

Henk Kroes became the executive vice president on July 28, 1999. Since 1986, Henk has been the chief executive officer of Welna. He joined Welna in 1970 as its operations manager and became general manager of one of Welna's companies in 1978. He was instrumental in transitioning Welna from a family-owned company into a publicly held company listed on the Amsterdam Stock Exchange in 1991. During the last few years, Henk transformed Welna through a series of acquisitions into a significant European player in the engineered FRP products market. He received an advanced certificate from Technical College in mechanical engineering.

Lee Orr is vice president of the company, and president of Specialty Solutions, Inc., a subsidiary of the company, since May 1997. Prior to joining the company, Lee was vice president and general manager of EnviroTech Molded Products from 1995 to 1997, general manager of EnviroTech Rubber Engineering from 1993 to 1995, and vice president – finance for BGA International from 1991 to 1993. He has an MBA from The University of Texas at Austin and a BBA from Abilene Christian University.

Hans Siers became vice president on July 28, 1999. He is vice president of Welna Operations and has been the managing director of Welna since July 1998. Hans was previously managing director of a privately held international construction company specializing in underground and offshore pipeline installation. Prior to that, he was managing director for 12 years of a European civil construction and offshore contracting company. He began his career at ABN AMRO in Amsterdam and received his MBA and BSc in economics and business administration from the University of Rotterdam.

Cathy Smith has served as vice president since October 1998 and general counsel since January 1996. Cathy was employed at BHI from July 1989 to August 1995, most recently as general counsel of EnviroTech. Prior to joining BHI, she worked for the law firm of Thelen, Marrin, Johnson & Bridges from June 1986 to July 1989. Cathy received her JD from the University of Houston.

With the newfound water pumping technologies and advanced dike construction methods beginning in the mid-19th century, very large-scale reclamation projects became possible. The first major reclamation to result was that of the Haarlemmeer, a large freshwater lake that yielded 162 square kilometers (or 63 square miles) of land. Perhaps the most famous reclamation of all was that of the Zuider Zee in the 1930s. A long dam was constructed to shut off the sea from the Atlantic Ocean, and over time, four areas of dry land comprising 165,000 hectares were reclaimed through careful diking and drainage. In fact, an entirely new province called Flevoland was created on land reclaimed from the former Zuider Zee in 1986, and the remaining water has since undergone desalinization to become a large freshwater lake, the IJsselmeer.

