

Media Release

3 July 2025

**National Honours Conferred on Two Business Leaders
for Significant Contributions to Singapore**

1. Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, President of the Republic of Singapore, conferred national honours on two business leaders today. The Public Service Star (Distinguished Friends of Singapore) award was conferred on Mr Tannowa Tsutomu, Chairman of the Board of Mitsui Chemicals Inc., and Dr Roland Busch, President and Chief Executive Officer of Siemens AG, during a ceremony held at the Istana.
2. Mr Png Cheong Boon, Chairman of the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB), said: “Under the leadership of Mr Tannowa Tsutomu and Dr Roland Busch, Mitsui Chemicals and Siemens have made significant investments in manufacturing, innovation, and workforce development in Singapore, benefiting our economy, enterprises, and people. The expansion of both Mitsui Chemicals’ and Siemens’ regional hub operations here has strengthened Singapore’s advanced manufacturing ecosystem and reinforced our competitiveness. Thank you for your strong partnership, and congratulations on your award.”

Mr Tannowa Tsutomu

3. Mr Tannowa Tsutomu is the Chairman of the Board at Mitsui Chemicals Inc., one of Japan’s leading chemical companies. He has been with the company since 1976, and served as its President and CEO from 2014 to 2020.
4. Since establishing its Singapore presence in 1966, Mitsui Chemicals has made multiple major investments in Singapore collectively valued at over S\$1 billion. These include several notable expansions of its high-performance proprietary TAFMER™ elastomer’s production facilities in Mitsui Elastomers Singapore to increase output capacity. Mitsui Chemicals established the SDC Technologies Asia Pacific plant in 2012 to produce specialty optical coatings, following its acquisition of SDC Technologies, a manufacturer of high-performance coating materials used in various applications. In 2016, Mitsui Chemicals started operating its Prime Evolve Singapore

facility to manufacture raw materials for high functional sealant film used in powder and liquid packaging.

5. Mr Tannowa also championed the establishment of Mitsui Chemicals' Singapore R&D Centre in 2011, the company's first such facility outside Japan. Working closely with local research ecosystem partners, including the Agency of Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), the centre supports global research and development (R&D) efforts in advanced materials, while promoting local innovation and sustainability initiatives.
6. In addition, Mr Tannowa has been a strong advocate for talent and leadership development in Singapore, providing local employees with overseas posting opportunities across Mitsui Chemicals' global operations. The company has also collaborated with EDB to offer scholarships for Singapore-based students to pursue a master's degree at the Tokyo Institute of Technology. To date, four students have graduated from this scholarship programme.
7. Mitsui Chemicals has established deep roots in Singapore with its Asia Pacific regional headquarters, R&D, and manufacturing activities anchored here. Mr Tannowa has been instrumental in growing Mitsui Chemicals' strategic presence and operational footprint in Singapore, making significant contributions to the country's economic growth.
8. On being conferred the Award, Mr Tannowa said: "I am deeply honoured to receive the Public Service Star (Distinguished Friends of Singapore) award. I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation for the friendship and trust that the Singapore Government and our employees have cultivated over the years. Since the establishment of our adhesives manufacturing company in 1966, Singapore has served as the hub of our business in Asia Pacific. We have spearheaded numerous business developments, including the expansion of our elastomers plant."

Dr Roland Busch

9. Dr Roland Busch joined Siemens AG in 1994, and served in various leadership roles before taking on his current position as President and Chief Executive Officer in 2021. As the leader of a global technology company, Dr Busch has played a central role in the company's continued investments in innovation and sharpened focus in core areas such as smart infrastructure, digital industries, mobility, and healthcare.
10. In 2023, Siemens announced plans to build a S\$293 million high-tech factory in Singapore to produce industrial automation and digitalisation technologies. This 400-

person facility will be the first of its kind in Southeast Asia, utilising digital twins and artificial intelligence (AI) to improve production efficiency, raise quality, and reduce resource use. The investment reinforces Singapore's role as a key node in Siemens' global supply chain.

