

## News Release

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### **Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany Receives Gold Rating for the Third Time from EcoVadis**

- **Rating agency EcoVadis awards Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany gold status for its sustainability engagement**
- **With 71 out of 100 points, the company is among the leading 1% of all companies rated**
- **In the Sustainalytics rating, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany ranks first in an industry comparison**

Darmstadt, February 1, 2019 – Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, a leading science and technology company, today announced that it has again been awarded the gold certificate by the rating agency [EcoVadis](#). Thus, the company maintains its top rating of previous years. EcoVadis examines the sustainable procurement policies of companies. With 71 out of 100 possible points, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany is among the best 1% of all companies recorded.

“We are very proud that EcoVadis has awarded us a positive rating this year particularly in the areas of environment and ethics. Our customers place great importance on sustainability and ask us about such ratings more and more frequently,” said Petra Wicklandt, Head of Corporate Affairs at Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany. The certification confirms the company’s corporate responsibility strategy. Responsible action is an integral part of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany’s culture and values, and it is the foundation for sustained business success.



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EcoVadis annually examines around 45,000 suppliers from 150 countries and 190 industry sectors. The rating focuses on 21 criteria, divided into four topic areas: environment, social affairs, ethics, and sustainable procurement. These criteria are based on international standards such as the ten principles of the UN Global Compact, the conventions of the International Labor Organization (ILO), the standards of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), ISO 26000, and the UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights.

Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany takes part in the rating as a member of the [Together for Sustainability](#) industry initiative. This initiative enables its member companies to utilize the results of supplier self-disclosures and audit reports jointly while complying with all restrictions stipulated within competition law. The platform provides access to rated self-disclosures of around 11,000 suppliers and audit reports of more than 1,000 suppliers.

In November 2018, [Sustainalytics](#) has also classified Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany as a leader in the pharmaceutical industry. Sustainalytics is a renowned provider of ratings for investors in terms of environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria. Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany received 79 out of 100 points and was awarded particularly high values in the categories of governance and social engagement. For environmental performance, the company also achieved an above-average rating in an industry comparison.

Further information on sustainability can be found in the [Corporate Responsibility Report](#) of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany. This also includes an [overview of ratings and rankings](#).

All Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, press releases are distributed by e-mail at the same time they become available on the EMD Group Website. In case you are a resident of the USA or Canada please go to [www.emdgroup.com/subscribe](http://www.emdgroup.com/subscribe) to register for your online subscription of this service as our geo-targeting requires new links in the email. You may later change your selection or discontinue this service.

### **About Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany**

Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, a leading science and technology company, operates across healthcare, life science and performance materials. Around 51,000 employees work to make a positive difference to millions of people's lives every day by creating more joyful and sustainable ways to live. From advancing gene editing technologies and discovering unique ways to treat the most challenging diseases to enabling the intelligence of devices – the company is everywhere. In 2017, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, generated sales of € 15.3 billion in 66 countries.

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The company holds the global rights to the name and trademark "Merck" internationally. The only exceptions are the United States and Canada, where the business sectors of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany operate as EMD Serono in healthcare, MilliporeSigma in life science, and EMD Performance Materials. Since its founding 1668, scientific exploration and responsible entrepreneurship have been key to the company's technological and scientific advances. To this day, the founding family remains the majority owner of the publicly listed company.