to adhere to the grading standards set by the International Diamond Council (IDC), which is an authoritative body created more than 30 years ago by the World Federation of Diamond Bourses (WFDB) and the International Diamond Manufacturing Association (IDMA), the Diamond Lab was the first industry laboratory to be officially accredited by the International Standards Organization (ISO/IEC 17025). The integrity, objectivity and anonymity of the grading process are absolute.

**About the Rapaport Group:** The Rapaport Group is an international network of companies providing added value services that support the development of free, fair, transparent, efficient, competitive and ethical diamond and jewelry markets. Established in 1978, the Rapaport Diamond Report is the primary source of diamond prices and market information. Group activities include Rapaport Information Services providing research, analysis and news; RapNet -

the world's largest diamond trading network; Rapaport Laboratory Services provides GIA and gemological services in India, Belgium and Israel; and Rapaport Trading and Auctions Services with monthly services of over 50,000 carats. The Group employs 180 people with offices in New York, Las Vegas, Antwerp, Ramat Gan, Mumbai, Surat, Dubai and Hong Kong. Additional information is available at [www.Rapaport.com](http://www.Rapaport.com).

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