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ZEISS Group appoints Axel Christian as President of ZEISS North America

New role reflects the enduring and growing strategic significance of the region for ZEISS' long-term roadmap.

- Christian will represent ZEISS North America, lead region-wide initiatives, and identify cross-business opportunities across ZEISS Group.
- The North American organization will strengthen collaboration and enable faster decision-making closer to customers.

[ZEISS](#), the global technology and innovation enterprise, appointed Axel Christian as President of ZEISS North America, effective today. The organization and newly created role formally unite the company's activities across the United States and Canada, reaffirming ZEISS' long-term commitment to North America.

[Celebrating its centennial in the USA](#) this year, ZEISS began its American operations in December 1925 with a staff of 39 in New York City. Today, [ZEISS' footprint in the US](#) includes a workforce of more than 3,500 employees in over 30 locations, innovating in healthcare and vision care, precision optics and photonics, metrology and microscopy, and semiconductor manufacturing technologies. In [Canada](#), [ZEISS](#) employs more than 250 people in four locations, providing advanced optical and industrial quality solutions, from eyeglass lenses and medical technologies to precision metrology, microscopy, and quality assurance solutions that serve a diverse range of industries across the country.

In his role as president, Christian will build an integrated presence by leading region-wide initiatives and identifying growth opportunities for ZEISS in the North American market. He will enhance collaboration and innovation across all of the company's distinct segments and strategic business units:

- Semiconductor Manufacturing Technology: Enabling the global semiconductor industry with lithography optics and solutions for photomasks as well as wafer inspection.
- Industrial Quality & Research: Turning the physical world into data and actionable insights through leading microscopy and quality assurance solutions, enabling customers in manufacturing and research to accelerate discoveries, improve processes, and drive innovation.
- Medical Technology: Offering cutting-edge medical products and integrated workflow solutions for ophthalmology and microsurgery, helping healthcare professionals worldwide improve the quality of life for their patients.
- Consumer Markets: Protecting and improving consumers' lifelong vision health through spectacle lenses and ophthalmic instruments.



- Photonics & Optics: Revealing the wonders of the universe in planetariums, bringing ZEISS quality to everyday life through photography lenses, shaping how the world experiences film with Academy Award-winning cinematography lenses, and transforming transparent surfaces into functional interfaces using holographic microoptics technology.

ZEISS North America will bring its businesses closer together to unlock the full strength of the region. By pairing distinct capabilities, such as applying precision-optics and metrology expertise developed for semiconductor and industrial applications to medical technology and consumer imaging, ZEISS is turning cross-segment cooperation into a pipeline of innovation.

“ZEISS’ 100-year anniversary in the United States reflects the enduring value of our North American market and our commitment to its future,” says Andreas Pecher, President and CEO, ZEISS Group.

“ZEISS North America will establish a single, unified presence to support customers across Canada and the US. I have full confidence that Axel’s experience, global perspective, and market knowledge will allow us to advance innovation throughout the region.”

“This new structure is ultimately about bringing the United States and Canada together as ZEISS North America and directing more of our energy toward our customers,” says Christian. “Collaboration is easy to say, but harder to do. Over the past several weeks, I have spent time listening to colleagues across the region, and I have already seen the possibilities that exist when we connect expertise across our businesses. Together, we will achieve much more.”

With over 20 years of experience in strategic management roles, Christian previously served as the Head of Corporate Finance and Controlling at ZEISS’ headquarters in Oberkochen, Germany, and more recently as CFO of ZEISS Greater China. His office will be based in the ZEISS Innovation Center California (ZICC) in Dublin, Calif., one of several ZEISS innovation hubs throughout North America. Christian studied industrial engineering at the University of Technology, Darmstadt in Germany and the University of California, Berkeley in the United States.

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About ZEISS

ZEISS is an internationally leading technology enterprise operating in the fields of optics and optoelectronics. In the previous fiscal year, the ZEISS Group generated annual revenue totaling almost 12 billion euros in its four segments: Semiconductor Manufacturing Technology, Industrial Quality & Research, Medical Technology, and Consumer Markets (September 30, 2025).

For its customers, ZEISS develops, produces, and distributes highly innovative solutions for industrial metrology and quality assurance, microscopy solutions for the life sciences and materials research, and medical technology solutions for diagnostics and treatment in ophthalmology and microsurgery. The name ZEISS is also synonymous with the world's leading lithography optics, which are used by the chip industry to manufacture semiconductor components. There is global demand for trendsetting ZEISS brand products such as eyeglass lenses, camera lenses, and binoculars.

With a portfolio aligned with future growth areas like digitalization, healthcare, and Smart Production, and a strong brand, ZEISS is shaping the future of technology and constantly advancing the world of optics and related fields with its solutions. The company's significant, sustainable investments in research and development lay the foundation for the success and continued expansion of ZEISS' technology and market leadership. ZEISS invests 14 percent of its revenue in research and development – this high level of expenditure has a long tradition at ZEISS and is also an investment in the future.

With over 47,400 employees, ZEISS is active globally in around 50 countries with more than 60 sales and service locations, around 40 research and development facilities, and 30 production facilities worldwide (March 31, 2026). Founded in 1846 in Jena, the company is headquartered in Oberkochen, Germany. The Carl Zeiss Foundation, one of the largest foundations in Germany committed to the promotion of science, is the sole owner of the holding company, Carl Zeiss AG.

Further information at www.zeiss.com