



Jenoptik – a success story since the political change in 1990

In addition to the long tradition that still characterizes the Jena location today, the history of Jenoptik also reflects a very modern success story: JENOPTIK Carl Zeiss Jena GmbH was founded in 1990, from which JENOPTIK GmbH emerged one year later as a state-owned company. Jenoptik has been in existence since 1996, followed by an IPO on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange in 1998.

The development history of JENOPTIK AG from 1990 until today:



1990 - 1997



1990 - 1991

In 1990, the German privatization agency (Treuhandanstalt) in Berlin acquires the VEB Carl Zeiss JENA combine with 13 companies and around 30,000 employees.

In 1991, JENOPTIK Carl Zeiss JENA GmbH became Carl Zeiss Jena GmbH and, as a state-owned company, JENOPTIK GmbH: Jenoptik became the legal successor to the combine, took over the optoelectronics, systems technology and precision manufacturing divisions and was responsible for structural development in Jena. Lothar Späth becomes Chairman of the Management Board of Jenoptik.



1992 - 1993

Jenoptik opens an Investor Center in Jena that offers information and services to investors and regional companies. Just one year later more than 6,000 visitors from home and abroad are already counted. The Center remains open until June 30, 1994.

Jena becomes a large construction site: In January 1992, Lothar Späth explains his construction plans. These contains the renovation of the former Zeiss main plant and the Jena industrial estate Göschwitz, Tatzendpromenade and Saalepark, as well as the residential building project "Bei den Fuchslöchern".

The construction of the Goethe Galerie shopping mall and the Hotel Esplanade begins on and close to the former Zeiss premises. Development contracts for the business parks in Göschwitz and the Tatzendpromenade are concluded with the city of Jena.



1994 - 1995

JENOPTIK GmbH acquires ownership of MEISSNER+WURST GmbH+Co., Stuttgart (later M+W Zander). The leading plant manufacturer in the electronic industry from Stuttgart will have a massive influence on Jenoptik for the next 10 years.

As part of the "Laser 2000" federal program, Jenoptik will be responsible for leading the BMFT "Diode Laser" project in 1994.

The Lasers, Optics, Systems business area is boosted by the acquisition of the Hagenuk subsidiary Impulsphysik GmbH, Hamburg and Steinheil Industrielle Messtechnik GmbH, Munich. In Jena, Jenoptik and Aesculap establish Aesculap-Meditec GmbH in order to combine the areas of expertise in laser medical technology.





1996 - 1997

JENOPTIK GmbH is converted to a public limited company. Starting in January 1996, Jenoptik is organized into four business divisions: Clean Systems, Photonics, Telecommunications and Asset Management.

In April 1996, Jenoptik acquires 40 percent shares in the telecommunications company Krone AG from Berlin. By the end of the year Jenoptik becomes the majority shareholder in the company with 65.7 percent of the shares.

In 1997, Jenoptik acquires ESW-Extel Systems Wedel, now an integral part of our independent brand VINCORION for the mechatronic business.

1998 - 2005

1998 - 1999

JENOPTIK AG is listed on the Frankfurt stock exchange. In the same year, the Jenoptik share is listed on the MDax index for the first time.

Jenoptik acquires Robot Foto und Electronic GmbH from Monheim, Germany (now part of the Light & Safety division). This takeover makes Jenoptik one of the market leaders in the area of traffic monitoring.

2000 - 2001

In 2000, Jenoptik acquires 100 percent in Hommelwerke GmbH, Villingen-Schwenningen – a leading supplier of tactile metrology and measuring systems. Today it is a part of the Light & Production division.

Jenoptik sells Krone AG, therewith completing the company's reorganization process.

In 2001, JENOPTIK Laserdiode GmbH opens a new production building in Jena as a capacity expansion for the series production of diode lasers.

2002 - 2003

The Photonics division is expanded: Jenoptik and Hilti establish a production partnership for laser distance meters in 2002. Hillos GmbH emerged from this cooperation in 2003.

In the same year, Jenoptik strengthens its expertise in the field of sensor technology by acquiring a majority stake in Jena-Optronik GmbH, a specialist for optical and optoelectronic sensors for space technology.

After twelve years, CEO Lothar Späth hands over the management of the group to Alexander von Witzleben. Lothar Späth becomes Chairman of the Supervisory Board.

At the end of 2003, JENOPTIK AG acquires 100 percent of shares in Wahl optoparts GmbH. The specialist for optomechanical and optoelectronic assemblies made of plastic is now part of the Light & Optics division.

