

2025 GERMAN AMERICAN BUSINESS OUTLOOK (GABO) | ILLINOIS

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 | 3-6 PM CT

HARTING Americas ([1370 Bowes Rd, Elgin, IL 60123](https://www.harting.com/locations/usa/1370-Bowes-Rd-Elgin-IL-60123)) | All times in CT

OFFICIAL EVENT PARTNER

Rödl & Partner



SUPPORTING PARTNER



Program:

3:00pm-3:30pm

Event Start | Check-In/Registration | Refreshments

3:30pm-3:40pm

Opening Remarks

Matthias Amberg
Chairman, AHK USA | Partner, Rödl & Partner

Michael Ahrens
Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Chicago

3:40pm-4:00pm

Presentation of GABO Survey Results

Mark Tomkins
President & CEO, GACC Midwest

4:00pm-5:00pm

Panel Discussion: German Business in the U.S. | Q & A Session | Closing Remarks

Confirmed Panelists

Hardev Grewal
CEO, Plasmatrete North America

Francesca Guerrero
International Trade Attorney & Partner, Thompson Hine LLP

Robert Jennings
CFO, Rittal North America, LLC

Christine Schuldners
Executive Vice President Business Operations, HARTING Inc. of North America

5:00pm-6:00pm

Networking Reception with Light Food

Facility tours of HARTING Americas production facility (3 total, every 20 minutes)

6:00 pm

Event End | Guests Depart



Meet the Panelists

Hardev Grewal

CEO, Plasmatrete North America, Inc.



Hardev Grewal is the President and CEO of Plasmatrete North America, a leading innovator in plasma surface treatment technologies. With over 25 years of experience in business development, product management, and advanced manufacturing solutions, he has played a pivotal role in driving growth and innovation in the industry.

Before joining Plasmatrete in 2018, Hardev held leadership positions at NSTAR Global Services and Applied Materials, where he successfully expanded global operations, spearheaded new market strategies, and led high-performance teams. His expertise in plasma-based surface engineering, semiconductor manufacturing, and industrial automation continues to shape cutting-edge solutions for customers worldwide. Under his leadership, Plasmatrete North America is at the forefront of delivering sustainable, high-performance plasma treatments that enhance adhesion, protection, and functionality across industries.

Robert Jennings

CFO, Rittal USA



Robert joined Rittal in July of 2021 as the CFO of Rittal in the US. Robert earned his Bachelor's degree in International Business from Illinois State University and his Master's (MBA) in Accounting from DePaul University. Robert comes with tremendous knowledge of over 30 years of experience managing Accounting, Finance, Information Technology, Purchasing, Logistics, Treasury and other support functions as part of US and overseas operations of global enterprises in various industries including manufacturing, automotive, industrial equipment and electronics. He has worked in the US, Japan, China, France and various other

locations including a 3-year assignment in Germany with his family. He is passionate about people and achieving success by building and nurturing high performance teams.

Francesca Guerrero

Partner, Thompson Hine LLP



Francesca is a partner in the firm's International Trade practice group. She regularly counsels clients on compliance with export controls, sanctions, import regulations, human rights and forced labor, and the FCPA and antibribery laws. She routinely advises clients on some of their most challenging international transactions, involving dealings in high-risk jurisdictions or with high-risk counterparties.

Christine Schuldners

Executive Vice President Business Operations, HARTING Inc. of North America



Christine is Executive Vice President Business Operations at HARTING Inc. of North America, Americas' headquarter of the HARTING Technology Group, leading global provider of connectivity and customized solutions for industrial applications. With over 18 years of expertise in Customer Service, Inside Sales, Sales Operations, and Business Operations, Christine drives the execution of corporate growth strategies and the planning of cross departmental initiatives to build a structure fit for growth in North America.