

Milestones of Georg Fischer

1802

On June 3, 1802 Johann Conrad Fischer (1773 - 1854) bought a mill near Schaffhausen (Switzerland) in which he set up a foundry.

1805

Fischer was the first person in continental Europe to manufacture cast steel that could compete with Huntsman steel from England.

1827 - 1833

Johann Conrad Fischer and his son Georg Fischer I founded two further steel mills in Austria: Hainfeld in 1827 and Traisen in 1833. Fischer had all his inventions patented in fast-growing Austria.

1864

Georg Fischer II (1834 - 1887) acquired the Schaffhausen works and was the first to start with industrial production of malleable cast iron fittings (cast pipe connectors).

1877

Start of production of cast steel.

1895

The company founded its first German subsidiary in Singen am Hohentwiel.

1896

The family-owned company was transformed into a joint stock company controlled by the Fischer family.

1902

The founding family withdrew from the operational management of the company. Ernst Homberger (1869 - 1955) was the first non-engineer to run the company.

1903

The new "+GF+" trademark, with its crosses representing stylised fittings, was officially registered.

1918

Acquisition of the former "Paradies" convent together with two farms. In 1952 the Iron Library was established here. Since 1974 the carefully restored convent has been used as the company training centre.

1921

Georg Fischer began the production of machinery.

1933

Georg Fischer began production of malleable cast iron fittings in Bedford (England).

1939 - 1945

The Second World War was a major challenge for the company, which had plants in Germany and Great Britain as well as in Switzerland. This period has been covered in an academic report by the historian Hans Ulrich Wipf published in 2001.

1957

The first piping components made of plastic were manufactured after a four-year development period.

1964

For the first time the Corporation generated more than 50% of its sales revenues outside Switzerland.

1970

Consolidated sales exceeded CHF 1 billion for the first time.

1972

Purchase of Waeschle. Together with the Buss Group (which was purchased in 1979) it forms the core of the Plant Engineering Corporate Group, active in process engineering, logistics, foundry systems, bulk materials handling and other areas.

1983

Purchase of Charmilles Technologies. Together with Agie (acquired in 1996) it forms the Manufacturing Technology Corporate Group (Agie Charmilles), the global leader in electric discharge machining.

1990

The Corporation adopted a decentralised structure, focusing its activities on the strategic core businesses Automotive Products, Piping Systems, Manufacturing Technology and Plant Engineering.

1991

With the closure of steel casting in Schaffhausen an era came to an end. The foundries unit now concentrates on the development and manufacture of components for the automotive industry.

2000

Purchase of Werner&Pfleiderer (W&P) and merger with Buss and Waeschle to form the Plant Engineering Corporate Group (Coperion) under the industrial leadership of Georg Fischer, which is the majority shareholder with a 50.1% stake. Coperion is the world market leader in plastic processing.

2002

With 15,000 employees world-wide, around 150 group companies and a presence in over 100 countries, the Georg Fischer Corporation is well on the way to becoming a leading development partner and systems supplier for industrial applications.