

Y E A R S THE FUTURE OF HEATING

MILESTONES IN THE HISTORY OF INNOVATION



fowie ABDeeler & ABILION und echte BOEWe=Maiching für Familien=Gebrauch und für alle gewerblichen 3wecke paffer find ftets in ausgezeichneter Qualität und Leiftungefähigkeit, unter 4-jähriger Garantie, und gunftigen Reinhold Berger. Cauben-Liebhaber.

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Tauben ju vertaufen, wovon bie !

t all began with an advert in the local newspaper in Remscheid: on 1 August 1874, the "coppersmith and pump manufacturer" Johann Vaillant "recommends himself" to the residents of Remscheid and the surrounding area. Having set up shop on Alleestraße, he pledges "fair and speedy service". 150 years later, Vaillant is represented in more than 60 countries, employs some 17,000 people worldwide and operates ten development and production sites.

This family-owned company from the Bergisches Land region of Germany provides people around the world with innovative heating and hot-water solutions. Innovations for the heating of tomorrow have a 150-year tradition here at Vaillant – and are also a promise for the future. As one of the leading manufacturers of heat pumps in Europe, we are playing a part in shaping the heating transition – in keeping with our corporate vision, "Taking care of a better climate. Inside each home and the world around it." Using both text and images, this fact sheet summarises the most important milestones in the history of Vaillant.

This image material is available for download at http://vai.vg/pictures-history-of-innovations

1874 Johann Vaillant becomes an entrepreneur

Johann Vaillant sets up shop in Remscheid. "This proclaims to the people of Remscheid that I have established myself as a coppersmith and pump manufacturer," reads his advertisement in the local newspaper. He is 23 years old and a gifted master craftsman with innovative ideas. He achieves his first successes as an installer of warm-water heating equipment and incandescent gas lighting.



874_Johann Vaillant

1894 Revolutionising the bathroom - the "closed system" gas-fired bath boiler

On 21 July 1894, Johann Vaillant is awarded a patent for the "closed system" gas-fired bath boiler. For the very first time, water is heated in a closed system of piping, without coming into contact with flue gases. As such, bathing water not only stays clean, but is also heated more quickly and can be set to the desired temperature, meaning a considerable increase in comfort. Moreover, gas burns much more smoothly than wood or coal. The first "closed system" gas-fired bath boiler is a technical milestone that revolutionises bathroom technology.



1897 The roots of today's company headquarters

Johann Vaillant opens a large, modern bath boiler factory on Berghauser Straße, thereby planting the roots of today's Vaillant Group headquarters in Remscheid. While the following decades will see many renovations, the original administration building is still used to this day.



1899 A hare becomes the brand logo

Johann Vaillant chooses the image of a hare, hatching from an Easter egg, as the logo for his products. Vaillant's innovations, symbolised by the hare, ensure warmth and comfort and soon gain renown far beyond the borders of Germany. Over the decades, the brand will be modernised many times and revamped to suit the spirit of the age, but the stylised image of the hare emerging from the egg is still recognisable today.



1904 A geyser for the wall

Thanks to the Geyser, the wall-hung version of the bath boiler, there is space for hygienic warm-water heating in even the smallest of rooms. Inspired by geysers, bubbling springs of hot water, the company names this compact appliance "Geyser". Vaillant conquers the market with an innovation that is still in use today.



1910 Automatic water heater

"Hot water at the flick of a wrist" is the slogan used by Vaillant to promote its automatic water heaters, which heat and store water. Factories, restaurants, cafés and industrial kitchens use the larger appliances to brew coffee and prepare meals, whereas the smaller versions are found as wall-hung devices in settings such as medical practices and hair salons.



1920 A businessman and an engineer the second generation

After the death of the company founder, his sons Franz and Karl Vaillant take the helm. Franz uses his business acumen to build a successful, export-driven sales organisation. His brother, a gifted engineer, develops the products further with the help of a team comprising craftsmen and fellow engineers.





1924 Heating for the whole house: central heating by Vaillant

When Vaillant launches its new "ZHK" central heating boiler in 1924, all rooms within a house can be heated centrally via radiators. This marks the advent of central heating as we know it today - and represents a technical milestone.



Third generation 1933

Following the death of his father Franz, Hans Vaillant follows in his footsteps and manages the company together with his uncle Karl. After completing his studies at the Technical Universities of Munich and Karlsruhe, Hans Vaillant spends time in all departments of the company from 1925, before taking over the reins following the death of Karl in 1937.



1930s MAG instantaneous water heater

Vaillant manufactures its instantaneous water heaters, previously known under the name of "Geyser", as moulded appliances. Technicians appreciate the moulded MAG automatic geyser, because it is easy to open and repair. The appliance housing is no longer made of copper, but rather enamelled sheet steel; as this material is stable, cost-effective, easy to care for and corrosion-resistant, it becomes the general standard for gas-fired bath boilers and water heaters in the 1930s.



