Patrick Thomas is Chairman of the Board of Management of Covestro. He was previously CEO of the predecessor company Bayer MaterialScience from 2007. Patrick W. Thomas graduated from Oxford University with an engineering degree in 1979. The same year he began his career with British chemicals company Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI). Until 1989 he held a number of positions for ICI Pharmaceuticals and Agrochemicals (which became Zeneca in 1993) in the U.K. In 1989 Thomas transferred to Belgium to join ICI Polyurethanes, undertaking various management assignments until in 1993 he was named Regional Director for Europe, Africa & Middle East. Four years later he was appointed global CEO. In 1999, Thomas joined U.S. chemicals company Huntsman Corporation as President of the Polyurethanes, Performance and Advanced Materials Divisions, also based in Belgium. On August 15, 2006 he joined Bayer MaterialScience.

Patrick W. Thomas is president of the European Plastics Manufacturers Association PlasticsEurope and Board Member of the global plastics organization World Plastics Council. He also chairs the Oxford University Business Economics Programme Board (OUBEP) and the advisory board of the European Institute for Industrial Leadership and is a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering (United Kingdom). From 2011 until the end of 2015 he served as non-executive director of the board of BG Group plc. (which is now part of Royal Dutch Shell plc.) in the U.K.