



PRESS RELEASE

Rhea steps up its ESG efforts: Cerved Rating Agency upgrades rating to “BBB”

ESG risk and opportunities management above the median for the benchmark group

Milan, 16 March 2026 – Rhea, a leading global manufacturer of coffee machines, has received an upgraded ESG rating from Cerved Rating Agency, moving from "BB" (medium) to "BBB" (high) with a score of 66.6 out of 100. Its ESG risk management capability, rated "high," places the company above the median for the "Furniture & Consumer Durables" reference cluster.

The upgraded rating reflects Rhea's ongoing commitment to embedding ESG practices more deeply into its business strategy, with sustainability increasingly positioned as a driver of innovation, competitiveness, and long-term value.

Cerved Rating Agency's analysis finds Rhea well above its peer group across ESG risk and opportunity management, with a systematic approach to incorporating environmental, social, and governance criteria into strategic decision-making.

In recent years, Rhea has been steadily strengthening its sustainability strategy through initiatives spanning product innovation, corporate governance, and dedicated policies covering its workforce and supply chain.

Among the factors behind the upgraded rating:

- adoption of a Group Sustainability Plan for 2024–2026;
- establishment of a Sustainability Committee, with specific ESG responsibilities assigned at Board level;
- publication of a Sustainability Report covering the entire group, including overseas branch offices, based on a double materiality analysis;
- joining the UN Global Compact, reinforcing the company's commitment to international principles of sustainability and corporate responsibility.

On the environmental side, the rating reflects above-sector performance, supported by an integrated management system certified to ISO 9001 and ISO 14001, alongside initiatives targeting energy efficiency and the circular economy.

Key among them:

- procurement of electricity from renewable sources for sites in Italy and Austria;
- installation of photovoltaic systems and electric vehicle charging infrastructure;

- life cycle assessments carried out across a selection of products;
- the "Second Life" project, dedicated to recovering and refurbishing used machines in line with circular economy principles.

With people central to its sustainability strategy, Rhea's social performance also comes in above the sector average.

Among the factors considered in the analysis:

- over 98% of employees on permanent contracts;
- training and professional development programs;
- initiatives supporting women's empowerment, including the internal Women Spark program;
- signing the UN Global Compact Network Italia manifesto "Businesses for People and Society";
- achieving UNI PdR 125:2022 gender equality certification and adopting diversity and inclusion policies.

"There is still more to do in the years ahead — strengthening our supply chain policies, setting more rigorous environmental targets, developing a climate transition plan. For Rhea, sustainability isn't a finish line. It's a continuous process of evolution and strategic integration," explains Andrea Pozzolini, CEO of Rhea.

"Moving from BB to BBB is meaningful recognition of what we've built over recent years. More than that, it confirms that sustainability is central to how we run this business — innovating our products and processes, investing in our people, and creating lasting value for everyone we work with," says Stefano Macchi, Rhea Board Member for Sustainability.

Rhea, founded by Aldo Doglioni Majer in 1960, is one of the largest producers of automatic machines for coffee breaks in the world. For over sixty years, Rhea has stood out for its wide international reach, high-level design, state-of-the-art technology, and 'Made in Italy' excellence. With headquarters and manufacturing based in the province of Varese and foreign branches in 10 countries, Rhea is proud of having spread coffee break culture to over 120 countries around the world. From a global player in vending to a pioneer in the introduction of vending to the new retail, hospitality and out-of-home sectors, Rhea confirms its mission to interpret and often anticipate a constantly evolving market. Rhea's new proposals revolutionize the very concept of hospitality, both in business and domestic contexts, with a value proposition that improves the coffee break moment.

Website: rheavendors.com LinkedIn: [Rhea Vendors Group](https://www.linkedin.com/company/rheavendorsgroup) Instagram: [Rheavendorsgroup](https://www.instagram.com/rheavendorsgroup) Facebook: [Rhea Vendors](https://www.facebook.com/RheaVendors)

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