

MEDIA RELEASE

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DQS SOUTH AFRICA RENEWS IT CORPORATE PATRONSHIP

In March 2012, DQS South Africa (Pty) Ltd ('DQS') decided to support CGF Research Institute (Pty) Ltd ('CGF') as one of our Corporate Patrons for a period of two years. The support of a bigger company such as DQS, who are well known for their verification and training of various ISO standards, is always a great relief to smaller companies such as CGF. Being associated to the stature of DQS -- which is part of the worldwide DQS-UL Group in Germany -- enhances the confidence amongst the CGF team members, as well as CGF's well established list of clients.

Indeed it is with great excitement that CGF was informed by DQS of its decision to continue its Corporate Patronship with CGF for a further two years. This type of support -- which includes a financial component -- is truly invaluable, and it allows CGF to maintain its first class levels of governance reporting at prices well below the typical market rates. Undoubtedly, without the support of CGF's Corporate Patrons, it would be near impossible to provide CGF's well known web-based **Corporate Governance Body of Knowledge®** for the seventh year running at unaltered pricing to our clients. In a similar vein, through DQS' support, CGF has been able to regularly conduct the two-day **Governance Beyond Boards®** training interventions at heavily subsidised rates, providing the delegates of these interventions direct cost savings and benefits. As a result, many more directors, managers and prescribed officers have been able to attend these subsidised interventions, and transfer their newly acquired knowledge back to their respective companies. These are just a few areas that reflect the tremendous benefits CGF is able to offer South African businesses as a direct result of DQS's unwavering corporate support.

Expectedly, the types of companies who support CGF as Corporate Patrons have shared values and common interests; and it is not uncommon that the respective client databases may overlap. In the case of CGF, the clients are typically large to medium sized public and private companies who make use of CGF's wide ranging corporate governance services. CGF's services cover inter alia; governance reporting, company secretarial, compliance, group wellness, leadership training, coaching and mentoring. The levels at which CGF engages its clients is usually at director, senior management and company secretariat levels. It's at these levels of engagement that CGF is able to introduce its clients to its Corporate Patron's services which are linked to those being offered by CGF. In the case of DQS, clients are acutely aware of the need to comply with a myriad of international – or South African equivalent – standards, and therefore a close association with DQS through the years was obvious, and necessary.

DQS is an independent and competent management partner for companies of every size and all business sectors – and it offers objective assessments according to recognised norms and technical or industry-specific standards. The company is located in Gauteng, South Africa, and handles certification services concerning most ISO standards. Some of the more well-known ISO standards that DQS assists clients becoming familiar and/or compliant with are; ISO 31000 (Risk Management), BS OHSAS 18001 (Occupational Health & Safety), ISO 14001 (Environmental Management), ISO 28000 (Supply Chain Security), ISO 27001 (Audit for Information Security Management Systems), ISO 22301 (Business

Continuity Management Systems), ISO 9001 (Quality Management) and ISO 50001 (Energy Management).

DQS also focuses on large sections of the consumer goods industry, like food and feed, consumer products, textiles and cosmetics. All essential safety and hygiene management requirements are covered by an assessment range of about forty standards and legal regulations.

At CGF, we are incredibly proud of our continued association with DQS, and similar to CGF's own achievements through the years, DQS has also been recognised for their ability to meet an array of global industry standards which deal with food safety certification (FSSC), the supply of safe and legal products through retailers (BRC IoP, BRC Consumer), including food packaging standards. DQS is furthermore accredited with all five of the International Food Standards (IFS) and also offers sustainability certifications according to the European Union's International Sustainability & Carbon Certification (ISCC), Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and Sedex (a global NPO across 150 countries with more than 27,000 members in 23 industry sectors who support responsible and ethical supply chains).

Clearly CGF and DQS are companies on the 'same side of the fence'. Both companies fulfil very specific functions to improving the performance of their respective client's organisations. In the process, the companies make their client's organisations more attractive to engage business with; both locally and abroad with seriously improved governance levels. The CEOs of CGF and DQS (Terrance Booysen and Francois Labuschagne respectively) both agree that their companies make a great partnership and provide tremendous value to organisations struggling to achieve better standards of governance and operational performance.

The continued Corporate Patronship between CGF and DQS made perfect sense, as both companies agree that good governance -- albeit a foundational building block of business -- should add value to an organisation and its supply chain, rather than detracting from it. Clearly, as South African organisations mindfully tackle the issues of applying good governance (qualitative, not quantitative) throughout their supply chain, so then they will begin to (re)attract the much needed FDI which has been in rapid decline since 2009. Whilst Booysen and Labuschagne agree the road ahead for organisations in South Africa is long, they both remain optimistic as more business leaders are beginning to include key components of governance within their strategic outlook, specifically to comply with the expectations of first world operators and their requirements.

As is customary with CGF and its Corporate Patrons, all the companies within DQS South Africa's supply chain will be able to qualify for substantially reduced pricing in the event that they wish to avail themselves of CGF's **Corporate Governance Body of Knowledge®** software programme. This special offer will continue for a further two year period through DQS' Corporate Patronship.

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More information regarding DQS South Africa can be found at www.dqs.co.za

More information regarding CGF can be found at www.cgf.co.za

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