

Press release - July 2023

## CSR: FOLAN wins EcoVadis gold medal for the 7<sup>th</sup> year running

Lyon, 12 July 2023 - FOLAN, designer and manufacturer of passive equipment for telecommunications networks (fibre optics, 5G, data centres, smart cities), has been awarded the EcoVadis gold medal for the 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. This certification recognises the environmental, social and ethical policies implemented by the Lyon-based manufacturer as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) approach.

### In the top 4% of best-performing telecoms companies

Created in France in 2007, EcoVadis has become the global benchmark for Corporate Social Responsibility assessments. This label enables companies to assess their performance on the four pillars of CSR:

- environment,
- social,
- human rights,
- ethics and responsible purchasing.

With an overall score of 74/100 in the EcoVadis 2023 assessment, FOLAN has improved by 5 points compared with 2022 and is now in the top 4% of best-performing companies in the telecommunications sector. *"We are proud of this EcoVadis gold medal, which motivates us to keep improving and challenging ourselves.*

"comments Juliane Perrin, QSE & CSR engineer at FOLAN. This result positions FOLAN as a responsible player in its market and should give it a significant competitive advantage when responding to future calls for tender. The 2023 assessment highlighted FOLAN's policies and actions in terms of sustainable practices:

- training employees to sort waste and save energy,
- installation of heat pumps to replace gas,
- electrification of the vehicle fleet,
- employee training and skills development,
- internal health and safety audits,
- preventive measures against employee stress,
- audit of control procedures relating to corruption,
- on-site audits of suppliers on environmental and social issues,
- training buyers on social and environmental issues within the supply chain,
- inclusion of social and environmental clauses in supplier contracts, etc.

### Reflecting an ever-stronger commitment to CSR

This 7<sup>th</sup> EcoVadis award is part of a wider CSR strategy pioneered by FOLAN more than 11 years ago: *"Beyond the honorary award, this new EcoVadis gold medal is testimony to the commitment and mobilisation of all our employees in the fields of CSR, which underpins all the company's actions towards a sustainable future"*, emphasises Olivier Prestel, Managing Director of FOLAN. A member of the United Nations Global Compact since 2012, the Rillieux-la-Pape-based company has long been committed to an eco-design approach right from the manufacturing phase:

- taking into account the choice of materials to combine customer requirements and environmental performance,
- development of packaging to offer 100% recyclable packaging,
- densification of packaging to optimise transport and reduce the carbon footprint,
- selection of transport partners on the basis of their environmental approach, etc.

At the same time, an initiative to decarbonise the R&D group, to which FOLAN belongs, has also been launched for 2021. Supported by Carbone4, a consultancy specialising in energy and climate issues, this involves measuring and understanding emissions, defining a roadmap, reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and implementing a policy with a positive impact. The programme for the next 4 years is already on track. The aim? To improve the carbon footprint of its business and its value chain. *"Our short-term ambition is to win the EcoVadis platinum medal,"* adds Juliane Perrin, QSE & CSR engineer.

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**About FOLAN :**

FOLAN, the R&D Group's main subsidiary, is the French specialist in passive component-based solutions for fibre optic networks, fixed and mobile telecoms, data centres and smart cities. Its design office designs high added-value products and 3 production units manufacture them: France (tailor-made solutions and small series: connectorisation of cords, pre-connectorised cables, assembly of drawers, boxes and racks), Romania (medium series and sheet metal work), China (large series including connectors and plastics).

A partner of the main operators and players involved in the development of French network and telecoms infrastructures, FOLAN is also a member of ARCEP's fibre expert committee. Its international business (15% of turnover) is growing steadily, particularly in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Certified ISO 9001, ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001, the company has also been a member of the United Nations Global Compact association since 2013 and has been awarded the Ecovadis CSR Gold Medal since 2017.

2022 sales: €26 million - 70 employees - Chairman: Ludovic Robert - CEO: Olivier Prestel - [www.folan.net](http://www.folan.net) - Rillieux-la-Pape (69).

**About EcoVadis :**

EcoVadis is a platform for evaluating and rating the sustainable development performance of companies that has become an international benchmark. It offers innovative solutions for measuring, monitoring and improving the sustainable practices of companies worldwide. A team of international experts analyses and cross-checks company data (supporting documents, "360° Watch" observations, etc.) to create reliable, customised assessments based on the company's sector of activity, size and location. Its main objective is to

provide an objective assessment of CSR performance using a rigorous methodology and transparent rating criteria. Companies' policies and actions are assessed, as well as the reports they publish on environmental, social and human rights issues, ethics and responsible purchasing - [www.ecovadis.com](http://www.ecovadis.com)

