



# History of the Ricoh Group

**Ricoh began by marketing sensitized paper and cameras. Ever since then, we have continued to help people share information with innovations in image processing technologies.**

## The early years

Ricoh's origins date back to a decision of the Institute of Physical and Chemical Research to commercialize the fruits of its R&D by setting up Rikagaku Kogyo Co., Ltd. In 1936, the institute established Riken Kankoshi Co., Ltd. (renamed Riken Optical Co., Ltd. in 1938, and Ricoh Company, Ltd. in 1963) to manufacture and sell sensitized paper. In 1950, the company popularized cameras among consumers by mass producing them for the first time in Japan, and in 1955 entered the business machine field with the introduction of the Ricopy 101.

- 1936 Riken Kankoshi Co., Ltd. established to make and market sensitized paper, with Kiyoshi Ichimura appointed executive managing director.
- 1936 Renamed Riken Optical Co., Ltd. (until 1963).
- 1946 Kiyoshi Ichimura becomes president.
- 1950 Launches the Ricohflex III camera, which spurred the popularization of cameras.
- 1955 Enters office copier field with the Ricopy 101, its first diazo model.
- 1957 Wins Ohkochi Memorial Production Prize for establishing mass-production system for cameras.
- 1960 Introduces the Ricoh Offset B4, the first offset printer for office use.
- 1962 Launches the Ricoh Auto Half, a half-frame model that proves a massive hit. Establishes Ricoh Industries, U.S.A. Inc., a sales subsidiary.
- 1963 Renamed Ricoh Company, Ltd.
- 1965 Introduces the Ricopy BS-1 as its first electrostatic copier.
- 1968 Kiyoshi Ichimura passes away.



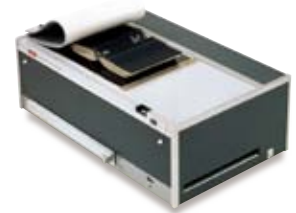
Kiyoshi Ichimura



Ricohflex III



Ricopy 101



Ricopy BS-1

## OA pioneer

In 1974, Ricoh launched the Rifax 600S, the world's first high-speed office facsimile. In 1977, it coined the acronym OA for "office automation." During the 1980s, the company extended its support for office productivity by rolling out a lineup that included computers and word processors, optical filing systems and laser printers.

- 1970 Ricoh Pavilion at Japan Expo '70 highlights the theme of a "Better Vision for Humanity."
- 1971 Introduces the Ricom 8, its first office computer. Establishes Ricoh Nederland B.V., a sales subsidiary in the Netherlands.
- 1972 Launches the Ricoh PPC 900, its first dry-electrostatic-transfer plain paper copier.
- 1973 Rifax 600S, the first high-speed facsimile machine for offices, succeeds in transmission between Tokyo and New York via satellite communications. Establishes Ricoh Electronics, Inc., a manufacturing subsidiary in the U.S.
- 1975 Commercializes the Ricopy DT1200, a wet process-based plain paper copier that becomes the world's top-selling copier. Becomes the office automation industry's first recipient of the Deming Prize.
- 1976 Establishes the Environmental Promotion Section. Rifax 600S adopted for use in the Montreal Olympic Games.
- 1977 Coins the acronym OA for "office automation."
- 1981 Starts marketing Ricoh brand dry process plain paper copiers in Europe and North America.
- 1982 Introduces Ricopy FT4060, the first A3 plain-paper copier.
- 1983 Establishes Ricoh UK Products Ltd., a manufacturing subsidiary.
- 1984 The Rifax 1300HS receives a Nikkei Product Excellence Prize.



Rifax 600S



Ricopy DT1200

## The digital revolution

In 1987, Ricoh pioneered MFPs with the IMAGIO 320. In 1996, it helped popularize digital models by launching the imagio MF200, a compact and highly affordable MFP. The company subsequently released networked and color offerings.

- 1985 Receives the Ohkochi Memorial Production Prize for developing a multi-product production system for MFPs.  
Develops speech recognition and optical character recognition technology.
- 1986 Adopts a new corporate logo in celebration of its 50th anniversary.
- 1987 The OHP313R overhead projector wins the Good Design Grand Award.  
Establishes Ricoh Industrie France S.A., a manufacturing subsidiary.
- 1989 Signs a Worldwide Sponsorship contract in the facsimile machine category for the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games.
- 1991 The Ricoh California Research Center develops the world's fastest color imaging compression algorithm.  
Establishes Ricoh Asia Industry (Shenzhen) Ltd., a manufacturing subsidiary, in China.
- 1992 Implements the Ricoh General Principles on the Environment that defines the Group's conservation policy.
- 1993 Ricoh UK Products Ltd. is the first recipient of the Queen's Award for Environmental Achievement.  
Establishes GR Advanced Materials, Ltd., a manufacturing subsidiary in the U.K.

