

Bio of Ron Somers

Ron Somers is Founder and CEO of India First Group, LLC, a strategic consulting firm dedicated to helping U.S. companies succeed in investing in India and assisting Indian companies navigate the complex regulatory environment in the United States.

Ron Somers' track record of attracting and serving clients is proven by his having grown the U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC) into the largest bilateral trade association in the United States – with more than 265 companies in its membership.

Ron recently completed 10 years' service as President of the U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC), based in Washington, D.C., where he has grown this 39-year old premier business advocacy organization to cutting-edge stature, whose aim is to deepen two-way trade and strengthen U.S.-India commercial ties. The landmark U.S.-India civil nuclear initiative was cinched under Ron's leadership. Presidents and Prime Ministers, indeed, all political and business leaders from both countries, look to USIBC for policy direction and for a platform to deepen commerce between the world's largest two democracies.

Ron brings to the table 30+ years' experience developing major infrastructure projects in the United States and Asia – starting in the oil and gas industry on the drilling rigs of West Texas, transitioning to hydroelectric and power development, and then onwards to senior management for international companies of upstream, midstream and downstream energy and power assets.

He serves on the Advisory Board of the Taj Hotels, A Tata Group Company, as well as on the International Leadership Council of the Monterey Institute of International Studies – A Graduate School of Middlebury College. Prior to leading USIBC, Ron served as Unocal's Chief Executive Officer in India in charge of Unocal's development portfolio on the Subcontinent. As Unocal's Country Head, Ron was responsible for securing potential customers and forming strategic alliances in India for the proposed Bangladesh to India Natural Gas Pipeline. During this tenure, Ron led exploration efforts in India's upstream oil & gas sector through Unocal's 26% shareholding in Hindustan Oil Exploration Company. Under Ron's leadership, Unocal in India partnered with reputable business houses to develop the 3 million ton Ennore LNG Import Terminal in Tamil Nadu, the 350 MW gas-fired Gautami Power Project in Andhra Pradesh and the 700 MW combined-cycle Bidadi

Project in Karnataka.

Prior to joining Unocal, Ron worked for Cogentrix Energy of Charlotte, North Carolina, championing efforts in Karnataka, India to implement the 1000 MW Mangalore Thermal Power Project. In this activity, Ron earned his credentials as a seasoned veteran of the

Indian private power industry.

Living in India for 12 consecutive years as India's economy embraced liberalization, Ron began his India experience in 1993-1995 as Resident Advisor for K&M Engineering Corporation, implementing a USAID-sponsored multi-million dollar grant of assistance to the Indian Ministry of Power in support of the India Private Power Initiative (IPPI). During these early years when India's quest for investment and energy converged, Ron met and maintained close relations with many of India's entrepreneurs and political leaders.

Ron maintains a 33% stake in Montgomery Creek Associates, a private limited partnership that owns independent power assets in the western United States, which continue to generate clean, renewable energy since 1985.

Ron Somers holds a bachelor's degree from Middlebury College in Vermont U.S.A. as well as a master's degree from Bread Loaf Graduate School where he studied at Lincoln College,

Oxford University.

From 1992 through December 2004, Ron was headquartered in New Delhi and Bangalore where he resided with his family. He is now headquartered in Washington, DC, with a liaison office presence in New Delhi, to continue his long association with India through India First Group, LLC.