



Do you have business or industry news of interest to the minerals, metals, and materials community? Submit your announcement or press release to Kaitlin Calva, JOM Magazine Managing Editor, at [kcalva@tms.org](mailto:kcalva@tms.org) for consideration.

## *In Case You Missed It:* **Business News from the Field**

### **TDK Invests in Materials Science with New CVC**

**Tokyo, Japan:** Japanese electronics company TDK Corporation has announced that they are establishing a corporate venture company (CVC), TDK Ventures Inc. With a starting fund of \$50 million, the venture will invest in early-stage startups in the fields of materials science, energy/power, and other related areas, fitting with TDK's manufacture of electronic materials, electronics components, and recording and data-storage devices. Startups under the CVC will be provided with access to TDK resources, including potential customers, channels, and operating expertise, while TDK hopes to leverage fundamental materials science to unlock a sustainable future.

### **Bilmax Bought by Gelest Morrisville, Pennsylvania, USA:**

Gelest Inc., a manufacturer and supplier of silicones, organosilanes, and metal-organics, has purchased Bilmax. With the acquisition of the specialty monomer and polymer manufacturer and marketer, Gelest hopes to expand both its R&D and production capabilities. Terms of the

deal indicated that Bilmax will continue to operate under the same name and that Bilmax employees will be retained in their current roles.

### **DRA Global Awarded BFS Contract**

**Tizert, Morocco:** Canadian engineering group DRA Global has been awarded a contract to complete the bankable feasibility study (BFS) at the Tizert copper project in Morocco. The deposit, owned by the Managem Group, is estimated to be the largest copper deposit in the western Anti-Atlas copperbelt. The BFS, which includes mining, backfill, ore transport, and process plant/infrastructure, is to be completed in the second quarter of 2020.

### **Kokusai Electric Acquired by Applied Materials**

#### **Santa Clara, California, USA:**

California-based supplier of equipment, services, and software for the semiconductor manufacturing industry Applied Materials has announced the acquisition of Kokusai Electric Corporation. The Japanese provider of batch processing systems and services for memory, foundry, and logic customers will be folded into Applied's Semiconductor Products Group. Operation of Kokusai Electric will remain in Tokyo, with manufacturing centers in Toyama, Japan, and Cheonan, South Korea.

### **Lucid Motors Hires Tesla's VP of Manufacturing**

**Newark, California, USA:** Peter Hochholding, former vice president of manufacturing for Tesla Inc., has joined Lucid Motors as its new head of manufacturing operations. Hochholding joins the luxury electric vehicle (EV) producer after a \$1 billion investment from the Saudi Arabian Private Wealth Fund last April, in an effort to reach production of its Lucid Air EV. The Lucid Airs will be built at a new factory, funded through the same Saudi investment fund, in Casa Grande, Arizona. Additionally, Lucid has announced that it will offer Lucid Air buyers access to Electrify America chargers rather than producing its own fast chargers.



**Bethesda, Maryland, USA:** American defense and aerospace company Lockheed Martin has signed an additive manufacturing agreement with Airbus subsidiary Premium AEROTEC. The agreement outlines plans to identify components of Lockheed Martin's F-35 Lightning II aircraft (pictured) that could be manufactured using Premium AEROTEC's additive processes. Based in Germany, Premium AEROTEC currently uses a five-axis processing center to manufacture aluminum fuselage frames for Airbus aircrafts. (Photo courtesy of Lockheed Martin.)