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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Orion Group wins Top Performing Company award

Orion Real Estate LTD, a company of the Orion Group, has been named a Rising Performer in the 12th edition of Topco Media's *Top Performing Companies* publication.

The JSE-listed company, which owns and manages in excess of 40 commercial properties including retail, office, industrial showroom and hotel properties, received the award for "having met or exceeded the criteria as one of South Africa's Top Performing Companies as a result of sustained excellence in financial performance." To qualify for a Rising Performer award, the company had to have an annual turnover of between R35 million and R100 million and show 12% sustained growth over three years.

Franz Gmeiner, Orion Real Estate LTD's managing director, says he's delighted with the win, which speaks to the company's continuous quest to improve efficiencies and to expand its portfolio of investment properties both locally and abroad. This growth was made possible by the dedicated effort of the Orion management teams and their support staff he explains.

Top Performing Companies is an annual B2B title published by Topco Media. As a research-based organisation, Topco researches 20 000 companies a year and then, based on its findings, rates the best companies as top performers. Companies are assessed on three years' financial data including, but not limited to, turnover, profitability and growth.

The three entry categories and their criteria are:

- Leading Performers: companies with an annual turnover of R100 million+; a sustained increase in growth above CPIX or sustained 3-year positive profits
- Rising Performers: companies with an annual turnover of R35m-R100m; 12% sustained growth over three years
- Fast Track Performers: companies with an annual turnover of R5m-R35m; 20% sustained growth over 2 years

Of the 20 000 companies researched in 2011, only 6% qualified as Top Performers for this year's edition of the *Top Performing Companies* publication.

Orion Real Estate LTD was established in 1991 and has steadily grown since then. Today it boasts property holding investments in excess of R600 million with more acquisitions and developments to follow. The severe economic downturn locally and abroad presents new and exciting opportunities daily. The company's operating philosophy of "our business is getting better every day in every way" has once again been proven to be true.

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