

GLOBAL FINANCE

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Global Finance Names the Best Companies in Russia for 2005.

NEW YORK —Global Finance magazine has released its rankings of the “Best Companies in Russia” covering a range of sectors. The rankings will be published in an exclusive survey in the April 2006 issue. The winners will be honored at an awards ceremony in London on April 24th.

Global Finance editors – with input from industry analysts, corporate reports and other expert sources — selected the best companies on a variety of criteria, both objective and subjective. Factors considered included: market share, profitability, evidence of a winning long-term strategy, management quality and commitment to improvement in corporate governance.

“Russia's economy is booming on the back of robust hydrocarbon prices and a small but fast-growing middle class. Russian companies had a remarkable year in 2005,” says Global Finance publisher Joseph D. Giarraputo. “And there’s every evidence that may continue in 2006. The Russian corporate sector continues to strengthen and the best of those companies are on this year’s award list.”

Best Companies in Russia by Sector:

Oil and gas – LUKOIL

Utilities - RAO UES

Steel – NLMK

Beverages – Baltika

Ferrous metals and mining - Evraz

Telecoms – Vimpelcom

Consumer - Pharmacy chain 36.6

Media/IT - RBC