

News Release

Your Contact

timo.breiner@emdgroup.com

Phone: +49 6151 72-55707

April 13, 2021

Creating Sustainable Value: Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, Publishes Sustainability Report for 2020

- **Environmental targets for 2020 exceeded**
- **New environmental targets support sustainability strategy**
- **Online report illustrates company's commitment**

Darmstadt, Germany, April 13, 2021 – Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, a leading science and technology company, today published its Sustainability Report for 2020. The interactive online report comprehensively and transparently illustrates how the company is living up to its corporate responsibility and the progress the company has made towards achieving its goals.

“The pandemic is showing us in no uncertain terms that technological progress and the positive force of science create sustainable added value for society. At Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, we are also contributing to the efforts to fight the virus,” said Stefan Oschmann, Chairman of the Executive Board and CEO. “As a science and technology company, we take on responsibility to find answers to the most pressing challenges of our time. It is clear to us that sustainable entrepreneurship and profitable growth are not mutually exclusive, but rather mutually dependent.”

Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, presented its new [sustainability strategy](#) in late 2020. The company has consequently embedded the topic as an essential element of its corporate strategy. With the new strategy, it is pursuing specific goals in the areas of science and technology, value chain as well as climate and the environment. In doing so, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, also intends to make a clearly



News Release

recognizable contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

In addition, the company has formulated interim targets to support the achievement of its environmental goals. By 2040, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, aims to achieve climate neutrality. The company is thus planning to reduce direct greenhouse gas emissions and emissions from energy purchases (Scope 1 and 2) by 50% by 2030 compared with 2020. By then, company also intends to reduce indirect greenhouse gas emissions from the upstream and downstream value chain (Scope 3) by a total of 1,500 metric kilotons of CO₂ equivalents. Moreover, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, intends to improve its water efficiency and reduce its "Water Intensity Score" by 10% by 2025 compared with 2019.

Science & technology: Pioneer in the fight against schistosomiasis

The 2020 Sustainability Report shows how Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, is developing products and technologies aimed at improving people's lives. To improve the health of underserved populations in low- and middle-income countries, it is collaborating closely with numerous partner organizations. The company is developing integrated solutions, such as medicines, diagnostic procedures, technologies, and methods of infectious disease control, both against the tropical parasitic disease schistosomiasis and against malaria. In 2020, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, donated approximately 226 million tablets to treat schistosomiasis in 30 countries. Moreover, its "Open Innovation" initiative enables the exchange of intellectual property. This means medicines can be discovered more quickly for diseases that require a high degree of medical intervention. In this context, the company is initially focusing on neglected tropical diseases.

To enable sustainable innovations, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, has developed the Design for Sustainability (DfS) program, for example. This is a comprehensive method to improve the sustainability of Life Science products by analyzing various sustainability criteria.

Value chain: Securing social, ethical and ecological standards

In 2020, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, worked with approximately 60,000 suppliers in nearly 160 countries. As part of the Together for Sustainability (TfS)

News Release

initiative launched by the chemical industry, the company is calling on its suppliers to be evaluated using self-reported information or audits. Evaluation criteria include environmental aspects, labor and human rights, ethics, and sustainable procurement.

The online tool DOZN™ makes it possible for the company to evaluate sustainable alternatives to various chemicals. The tool is also available to customers and creates new possibilities for sustainable product design. Users can evaluate their own products and processes and make more environmentally sustainable decisions regarding their development processes.

Climate & environment: Environmental targets exceeded

Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, exceeded its environmental targets for 2020. Excluding the legacy Versum business, the company lowered its greenhouse gas emissions (Scope 1 and 2) by 25% relative to the 2006 baseline. A reduction of 20% was planned. Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, cut its water consumption at sites in water-stressed areas by 27% relative to the 2014 baseline; a reduction of 10% was planned. With respect to waste disposal, the company believes that it is well on track to lowering its key waste management indicator, the "Waste Score", by 5% by 2025. At the end of 2020, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, had already achieved a reduction of 4.6%.

Community outreach: 274 projects in 96 countries

Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, clusters its community outreach activities under the heading "Our Good Deeds". In 2020, 274 projects were carried out in 96 countries around the world. As part of this, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, supports people in need in the vicinity of its sites and provides disaster relief. Last year, community outreach activities by Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, encompassed projects worth approximately € 54 million in total. In the fight against Covid-19, the company donated 2 million protective face masks to healthcare providers. In more than 30 countries, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, teams initiated numerous donation campaigns, which collected several million euros in cash and goods.

The Sustainability Report 2020 can be viewed [online here](#).

News Release

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 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 electronics. Around 58,000 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 2020, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, generated sales of € 17.5 billion in 66 countries.

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 Electronics. Since its founding in 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.