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Your Contact
Media Relations
axel.loeber@emdgroup.com
Phone: +49 6151 72-62445

Investor Relations
investor.relations@emdgroup.com
Phone: +49 6151 72-3321

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Kai Beckmann to Succeed Belén Garijo as Chair of the Executive Board and CEO of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, as of May 2026

- **Belén Garijo's successful tenure to be completed as planned by end of April 2026**
- **Kai Beckmann appointed as Chair of the Executive Board and CEO effective May 1, 2026, ensuring a seamless transition**

Darmstadt, Germany, September 25, 2025 – The Board of Partners of E. Merck KG, Darmstadt, Germany, appointed Kai Beckmann as future Chair of the Executive Board and CEO of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany. He will take over this position on May 1, 2026, from Belén Garijo, who will continue to lead the company until the end of her tenure, ensuring a seamless transition. Kai Beckmann will become Deputy Chair of the Executive Board of Merck effective immediately and continue in his role as CEO of Electronics until a successor is announced.

Belén Garijo will leave Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, after 15 years in the company of which she led six years as CEO of Healthcare and since 2021 as Chair of the Executive Board and CEO of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany. Key milestones of her tenure included steering the company through the Covid-19 pandemic and increasing geopolitical volatility, driving sustainable growth – organically and through a string-of-pearls of targeted portfolio moves including SpringWorks and the divestiture of Surface Solutions, and building a skill-powered,

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high-performing organization. In her previous role, as CEO of the Healthcare business sector, she drove unprecedented business transformation, particularly in China, where she built a significant presence for the Healthcare business sector of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany. Additionally, she also led the global resubmission and commercialization of the multiple sclerosis drug Mavenclad and executed three divestitures that streamlined the Healthcare portfolio and positioned the business for sustainable growth. Following the end of her tenure, Belén Garijo will remain actively involved in the healthcare ecosystem to continue serving the needs of patients, her area of expertise and passion.

"I would like to thank Belén Garijo for expertly steering our company safely through tumultuous years of transformative change and returning the company to profitable growth. She has shaped the company's evolution into a globally leading science and technology company while nurturing a High Impact Culture and making our teams future ready. Under her exceptional leadership, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, strengthened its position across Life Science, Healthcare, and Electronics, driving innovation and delivering impact on millions of patients and customers worldwide. With an unwavering commitment to our values and vision, and a proven ability to navigate challenges with resilience, she has laid a robust foundation for our company's continued success," said Johannes Baillou, Chairman of the Executive Board of E. Merck KG, Darmstadt, Germany.

"In Kai Beckmann we have the perfect homegrown leader, taking over the Chair of the Executive Board of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, with extensive understanding of our global businesses as well as patient and customer needs. Beckmann's proven transformational expertise will be fundamental to deliver the next chapter of our company's growth. And his passion and vision for technology will drive much-needed impact for patients, customers and society. The longstanding collaboration and trust between Belén Garijo and Kai Beckmann will ensure a seamless transition period and continuity in our corporate management," said Johannes Baillou.

Kai Beckmann has served as a Member of the Executive Board of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, since 2011 and assumed responsibility for the Performance Materials business sector in 2017. Under his leadership, the sector underwent a

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comprehensive transformation to become a pureplay Electronics business. Today, the business sector serves as a key ecosystem player enabling the global semiconductor industry. Prior to his current role, Kai Beckmann served as Chief Administration Officer on the Executive Board; his responsibilities encompassed a broad portfolio of functions including, among others, HR, IT, and the headquarters of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, and largest site in Darmstadt. Since joining Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, in 1989, Kai Beckmann has held global roles of increasing responsibility, such as Managing Director of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, in Singapore & Malaysia as well as Chief Information Officer.

Beyond Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, Kai Beckmann is the Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Bundesdruckerei Gruppe and serves as Vice President of the Confederation of German Employers' Associations (BDA). From 2017 to 2024, he led the German Federation of Chemical Employers' Associations (BAVC).

About E. Merck KG, Darmstadt, Germany
As general partner, E. Merck KG, Darmstadt, Germany, holds around 70 percent of the total capital of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany. Shareholders hold the remainder, which is divided into shares. E. Merck KG, Darmstadt, Germany, does not participate in the management of the company, it makes the fundamental entrepreneurial decisions of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany. The Merck family holds 99.9 percent of the capital of E. Merck KG, Darmstadt, Germany; the remaining interests are held by the members of the Executive Board of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany. For more information about the different bodies of E. Merck KG, Darmstadt, Germany, please click here.

About Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany
Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, a leading science and technology company, operates across life science, healthcare and electronics. More than 62,000 employees work to make a positive difference to millions of people's lives every day by creating more joyful and sustainable ways to live. From providing products and services that accelerate drug development and manufacturing as well as discovering unique ways to treat the most challenging diseases to enabling the intelligence of devices – the company is everywhere. In 2024, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, generated sales of € 21.2 billion in 65 countries.
The company holds the global rights to the name and trademark "Merck" internationally. The only exceptions are the United States and Canada, where the business sectors of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, operate as MilliporeSigma in life science, EMD Serono in healthcare and EMD Electronics in electronics. Since its founding in 1668, scientific exploration and responsible entrepreneurship have been key to the company's technological and scientific advances. To this day, the founding family remains the majority owner of the publicly listed company.

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