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**Mars placed second in European Great Place to Work contest proving once again that it belongs to the best employers in Europe!**

***Prague, June 15, 2018* – On June 14, 2018, there was an award ceremony in Athens of international Great Place To Work® contest. Mars placed second.** The company was given the prestigious award for the third time in a row. The amazing second place is a proof of how devoted the company is to its employees who are called Associates and at the same time it also proves how much enthusiasm, passion and creativity the employees bring to work every day. Mars realizes that its results depend on satisfaction of people working for it. That is why it is deeply interested in creating comfortable working environment and giving them the best possible base anywhere in the world, no matter the position they hold in company’s hierarchy. Michael Ryan, Regional President Mars Multisales, said: “*The fact that for the third time in a row we found ourselves among the best European workplaces and placed on an amazing second place is an incredible success. It is also acknowledgment and affirmation that every day we are guided by our principles and values and we achieve great work. I am proud of getting this award. It proves how we perceive working for Mars, how meaningful it is and how fulfilled we feel. Our Associates are the essence of our business*.”

**MARS IS A FAMILY-OWNED BUSINESS**

Even though Mars is one of the biggest confectionary, food and petfood manufacturers the company managed to stay family-owned business, whose strong, unique and meaningful corporate culture is shared by all of its Associates. Five Principles, which is a code of values that focuses on quality, responsibility, mutuality, effectivity and freedom, is part of the culture. These principles are present every day in Associates’ choices and decisions and they encourage them to act and decide freely just like they would if they ran their own business. “*Mars is a family-owned business built on values and principles. Every day I witness these principles being fulfilled in our entire business which helps create and maintain culture filled with trust and enthusiasm. The award we were given belongs to all Associates who make our principles come alive with their actions. It is exactly those principles and values that will ensure that we will continue to be prosperous family business in the future as well,”* Michael Kunze, Regional President for Royal Canin, said.

**UNIQUE WORK ENVIRONMENT**

Mars offers unique work environment. Offices of the company create open space that supports cooperation and fun. You wouldn’t be able to find any differences in equipment or comfort for certain positions. Associates are even allowed to take their pets with them to Mars offices. This amazing benefit lowers stress levels and positively affects work morale. At this moment Mars also develops another great programs for its Associates: fluid working hours or home office that contribute to maintaining healthy work-life balance. That is the recipe for long-lasting, happy and fulfilling career. Myriam Cohen-Welgryn, Regional President Mars Petcare, said: *“We aspire to making our Associates satisfied, which is how we permanently support their development. I am convinced that high level of engagement and enthusiasm of our Associates mean more for them that simply the fact that they have a job. For them it embodies an activity with a higher sense.”* Shaid Shah, Mars Wrigley Confectionery Regional President, added: “*I am truly convinced that developing talent is a necessity and I am very proud of the fact that our devotion to Associates was acknowledged through this amazing result. We want to assure both Mars and Europe that we will continue to be a great working place in the upcoming years as well.”*

**EMPHASIS ON SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

Mars is proud of its commitment to building business in a certain way in order for it to stay sustainable and healthier for all inhabitants of this planet including our pets. All Associates are part of our journey to sustainability. They ensure sustainability of resources and logistical processes and through Mars volunteering programs they help and donate both their time and effort to communities they live and work in. “*It is little everyday things that make our culture so unique. From making great-tasting and healthy food we bring to the market to volunteering in local communities. Our teams make Mars a great place with positive impact on everyday life of millions of people!”* Stephanie Le Bechec, Regional President Mars Food, said. As an example of Mars volunteering activities we can mention for instance Orbit’s project called Smile Back which through workshops and fun games helps underprivileged children from children’s homes in the Czech Republic and Slovakia develop their talent and self-esteem, at the same time it educates them about proper dental hygiene. Last year was also the ninth year of “Help to fill the bowls in animal shelters” project through which Mars had already donated over 500 tons of quality Whiskas and Pedigree pet food.

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**Mars in Central Europe**

Mars entered the Czech market in 1992. The Czech market is since 2016 organized under the roof of Mars Multisales Central Europe, connecting the Hungarian, Czech, Slovak and Romanian markets. With 540 employees (called Associates), the organization operates in three categories today: confectionery (chocolate, gum & confections), food (rice and sauces) and pet nutrition. In addition to this, Mars runs in region two of its biggest factories in segments, including a non-chocolate confections production facility including Mars’ confectionery development center in Poříčí nad Sázavou in the Czech Republic and a factory in Csongrád-Bokros Hungary, producing dry pet food and treats

**Mars, Incorporated**

Mars is a family-owned business with more than a century of history making diverse products and offering services for people and the pets people love. With almost $35 billion in sales, the company is a global business that produces some of the world’s best-loved brands: M&M’s®, SNICKERS®, TWIX®, MILKY WAY®, DOVE®, PEDIGREE®, ROYAL CANIN®, WHISKAS®, EXTRA®, ORBIT®, 5™, SKITTLES®, UNCLE BEN’S®, MARS DRINKS and COCOAVIA®. Mars also provides veterinary health services that include BANFIELD® Pet Hospitals. Headquartered in McLean, VA, Mars operates in more than 80 countries. The Mars Five Principles – Quality, Responsibility, Mutuality, Efficiency and Freedom – inspire its more than 100,000 Associates to create value for all its partners and deliver growth they are proud of every day.

For more information about Mars, please visit [www.mars.com](http://www.mars.com/). Join us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/Mars/), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/MarsGlobal), [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company-beta/1544/), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/marsglobal/) and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/user/Mars).

**About Best Workplace in Europe chart**

Every year Great Place to Work® publishes a chart of the Best Workplaces in Europe. The chart is divided into four categories by size of the company – less than 50 employees, small and medium companies (50 to 500 employees) and international companies. For the company to be able to compete it has to be featured in at least one national chart from 19 represented countries and meet our quantitative minimum in Trust Index© survey. Companies that compete in the international category also have to have at least 1000 employees in at least 3 countries and be featured in at least 3 national charts. This year’s Best Workplaces in Europe chart was concluded based on data from national charts published in last 12 months.

**About Great Place to Work**

Great Place to Work is a global analytical authority in highly reliable and highly efficient workplace culture. For 30 years Great Place to Work® has cooperated with the biggest global companies on naming highly reliable and highly efficient workplace cultures. Through a survey among employees we enable companies to evaluate and improve workplace culture. Through our acknowledgments and certification programs we name outstanding workplace cultures and we put together Best places to work charts in over 50 countries. Everything we do is driven by our mission – we want to improve the world by helping companies become Great Places to Work.

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