Milestones in medical technology history at Siemens

Company history

1847    Siemens & Halske (S&H) founded in Berlin.
1850–1866 S&H produces its first electromedical equipment.
1877    Erwin Moritz Reiniger establishes his physical and electromedical equipment shop on Erlangen’s Schlossplatz.
1886    Max Gebbert and Karl Schall team up with Reiniger, founding Reiniger, Gebbert & Schall (RGS) to produce medical technology products.
1893    RGS moves into the new company building on Luitpoldstrasse, the current site of the Siemens MedMuseum.
1896    The first X-ray units are produced by S&H at the Wernerwerk in Berlin's Siemensstadt; RGS also brings X-ray units on the market.
1901    Friedrich Dessauer founds Elektrotechnisches Laboratorium Aschaffenburg (ELA).
1906    ELA merges with Elektrotechnisches Institut Frankfurt to form Vereinigte Elektrotechnische Institute Frankfurt-Aschaffenburg (Veifa-Werke).
1907    After Max Gebbert’s death, RGS is converted into a stock corporation.
1916    RGS buys the majority of shares in Veifa.
1921    S&H establishes a specific department for electromedicine.
1925    S&H takes over the majority of shares in RGS and a joint distribution company is established for medical technology products.
1932–33 RGS and its subsidiaries merge with the medical technology division of S&H to form Siemens-Reiniger-Werke AG (SRW).
1947    SRW headquarters is relocated from Berlin to Erlangen.
1966  SRW is absorbed by the newly founded Siemens AG and renamed Wernerwerk für medizinische Technik.

1969  Siemens AG is reorganized and the corporate division “Medical Engineering Group” is formed.

2001  The corporate division is renamed Siemens Medical Solutions.

2006–2007  Acquisition of Bayer Diagnostics, Diagnostic Products Corporation (DPC) and DadeBehring; Siemens Medical Solutions Diagnostics founded.

2008  The unit is renamed Siemens Healthcare, one of three (later four) Sectors of Siemens AG.

2014  Resolution of the Sectors on Siemens AG level. Siemens Healthcare is managed as a separate legal entity under the Siemens umbrella.

2015  Separation of Siemens Healthcare's business activities into legally independent entities under the Siemens umbrella; foundation of Siemens Healthcare GmbH in Germany.

2016  Siemens Healthcare unveils its new brand name Siemens Healthineers. The new brand underlines Siemens Healthineers’ pioneering spirit and its engineering expertise in the healthcare industry. The name of the legal entities will remain unchanged.

**Technical innovations across three centuries**

1844  Werner Siemens tries out one of his inventions, the “Volta Inductor,” to treat his brother’s tooth pain.

1848  Berlin-based physiologist Emil du Bois-Reymond has Johann Georg Halske build a multiplier to provide evidence of natural electricity in the body.

Ca. 1880  Erwin Moritz Reiniger invents and sells Reiniger’s plunge battery, a portable battery doctors can use for electrical stimulation therapy.

1895  Professor Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen, working in Würzburg, discovers X-rays. This form of radiation later bears his name in German in Röntgen's honor.

1896  S&H and RGS recognize the new technology’s possible applications in medicine and start producing X-ray units.

1909  The X-ray unit “Blitzapparat” from Veifa-Werke makes exposure times of under 1/100 of a second possible. This is the first time that high-
resolution X-ray images of rapidly moving organs, such as the beating heart, can be made.

1913 S&H launches the Phonophor, the first electric hearing aid from Siemens. A special ladies’ version has the microphone and battery built into a purse, and another version mimics the folding cameras popular at the time.

1934 SRW develops the X-ray sphere: An oil-filled sphere 22 centimeters in diameter houses both the X-ray tube and the transformer. Easy to handle and highly mobile, the device requires little space. It helps promote the rapid spread of X-ray technology worldwide.

1958–59 The Nucleograph, a nuclear medicine device from SRW for tumor diagnosis and metabolic examinations, visualizes the spread of radioactive markers injected into the patient before the exam.

1959 X-ray image intensifiers enable X-ray images that can be viewed under natural light. This means X-ray checks can now be performed during surgery for the first time.

1965 Vidoson is the first ultrasound unit for real-time procedures. This system makes it possible to visualize movement processes inside the body without contrast dyes. It is used in obstetrics and gynecology in particular.

1972 The Mammomat makes Siemens one of the first companies to launch X-ray devices specifically developed for mammography.

1975 The Siretom computed tomography system, developed especially for diagnostic head scans, is launched on the market. Two slices are taken simultaneously, and a head scan takes six minutes.

1983 Magnetom, the first magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) system from Siemens, offers a new diagnostic method, especially for soft tissue. Without X-ray radiation, using only magnetic fields, the system can produce cross-section images of the entire body – even the beating heart.

1999 Siemens develops its Syngo image processing software, a standardized user interface for all imaging systems – from X-ray units to MRI systems – that offers numerous benefits.

2005 Siemens unveils the Somatom Definition, the world’s first Dual Source CT system. The unit has two X-ray radiation sources and two
detectors, enabling clinical imaging at never-before-seen speeds – and at up to 50 percent lower dose than previous systems.

2010 Siemens introduces the Biograph mMR, the first whole-body system that fully integrates magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and positron emission tomography (PET) in a single device and enables simultaneous imaging using both technologies. This lets doctors see the position of organs within the body, their functioning, and cell metabolism simultaneously in a single image.

This background information and press pictures are available at www.siemens.com/press/medmuseum.

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