

[Umicore Metal Deposition Solutions names Michael Herkommer as the Managing Director of the Electroplating Business Line](#)

## CONTINUE THE MOMENTUM AND POSITIVE CHANGE

Umicore Metal Deposition Solutions, a specialty materials company based in Schwäbisch Gmünd, Germany, has announced Michael Herkommer as Managing Director of the Electroplating Business Line. The previous Managing Director, Thomas Engert, will go into well-deserved retirement at the end of August 2023 after a remarkable 39 years with the company. For 22 years, Engert successfully guided the fortunes of the Umicore Electroplating Group, a renowned resource for electroplated (precious) metal coatings and matching electrodes.

“The decision to focus on continuity with Michael Herkommer as the new head of the business line Electroplating is seen as a smart move,” said Thomas Engert. “With his many years of experience with the company and in the industry, I am confident he will ensure that the collectively developed goals of the company are achieved.”

Herkommer studied at Aalen University of Applied Sciences and completed a Master's degree at the University of Manchester. He gained over a decade of professional experience at various companies in Germany and abroad before joining Umicore as a sales engineer in January 2005. Later, as head of strategic business development, he was able to help shape the course of the Electroplating business line before taking over responsibility for technical sales and the product portfolio in 2014.

Herkommer shared his ideas for a balanced approach to the business line and said, “I have many plans, and I welcome continuous change to implement them sustainably. Employees, service & material providers, and partners should be able to contribute openly.” Herkommer realizes

16. May 2023  
Schwaebisch Gmuend

Words: 527  
Characters: 3299

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there is always some concern for tangible changes, but he is not afraid of that for one reason in particular, "We - and by that, I mean, first and foremost, our qualified staff with their competence, experience, and established networks - are capable of adapting to meet the challenges and opportunities, and we have proven it time and again. Incidentally, this capacity for evolution and development is also the decisive point why I decided to take on the task of managing director"

Herkommer has worked in sales throughout his professional career. He wants to continue to focus on a high level of customer interaction and exchange to recognize new industry requirements at an early stage. He sees customers as partners. For him, close cooperation is the key to understanding and meeting future market needs. "This is the only way to be successful and to develop each other further," says Herkommer.

The broad product portfolio for technical and decorative electroplating applications is to be continued in any case, but it is to be specifically adapted to address industry and market challenges through innovations. One example of this is a newly developed electrolyte that fulfills the desire for high-performance and, at the same time, durable charging contacts for electric cars. Another example is the expansion into products and processes for the semiconductor market. Both cases demonstrate continuous and future-oriented evolutionary capability. In this way, Umicore Metal Deposition Solutions should remain crisis-proof and still be able to meet the challenges of the volatile electronics market.

#### **SOURCES AND MORE INFORMATION ONLINE:**

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## IMAGES



Since February of this year, the business unit MDS has a new Managing Director for the business line Electroplating: Michael Herkommer (right). The previous Managing Director Thomas Engert (left) will retire at the end of August 2023 after 39 years with the company.



Thomas Engert (left) is confident that Michael Herkommer (right), with his many years of experience in the company and in the industry, will achieve the company's jointly developed goals.

## IMAGES



For 22 years Engert (left) successfully led the fortunes of Umicore's business line Electroplating and now leaves the helm to the previous Head of Technical Sales, Michael Herkommer (right).



Michael Herkommer, who has experience in all areas of electroplating and is a technology enthusiast, is looking forward to the task of further developing the business line Electroplating and continuing the initiated change.

## IMAGES



Headquarters of Umicore business line Electroplating in Schwaebisch Gmuend (Germany).



Logo of the business unit Metal Deposition Solutions, which comprises the business lines Electroplating and Thin Film Products.

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## ABOUT UMICORE METAL DEPOSITION SOLUTIONS

Within the Umicore Group, the Metal Deposition Solutions (MDS) business unit is the business headquarters for the two established business lines Electroplating and Thin Film Products. Metal Deposition Solutions is one of the world's leading suppliers of products for the (precious) metal-based coating of surfaces in the nanometer and micrometer range - with the expertise of the two divisions we combine the two highest-quality processes: Electroplating and PVD coatings.

The business unit's solutions are used in many everyday products or make their production possible in the first place. Almost all well-known manufacturers in the electronics, automotive, optics and jewelry industries source components coated with our Umicore products either directly or indirectly.

In addition to development and production, Metal Deposition Solutions offers a comprehensive service for their products. This includes, for example, recycling or precious metal management in addition to consulting and on-site technical support.

Further information: [mds.umicore.com](https://mds.umicore.com)

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