2004 - 2005

Jenoptik acquires more than 50 percent in PHOTONIC SENSE GmbH and gains the know-how for the production of basic optical components made of germanium and silicon.

The Jenoptik subsidiary ROBOT Visual Systems GmbH receives a major order from the Sultanate of Oman to equip its road network with stationary radar systems and corresponding exterior climate housings. The Jenoptik subsidiary also delivers traffic safety systems to Cyprus from 2005 to 2010.

2006 - 2013

2006 - 2007

Jenoptik opens a new high-technology factory in Berlin-Adlershof in order to cover the entire process chain for high-power diode lasers within the group. From autumn 2006, laser bars – the basis of high-power diode lasers – will be developed and produced in the new factory.

Jenoptik acquires the French measurement technology company ETAMIC SA.

With the sale of the Clean Systems business in 2006 Jenoptik divests around 85 percent of its sales and concentrates on its traditional core business in lasers, optics, sensor technology and mechatronics.

Alexander von Witzleben, Chairman of the Executive Board, leaves Jenoptik and moves to Haniel Group. The Supervisory Board appoints Dr. Michael Mertin to become the new Chairman of the Executive Board of JENOPTIK AG with effect from July 1, 2007. Frank Einhellinger is appointed Chief Financial Officer (CFO).

2008 - 2010

Jenoptik expands its international presence with joint ventures in China, Korea, Japan and Israel. Jenoptik inaugurates a laser application center in South Korea.

Lumenova GmbH from Esslingen, Germany, and today's Light & Optics division conclude a wide-ranging strategic alliance in the area of LED lighting.

The optics business in the USA is merged in JENOPTIK Optical Systems Inc. The manufacture of optical components in the USA is concentrated at two facilities.

By means of acquiring the Berlin-based company Three-Five Epitaxial Services AG, Jenoptik expands its diode laser activities to include yet another stage of production. Jenoptik is now capable of providing its own epitaxy wafer production.

Jenoptik sells its 10,000th Jenlas® D2.x green thin-disk laser at the Photonics West trade fair in San Francisco. Since the start of series production, more than 1,000 of the systems have been manufactured each year in Jena.

Jenoptik sells its space business: Astrium, an EADS subsidiary, acquires all shares in Jena-Optronik GmbH.

2011

On July 1, Jenoptik celebrates its 20th anniversary with employee parties at all locations in Germany and abroad.

Jenoptik bundles all activities on the Chinese market in the wholly owned JENOPTIK (Shanghai) Precision Instruments and Equipment Co., Ltd.

Jenoptik officially opens the expanded production environment at its Altenstadt site. The location produces high-efficiency energy systems for the rail and defense industries.

Large single order for traffic safety: Saudi Arabia orders traffic safety technology for more than 20 million euros. In 2011 and 2012, Jenoptik will deliver over one hundred stationary systems for the detection of red light and speed violations to the Kingdom and provide on-site support.

2012 - 2013

In April 2012, Rüdiger Andreas Günther becomes the new Chief Financial Officer of JENOPTIK AG alongside Jenoptik CEO Dr. Michael Mertin. He takes over from Frank Einhellinger, who leaves the company.

With the foundation of JENOPTIK do Brasil, Jenoptik strengthens its activities in South America.

With the acquisition of an Australian and a British supplier of traffic safety technology and several projects from the Asia/Pacific region, Jenoptik strengthens its leading role in this market.

Jenoptik supplies energy systems for Munich Airport. The former Defense & Civil Systems division provides ground power for aircraft at the new Terminal 2 satellite at Munich Airport.

2014 - 2016

2014

With Vysionics Ltd. Jenoptik acquires a leading supplier of traffic safety technology in Great Britain. The then traffic safety unit receives the "iF product design award" for its TraffiTower 2.0 housing used in traffic monitoring. In the area of traffic safety, Jenoptik increases its stake in Robot Nederland to 100 percent.

Jenoptik also increases its stake in a joint venture in India to 100 percent.

Jenoptik strengthens its cooperation with Raytheon. The North-American Raytheon Company and Lechmotoren as a part of the then Defense & Civil Systems have been cooperating for 30 years within the framework of the PATRIOT missile defense program.

Jenoptik is expanding its product portfolio with the new robot-based JENOPTIK-VOTAN® BIM laser system for cutting and welding metal. The machine provides industrial manufacturers with a highly flexible, fast and cost-effective solution for processing metals.