1954 "House of Engineers"

Vaillant builds the "House of Engineers", the forerunner of today's Johann Vaillant Technology Center. Here, highly qualified engineers develop new ideas and models that prove their mettle first in the testing lab and then in real-life use. Vaillant aims to hold its own against the growing international competition by virtue of innovations and technical precision.



1960 Electric heating with MAG-E

In the 1960s, the Vaillant hare adorns new electric heating appliances: the MAG-E instantaneous water heater ("E" for "electric") rounds off the Geyser portfolio. In terms of construction, the engineers benefit from knowledge gained in the 1930s, a time when Vaillant also built electric appliances. From 1963 onwards, the MAG-E is produced at the new electric appliance manufacturing plant in Bad Kreuznach.



1961 The invention of modern central heating: the Circo-Geyser

In the shape of the Circo-Geyser, Vaillant adds Germany's first-ever wallhung gas-fired heating system for flats and single-family homes to its range. The technology is revolutionary: the engineers at Vaillant have successfully deployed gas-fired water heaters as heating units within central heating systems. The Circo-Geyser system is also globally unique on account of the fact that all control and adjustment components are already built in. This appliance replaces the previously standard boilers, meaning that heating cellars can now be used as hobby rooms. Gas and water installers are delighted, as they can now install heating systems for the first time - a task that used to be mostly reserved for boilermakers.



1963 The right appliance for all kinds of energy

At the new plant in Bad Kreuznach, Vaillant makes electric appliances: moulded electric automatic geysers, small storage heaters, water boilers, and large electric appliances with a storage heater. It no longer matters whether a construction project is supplied with town gas, liquid gas or electricity - Vaillant supplies the right appliance for all kinds of energy.



1966 Generational handover

The family members Franz Wilhelm and Karl-Ernst Vaillant join Hans Vaillant as managing directors. A few years later, Hans Vaillant steps down completely. Franz Wilhelm, a business administration graduate, joined the company back in 1955, starting his career as a management assistant. He went on to shape the successful growth of this family-owned company with tremendous vigour and tireless dedication for 39 years. Karl-Ernst Vaillant is appointed managing director of the technical division in 1966; by the time he retired from the front line of business life in 1996, the company's sales had increased thirtyfold.





(arl-Ernst Vaillan

1966 Roding - the parts supplier

All die-cast and turned parts required by the factories in Remscheid and Bad Kreuznach are made by Vaillant at a new plant in the Bavarian town of Roding. But before the plant was completed in the spring of 1967, a temporary workplace was required, with machine setters and toolmakers trained in a converted stall and in the garage hall of a brewery. The site grows quickly, with almost 400 people working in Roding by 1968.



1967 Hot water and a warm home: the Combi-Geyser

A single appliance for hot water and a warm home: the Combi-Geyser combines central heating and hot-water supply. The appliance is affordable and easy to install, making it especially popular when retrofitting gas-fired central heating systems in period flats that previously had coal-fired boilers. The heating installers do not require any cellar space, but merely a free area on the wall – more comfort for every household!



1974 Combi-Geyser VCW T3W with electronic controls

Vaillant launches an electronically controlled, gas-fired, wall-hung heating appliance. The Combi-Geyser VCW T3W automatically adapts its output to heating requirements – and longer run times make it more efficient.



985_VKS E Calormatic

Ca. 1985 Energy-saving and highly efficient: the VKS E calormatic

In the mid-1980s, Vaillant launches the VKS E calormatic, a low-temperature boiler that not only meets the rising demands on heating systems, but actually surpasses them. The VKS E calormatic is fitted with an all-/multi-gas burner, with the gas supply to the burner controlled by means of a firing control unit and monitored by a gas pressure switch. This weather-compensated firing control ensures energy-saving adjustment of the boiler temperature to the outdoor temperature and therefore excellent utilisation of heating energy and economical operation.



1987 Six Vaillant plants

Vaillant has been making hot-water storages in Bergheim, near Cologne, since 1981. In addition, production capacity is expanded in Bad Kreuznach. In 1983, Vaillant purchases a boilermaking site in Hilden. In 1987, the company opens a plant for export business in Gelsenkirchen, meaning that it now has six production sites in Germany. The number of foreign branches is also on the rise.



1992 Go east: growth in eastern Europe

Following the fall of the Iron Curtain, Vaillant sets up susidiaries in Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Turkey. As a result, the company has 15 of its own foreign branches in 1992.



