

WORLD JEWELRY HUB



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Steven Benson
steven.benson@pde.com.pa

Erez Akerman ending term as PDE president on October 30, to take up position as World Jewelry Hub managing director

PANAMA: SEPTEMBER 2, 2015: Erez Akerman, president of the Panama Diamond Exchange, will end his term at the head of Latin America's only WFDB-recognized diamond bourse on October 30. He immediately afterwards will assume the position of managing director of the World Jewelry Hub, and at the same time will be devoted to managing his own company at PDE, Akerman Diamonds.

Mr. Akerman, who has served as Panama Diamond Exchange president since 2008, the year that the diamond bourse was founded, led the organization through its early years, during which it was accepted as a member of the World Federation of Diamond Bourses, through to the establishment of its current facility in the Phase I building of the World Jewelry Hub, in the Santa Maria Business District in Panama City.

As WJH managing director, Mr. Akerman will shift his focus to the Phase II stage of the World Jewelry Hub, which involves the construction of a multi-story office tower and business center, in Latin America's only dedicated gemstone and jewelry trading hub.

Mr. Akerman's successor, who will take over as PDE president on November 1, will be chosen during the coming weeks.

Located in the Santa Maria Business District of Panama City, the **World Jewelry Hub (WJH)** is a dedicated center that serves the specialized needs of the diamond, colored gemstone and jewelry sectors, and is designed to serve the primary trading center in Latin America and the access point to the region for industry professionals from around the world. Home to the **Panama Diamond Exchange (PDE)**, the region's only recognized diamond bourse, WJH has been authorized as a Gemstone and Jewelry Free Zone by the Government of Panama, where transactions conducted within it are exempt from duties and other taxes. The first phase of the WJH complex was completed at the end of 2014. The second phase, which includes the construction of multi-story office tower, will be completed by the end of 2017. For more information see www.pde.com.pa.