11. Under Dr Busch's leadership, Siemens has contributed to the modernising and upgrading of Singapore's public transport systems, through the deployment of technologies such as Industrial 4.0 and Internet of Things (IoT) solutions. During his tenure as Chief Technology Officer, Siemens also launched its Digitalisation Hub in 2017 and its Advanced Manufacturing Transformation Centre in 2020. Both of these workforce development initiatives have promoted digital capability building in Singapore.
12. Dr Busch has also been a supporter of partnerships with Singapore's public agencies and academic institutions. These include Siemens' research and training collaborations with Nanyang Technological University and Ngee Ann Polytechnic, in areas such as digitalisation and AI. As a SkillsFuture Queen Bee, Siemens actively mentors manufacturing sector organisations in their digital transformation. Dr Busch also contributes actively to national strategies in research and innovation as a member of Singapore's Research, Innovation and Enterprise Council.
13. Siemens has been a valuable partner to Singapore for the past 117 years. Today, the company employs around 1,500 people in Singapore across smart infrastructure, digital industries, mobility, and healthcare sectors. Dr Busch's support and contributions will continue to grow this long-standing partnership.
14. On being conferred the Award, Dr Busch said: "Siemens and Singapore have grown together, writing a remarkable success story. We haven't just witnessed Singapore's transformation since 1965 – we've been an active partner. Together, we've pioneered breakthrough innovations across Southeast Asia: from semiconductor manufacturing to water technologies R&D, from clinical imaging research to the digital transformation of industries and infrastructure. Singapore is a key hub in our global investment strategy, and we're committed to deepening our presence here."

About the Awards

Initiated by the Singapore Economic Development Board in 1998, the Public Service Star (Distinguished Friends of Singapore) award recognises senior business executives for their outstanding contributions to the economic growth of Singapore. Between 1998 and 2024, 51 senior business executives have been conferred the Public Service Star (Distinguished Friends of Singapore) award.

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ANNEX A: Citation of Award Recipients

ANNEX B: Biographies of Award Recipients

About the Singapore Economic Development Board

The Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB), a government agency under the Ministry of Trade and Industry, is responsible for strategies that enhance Singapore's position as a global centre for business, innovation, and talent. We undertake investment promotion and industry development, and work with international businesses, both foreign and local, by providing information, connection to partners and access to government incentives for their investments. Our mission is to create sustainable economic growth, with vibrant business and good job opportunities for Singapore and Singaporeans.

For more information on EDB, please visit www.edb.gov.sg

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ANNEX A

Citation for Mr Tannowa Tsutomu - Public Service Star (Distinguished Friends of Singapore) Award

Mr Tannowa Tsutomu, Chairman of the Board of Mitsui Chemicals Inc., has made outstanding and enduring contributions to Singapore's economic development and the growth of our chemical industry.

Under Mr Tannowa's leadership, first as the President and CEO and subsequently the Chairman of the Board, Mitsui Chemicals grew its footprint in and deepened its partnership with Singapore. Mitsui Chemicals made significant investments in manufacturing and research and development (R&D) that strengthened Singapore's position as a leading global hub for the chemicals industry. These investments include multiple expansions to the Mitsui Elastomers Singapore plant that produces the famed TAFMER™ resins used in several industries from automotive to packaging; the establishment of the Prime Evolve Singapore plant that produces high-performance polymers for advanced manufacturing applications; the establishment of the SDC Technologies Asia Pacific plant that produces specialty coatings for optical lenses; and the establishment of the Mitsui Chemicals Singapore R&D Centre, the company's first R&D Centre outside Japan. Together, these initiatives contributed to the development of Singapore's chemical industry ecosystem and have strengthened our competitiveness in attracting new investments into this industry.

Today, Singapore serves as a key strategic business hub for Mitsui Chemicals, and is responsible for coordinating and implementing the company's regional strategy and operations for Asia Pacific (ex-Japan). Mr Tannowa is also a strong advocate for developing local talent, with Singapore citizens and permanent residents now constituting more than 80 per cent of its workforce in Singapore. Mitsui Chemicals has also provided its local employees with overseas posting opportunities across its global operations, equipping them with valuable international exposure. This would not be possible without Mr Tannowa's leadership and support.