- 1994 Ricoh UK Products Ltd. receives a Highly Recommended prize from the European Better Environment Awards for Industry for its chlorofluorocarbon-free recycling system.
- 1995 Launches its first digital camera, DC-1.  
Acquires Gestetner Corporation (U.K.) and Savin Corporation (U.S.).
- 1996 Ricoh Corporation receives the first of five straight ENERGY STAR awards from the Environmental Protection Agency of the U.S.  
Establishes Ricoh Asia Pacific Pte Ltd., a sales subsidiary in Singapore.
- 1997 Establishes Ricoh Silicon Valley, Inc., an R&D facility in the U.S.
- 1999 Ricoh awarded Minister of International Trade and Industry Prize in eighth annual Global Environment Awards from Japan Industrial Journal.  
Ricoch receives Japan Quality Award.
- 2000 Receives the first Eco Mark for an MFP.



imagio MF200



DC-1

## A Global Company

Ricoh's overseas expansion began in the early 1970s, when the Company began selling on an original equipment manufacturer basis. The Company has actively pursued global expansion through the establishment of a global sales support structure, a process kick-started in 1995 when U.K.-based Gestetner became part of the Ricoh Group. The Company has steadily extended the scope of its operations, including entry into the production printing market and efforts to reinforce the solutions business.

- 2001 imagio Neo 350 series wins the Energy Conservation Grand Prize from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.  
Acquires Lanier Worldwide, Inc. (U.S.).
- 2002 Given the world's highest ranking for corporate social responsibility by oekom research AG (also in 2005 and 2006).  
Signs the United Nations Global Compact.
- 2003 The Ricoh Group receives a Gold Medal from the World Environment Center.  
Establishes Ricoh China Co., Ltd.
- 2004 Acquires Hitachi Printing Solutions, Ltd., which is renamed Ricoh Printing Systems.
- 2005 Given highest (AAA) evaluation in the environmental ranking organized by Deloitte Tohmatsu Evaluation and Certification Organization (also in 2006).  
Given the world's highest ranking for corporate social responsibility by oekom research AG (also in 2005 and 2006).

- 2006 Lights up a major billboard atop the San-Ai Dream Center in Ginza, Tokyo.
- 2007 InfoPrint Solutions Company, a Ricoh-IBM joint venture, starts operation.
- 2008 Introduces the RICOH Pro C900 color production printer.  
Acquires IKON Office Solutions, Inc. (U.S.).
- 2009 Releases its first reconditioned color MFP, the MP C3500RC/C2500RC series, in Japan.  
Produces the world's first commercial biomass toner, used in the MP 6001GP MFP.  
Establishes Ricoh Manufacturing (Thailand) Ltd.



San-Ai Dream Center



RICOH Pro C900

## Creating New Customer Value

With rapid evolution in customer workstyles, Ricoh's range of value provided to customers has begun to expand significantly. By launching the Projection System business and the United Communication System, coupled with the introduction of various network appliances linked to cloud services, Ricoh has created new value for its customers.

- 2010 Sets up a 100% eco-powered billboard in New York's Times Square.  
Launches the Projection System business.
- 2011 Launches the Unified Communication System that seamlessly integrates video, voice and other forms of data.  
Establishes PENTAX Ricoh Imaging Company, Ltd.  
Receives an award from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry for dry washing technology that removes residue without the use of solvents or water.
- 2012 Selected by oekom research AG as the world's best performing business for sustainability in the IT industry.  
Establishes Ricoh Innovations Private Limited, an R&D facility, in India.  
Releases MP 9002/7502/6002/6002GP series, the industry's first digital high-speed monochrome MFPs to feature parts made from steel scrap.  
Ricopy 101, the diazo copier launched in 1955, is included in the list of Japan's Mechanical Engineering Heritage.
- 2013 Releases RICOH Interactive Whiteboard D5500, which allows remote sites to share display-based handwritten content.  
Ichimura Nature School Kanto wins Philanthropy Grand Prize.  
Selected as one of the World's Most Ethical Companies by Ethisphere Institute (U.S.) for the fifth consecutive year.  
Restructures design and production functions in Japan.  
Establishes Ricoh Technologies Company, Ltd., and Ricoh Industry Company, Ltd.

- Releases RICOH THETA\*, world's first camera capable of taking fully spherical pictures.
- 2014 RICOH MP C6003/C5503/C4503/C3503/C3003 series receives Energy Conservation Center Chairman's Prize for energy-saving features.  
Included in the Global 100 Most Sustainable Corporations in the World by Corporate Knights (Canada) for the 10th year in a row.  
Ichimura Nature School Kanto wins Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Award.  
Selected for FTSE4Good Index, a socially responsible investment index, for the 11th consecutive year.  
Reorganizes sales subsidiaries in Japan. Parts of Ricoh Technosystems Co., Ltd., Ricoh Business Expert Co., Ltd., and Ricoh IT Solutions Co., Ltd. are integrated into Ricoh Japan Corporation.  
Installs 100% eco-powered electronic billboard at Ginza 4-chome crossing in Tokyo.  
Rifax 600S registered under Essential Historical Materials for Science and Technology by the National Museum of Nature and Science in Japan.  
Becomes a component of the Dow Jones Sustainability World Indices for socially responsible investment for the second year in a row.

\*Consumer product noted for ability to capture fully spherical images, rather than panoramic or semi-spherical images, with a single shutter release (based on RICOH research, as of October 2013).



RICOH THETA



PENTAX 645Z



RICOH PJ WX4141NI



RICOH Interactive Whiteboard D5500



RICOH Unified Communication System P3000