



For immediate release

Alan Lowe of E.G.L. South Africa responds to RapNet and Polygon statements

Johannesburg, South Africa, 23 September 2014: Alan Lowe, Managing Director of E.G.L. South Africa, has issued the following statement in response to a RapNet and Polygon releases regarding the suspension of E.G.L. diamond certificates:

I would like to make E.G.L. South Africa's position very clear concerning the current misconception that is being created in the media regarding reports of overstated certificates being issued by certain E.G.L. laboratories. This has led to the suspension of all E.G.L. certificates by RapNet and E.G.L International by Polygon.

I am a member in good standing of the Diamond Dealers' Club of South Africa and a member of the executive and neither myself nor E.G.L. South Africa has ever been accused or found guilty of this kind of practice and I take exception to being grouped with other laboratories who are said to be guilty of such a practice.

The E.G.L trademarks, excluding the USA, are held by the estate of the late Guy Margel and this is the only common thread shared by E.G.L. laboratories worldwide. From an operational side all E.G.L. laboratories operate as individual companies with no shared management or operational structures. The statements released by RapNet and Polygon grouped these individual companies as one, even though E.G.L. South Africa states clearly on all its certification and reports 'South Africa' as the country of origin. I can't speak for any other E.G.L. identity apart from South Africa, but appeal to RapNet, as a credible source of information to the industry, not use a broad brush approach and tarnish the reputation of a company that has been providing quality certification for 34 years to the South African diamond community.

E.G.L. South Africa is one of only two major laboratories servicing the South African market with highly skilled and trained staff, backed by state-of-the-art equipment. As a key player in the Southern African market, we want to point out to our clients that the action taken by RapNet and Polygon has no bearing on E.G.L. South Africa. E.G.L. South Africa has a proud history of servicing the Southern African market with credibility and integrity to the highest internationally accepted standards in grading and we will continue providing this service.

We are extremely proud of our reputation, association with our clients and wishes to take this opportunity to thank these clients for their loyalty and support.