

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Skanska Needs Your Help to Become the National ‘Public’ Champion for the Czech Republic in the European Business Awards.**

Monday 11 November 2013 – Skanska a.s. from the Czech Republic will today compete for the title of ‘National Public Champion’ in this year’s European Business Awards, sponsored by RSM International, as the public vote opens for the first time.

The company, already named as one of the national champions in the internally judged part of the competition, has submitted a video of its company online, giving an in-depth story of their business and its successes. It will now compete against all other country national champions for the public vote. The company with the most votes will be named ‘National Public Champion’ for the Czech Republic on 14<sup>th</sup> January.

This first phase of the online voting is open from 11<sup>th</sup> November to 2<sup>nd</sup> January, giving Skanska 7 weeks to get as many votes as possible. All the videos for this year’s National Champions can be found at the European Business Awards website:  
[www.businessawardseurope.com](http://www.businessawardseurope.com).

Leoš Vrzalík, Business Development Director, Skanska a.s. says: “With just over 7 weeks for people to vote online for their favourite company, we are hoping that the public will get behind us, view our video and vote for us. The public vote means a great deal as it is our existing and potential customers and clients giving their approval to our success.”

**The second public vote will take place between 14th January and 25<sup>th</sup> March and the result of this final round of voting is the selection of one overall ‘European Public Champion’ who will be announced and awarded at the Awards Gala event in May 2014.**

Adrian Tripp, CEO of the European Business Awards said: “The public vote is a very important part of the Awards as it gives these entrepreneurial companies another way of showcasing their achievements to a wider audience across Europe. It was a huge success last year, with over 35,000 votes cast.”

He continued: "This year's videos show some of the most successful and sustainable companies in Europe and we hope that anyone interested in business will take some time to watch the videos, either from their own country or from other countries, and then cast their vote."

Separately the video entries from all 527 National Champions representing 31 countries across Europe will be reviewed and scored by the European Business Awards' panel of judges and on 14 January 2014, the Chairman of Judges will announce the 100 Ruban d'Honneur recipients. The overall European winners of the ten European Business Awards categories will be announced at the same time as the European Public Champion at the Gala Event in May.

For more information on the European Business Awards, please visit [www.businessawardseurope.com](http://www.businessawardseurope.com).

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For further press information or for case studies/interviews, please contact:

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### **About the Public Vote**

#### **How Does Public Voting Work?**

On 11 November 2013, all video submissions produced by our National Champions for the 2013/14 European Business Awards will be available to view online at <http://www.businessawardseurope.com>

Whilst all of the video entries submitted by our National Champions will be accessed by the judging panel with the outcome resulting in the top 100 businesses being awarded Ruban d'Honneur status, online voting of all the video entries will also be available to the public. Online voting does not influence the judges selection of the 100 Ruban d'Honneur recipients however it does allow the public to vote for their favourite business.

There are 2 stages of achievement as a result of public voting:

1. National Public Champion
2. European Public Champion

#### **Public Voting Stage 1: National Public Champion selection**

[Online voting opens on 09:00 CET on Monday 11 November 2013 and closes at 17:00 on Thursday 2 January 2014.](#)

The first phase of online voting allows the public to vote for their favourite National Champion and the business that receives the highest number of votes in their country will be announced as 'National Public Champion'. There will be one National Public Champion per country (up to a

maximum of 31). National Public Champions will move forward in the competition alongside the 100 Ruban d'Honneur recipients however will not be required attend face-to-face judging sessions like the Ruban d'Honneur recipients. Instead, public voting will re-open allowing further voting for the National Public Champions only.

### **Public Voting Stage 2: European Public Champion selection**

[Public voting will re-open from 09:00 CET on Tuesday 14 January 2014 to 17:00 on Tuesday 25 March 2014 allowing further voting for the National Public Champions only.](#) The result of this final round of public voting is the selection of one overall European Public Champion. The European Public Champion will be announced and awarded at the Awards Gala event in April/May 2014.

### **About the European Business Awards 2013/14:**

The European Business Awards recognises and rewards excellence, best practice and innovation in companies across the European Union. The competition is free to enter and open to organisations of all sizes and from any industry sector.

The European Business Awards programme serves three purposes for the European business community:

- It provides examples for the business community to aspire to
- It celebrates and endorses individual's and organisation's success
- It provides case studies and content for learning from these exceptional organizations

**An innovative, strong and thriving business community makes a successful and prosperous Europe.**

### **About RSM International**

RSM International is the lead sponsor of the European Business Awards and has sponsored the Awards programme since its inception.

RSM International is a worldwide network of independent accounting and consulting firms. RSM and its member firms are separate and independent legal entities. RSM does not provide accounting or consultancy services, all such services are provided by member firms practicing on their own account. The network's total fee income of US\$3.8 billion places it amongst the top six international accounting organisations worldwide. Member firms are driven by a common vision of providing high quality professional services, both in their domestic markets and in serving the international professional service needs of their client base. RSM is a member of the Forum of Firms. The objective of the Forum of Firms is to promote consistent and high quality standards of financial and auditing practices worldwide. [www.rsmi.com](http://www.rsmi.com)

### **Additional Europe-wide sponsors:**

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Millicom is a leading telecoms and media company dedicated to emerging markets in Latin America and Africa. Millicom sets the pace providing digital lifestyle services to the world's emerging markets, giving access to the world, primarily through mobile devices. Operating in 15 countries, Millicom offers innovative and customer-centric products. The Millicom Group employs more than 10,000 people and provides mobile services, access to the internet, content and financial services to over 47 million customers as well as ecommerce across Africa and Latin America. Founded in 1990, Millicom International Cellular SA is headquartered in Luxembourg and listed on NASDAQ OMX Stockholm under the symbol MIC. In 2012, Millicom generated revenue of USD 4.81 billion and EBITDA of USD 2.07 billion. [www.millicom.com](http://www.millicom.com)

**About UKTI**

UK Trade & Investment is the Government Department that helps UK-based companies succeed in the global economy. We also help overseas companies bring their high-quality investment to the UK's dynamic economy acknowledged as Europe's best place from which to succeed in global business. [www.ukti.gov.uk](http://www.ukti.gov.uk)

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BP Target Neutral is BP's not-for-profit carbon management programme. Set up in 2006 as part of BP's wider commitment to make a positive difference to the world's energy requirements today and in the changing world of tomorrow, Target Neutral uses a best-in-class "**Reduce, Replace and Neutralise**" approach to carbon management, working with companies and consumers who want to reduce their carbon impact. [www.bptargetneutral.com](http://www.bptargetneutral.com)