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Sotheby's To Auction THE SUN-DROP DIAMOND

**-- Weighing 110.03 Carats, the Largest Known
Pear-Shaped Fancy Vivid Yellow Diamond in the World --**



"A diamond such as the 110.03 carat Sun-Drop can almost be said to exude a magical aura. Its magnificent color combined with impressive size and uncommon cut make it a paragon in the world of diamonds"

GIA Monograph written on the Sun-Drop Diamond, 2011

SOTHEBY'S GENEVA is delighted to announce that it will present - in its sale of Magnificent Jewels on Tuesday, November 15, 2011 - one of the most impressive diamonds to come to auction in recent years. **The Sun-Drop Diamond**, at 110.03 Carats, has been graded Fancy Vivid Yellow, the highest colour grading for a yellow diamond, by the Gemological Institute of America (GIA). This exceptional stone ranks as the largest known pear-shaped fancy vivid yellow diamond in the world, and has a purity of VVS1.

The stone was exhibited earlier this year at London's Natural History Museum. The rough for the Sun-Drop Diamond was discovered in South Africa in 2010, and was cut and polished by Cora International, one of the world's leading manufacturers of exceptional diamonds, with its headquarters in New York. This stunning diamond comes to the market with an estimate of \$11-15 million*.

Commenting on the forthcoming sale of the Sun-Drop Diamond, **David Bennett, Chairman of Sotheby's Jewellery Department in Europe and the Middle East and Co-Chairman of Sotheby's Switzerland** said: *"This stone has immense presence and is truly stunning. It is also one of the largest diamonds ever to have appeared at auction. It is an honour to have been chosen by Cora International to present it to the market."*

Sotheby's Geneva and Exceptional Diamonds

World Record Price for a Diamond

Sotheby's Geneva has a distinguished and successful history of selling exceptional diamonds under the hammer of David Bennett. In November 2010 at Sotheby's Geneva, **The Graff Pink** - a Fancy Intense Pink Diamond weighing 24.78 carats, sold for \$46,158,674 - established a new world auction record for a diamond and any jewel.

Other Notable Coloured Diamonds

In May 2009, **The Star of Josephine** - a Cushion-shaped Fancy Vivid Blue Diamond weighing 7.03 carats and discovered in 2008 at Petra Diamonds' historic Cullinan diamond mine in South Africa - sold for \$9,488,754, the auction record at the time for a Fancy Vivid Blue Diamond. **An auction record price per carat for a Vivid Green Diamond** was established at Sotheby's Geneva in November 2009 when a Cushion Modified Brilliant-cut Vivid Green Diamond weighing 2.52 carats - the largest Vivid Green Diamond ever to appear at auction - sold for \$3,078,916.

Diamonds Over 100 Carats

Only three perfect white diamonds, each weighing over 100 carats, have ever been sold at auction and all of them were at Sotheby's Geneva:

The Star of the Season -- a Pear-shaped diamond, 100.10 carats, D Colour, internally flawless -- which sold for \$16.5 million at Sotheby's Geneva in 1995, an auction record for a white diamond.

The Mouawad Splendour -- a Modified Pear-Shaped Diamond (11 sided), 101.84 carats, D Colour, internally flawless -- which sold for \$12.8 million at Sotheby's Geneva in 1990.

The Star of Happiness -- a Cut-Cornered Rectangular Modified Brilliant-Cut Diamond, 100.36 carats, D Colour, internally flawless -- which sold for \$11.9 million at Sotheby's Geneva in 1993.

Another Notable White Diamond:

The fourth highest price for a white diamond was also set at Sotheby's Geneva: **The Chloe Diamond** -- a Brilliant-cut diamond, 84.37 carats, D Colour, flawless -- sold for \$16.2 million at Sotheby's Geneva in 2007.

Notes to editors:

WORLD AUCTION RECORD FOR A FANCY VIVID YELLOW DIAMOND

The current world auction record for a fancy vivid yellow diamond was achieved by a marquise-cut fancy vivid yellow diamond weighing 13.83 carats (Property from the Estate of Julie V. Burden), which sold for \$3,302,500 at Sotheby's New York in April 1997.

WORLD AUCTION RECORD FOR A PEAR-SHAPED YELLOW DIAMOND

The current world auction record for a pear-shaped yellow diamond was achieved by the Golden Drop, a pear-shaped yellow diamond of 18.49 carats which sold for \$3,762,000 at Christie's London in June 1990.

The Sun-Drop Diamond will be presented at Sotheby's Hong Kong on 6th October and will then be showcased in an international tour before its sale in Geneva on 15 November 2011.

Sotheby's Hong Kong:	6 October 2011
Sotheby's London:	24-26 October 2011
Sotheby's New York:	29 October– 2 November 2011
Sotheby's Geneva:	Hôtel Beau-Rivage, 12-15 November 2011

* Pre-sale estimates do not include buyer's premium

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