1995 Innovative condensing technology

The wall-hung Thermoblock ecoTEC is the first condensing appliance from Vaillant. Compared to conventional heating technology, condensing technology enables far better energy usage and reduces emissions. The Thermoblock ecoTEC is mounted on the wall; flue gas extraction and fresh air supply can run straight through the roof, removing the need for a chimney. The following years, Vaillant also switches to condensing technology for its large boilers.



2001 Hepworth takeover

Vaillant acquires the British Hepworth Group in the largest corporate takeover in what is, at the time, the company's more than 125-year history. Overnight, a traditional German company with the character of an SME is transformed into an international enterprise with more than 9,000 employees and plants in Germany, France, the UK, Spain and Slovakia. The Vaillant Hepworth Group, later the Vaillant Group, is born: a global player and the market leader in Europe for gas-fired wall-hung heating appliances and floor-standing boilers.



2006/07 The first Vaillant heat pump

With the very first geothermal heat pump developed in-house, Vaillant shows that climate-friendly technology and comfort can go hand in hand. In winter, the geoTHERM heat pump keeps the home warm and supplies hot water; in summer, it can cool rooms down.



Milestones

2007 A foothold in the Far East - Vaillant in China

Vaillant opens an in-house manufacturing facility in the city of Wuxi in eastern China. Here, some 250 employees produce wall-hung gasfired heating appliances for the Asian market. This is the first time that Vaillant makes products outside Europe - and in a fast-growing market with huge potential for efficient heating technology.



2007 Vaillant acquires Turkish heating technology manufacturer DemirDöküm

Vaillant acquires the majority of shares in Turkish heating technology specialist DemirDöküm. Founded in 1954, DemirDöküm is synonymous with decades of experience, outstanding quality and a spirit of trust and partnership. As the pioneer of the Turkish heating industry, it now supplies its appliances and services to customers in many countries in eastern Europe and Asia.

DD Demir Döküm

2011 Sustainability programme

The Vaillant Group consolidates its sustainability activities within the SEEDS programme. The acronym stands for "Sustainability", "Environment", "Employees", "Development & Solutions" and "Society". Vaillant sets itself concrete sustainability targets in these areas, which earns the company the German Sustainability Award in 2015.



2013 Because every child deserves a warm home: partnership with "SOS Children's Villages worldwide"

Since 2013, an international partnership has been in place between the Vaillant Group and "SOS Children's Villages worldwide". The family-owned company has already supported the children's charity in 24 countries - with state-of-the-art heating technology and through a multitude of social projects. Take France, for example, where two new SOS Children's Villages were built in quick succession in the west of the country in 2018, with a total of 70 children living in both villages. The Vaillant Group fitted the 15 houses with climate-friendly heat pumps. Because every child deserves a warm home.

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES WORLDWIDE VORLDWIDE

2015 Heating meets the Internet

Vaillant combines heating with the Internet. Intelligent heating control units and thermostats enable users to conveniently set their Vaillant heating by app. The complex electronic components for smarthome technology are developed and manufactured by a highly skilled workforce in Remscheid.



2019 Johann Vaillant Technology Center

The Johann Vaillant Technology Center - a cutting-edge research and development centre comprising three buildings, nine laboratory areas and some 9,000 square metres of testing facilities - goes into operation. Research and development work centres on heat pumps, gas-fired condensing technology, hydrogen heating appliances and digital services for installers and end customers.



2013_SOS partnership

2020 aroTHERM plus

The aroTHERM plus is the first Vaillant heat pump to run on the natural refrigerant R290. This means that both the flow temperature and the hot-water temperature can be up to 75 °C. Thanks to its high flow temperatures, the new aroTHERM plus is also suitable for modernisation projects. With a mere 33 dB(A) - measured at a distance of three metres - the new aroTHERM plus is also exceptionally quiet. As such, it can be installed in densely built-up settings, such as rows of terraced housing.



2023 The first mega factory for heat pumps goes into operation

Vaillant opens its new mega factory for electric heat pumps in the Slovakian town of Senica. This new plant, which spans 100,000 square metres, is solely dedicated to the manufacture of heat pumps and is designed for an annual production capacity of 300,000 heat pumps. The company – which also manufactures heat pumps in Germany, France and the UK – is thereby doubling its production capacity to well in excess of half a million heat pumps a year.



2023 German Sustainability Award for the Vaillant Group

The Vaillant Group is presented with the German Sustainability Award. As a "pioneer of transformation" in the HVAC sector, it beats off eleven competitors in the "Companies" category. In the words of the jury, the company has "made exceptionally effective and exemplary contributions to transformation, thus achieving role model status and sending the right signals within its own sector and beyond." This is the second time that the Vaillant Group wins the German Sustainability Award. In 2015, it was presented with the Award as the most sustainable large company.



MILESTONES IN THE HISTORY OF INNOVATION