



ECCO Group CEO Retires

Ed Zimmer, CEO of the ECCO Group announced his retirement at a company meeting today. "I have very mixed emotions. I will miss my many friends in the company and in the industry, but I am very excited to focus on my family, friends, and somewhere in the future, new interests," Zimmer said. "ECCO is well prepared to compete in the future and will continue to be an exciting and dynamic place to work. I truly believe the best of ECCO is yet to come. Effective now, I won't be making any further decisions for the company. But, I will always be rooting for ECCO to win."

Zimmer joined the company in 1985 as Marketing Manager and was promoted to VP of Sales and Marketing in 1988. In 1993, he was named President and Chief Operating Officer and appointed as Chief Executive Officer in 1998.

Since 1985, ECCO has grown from a small business with 20 employees to the world's largest manufacturer of warning lights and reversing alarms for commercial vehicles. Today ECCO has operations in Boise, Connecticut, England and Australia and employs over 400 people. Zimmer led the company through eight acquisitions, including three in 2008. The company serves customers in over 60 countries, including Caterpillar, General Motors, Toyota, John Deere, Volvo and over 500 other vehicle manufacturers worldwide. ECCO's growth story is featured in the book Small Giants by Bo Burlingham, as well as in several other business books and articles.

Zimmer served as President of the Transportation Safety Equipment Institute. He was also a director of the Motor Equipment Manufacturers Association (MEMA), providing leadership for successful anti-counterfeit legislation in the US Congress.

Denis Conlon, CEO of the Berwind Industrial Products Group and ECCO Chairman said that a search for Zimmer's successor will begin immediately.

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BUSINESS OVERVIEW – Headquartered in Boise, Idaho, ECCO Group operates four manufacturing facilities in the USA, UK and Australia, servicing aftermarket, OEM and private label customers across the globe in a wide range of markets including mining, construction, towing, utilities, municipalities and the emergency services. With a portfolio of seven product brands the groups' product lines are focused on back-up alarms, beacons and lightbars and extends to include directional warning lights, sirens, rear view camera systems and accessories.

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