



## **PRESS RELEASE**

Paris, June 16 2015

# TROPHÉES DÉFIS RSE 2015: THE "VERY FAVORITE TROPHY FOR A FOUNDATION" AWARDED TO THE REXEL FOUNDATION FOR A BETTER ENERGY FUTURE

The Rexel Foundation for a better energy future was awarded the "Very Favorite Trophy for a Foundation" at the awards ceremony Trophées Défis RSE 2015 held on June 15, 2015 at the City Hall of Paris VIII. The award recognizes the momentum of the Foundation, created two years ago and already supporting 29 initiatives in 13 countries with more than 40 partners as well as the innovative model of its platform in support of social entrepreneurs.

Today, thanks to unprecedented technological innovations, energy transforms the world. Yet these advances do not benefit all. 1.3 billion people worldwide do not have access to electricity and 100 million people are living in fuel poverty in Europe. Recognizing these challenges, Rexel created its Foundation to promote general interest initiatives enabling access for all to energy efficiency. In a co-construction approach with its customers, suppliers and employees, and civil society, the Rexel Foundation pursues community-based public interest projects, social innovation initiatives as well as studies and grants programs.

Among the key initiatives is a joint skills platform in support of social entrepreneurs, which is a laboratory of initiatives, an incubator of innovative models that benefit most vulnerable populations or "BOP" (Base of the Pyramid). It connects the numerous players involved in energy progress:

- social entrepreneurs, leading projects with an aim to improve access to energy and fight against fuel poverty
- Rexel partners: suppliers, service companies, associations or organizations
- Rexel employees who put their skills to the projects.

Today, the platform hosts social entrepreneurs of different nationalities who are supported in various forms: skills sponsorship, donation of equipment, financial, transport and logistics support, or knowledge sharing tools. It has already trained more than 500 experts and professionals and pursues its international development as a priority.

The Rexel Foundation was awarded alongside eight other winners from 37 nominated companies or organizations.

## TROPHIES OF CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The "Défis RSE" (CSR Challenges) are organized with the support of companies committed to CSR, Malakoff Mederic, Suez Environnement, EthiFinance and in partnership with the Asmep-Eti, Entreprises & Media and Les Echos. These partners with complementary expertise form the jury selecting the best CSR initiatives, those who have demonstrated responsibility in the commitments, performance, sustainability and daring.

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### THE REXEL FOUNDATION

The Rexel Foundation for a better energy future was founded in May 2013 by the Rexel Group, a global leader in the professional distribution of products and services for the energy world, under the aegis of the Fondation de France. The Rexel Foundation's mission is to promote access to energy efficiency for all based on several pillars: to improve understanding and raise awareness of energy efficiency, to encourage research programs, to support community-based public interest projects and promote social innovation in France and abroad, in connection with NGOs, social entrepreneurs and other foundations. For more information: www.fondationrexel.com

#### THE REXEL GROUP

Rexel, a global leader in the professional distribution of products and services for the energy world, addresses three main markets - industrial, commercial and residential. The Group supports customers around the globe, wherever they are, to create value and run their businesses better. With a network of some 2,200 branches in 38 countries, and c. 30,000 employees, Rexel's sales were €13.1 billion in 2014.

Rexel is listed on the Eurolist market of Euronext Paris (compartment A, ticker RXL, ISIN code FR0010451203). It is included in the following indices: SBF 120, CAC Mid 100, CAC AllTrade, CAC AllShares, FTSE EuroMid, STOXX600. Rexel is also part of the following SRI indices: DJSI Europe, FTSE4Good Europe & Global, EURO STOXX Sustainability, Euronext Vigeo Europe 120 and ESI Excellence Europe. Finally, Rexel is included on the Ethibel EXCELLENCE Investment Registers in recognition of its performance in corporate social responsibility (CSR). For more information, visit Rexel's web site at www.rexel.com

### **PRESS CONTACT**

Pénélope LINAGE

+33 1 42 85 76 28

penelope.linage@rexel.com

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