

Moeller Group History

Year	Company history	Product history
1899	Franz Klöckner founds a switchgear production company in Cologne, Germany.	The newly-founded company makes hand starters with a new safety function for use in DC machines.
1910s	Hein Moeller joins the firm in 1911, becoming its chief engineer and sole director.	Hein Moeller succeeds in developing the world's first three-phase oil contactor – a pioneering technical innovation.
1920s	Greater customer proximity is achieved thanks to decentralising the sales organisation. Assembly-line production is introduced at the Moeller works.	Improvement of oil-immersed contactors using new materials. Motor-protective circuit-breakers and bimetal relays are added to the product range.
1930s	Contactors relays are mass produced at six factories. The 'long weekend' is introduced.	Production of the first switchgear devices with a service life comparable to that of the machines in which they are deployed.
1940s	Moeller starts to deliver switchgear to electrical wholesalers and undergoes a change in name to Klöckner-Moeller. Felten & Guillaume Carlswerk is founded in Kleedorf, Lower Austria.	Moeller begins to use Andorit (a transparent plastic) as an insulating material in power distribution board housings.
1950s	The company expands to 1,500 employees and generates sales of DM 30 million. It sets up its first foreign sales subsidiary in Belgium. By now Moeller is represented by distribution partners in 42 countries of the world. In Austria, Prof. Dr. Ing. Biegelmeyer develops the residual-current circuit-breaker.	Product innovations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FAK foot and palm switches ▪ Four-pole contactors ▪ PKZ motor-protective circuit-breakers ▪ Compact circuit-breakers ▪ First fully insulation-enclosed power distribution system ▪ Residual-current circuit-breakers



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1960s	The company generates sales of DM 100 million with a workforce of 2,800 employees, and sets up sales subsidiaries in Switzerland and South Africa.	The German Chancellor inaugurates the country's first colour broadcast by actuating an FAK foot and palm switch made by Moeller. The RMQ range of control devices is launched on the market.
1970s	The company now has 5,000 employees and establishes sales subsidiaries in Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Brazil, Japan, Australia and Zaire. Factories are built in England, France and the USA.	Sales of contactors pass the 50 million mark.
1980s	For the first time Moeller generates sales in excess of DM 1 billion, achieved with the help of 7,000 employees in 75 countries. The companies that make up the Moeller Group are united into Moeller Holding GmbH & Co. KG, and new sales subsidiaries are set up in Spain, Austria and Denmark.	Moeller becomes one of the first suppliers of compact programmable logic controllers (PLCs), with the PS3 PLC being launched on the market to great success.
1990s	The company has 7,200 employees to its name and achieves sales of DM 1.5 billion. Sales centres are set up in former East Germany, and new sales subsidiaries are founded in Hungary, Poland and Italy. The Moeller Test Laboratory in Bonn is the first German laboratory to be accredited for industrial low-voltage devices and systems, and the Moeller Distribution Centre is taken into operation in Meckenheim, near Bonn.	Product innovations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ MODAN 6000 and 2000 power distribution and motor control systems▪ Fuzzy PLCs▪ ARCON internal arc protection system

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1998	Moeller acquires Felten & Guillaume AG, Cologne, a manufacturer of electrical installation devices, cables and medium-voltage systems, and lays the foundation stone for a fully-owned factory in Suzhou, China. The company posts sales of approx. €1.25 billion with 7,200 employees.	Product innovations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ easy control relays▪ ZEV electronic motor protection relays
1999	The company celebrates its centenary and undergoes a change in name from Klöckner-Moeller to Moeller.	
2000-2003	A marked downward trend in the economy world-wide, increasing competitive pressure in the global markets, and a two-year focus on the process of selling the company, hamper the Group's positive development. Nonetheless, the company keeps investing in future-oriented production technologies and develops new product families.	Product innovations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ command / signalling devicesRMQ Titan▪ easy 600/800 control relays▪ NZM 1-4 / IZM circuit breakers▪ decentralised motor control systemRapid Link▪ multi-function relaysMFD Titan▪ LS Titan position switches, XC 100/ 600 control system▪ Xpole installation switchgear▪ Xcomfort building automation system
19.12.2003	On December 9, 2003, a group of investors advised by Advent International Cooperation, Boston, USA, acquires 100 percent of the Moeller Group. The capital structure of the company is improved and the management's restructuring plan is implemented.	

Year
2004

Company history

A presentation on the company's business development is given at the annual press conference on September 27 in Bonn. Moeller has succeeded in achieving the turnaround and is again operating at a profit in its core business areas.

The Group focuses on its core competencies to an unprecedented extent and continues to consolidate its presence in global growth markets, especially in Eastern Europe and Asia.

By the end of 2005, the Moeller Group will have virtually completely renewed its product portfolio in its core business areas.

2005

On September 12, 2005, Doughty Hanson & Co., a British Private Equity Fund, acquires a 75% majority stake in the Moeller Group.

2008

On April 4, 2008, the US-American Eaton Corporation acquires 100 percent of the shares in the Moeller Group. Moeller is now part of one of the most successful US-American industrial groups. Together, the two companies form a significant global player in electrical engineering.

Product history

Product innovations:

- xStart contactor and motor-protective circuit-breaker system
- xEnergy switchgear system
- Xboard consumer units
- Xpatch data network technology
- XC 200 control system
- XV 400 HMI PLCs

Innovations:

- Home- and room manager
- Surge protection with automatic reset
- Expansion of the successful "easy" family

At Light & Building Frankfurt and at the Hanover trade fair, two world-renowned events, Moeller first presents its digital RCD.

For the first time, a comprehensive Darwin product range is presented for industrial automation applications. Darwin components revolutionise wiring and networking in switchgear cabinets.