



Goma, January 15 2019

**PRESS RELEASE: CHANGE OF SMB SARL'S ORES CERTIFICATION SCHEME**

In addition to our letter N/Ref: 229/SMB/GM-NK/12/2018 announcing termination with ITA (formerly ITRI) mainly for cost and due diligence reasons, SMB has the privilege to announce to all national and international stakeholders its partnership with BSP/Geotracability (<https://www.rcsglobal.com>). The latter responds better to the economic realities of mining companies in DRC. It also allows all stakeholders in the supply chain to monitor in real time the full process from extraction to exportation through a digital scanning system. Furthermore, BSP/Geotracability has a more robust tracking mechanism that places special emphasis on empowering local stakeholders for reporting and resolving incidents across the supply chain.

This action once again demonstrates SMB's commitment to ore certification and its determination to improve its chain of custody to ensure absolute transparency.

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