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News Release

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Merck Joins “Together for Sustainability” Network

- **Industry initiative aims to improve sustainability practices within the supply chain**

Darmstadt, Germany, December 3, 2014 – Merck, a leading company for innovative and top-quality high-tech products in the pharmaceutical, chemical and life science sectors, today announced that it has joined the “Together for Sustainability” (TfS) network of multinational companies dedicated to improving the supply chain with respect to environmental, compliance and social standards. The objective of the network, which was established in 2011, is to harmonize supplier assessments and audits worldwide and to foster the responsible procurement of goods and services. By joining TfS, Merck is underscoring the importance of supplier management as part of its corporate responsibility.

“When it comes to complying with social and ecological standards, we have very high expectations of our suppliers. In addition, we are constantly working to further develop our procurement strategy in alignment with corporate responsibility criteria. The TfS network offers a convincing concept for this,” said Friedhelm Felten, Chief Procurement Officer of the Merck Group.

As a member of the TfS network, the company will use third parties to conduct sustainability assessments and audits of suppliers. The suppliers will be assessed on

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environmental, health and safety aspects, labor and human rights as well as ethical company management.

The results will be shared and used jointly within the network, offering both customers and suppliers efficiency advantages. Instead of individual assessment processes with different customers, in the future suppliers can undergo a single audit or assessment recognized by all TfS members.

For its business activities, Merck needs raw materials, packaging materials, technical products, components and services; in 2013, the company sourced all these purchases from more than 60,000 suppliers in over 120 countries worldwide. Of the goods and services (including R&D services) procured in 2013, Merck purchased 54% from suppliers based in EU countries and 33% from suppliers in OECD countries outside the EU. Suppliers in non-OECD countries outside the EU provided the remaining 13%.

More information is available on both the [Merck](#) and the [Together for Sustainability](#) websites.

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Merck is a leading company for innovative and top-quality high-tech products in the pharmaceutical and chemical sectors. With its four divisions Merck Serono, Consumer Health, Performance Materials and Merck Millipore, Merck generated total revenues of € 11.1 billion in 2013. Around 39,000 Merck employees work in 66 countries to improve the quality of life for patients, to further the success of our customers and to help meet global challenges. Merck is the world's oldest pharmaceutical and chemical company – since 1668, the company has stood for innovation, business success and responsible entrepreneurship. Holding an approximately 70% interest, the founding family remains the majority owner of the company to this day. Merck, Darmstadt, Germany is holding the global rights to the Merck name and brand. The only exceptions are Canada and the United States, where the company is known as EMD.