

# ULVAC's History

When ULVAC was founded back in 1952, vacuum technology had not yet entered widespread use in Japan. As a trailblazer, we championed vacuum technology by introducing new technologies to the market and addressing the needs of customers in diverse industries. ULVAC will continue tackling technological innovation to speed progress toward the "smart society" to which we aspire.

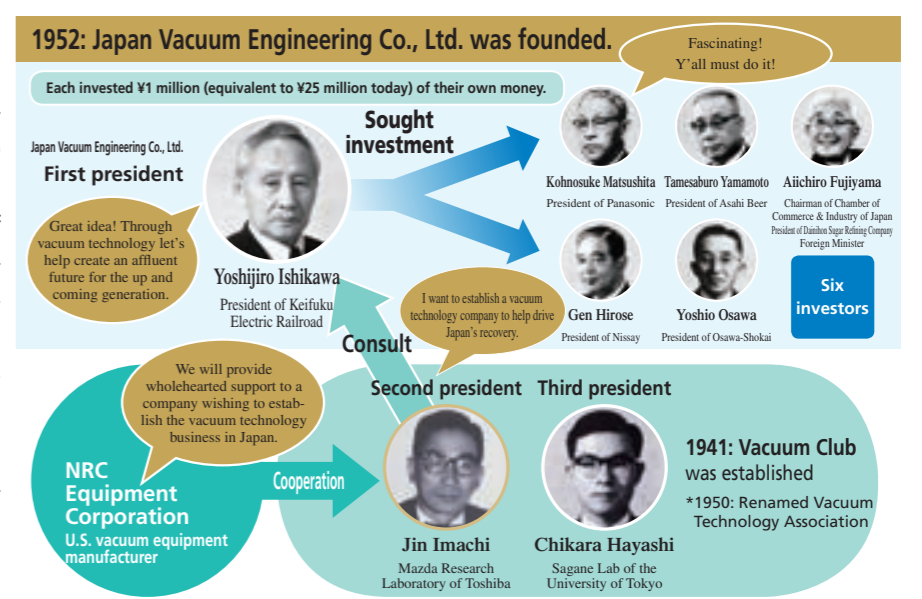
## Challenging new industrial sectors

Ever since its foundation, ULVAC has been refining its capability to flexibly manipulate vacuum technology. In step with the changing industrial structure, we have always boldly sought to develop new technologies while expanding application fields to include the production of automobiles, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and food, metallurgy, as well as mass production of semiconductors and electronic devices, flat-panel displays, and organic light-emitting diode displays.

Inspired by the promise of the emerging "smart society" where electronics support and connect every industry and lifestyle, we are confident that our vacuum technology will be a key to the advance of the cluster of transformative technologies, including IoT, big data, artificial intelligence, and self-driving vehicles, that will underpin next-generation lifestyles.

## The story of ULVAC's foundation

At the time when Japan was engaged in post-war recovery, a group of talented young researchers and engineers gathered with the aim of "contributing to the revival of Japanese industry through vacuum technology." In 1952 six angel investors, impressed by the passion of these visionary young people, invested in the establishment of Japan Vacuum Engineering Co., Ltd., the forerunner of present-day ULVAC.



1952~

### Automotive



Reflectors for automobiles



Vacuum evaporation equipment

1960~

### Chemical/ pharmaceutical/food



Pharmaceuticals



High-vacuum distillation equipment for plasticizers

1962~

### Metal/steel



Special steel



100 kg-class vacuum induction melting furnace

1973~

### Liquid crystal display



LCD calculator display



Transparent conductive film deposition equipment

1975~

### Semiconductor



Computer (Photo: Courtesy of IBM Archive)



System 731

1983~

### Electronic storage media



Compact discs



In-line sputtering equipment

1992~

### FPD



Flat-panel display



LCD production equipment

2016~

### OLED



OLED



OLED production equipment

## History

- 1952**
  - Japan Vacuum Engineering Co., Ltd. was founded.
- 1955**
  - Opened the Omori Plant in Tokyo to start manufacturing equipment in Japan.
- 1959**
  - Opened the Yokohama Plant in Kanagawa Prefecture.
- 1964**
  - Established the first overseas subsidiary in Hong Kong.
- 1968**
  - Head Office/Plant completed in Chigasaki, Kanagawa Prefecture.
- 1969**
  - Changed the company name in English to ULVAC CORPORATION to promote exports.
- 1971**
  - Established a subsidiary in Hamburg, then West Germany, as a base for cultivating the western European market.
- 1972**
  - Opened the Institute for Super Materials as ULVAC's first research facility.
- 1975**
  - Opened the North American Office. Established a subsidiary in North America as a base for exports to the U.S.
- 1977**
  - Established KYUSYU ULVAC CORPORATION (present-day ULVAC KYUSHU CORPORATION) in Kagoshima Prefecture to expand sales activities in the Kyushu area.
- 1982**
  - Established a subsidiary in Taiwan.
  - Established the Tsukuba Institute for Super Materials in Tsukuba Science City (present-day Tsukuba City), Ibaraki Prefecture.
- 1983**
  - Opened the Beijing Office in China.
- 1987**
  - Established ULVAC TOHOKU, Inc. in Aomori Prefecture to strengthen production of large-scale equipment.
- 1990**
  - Opened the Fuji Susono Plant in Shizuoka Prefecture, as a plant dedicated to semiconductor production equipment.
- 1995**
  - Established a vacuum pump production base in China.
  - Established a subsidiary in South Korea.
- 2001**
  - Changed the company name to ULVAC, Inc.
- 2002**
  - Established a subsidiary in Singapore.
- 2003**
  - Established a base for full-scale production and field support in China.
- 2004**
  - Listed on the First Section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange.
  - New buildings of the Head Office/Plant (Chigasaki, Kanagawa Prefecture) completed.
- 2005**
  - Established a large-scale production base for large LCD production equipment in South Korea.
  - Established a subsidiary in Thailand.
  - Established R&D bases in South Korea and Taiwan.
  - Established a subsidiary in Malaysia.
- 2006**
  - Established a production subsidiary for large LCD production equipment in Taiwan.
- 2007**
  - Established a base in India.
- 2010**
  - Relocated the Chiba Institute for Super Materials to the Tomisato Industrial Park in Chiba Prefecture to enhance R&D.
- 2011**
  - Established the South Korea Institute for Super Materials to enhance R&D in South Korea.
- 2015**
  - Established the Future Technology Research Laboratory in Tsukuba, Ibaraki Prefecture.
- 2016**
  - Began manufacturing production equipment for large displays in China.
- 2018**
  - Celebrated the 50th anniversary of the completion of the Head Office/Plant (Chigasaki, Kanagawa Prefecture).

1952

1960

1970

1980

1990

2000

2005

2010

2018