

# Assurance report

## To the readers of the DSM Triple P Report 2008

We were engaged by the Managing Board of Royal DSM N.V. to provide assurance on the information in the DSM Triple P Report 2008 (further referred to as The Report). The Report, including the identification of material issues, is the responsibility of the company's management. Our responsibility is to issue an assurance report on The Report.

## What was included in the scope of our assurance engagement?

Our engagement was designed to provide the readers of The Report with:

- reasonable assurance on whether the financial data in the Profit Key Figures for 2008 on pages 67 to 71 are properly derived from the 2008 financial statements of Royal DSM for which the independent auditors issued an unqualified audit opinion;
- limited assurance on whether the 2008 environmental data and explanatory notes in the Planet section on pages 61 to 65 are reliable;
- limited assurance on whether the other information in The Report is fairly stated.

Procedures performed to obtain a limited level of assurance are aimed at determining the plausibility of information and are less extensive than those for a reasonable level of assurance. To obtain a thorough understanding of the financial results and financial position of Royal DSM N.V. the reader should consult the DSM audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2008.

## Which reporting criteria did DSM use?

DSM applies the Sustainability Reporting Guidelines of the Global Reporting Initiative (G3) together with internal corporate reporting guidelines as detailed on page 78 and 79 of The Report. It is important to view the performance data in the context of this explanatory information. We believe that these criteria are suitable in view of the purpose of our assurance engagement.

## Which assurance standard did we use?

We carried out our engagement in accordance with Standard 3410N 'Assurance engagements relating to sustainability reports' of the Royal Netherlands Institute of Register Accountants. This Standard requires, amongst others, that the assurance team possesses the specific knowledge, skills and professional competencies needed to understand and review the information in The Report, and that they comply with the requirements of the IFAC Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants to ensure their independence.

## What did we do to reach our conclusions?

For the financial data we:

- reconciled the financial data in the Profit Key Figures for 2008 (on pages 67 to 71) with the audited 2008 financial statements of Royal DSM.

To determine whether the 2008 environmental data and explanatory notes are reliable we reviewed:

- the environmental data submitted by all sites for central aggregation, together with an assessment of the quality of the data validation process at corporate level;
- the results of environmental data reviews which formed part of the Operational Audits at key DSM sites in 2008 carried out by the Corporate Operational Audit department of DSM;
- the environmental data trends and the explanations provided in the report and discussed these with management at corporate level;

To determine whether the other information in the report is fairly stated we:

- performed a media analysis and internet search on environmental, safety and social issues relating to DSM, to obtain information on relevant sustainability issues in the reporting period;
- reviewed the systems and processes for information management, internal control and processing of the qualitative and quantitative information in the report, at corporate level;

- interviewed relevant staff at corporate level responsible for the reported information on specific issues in the report including CSR Strategy, Climate and Energy, Human Resources, Environment, Safety, Emerging Economies, and for the information on selected products in the “Functionality and Performance” and “Health and Wellness” sections;
- collected and reviewed internal and external documentation to determine whether the qualitative information is supported by sufficient evidence;
- checked the GRI application level declared by DSM on page 78.

During the assurance process we discussed changes to the various drafts of The Report with DSM, and reviewed the final version of The Report to ensure that it reflected our findings.

## What are our conclusions?

Based on the above,

- the financial data in the Profit Key Figures for 2008 on pages 67 to 71 are properly derived from the 2008 financial statements of Royal DSM for which the independent auditors issued an unqualified audit opinion;
- the environmental data and explanatory notes in the Planet section on pages 61 to 65 do not appear to be unreliable;
- the other information in The Report does not appear to be unfairly stated.

## What else did we observe?

Without affecting the conclusions presented above, we would like to draw readers' attention to the following:

- DSM has obtained relevant stakeholder views for DSM's impacts on society. These form the basis also for DSM's Triple P report, however this is not yet part of a structured process to assess the information needs of stakeholders. To obtain such input for the Report, we recommend DSM to further formalise the stakeholder consultation process.
- In the Report DSM outlines the strategy and approach for the sustainability challenges and opportunities the company faces. In our view these vary in terms of mutual alignment and integration. We recommend DSM to develop the current initiatives further into a more comprehensive sustainability strategy that integrates the sustainability issues, from a company and stakeholder perspective, into a single agenda and to report on progress against targets.

Amsterdam, 17 February 2009  
KPMG Sustainability

Drs. W.J. Bartels RA (Partner)