



PRESS RELEASE

5th June 2022

HRD Antwerp certifies the first commercial lab-grown “full diamond” ring Dutch Diamond Group repeats its “project D” stunt, but this time commissioned by a Chinese client

23 MAY 2023 – ANTWERP: In 2017, in celebration of the 10-year anniversary of Dutch Diamond Group, CEO Ton Janssen and his team, attempted and succeeded to create the first full diamond lab-grown ring. At that time, it was an innovative and experimental process to show the unique abilities of the DD Group and not made for commercial use. The piece is still visible today in the DIVA museum in Antwerp. That piece created so much attention worldwide, that he got an offer from the oldest European Jewellery house, Heursel, to make a second version, but this time as a high-end luxury piece of jewellery. It took two attempts and more than 1.600 hours of blood, sweat and tears, but they did it again.

From Germany to China: a story of love, passion and a 1.300 hours failed attempt

What proved to be a challenge in 2017, remains a complex operation today. That it wasn't smooth sailing, was made very clear when his first attempt at reproducing this result shattered at Christmas 2021, during the cleaning process, after 1.300 hours of work. After restarting the process, materials were shipped in from Germany and together with the Antwerp company Spitsdiam they started on a new design.

Ton Janssen – CEO Dutch Diamond Group: “This ring is an example of how old craftsmanship and new technology are combined to make something really unique. The challenge was even greater, because this time it was an order for a real wearable ring customized and tailored to the client. DD Group has a strong reputation on making some of the most difficult products out of lab-grown diamond. Failure was not an option and when you start this, you know it's a labour of love, passion and a lot of work.”

That this ring is a labour of love, is proven by the exceptional talent that was needed to get to the end result. The pre-grinding took about 80 hours in-house at DD Group. For the facets, they came to Belgium, which took almost 300 hours. But the hardest part, the inside was by far the inside polishing which took more than 750 hours. A big difference in comparison to an average small diamond where you polish for about 8 hours.

After certification by HRD Antwerp, the ring will go to New York and through Hong Kong to its final destination in China, where a happy client will be able to wear the first full diamond lab-grown ring. DD Group is not planning to sell this design commercially.

HRD Antwerp specializes more and more in jewellery and lab grown grading

The results of the ring are the following: Diamond Type: CVD lab-grown diamond - Carat Weight: 4.04 ct - Shape: Ring - Clarity: VVS2 - Color: D - Polish: EXC - Symmetry: EXC

Ellen Joncheere – CEO HRD Antwerp: “We are honoured that the Dutch Diamond Group chose to come to HRD Antwerp first to showcase and certify their extraordinary work. Grading jewellery is becoming more and more important and for that reason we are creating a new package of services for jewellery owners. The fact that the DD Group came with a lab-grown jewel to HRD Antwerp is not a coincidence. We worked hard on delivering a consistent service to our clients and our expertise and reputation in grading in lab-grown diamonds is rapidly growing.”

More information:
press@hrdantwerp.com