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## GERMAN CONSERVATIVE ARMIN LASCHET: 5 THINGS TO KNOW

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By Laurenz Gehrke

Armin Laschet, the newly crowned German conservative candidate to succeed Angela Merkel, has a lot of persuading to do.

Laschet, leader of Merkels Christian Democratic Union (CDU), prevailed in a bitter contest with Markus Söder, the head of the CDUs smaller Bavarian sister party. He will be the parties joint candidate for chancellor in Septembers general election, at which Merkel plans to bow out after 16 years in power.

The premier of North Rhine-Westphalia, Germanys most populous state, Laschet now faces the task of convincing the conservative camp to unite behind him and overcoming low popularity ratings to win over voters.

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