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PRESS RELEASE

Van Houtum safest paper mill of the Netherlands

HOOFDDORP/SWALMEN, 18 januari 2010 – Van Houtum Papier has won the ARBO Trofee 2009 (trofee for working conditions). Chairman Mees Hartvelt and director Gerrit-Jan Koopman from the Dutch Association of Paper and Board Manufacturers (Koninklijke Vereniging van de Nederlandse Papier- en kartonfabrieken or VNP) have officially handed the prize to the safety and health commission of Van Houtum.



Leon Doezen, Paul Stevens, Loes Naus, Bas Gehlen and Jos Manders (health and safety commission) and Mees Hartvelt (chairman of the Royal VNP).

It is the second time in three years that Van Houtum, manufacturer of hygiene paper in Swalmen, wins this trofee. On a total of 190 employees, the company had no accident with absence from work and only 0,65 reported ill per employee per year. The sickness absenteeism percentage ended in 1,2% short absence and 3,3% long term absence.

Every year the Dutch Association of Paper and Board Manufacturers (Koninklijke Vereniging van de Nederlandse Papier- en kartonfabrieken or VNP) hand the ARBO Trofee to the company that scores the best within the Dutch paper- and board manufacturers.

Boost

Henk van Houtum, general manager, sees the results as a huge boost and a reward for all the hard work. "Safety comes first in everything we do. A structured management system for working conditions has been set up and documented in accordance with the OHSAS 18001 norm. We also introduced vitality management at the beginning of last year. A preliminary action plan was drawn up in collaboration with TNO. That has now led to concrete suggestions such as support when giving up smoking or ways of encouraging employees to take more exercise."

Corporate social success

"We can look back on 2009 as a good year. Not just in terms of the financial results," continues Henk van Houtum enthusiastic. "We were voted as the winner in the *Risk Management* category and winner of the *50 Best Managed Companies* of Deloitte. Our Export Sales Manager, Rob Didden, won the *Export Manager Award 2009*. Beside this, we were the first company in the world to receive a *Cradle to Cradle Certificate* for Satino Nature, our line of toilet paper and handtowel paper that is ecological paper and that is harmless for man and environment. I expect this is surely a stimulation for others".

For more information please contact Henk van Houtum, managing director, tel. +31 (0)475 507300.