

## Press release

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### **Deloitte Private, Econopolis and Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management join forces to launch new programme recognising Belgian business excellence**

**Brussels – 21 September, 2017**

**Today Deloitte Private, Econopolis and Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management launched 'Belgium's Best Managed Companies' programme to coach and award privately owned and controlled Belgian companies that are operating at the highest levels of business performance. The designation 'Best Managed Companies' aims to become an international stamp of quality and excellence. The programme was established more than 20 years ago in Canada and has already been rolled out in Chile, Ireland, Mexico and the Netherlands.**

Nikolaas Tahon, Deloitte Private leader: *"This is not just another awards programme. A rigorous and independent process ensures that participating companies are evaluated based on a proven global framework. Within the framework, the leadership abilities and practices are assessed in the domains of strategy, capabilities, commitment and financials. We've chosen to partner with Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management and Econopolis to ensure an objective assessment, and to bring value to the programme and the participants from an academic and economic perspective."*

#### **Eligibility criteria**

Companies that wish to enter the programme must have a turnover in excess of € 10 million, have been in business for at least 5 years, have a workforce of over 25 full-time employees, have a majority stake (> 60%) owned by a Belgian resident, persons or entities, have their headquarters or major decision centre in Belgium, and be fully compliant from a legal, tax and ethical perspective.

#### **Phased application**

The application process consists of two phases. The first phase, which closes on 31 October, verifies eligibility through an online questionnaire. Beginning of November, eligible applicants will be notified and invited to phase two, which consists of an in-depth review of the company, addressing the four programme pillars – strategy, capability, commitment, financial results. An independent jury will score the different companies based on the global Best Managed Companies framework criteria. All applicants will be invited to celebrate their company's success at the Symposium and Gala event in March 2018.

## Benefits for Best Managed Companies

Companies that are recognised as a Best Managed Company gain brand exposure, increase talent attraction and take their leadership team to the highest level of maturity and excellence. *"Belgian companies will soon find out all the benefits of being awarded the accolade. From gaining insights into best management practices during the application process to getting exclusive use of Belgium's Best Managed Companies designation, taking part in this unique programme will strengthen the participating companies"*, said Geert Wellens, CEO of Econopolis.

*"The real value of this programme resides in the opportunity to become part of a high-level leadership community. A community made up of Belgian company leaders but also of high-calibre coaches and academics able to recognise, analyse and diffuse the most promising leadership practices. Participating in such a meeting of minds at the frontier of leadership practice is a privilege with benefits beyond the yearly programme schedule,"* added Prof. Manuel Hensmans, Professor of Strategic Management at Solvay Business School of Economics and Management.

## About Best Managed Companies

Belgium's Best Managed Companies programme is an initiative of Deloitte Private, Econopolis and Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management. Deloitte Private was launched earlier this year in Belgium and serves many of Belgium's successful family companies and entrepreneurs.

Best Managed Companies was established in Canada in 1993 where it has been run successfully ever since, and has become the country's leading business awards programme. In addition to Canada, the programme has been introduced in Ireland, the Netherlands, Chile and Mexico and key markets such as Australia, France, Italy, the UK, the US and China are planning to roll out the programme shortly. Over time, there will be a global dimension to the programme to bring Best Managed Companies together across borders and to foster international collaboration in the private market.

For more information on the programme and to apply, companies can visit [www.bestmanaged.be](http://www.bestmanaged.be).

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