



Communications Equipment

Driving forces

The rapid growth in data volume and demand for ever faster data transmission have accelerated the pace of the race among manufacturers and providers of communication equipment wanting to sharpen their competitive edges and increase market share. To remain at the forefront of the industry, constant innovation and a strong intellectual property portfolio are crucial. In addition, the exponential growth in data volume has led to substantially higher total energy consumption across the communication infrastructure. Therefore, communication equipment providers must focus on developing more energy efficient hardware by considering the environmental performance over the product's entire life cycle. As a large share of production is outsourced to emerging economies, environmental and social standards for suppliers are also key factors. Finally, the development and use of certain technologies to monitor communication raises questions related to potential violations of the human right to freedom of expression and privacy. As a result, future growth strategies must be balanced with transparency and clear standards of ethical conduct by industry participants that reflect their commitment to human rights.

Highlighted criteria

Economic Dimension

- Innovation Management
- Privacy Protection
- Supply Chain Management

Environmental Dimension

- Environmental Policy & Management Systems
- Hazardous Substances
- Operational Eco-Efficiency
- Product Stewardship

Social Dimension

- Human Capital Development
- Talent Attraction & Retention

Sustainability leaders 2018

●	RobecoSAM Gold Class	
	Nokia OYJ	Finland
●	RobecoSAM Silver Class	
	Cisco Systems Inc*	United States

* RobecoSAM Industry Mover

Industry statistics

Number of companies in universe	20
Number of companies assessed by RobecoSAM in 2017	10
Assessed companies to total companies in universe (%)	50
Market capitalization of assessed companies to total market capitalization (%)	84

Results at industry level

Dimension	Average score	Best score	Dimension weight
Economic	46	85	44%
Environmental	45	85	31%
Social	38	75	25%

Total score

