

Mastering optical and precision technologies.

Nikon's corporate history began in 1917 and the manufacture of optical glass started the next year. Since then, the two constants have always been our awareness of users' stringent demands and our uncompromising attitude toward manufacturing to continuously meet those demands. This spirit has uninterruptedly been handed down in Nikon.



Nikon at the time of founding



Nikon F

1917

- Three of Japan's leading optical manufacturers merge to form a comprehensive, fully integrated optical company known as Nippon Kogaku K.K.

1918

- Ohi Dai-ichi Plant (now Ohi Plant) is completed

1932

- NIKKOR is adopted as the brand name for camera lenses

1952

- *nikkor club* is established to promote photography culture

1953

- Nikon Optical Co., Inc. [now Nippon Kogaku (U.S.A.) Inc.] is established to export Nikon cameras to the U.S. and conduct technical services and market research

1959

- Nikon F, Nikon's first SLR camera, is marketed

1910

1920

1930

1940

1950

1960

1921

- MIKRON 4x, 6x ultra-small-prism binoculars are marketed

1925

- JOICO microscope is marketed



JOICO microscope

1945

- With the end of World War II, production shifts to cameras, microscopes, binoculars, surveying instruments, measuring instruments and ophthalmic lenses

1946

- Pointal ophthalmic lens is marketed
- Nikon brand name is adopted for small-sized cameras

1947

- Tilting Level E and Transit G surveying instruments are marketed

1948

- Nikon I small-sized camera is marketed
- Model I profile projector is marketed

1967

- Ohi Plant's Ofuna site (now Yokohama Plant) is built

1968

- Photo gallery Ginza Nikon Salon is opened
- Nikon Europe N.V. (now Nikon Europe B.V.) is established in the Netherlands



Nikon I

- 1971**
- Nikon Photomic FTN is mounted on Apollo 15
 - Ohi Plant's Sagamihara site (now Sagamihara Plant) is built



First overseas production facility
Nikon (Thailand) Co., Ltd.

- 1990**
- Nikon (Thailand) Co., Ltd. is established
- 1991**
- Mito Plant is built
- 1992**
- Nikon Instech Co., Ltd. is established
- 1999**
- D1 digital SLR camera is marketed
 - In-house company system is inaugurated



Nikon 1 V1

- 2010**
- Nikon Head Office is relocated to Shin-Yurakucho Bldg.
 - D3S and D3X digital SLR cameras, and NIKKOR lenses are used in the International Space Station (ISS)

- 2011**
- Nikon 1 J1 and V1 advanced cameras with interchangeable lenses are marketed

- 2012**
- NSR-S621D ArF immersion scanner is marketed
 - Nikon Plaza Sendai is opened
 - D4 digital SLR camera is marketed



Nikon D4

1970

1980

1990

2000

2010

- 1980**
- Nikon F3 SLR camera is marketed
 - NSR-1010G Step-and-Repeat System is marketed
- 1981**
- Ehrenreich Photo-Optical Industries, Inc. is acquired in the U.S. and renamed Nikon Inc.
 - Nikon Fieldscope is marketed
- 1984**
- Kumagaya Plant is built
- 1985**
- Total Station DTM-1 surveying instrument is marketed
- 1986**
- Nikon Hong Kong Ltd. is established
 - NSR-L7501G large substrate exposure system is marketed
- 1988**
- Nikon Photo Products Inc. (now Nikon Imaging Japan Inc.) is established
 - Corporate name is changed to Nikon Corporation



NSR-1010G

- 2000**
- Nikon-Essilor Co., Ltd., joint venture with Essilor International of France, is established
- 2002**
- Nikon Imaging (China) Co., Ltd. is established
- 2003**
- Nikon-Trimble Co., Ltd., a joint venture with Trimble Navigation Ltd. of the U.S., is established
- 2004**
- Yokohama Plant's Yokosuka Branch (now Yokosuka Plant) is built
 - Nikon F6 SLR camera is marketed
- 2006**
- NSR-S609B ArF immersion scanner is marketed
- 2007**
- D3 digital SLR camera is marketed
- 2009**
- FX-101S LCD scanner is marketed
 - Metris NV became Nikon Metrology NV, a wholly owned subsidiary of Nikon Corporation



FX-101S