

Who is Bob Gilligan?

by GNA Editor

14 November 2024



Overnight, Bob Gilligan was announced as the new President and CEO of Solmax. This appointment marks a significant development for the company and the geosynthetics industry as a whole.

Bob Gilligan brings a wealth of experience to Solmax. With over 34 years in manufacturing and service businesses, including sectors like healthcare, technology, heavy industrial, and electric utilities, Gilligan is well-positioned to lead Solmax into its next phase of growth and a new era.

As a mechanical engineer with an MBA from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School, Gilligan possesses the unique ability to understand both the engineering aspects of geosynthetic structures and the business side of operations. This dual perspective will be invaluable in driving Solmax's strategic direction.

Here's what we can expect from Bob Gilligan in his new role at Solmax.

Given his background at GE Energy, we can expect Gilligan to push Solmax further into sustainable energy solutions. This may include innovations such as white geomembranes for PV cell enhancement and pumped hydroelectric schemes using geomembrane liners, aligning with sustainable energy technologies where geosynthetics can enhance performance.

Gilligan's tenure as CEO of GE Industrial Solutions demonstrated his ability to lead transformations through a focus on operations, change leadership, and communication. These attributes will likely be central to his approach at Solmax, driving operational excellence and fostering a culture of innovation.

We can anticipate three key areas of focus from Gilligan as President and CEO of Solmax:

1. **Operational Excellence:** Gilligan will likely emphasize improving operational efficiency and effectiveness across Solmax's global operations.
2. **Innovation and Growth:** With his track record of driving growth and innovation, Gilligan is expected to push for new product development and market expansion.
3. **Sustainability Leadership:** Given Solmax's recent launch of a new Environmental Sustainability Policy, Gilligan is likely to further integrate sustainability throughout operations and product offerings.

Gilligan's experience with smart grid technologies at GE suggests he may drive Solmax's geosynthetic range into smart geosynthetics for monitoring strain and predict performance and product lifetime. This aligns with the industry trend towards more intelligent and data-driven infrastructure solutions. As a proponent of sustainable infrastructure development, Gilligan is well-positioned to address the challenges and opportunities presented by aging infrastructures, increasing energy demand, and sustainability concerns.

His leadership is expected to place Solmax at the forefront of innovative solutions for these global challenges. In summary, Bob Gilligan's appointment as President and CEO of Solmax brings a wealth of experience and a proven track record of driving growth, innovation, and sustainability.

His leadership is poised to strengthen Solmax's position as a leader in the geosynthetics industry while addressing critical global infrastructure and environmental challenges.

Deep Dive

Gilligan has over 34 years of experience in both manufacturing and service businesses, and industry experience, including health care, technology, heavy industrial and electric utilities.

In a previous role, Gilligan was CEO of GE Industrial Solutions, he successfully led the transformation of this \$3.6 billion global business through his keen focus on operations, change leadership and communication skills.

He began his career at GE in 1990 within its healthcare division and later became CEO of GE Industrial Solutions. He served as Vice President of GE from June 2008 to Sept 2017. In 2017, he joined Drive DeVilbiss Healthcare as CEO where he ruminated for 3 years.

From Jan 2020 to Nov 2024 he was Private Equity Advisor at THL Partners; Bridgepoint Capital; Charlesbank Partners.

A clear and decisive leader, Gilligan is known for building and leading teams around a clear strategy, developing talent and delivering results.

He is a graduate of Bucknell University with a BS in Mechanical Engineering and an MBA from the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School (same as Donald Trump). He has also been a member of the Board of Trustees for Bucknell University.

Gilligan as the new President and CEO of Solmax is expected to drive growth and foster sustainable infrastructure development.

Gilligan believes aging infrastructures, increasing energy demand and sustainability concerns present our industry with a tremendous opportunity to drive global innovation. As the largest per capita consumers of energy in the world, the United States has both the opportunity and the responsibility to be at the forefront of this revolution. He has said forward-thinking decisions today will deliver a secure, robust energy landscape tomorrow.

As a proponent of Smart Technologies Bob is likely to further push Solmax's geosynthetic range into the Smart geosynthetic area for monitoring of strain and predicting lifetime of assets. Smart geosynthetics is the marriage of information and automation technologies with the geosynthetic infrastructure enabling us to do more with less through increased efficiencies. Gilligan led the charge to bring GE to the forefront of smarter grid technologies. The business also

supports the oil & gas, critical infrastructure and industrial sectors with innovative technology solutions.

As a global advocate of a smarter grid, Gilligan has addressed key audiences at numerous policy and industry events. Some highlights include providing testimony on Capitol Hill and keynote addresses at CIRED in Prague, the Smart Grid Forum in Sydney, Chatham House in London, and GridWeek in Washington DC.

Gilligan's expertise has been sought by numerous media professionals, and he has contributed features in Fortune, the Financial Times, Wall Street Journal, New York Times, USA Today, Associated Press, Bloomberg and Reuters.

Gilligan career has been defined by driving business transformations through improvement in strategic focus, operational rigour and customer engagement.

What Things can we expect of Bob Gilligan as the President and CEO of Solmax?

He will focus on operations, change leadership and communication skills.

He will drive growth, innovation and sustainability. Gilligan is known for building and leading teams around a clear strategy, developing talent and delivering results.

At Solmax we can expect he will be integrating sustainability throughout operations and product offerings to differentiate from competitors especially in the far East, and contribute to a more sustainable geosynthetics industry while driving sales growth.

His core skills include negotiation, cost reduction and strategic leadership.

He is also adept at engaging with Private Equity firms to evaluate sectors of interest or acquisition opportunities for industrial services.

Gilligan's volunteer activities include Habitat for Humanity.

Further Reading

<https://www.homecaremag.com/tags/bob-gilligan>

<https://media.drivemedical.com/press-release-ddh-announces-bob-gilligan-ceo.html>