

External appraisals

BusinessWeek top company ranking

Bidvest was ranked 37th on BusinessWeek's list of the world's top 40 companies, one of only three South African companies to feature on the list. The global rankings were published by management consulting firm AT Kearney and BusinessWeek.

Forbes Global 2000 – the world's 2 000 largest public companies

Forbes Global 2000 is a list of the world's largest and most influential companies in terms of US dollars based on a composite ranking which includes sales, market value, assets and profits. Bidvest is currently ranked 969th.

Empowerment rating 2010

Bidvest, a level 4 contributor, with an unconstrained operational capacity, has a verified rating from Empowerdex.

Credit ratings

Fitch Ratings affirmed Bidvest's national long-term rating at A+(A plus)(zaf) with a stable outlook and short-term rating at F1(zaf). A+ (zaf) ratings denote a strong credit risk relative to other issuers in the same country.

Moody's Investors Service assigned Bidvest a first-time national scale short-term rating of P-1.ZA and an A1.ZA national scale long-term issuer rating, with a stable outlook.

JSE Social Responsibility Investment Index

Based on an assessment of the Group's policies, performance and reporting on economic, social and environmental sustainability, the JSE has reaffirmed Bidvest as a founding constituent of the SRI Index. Bidvest, one of 30 best performers out of 109 listed companies included in the research, is one of 67 constituents of the index. Bidvest was assessed as having a low environmental impact. The index is the first of its kind in an emerging market and the first to be launched by a stock exchange.

Carbon Disclosure Project 2009

The United Nations-sponsored Carbon Disclosure Project provides investors with information about carbon emissions and climate change exposure of the world's major corporations. Bidvest's disclosure was ranked second in South Africa.

Excellence in reporting awards

Bidvest received an excellent rating in the Ernst & Young excellence in sustainability reporting awards and a merit at the ACCA (Association of Chartered Certified Accountants)/JSE sustainability reporting awards. Bidvest was the consumer services sectoral winner in the IAS annual reporting awards from the Investment Analysts Society of Southern Africa.

FTSE/JSE Africa Index Series ranking

In the June 2010 FTSE/JSE Africa Index Series quarterly review, Bidvest was ranked 21st in both the FTSE/JSE All Share Index and Top 40, eighth in the FTSE/JSE Industrial 25, with a total market capitalisation of R42,7 billion.

Morgan Stanley International Emerging Market Index 2010

Bidvest is considered to have an 85% free float for the MSCI SA Index and a weighting of 2,25% in the MSCI South Africa Index and 0,17% in the MSCI Emerging Markets Index.

WBS Journal top 25 business leaders

Brian Joffe selected by the WBS (Wits Business School) Journal as one of South Africa's top 25 business leaders, having made a significant impact on business over the last five years.

Ask Africa Trust Barometer 2009

The 2009 Ask Africa Trust Barometer, run in conjunction with Finweek magazine, voted Bidvest as the "most trusted company in entrepreneurial/founder companies"; seventh overall among the 375 companies measured; first in the industrials and chief executive Brian Joffe the second most trusted CEO.

Company confidence predictor

Bidvest performed well with its ratings across the total of 24 characteristics ensuring a ranking in the top order of industrial companies; also placed in the top order of "company basics", "people" and "communications", and performed exceptionally well for "ethics" and "future prospects".

In "company basics" it shows notable strength in "is financially sound and secure", "has a clear edge over its competitors" and "has a strong cash flow".

It has firmly solidified its standing in "people" by holding its position in "is a well managed company", the "quality of its people" and "has an effective chief executive".

In "ethics" it has made substantial gains across the four characteristics of evaluation viz. "is reputable, honest and trustworthy" (for which it is ranked first), "lives up to its promises – company results match expectations" (ranked second), "company results are a true reflection of company performance" (ranked first) and "believes in full disclosure – is transparent, open and honest" (ranked second).

As for "communications" Bidvest has held its own in the top order of companies and is particularly impressive in "chief executive and senior management easily approachable".

In "future prospects" it has held its first position in "is alert to new ideas to improve its profitability" and as has been stated earlier leads the field overall in this category.

It has also held its position in the "social relations" category for "has good labour relations" which could be critical in the South African environment of the persistent threat of labour unrest.