

## Grand slam for Ratos and HiQ in IR Nordic Markets 2007

*Ratos and HiQ are best at communicating with the stock market, according to Regi's annual investor relations survey IR Nordic Markets. Private equity company Ratos won the categories for best CEO and best large-cap company in Sweden. IT consulting company HiQ was the best mid-cap company in Sweden for the second year in a row, and HiQ's Annika Billberg also came out top in the category for best mid-cap IRO.*

### **The year's best IR performers**

The Swedish winners were unveiled on Tuesday 27 November at a seminar in Stockholm held in conjunction with business newspaper *Affärsvärlden*. The awards for the best IR performance in 2007 were presented in five categories:

Best IRO, mid-cap	HiQ – IRO Annika Billberg
Best IRO, large-cap :	Swedish Match – IRO Emmett Harrison
Best CEO, all ranked companies:	Ratos – CEO Arne Karlsson
Best mid-cap company:	HiQ
Best large-cap company:	Ratos

### **Industrial companies and banks lose ground**

Industrial companies and banks are the sectors which took a tumble in this year's survey. In the case of industrial companies, this is partly because they have not lived up to the market's expectations. Management changes are another common explanation for a loss of confidence and a probable reason why, after two years at the top, Autoliv slipped right down to 11th place. Credit crises and nervousness in the US mortgage market have undermined the stock market's confidence in the majority of Swedish banks, which performed less well in this year's survey.

### **Nervous stock market climate fuels need for information**

The autumn's nervous stock market climate has increased the market's need for transparency and information, and is probably a reason why companies scored less well on availability this year.

"Some companies still have a tendency to allow transparency and availability to reflect share price performance," says Robert Skölfman, CEO of Regi. "When the share price goes down, the doors are closed and the flow of information dries up."

Confidence in top management still has the greatest impact on a share's valuation. But it is interesting to note that quarterly reports have moved up to become the second most important criterion, another trend suggesting that the market's need for continuous information has grown.

"The stock market turmoil has resulted in an increased need for transparency and information," says Skölfman. "The comments from Ericsson and the Swedish Financial Supervisory Authority about whether companies should continue to issue quarterly reports have prompted the market to defend this system."

### **About IR Nordic Markets 2007**

Analysis and consulting firm Regi has been conducting surveys of Nordic listed companies' ability to communicate with the financial markets since 1998. 314 analysts in the Nordic region and the UK have assessed Swedish companies' IR performance in 2007. A total of 66 Swedish companies are included in the final rankings. The full list can be found in the appendix.

The interviews were conducted between 12 September and 31 October 2007. The companies were assessed on the basis of 18 different aspects of IR, which were rated on a scale from one to ten, where one is very poor, ten is very good, and seven is considered a pass mark.

171 companies are included in the final Nordic rankings, which will be unveiled in Copenhagen on 6 December. The results for Finland will be presented on 4 December, and those for Norway on 12 December.

Read more about previous years' IR surveys at [www.ir-nordicmarkets.se](http://www.ir-nordicmarkets.se).

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