2015

Alongside CEO Dr. Michael Mertin, Hans-Dieter Schumacher becomes the new CFO in April 2015.

In March, Jenoptik receives “Yanfeng Supplier Award” from the Chinese automotive supplier Yanfeng for excellent supplying quality and loyalty.

The then Lasers & Optical Systems segment increases value added in the lithography field and again makes significant progress with integrated solutions for semiconductor manufacturing.

Jenoptik delivers the 200th radome for the Eurofighter Typhoon jet. Jenoptik is lead manager for the development and production of the radome. Jenoptik receives a series order from a logistics division of the US Navy for the supply of generator governors for helicopters.

2016

New structure: As of January 1, Jenoptik is focusing even more strongly on target markets and megatrends and is now structured into the five divisions Optical Systems, Healthcare & Industry, Automotive, Traffic Solutions and Defense & Civil Systems.

Investment at the US site in Rochester Hills: With the symbolic ground-breaking ceremony Jenoptik starts the construction of a modern technology campus in Rochester Hills, Michigan. Jenoptik is investing around 14 million euros here to expand production, sales and service for metrology and laser machines in North America.

25 years of Jenoptik: In July, employees worldwide celebrate the company’s anniversary.

In Canada, one of the largest and most successful projects for greater road safety, will be continued for at least five years with the technology of Jenoptik. The West Australian police will also be using Jenoptik camera systems for the next seven years. In the Kingdom of Jordan, Jenoptik supplies more than 100 measuring systems and software for the evaluation of traffic violations.

Jenoptik receives a major order from the medical technology sector and supplies lasers to the USA for around 10 million euros over a period of three years.

2017 until today

2017

Dr. Stefan Traeger becomes the new Chief Executive Officer since May 2017. He succeeds Dr. Michael Mertin, who left the company after almost ten years as Jenoptik CEO.

The acquisition of the British company ESSA Technology is a further step in the development towards an integrated solution provider for traffic law enforcement and civil security.

In Kuwait, Jenoptik is commissioned to install non-invasive average speed measuring systems on the world’s longest sea bridge.

At the end of year, Jenoptik expands its optical manufacturing capacity in Jupiter, Florida with a new clean room.



In August, Jenoptik acquires the US company Five Lakes Automation (FLA), a specialist for process automation in the automotive industry.

In June 2017, Jenoptik moves into its new technology campus at the US site in Rochester Hills, Michigan. At the end of the year; Jenoptik expands its production facility for optical systems with a new clean room in Jupiter, Florida. Jenoptik opens a new location in Fremont, California, to address customers in the fields of engineering and product development.

The "SkyHost 800" civil rescue winch model, which has won two design awards, is presented at the US trade fair HAI Heli Expo.

2018

Jenoptik acquires the Canadian company Prodomax Automation Ltd, based in Barrie, Ontario, which plans and designs automated production lines similar to FLA and integrates them into the manufacturing environment of customers in the automotive industry. In the course of the year, Jenoptik also strengthens its metrology business with the acquisition of OTTO group in Thuringia.

Jenoptik is investing around 11 million euros in a new production facility for industrial metrology. In Villingen-Schwenningen, state-of-the-art development, production and office space is created for 220 employees.

Jenoptik is also investing in modern production equipment at its location in Berlin. With new systems, so-called steppers, Jenoptik is preparing itself for the increasing demand for high-performance laser diodes.

Jenoptik is the first company in Germany to receive German type approval for an average speed control system, allowing live operation of the systems in a pilot project in Lower Saxony. The Jenoptik measuring system VECTOR P2P for average speed control is approved by the Dutch National Metrology Institute (NMI) and can thus be used for traffic monitoring in the Netherlands.

The mechatronic business of Jenoptik has been operating under the VINCORION brand since September.

2019

Under the claim "More Light", Jenoptik positions itself more strongly as an application specialist for photonic technologies as of 2019. Core elements such as structure, corporate culture and brand as the basis of the Strategy 2022 were launched successfully at SPIE Photonics West in San Francisco.

The focus on photonics is reflected in a new corporate structure: Jenoptik's business is organized in the photonics-based divisions Light & Optics, Light & Production und Light & Safety as well as in VINCORION for the mechatronic business.

Near Bayeux in French Normandy Jenoptik opens new production facility for high-precision industrial metrology, which is being used in automotive manufacturing.

Jenoptik delivers lenses to NASA for their Mars 2020 mission that will send the first images of the Red Planet back to Earth once the Mars rover will have landed.