



Only the best.™

## Walter Surface Technologies – Backgrounder

### Company Philosophy

For over 65 years, Walter Surface Technologies has been a global leader in surface treatment technologies delivering high performance abrasives, tooling, power tools, chemical solutions and welding process solutions specifically designed for the metal working industry. Our core philosophy is centered on helping customers work better and providing “**only the best**” – the best technology, the best products, the best performance, the best in safety and the best in sustainability – all geared toward increasing their productivity and profitability.

This approach has been the cornerstone of Walter’s customer-centric mandate, which has guided our business principles since the company was founded in 1952. It is called the **Walter Way**. And it is based on the notion of adding value and striving for excellence in everything we do and thereby contributing to our customers’ success.

Walter is present in North and South America, and in Europe, and operates facilities in nine different countries around the world. In addition to our global headquarters in Montreal, Canada, the company has established subsidiaries in the United States, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and Italy.

### A Global Leader

Since the company’s inception, Walter has significantly invested in research and development to offer the most innovative and high quality materials to constantly improve product performance and provide the latest in technology to the metalworking industry. This investment in R&D and the Walter Way approach to business has solidified Walter as a global leader.

We have received international recognition and have been the recipient of a number of prestigious industry awards including: the Wall Street Journal Award (US), Deutscher Material Preis (Germany), American Eagle Award, and the CleanTech Cleaning Technology Award.

### Committed to Environmental Sustainability

In 2013, Walter opened a \$30 million, state-of-the-art international headquarters and production facility in Montreal, Canada to service the Americas. The headquarters earned the LEED Gold Certification by the Canadian Green Building Council. As a company that is committed to environmental sustainability, it was important for Walter to invest in a LEED building not only to lead by example, but to demonstrate its commitment to future generations.

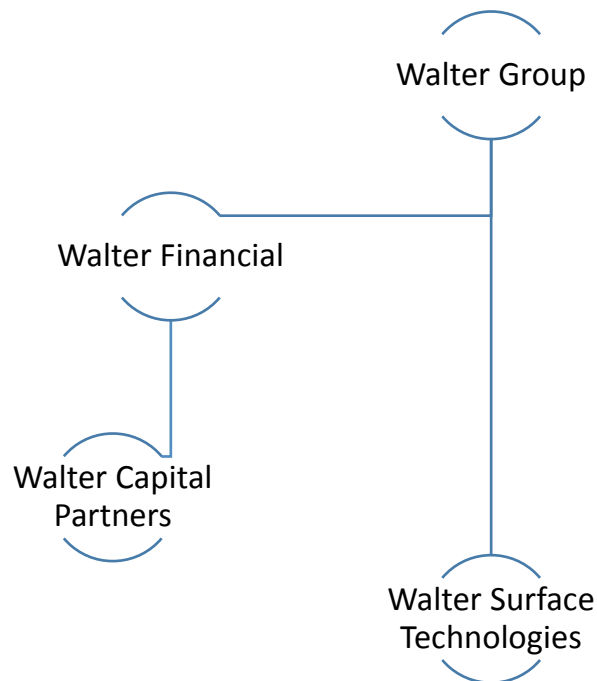
### The Walter Group: An Entrepreneurial Vision

Walter Surface Technologies was founded in 1952 by Walter J. Somers, who opened the first business that eventually paved the way for the emergence of the Walter Group of Companies.

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Currently led by Pierre Somers, the founder's son, the Walter Group also includes Montreal-based investment firm Walter Financial, which holds Walter Capital Partners, launched in 2015. Walter Financial is the culmination of more than half a century of business acumen honed by the Somers family. Over the years, the family's investment activities have grown in size and scope, resulting in the creation of a separate investment firm operating under the Walter Group umbrella.

Walter Capital Partners is a thriving private equity firm through its affiliation with the Walter Group, the business leadership expertise of its managing partners and its relationship with the Watermill Group. Supported by Walter Group's entrepreneurial vision and international network, it lends capital investment and business acumen to support other businesses and their growth. Today, the Walter Group's operations are as soundly established on the asset management front as on the industrial front.



### **Developing Tomorrow's Leaders**

Education has always been paramount to the Walter Group. In response to the need for Canadian manufacturing businesses to attract new talent, Walter Surface Technologies introduced *Next To Succeed* in 2014 – an innovative, three-month paid internship program that fosters the development of future young leaders. This unique program offers students the opportunity to work directly with upper management, providing access to training, development and growth opportunities for the selected candidates. During the internship, the student is exposed to the various duties and responsibilities of a top executive.

Additionally, in 2002, Pierre Somers and his wife Haisook created the Walter J. Somers Foundation to honor Walter Surface Technologies' founder and honor the family's legacy of its commitment

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to the community. The Foundation aims to contribute to local communities and their prosperity by supporting excellence in education among its youth and by ensuring the continued improvement of workplace productivity. To date, the Foundation has given more than \$3 million to organizations promoting solution-based initiatives.

Among those initiatives, the Walter J. Somers Foundation announced in 2016 a formal alliance with the Centre for Productivity and Prosperity – HEC Montréal. Henceforth called the Walter J. Somers Foundation Centre for Productivity and Prosperity (CPP), the centre is dedicated to conducting research on productivity and prosperity, with a focus on developing solutions for Quebec and Canada.

### **Delivering Only the Best**

Walter Surface Technologies is a company that has enjoyed great success over many decades and is a well-respected leader in industry. This is due, in greatest part, to our commitment to the customer: a commitment to helping them work better and to continuously innovate to bring to market new products and processes that improve productivity, efficiency, safety and which positively impact business, people and the environment.

Walter Surface Technologies is a world-class organization that is unrivaled in its commitment to delivering **only the best™**.

For more information, visit [www.walter.com](http://www.walter.com).

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