

Press Release

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Union Minière acquires South Boston Semiconductors (SBS)

Union Minière announces the acquisition of 100 % of the assets of South Boston Semiconductors (SBS). SBS, located in Boston (USA), is specialised in the transformation of semiconductor materials into polished wafers for electronic applications. With a workforce of 30 employees SBS expects to realize in 1996 a 2.5 million dollar turnover. Specific markets are silicon wafers for sensors, germanium substrates for space solar cells and silicon reclaim for the electronic industry.

SBS will be integrated into UM Germanium & Special Metals, one of the Business Units of Union Minière (UM) Group. UM is world leader in the production of germanium, a semiconductor material used in many high technology areas such as optical fibers, thermal imaging, Gamma-ray detection and space solar cells. One of the very fast growing markets, served by UM Germanium & Special Metals, is the market for polished germanium substrates for photovoltaic panels for satellites.

In addition UM holds major market positions with selenium-, tellurium- and indium products.

The acquisition of SBS increases the capacity of UM to respond to the growth in demand for germanium substrates for space solar cells. In addition, it introduces UM in some promising semiconductor niches. It is part of the strategy of the UM Group to includeend its international presence in high-technology areas.

South Boston Semiconductors (SBS) is an American company based in Boston which was established in 1990 to purchase all the assets of the Semiconductor Processing Company, a subsidiary of Cabot Corporation.

SBS is specialised in polishing semiconductors materials such as silicon, germanium and gallium arsenide.

With a workforce of 30 employees SBS expects to realize in 1996 a 2.5 million dollar turnover.

n.v. Union Minière s.a

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