

### 1853

Franz Saurer starts up a small foundry in a suburb of St. Gallen (Switzerland). This marks the start of 150 years' history of the company which bears his name.



### 1869

With the delivery of the first embroidery machine made in Arbon (Switzerland) the long success story of Saurer textile machine production has begun.

### 1907

In September the Swiss Power Tool factory Oerlikon (SWO) is founded, with 150 employees in a factory in Zürich-Oerlikon (Switzerland).



### 1919

Fairfield Manufacturing Corporation Inc. is founded by David Ross as a subsidiary of Ross Gear and Tool Company with the aim of supplying proprietary differential gear systems to the still young automobile industry.

### 1946

Saurer Cottonmachines, manufactured from 1946, knit ladies' stockings in all commercially available designs, from nylon, perlon, artificial and natural silk. A wide range of products with many and varied designs can now be offered to the market.



### 1946

Balzers machine factory is founded, with the aim of exploiting the still little-known thin-film technology and making it available to industry.

### 1951

Graziano, a family business, starts in Turin with 15 employees.



### 1957

Oerlikon's entry into the vacuum business. The group makes early investments in this future-oriented technology and today is among the market leaders in the sector.



### 1968

Contraves' know-how, gathered over decades, is made available to the European space industry for the first time. With the launch of the ESRO-1 research satellite, equipped with Contraves parts, a lucrative market is opened which continues today. One of the first official tests of the ESRO-1 satellite structure is carried out in a forest near Kloten (Switzerland).

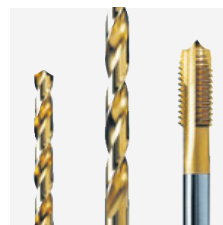


### 1973

By now the group numbers over 100 companies and is collected under the mantle of Oerlikon-Bührle Holding (OBH) which goes public with a share capital of 590 million Swiss francs.

### 1978

Green light for development and sale of PVD hard coatings for tools with BALINIT® A. This innovative Balzers coating technology appreciably lengthens the useful life of tools subject to mechanical wear and tear.



### 1983

First coating center opens in Italy. Many more centers are opened in subsequent years, within reach of customers' production facilities. Today a network of 77 centers spans the globe and offers all Oerlikon customers know-how and service on their doorstep.



### 1988

Launch of the first European carrier rocket Ariane 4, equipped with a payload fairing made from compound material by Oerlikon Space. Since then, all Ariane rockets are equipped with Oerlikon Space payload fairings.

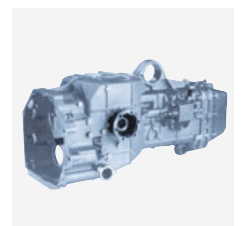


### 1992

Graziano joins Saurer, world leader in textile machine manufacturing, and forms Saurer's Transmission Systems division.

### 1996

Graziano starts manufacturing components for the automobile market. An agreement is signed with Ferrari for development and supply of a new generation of complete gearboxes, which are fitted first to the Ferrari Modena. Development and production of transmissions continues for electric vehicles and agricultural applications.



# Oerlikon has been driving technical progress for 101 years; newly acquired Saurer for even longer – 154 years.

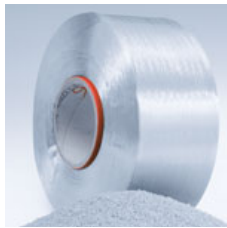
In all this time we have been setting new standards in technology for coating, vacuum, textiles, transmissions and precision components – a tradition to which we are committed and which moves us constantly to seek new solutions and innovations for our customers.

**1998**

Leybold opens a branch in Tianjin (China). Leybold Vacuum recognizes the huge potential of the growing Chinese economy and makes an early move to enter this important new market and benefit from proximity to its new customers.

**2000**

Saurer acquires Barmag and Neumag and thereby enters the fast-growing and profitable market for synthetic fibres.



**2000**

Renaming to Unaxis and restructuring of the group.

**2000**

BALINIT®-coated components are used for the first time in a mass-produced car (VW Lupo 3L TDI). The coatings reduce friction and heat generation in engine and gearbox.

**2001**

Acquisition of Magnetto Group Gear Division – Graziano Trasmissioni group becomes world market leader in transmission components.

**2004**

Integration of ESEC into Unaxis is concluded.



**2004**

Oerlikon Leybold Vacuum opens a new production facility in Cologne (Germany). In close cooperation with research and development, modern vacuum solutions are developed to meet customer needs with innovative products.



**2005**

Change of ownership. Victory Industriebeteiligungs AG acquires a majority shareholding

in Unaxis Holding AG. The new Board of Directors and a new management team immediately got to work on the realignment and turnaround of the company.

**2005**

Neumag enters the Nonwoven business and offers solutions for all important fleece manufacturing processes.



**2006**

With the establishment of a new business unit Solar the company enters the future-oriented solar energy market. This important move results from a promising R&D project and the successful transformation of the previous Display business unit into the new business area of thin-film solar panels. Oerlikon is the only company in the world offering production equipment for thin-film solar panels.



**2006**

With the renaming to Oerlikon the company opens a new chapter in its successful hundred-year history. The name reflects the company's history and tradition and stands for the typically Swiss values of quality, reliability, precision and innovation.

**2006**

Saurer demonstrates its strength in the Chinese market by opening a new plant in Suzhou (China), with over 1 000 employees.



**2006**

Graziano starts production in Cerveny Kostelec (Czech Republic), mainly of transmission components and automatic all-wheel drives. Saurer's transmission systems division is expanded by acquisition of Fairfield Manufacturing, US market leader in specialist gearboxes and transmissions for industrial and agricultural heavy vehicles.

**2006**

Acquisition of Saurer. Oerlikon takes over operative management of Saurer and optimizes the group structure, as part of the integration process. The Oerlikon group will now consist of five segments, including the new business units from Saurer. With over 19 000 people in 170 locations in 35 countries, Oerlikon is now a global player in the high-tech marketplace.



**2006**

A successful year of high growth, high profitability and a tripling of the share price. The Oerlikon share was quoted on the Dow Jones Index STOXX 600, where it was praised as best-performing European share of 2006. The company's market capitalization grew within a year to CHF 8.5 billion.

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# 255 Years History of Innovation