As Mitsui Chemicals prepares to celebrate its 60th anniversary in Singapore next year, its strong presence in Singapore provides a firm foundation for Mitsui Chemicals and Singapore to grow its partnership in the decades ahead.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to Singapore, the President of the Republic of Singapore is pleased to confer the Public Service Star (Distinguished Friends of Singapore) Award 2024 on Mr Tannowa Tsutomu.

Citation for Dr Roland Busch - Public Service Star (Distinguished Friends of Singapore) Award

Dr Roland Busch, President and Chief Executive Officer of Siemens AG, has been instrumental in strengthening Siemen's long-standing partnership with Singapore and advancing our national research and innovation agenda.

Siemens' relationship with Singapore spans 117 years. Under Dr Busch's leadership, this partnership has reached new heights with many significant investments and collaborations in strategic innovation, sustainability, digitalisation and advanced manufacturing. Today, Siemens employs around 1,500 people in Singapore across smart infrastructure, digital industries, mobility, and healthcare sectors.

A recent investment is the €200 million (S\$293 million) high-tech facility to manufacture industrial automation and digitalisation products. This 400-person facility is the company's first of its kind in Southeast Asia and will use digital twins and artificial intelligence (AI) to accelerate production, enhance quality, and improve resource efficiency. This significant investment reinforces Singapore's role as a key node in Siemens' global supply chain and strengthens Singapore's advanced manufacturing sector. Siemens is also a long-term contributor to modernising and upgrading public transport for commuters in Singapore with digital technologies. Siemens' Mobility team in Singapore localises and deploys software solutions to support the digitalisation of transport infrastructure projects in the region through technologies such as Industrial 4.0, AI and Internet of Things (IoT) technologies. During Dr Busch's tenure as Chief Technology Officer, Siemens also launched its Digitalisation Hub in 2017 and the Advanced Manufacturing Transformation Centre in 2020, both of which are important platforms for building digital capabilities and workforce training in Singapore.

Under Dr Busch's leadership, Siemens also strengthened its collaborations with Singapore's public agencies and academic institutions. These include partnerships with Nanyang Technological University and Ngee Ann Polytechnic to advance joint research and build industry-relevant skills in digitalisation, artificial intelligence, automation and smart infrastructure. Siemens also partnered with SkillsFuture Singapore as a SkillsFuture Queen Bee to mentor local manufacturing organisations on their digital transformation journeys.



As a member of the Research, Innovation and Enterprise Council (RIEC) chaired by Senior Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Dr Busch generously contributes his insights which shape Singapore's national research and innovation agenda. Dr Busch's leadership, characterised by empowerment of people, strategic vision, and unwavering commitment

to innovation, has positioned Siemens as a long-term, trusted partner in Singapore's future economy.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions, the President of the Republic of Singapore is pleased to confer the Public Service Star (Distinguished Friends of Singapore) Award 2024 on Dr Roland Busch.

ANNEX B

Biographies of Award Recipients

 <p>Mr Tannowa Tsutomu Chairman of the Board Mitsui Chemicals</p>	<p>Mr Tannowa Tsutomu has served as Chairman of the Board for Mitsui Chemicals Inc. since 2020. He has been a Member of the Board since 2012.</p> <p>Mr Tannowa was previously President and CEO of Mitsui Chemicals Inc. from 2014 to 2020. During his tenure, he established the VISION 2025 Long-Term Business Plan together with other members of the management team, setting a clear strategic direction to navigate an ever-changing business environment.</p> <p>Mr Tannowa was born in Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan in 1951. After graduating from Waseda University, he joined Mitsui Toatsu Chemicals (now Mitsui Chemicals) in 1976. Since then, he has held various leadership positions across several business sectors and functional divisions.</p>
 <p>Dr Roland Busch President and Chief Executive Officer Siemens AG</p>	<p>Dr Roland Busch is President and CEO of Siemens AG, a global technology company that focuses on the backbone of economies: manufacturing, infrastructure, transport, and healthcare. Dr Busch joined Siemens because he believes that technology can solve the world's biggest challenges. His ambition is to empower customers to transform their industries, to do more with less, building a more sustainable future.</p> <p>Dr Busch was appointed CEO and President of Siemens in February 2021. He has been with the company for more than 30 years.</p> <p>He studied Physics at Friedrich Alexander University in Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany – where he also received his doctorate – and at the University of Grenoble in France.</p>