

**Manabu Chikumoto, President and CEO of Mitsubishi Chemical Group Corporation,  
To Be Awarded the 2026 International Palladium Medal**

The Société de Chimie Industrielle will award the 2026 biennial International Palladium Medal to Manabu Chikumoto, President and CEO, Mitsubishi Chemical Group Corporation, for his distinguished contributions to the chemical industry, leadership, and personal record of enhancing the international aims and objectives of the Société de Chimie Industrielle. He will receive the award at a black-tie dinner in his honor on Tuesday, November 10, 2026 in the Lincoln Hall Ballroom of the Union League Club in New York.

The Palladium award was established in 1958 and the first medal was presented to Ernest-John Solvay of Belgium in 1961. Since then, 32 awards have been made to prominent Chief Executive Officers in the industry. The previous awardees in alphabetical order are as follows:

Pierre	Brondeau	FMC Corporation	2019
Stephanie	Burns	Dow Corning	2011
Werner C.	Brown	Hercules	1975
Vincent A.	Calarco	Crompton	2003
Harry	Corless	ICI	1987
Mark	Costa	Eastman Chemical	2022
Earnest W.	Deavenport, Jr	Eastman Chemical	1999
Jim	Fitterling	Dow	2024
Jean-Rene	Fourtou	Rhône-Poulenc	1993
Seifi	Ghasemi	Air Products	2017
Thomas G.	Gibian	Henkel	1983
Thomas L.	Gossage	Hercules	1997
J. Peter	Grace	W.R. Grace	1977
Charles O.	Holliday, Jr.	DuPont	2009
Edward R.	Kane	DuPont	1979
William W.	Keeler	Phillips Petroleum	1972
Robert D.	Kennedy	Union Carbide	1991
Ellen	Kullman	DuPont	2015
Gerald D.	Laubach	Pfizer	1985
Jeffery M.	Lipton	Nova Chemicals	2007
Andrew N.	Liveris	Dow Chemical	2013
Paul F.	Oreffice	Dow Chemical	1981
Frank	Popoff	Dow Chemical	1994
Monroe J.	Rathbone	Standard Oil	1964
Ernest-John	Solvay	Solvay	1961
William S.	Stavropolous	Dow	2001
Jürgen F.	Strube	BASF	2005
Charles A.	Thomas	Monsanto	1963
Paul	Toinet	Bayer	1965
Konrad M.	Weis	Bayer	1989
Henry S.	Wingate	International Nickel	1967

Karl	Winnacker	Hoechst	1968
Edgar S.	Woolard, Jr.	DuPont	1995

Manabu Chikumoto, President and CEO, brings nearly four decades of experience at Mitsubishi Chemical Group (MCG), encompassing leadership roles in the chemical business, international management, and corporate strategy prior to assuming the role of CEO in April 2024. He is currently Vice Chairperson of the Japan Petrochemical Industry Association and will assume the role of chairperson in July. Under Mr. Chikumoto's leadership, MCG has undergone significant restructuring to strengthen its position as a global leader in specialty chemicals and sustainability. In recognition of these efforts, MCG was included for the first time in the CDP Climate Change 2025 A List, which honors companies demonstrating leadership in environmental transparency, climate risk management, and ambitious climate action.

Peter Young, President of Société de Chimie Industrielle, commented, "Mr. Chikumoto, through his lifelong career accomplishments and contributions to the industry, exemplifies the reasons why the International Palladium Medal Award was established 69 years ago."

### **About Société de Chimie Industrielle**

Société de Chimie Industrielle ("Société"), founded in 1918 in New York, is a dynamic and visionary industry organization committed to inspiring interest and knowledge sharing in the Chemical and Life Science Industries through networking, advanced learning, and the recognition of distinguished leaders and mentorship.

Specifically, Société is involved in non-profit activities such as scholarships and grants for students studying chemistry and chemical engineering, luncheon speaker programs featuring industry leaders and industry experts, a mentor program for students where our members are the mentors, and webinars covering important topics. In addition, The International Palladium Medal is awarded biennially by Société to honor an individual who has distinguished themselves by reason of outstanding contribution to the chemical industry and the annual Excellence Award Luncheon honors companies for their excellence in innovation, shareholder value creation, and private equity investing.

For more information about Société please see [www.societe.org](http://www.societe.org) .

### **About Mitsubishi Chemical Group**

Mitsubishi Chemical Group Corporation (TSE: 4188) is a specialty materials group with an unwavering commitment to lead with innovative solutions to achieve KAITEKI, the well-being of people and the planet. We bring deep expertise and material science leadership in core market segments such as mobility, digital, medical and food. Together with around 57,000 employees, we enable industry transformation, technology breakthroughs, and longer, more fruitful lives for us all.

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### **Media Inquiries:**

(Société de Chimie Industrielle)

Sara North, Administrator, telephone: (914) 433-2882; email: [sdci1918@gmail.com](mailto:sdci1918@gmail.com).

(Mitsubishi Chemical Group)

Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation

Corporate Communications Department

Media Relations Group : +81-3-6748-7140

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