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BUSINESS PEOPLE; 3M Fills Top Post At Major Division

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The Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company has named Allen F. Jacobson president of its domestic operations, which last year accounted for two-thirds of the company's \$7 billion in sales.

Mr. Jacobson, who is 58 years old, fills a post that has been vacant since the end of 1981, when John Pitblado retired. His appointment makes him a prime candidate to eventually succeed Lewis W. Lehr, 3M's 63-year-old chairman.

The company's board - of which Mr. Jacobson is a member - elected him to the post at a meeting in Orlando, Fla. The meeting had been scheduled to coincide with the launch of a space shuttle carrying equipment for a series of 3M experiments to be conducted during flight. The launch was postponed until this Wednesday.

As president of the company's American operations, Mr. Jacobson will have responsibility for the company's four business sectors - industrial and consumer, electronic and information technologies, graphic technologies and life sciences - as well as its consumer products group.

The company was reorganized in 1981, shortly before Mr. Pitblado's retirement. In order to oversee the transition, Mr. Lehr said he wanted to remain close to the four sectors, and he refrained from naming a new president.

In a press release, Mr. Lehr said: "For a time I wanted to be especially close to the operations of the new sectors. Now it seems appropriate to re- establish the office of the U.S. president."

Mr. Jacobson could not be reached for comment on his appointment.

With his election, Mr. Jacobson joins James A. Thwaites, the 61-year- old president of international operations and corporate staff services, in the top posts below Mr. Lehr.

Since 1981, Mr. Jacobson has been executive vice president in the industrial and consumer sector at 3M, a company he joined in 1947. During his career he has held a number of managerial posts, including vice president for European operations, head of 3M Canada, division vice president and group manufacturing director.

Mr. Jacobson received a B.S. in chemical engineering from Iowa State University.

Photo of Allen F. Jacobson

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