

## Stella Christine Layton Biography

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Stella is European President of Cookson Precious Metals. Cookson Precious Metals is part of the Cookson Group plc., a FTSE registered company and a sub-division of the Precious Metals Global Division, Stella is a member of the Executive Committee.

Stella started her career in computing, moving on as a Manufacturing Systems Consultant and joined Cookson (then Johnson Matthey) in 1986 as a Systems Analyst quickly progressing to IT Manager. An opportunity arose to be involved in European IT work at Divisional level, as well as an opportunity to manage a small off-site manufacturing unit, both challenges were accepted with relish and led on to the next role of Operations Manager, a clear career path change. During the next 10 years when Johnson Matthey Jewellery was purchased by Cookson Group, a period of rapid expansion took place and Stella found herself directly involved in the acquisition of a further 5 companies all bolt-ons to the existing business, mostly resulting in forward integration to new markets and customers. In 1996 she was made Deputy Managing Director of CPM UK, progressing to Managing Director of the UK in 1997. Following the largest acquisition for CPM UK made to-date of a major European competitor Engelhard-CLAL, Stella was made European President a position she was promoted to in 2001.

Stella has also held the position of Chairperson of the British Jewellers' Association (BJA) for two years. The first woman to hold the role in the Association's history of over 100 years. Her time in office expired in February 2006. She further supported the BJA as Deputy Chair until 2008. She is also member of the CBI West Midlands Council, CBI UK Manufacturing Council, CBI Manufacturing Advisory Group and a Non Executive Director for the Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Foundation Trust.

Stella is 48 years old, an MBA, and in 2005 was awarded the CBI First Women award for Manufacturing in its inaugural year, in June 2006 was delighted to receive an honorary degree of Doctor of Science from Cranfield University, and in 2006 was a finalist in the West Midlands' Business Woman of the year.

Contact details [www.cooksongold.com](http://www.cooksongold.com) and [www.cooksongroup.co.uk](http://www.cooksongroup.co.uk)  
Email [stella.layton@cooksongold.com](mailto:stella.layton@cooksongold.com)  
Tel 0121 212 6435