

# Change: the only constant

## The CPH Group celebrated its 200th birthday in 2018 with a large public party that was also a farewell to its original Uetikon site.

1818: Lands north of the Alps are still experiencing food shortages after the eruption of Mount Tambora in Indonesia has darkened the skies and caused the crops to fail. Switzerland is still to see the benefits of electricity, telephones and railways, and mineral fertilizers are yet to be developed. The manufacture of chemicals, too, is only in its infancy when the Schnorf brothers found a business to commercially produce sulphuric acid – which is then used primarily in textile production – in Uetikon, on the banks of Lake Zurich.

2018: Two hundred years later, the Uetikon industry story ends. The original factory site, which has been used in the intervening two centuries to produce not only sulphuric acid but a range of further basic chemicals, too, is passed on to Canton Zurich, which plans a new cantonal high school thereon. On 26 May 2018 the CPH Group celebrates its 200th birthday on the original chemicals factory site with a formal anniversary ceremony and a public party that attracts around 3000 visitors.

“Anyone who has such a long history to look back on as yours must have done a few things right,” said VIP invitee Swiss Minister of Economic Affairs Johann Schneider-Ammann in his welcome address.

And CPH has indeed managed to constantly meet and master the new challenges that have emerged over the decades – as is evidenced by the fact that the seventh generation of the founding families are still the majority shareholders.

It was the second generation of the founding family that first began to diversify the business, as early as the end of the 19th Century, when they rescued the Oetiker&Cie weaving mill from insolvency. After a relocation to Bergamo in Italy, the business was developed into a flourishing concern with a workforce of more than 1000 personnel, before faltering again after the First World War.

A further involvement in the 1880s in a pulp and paper factory in Perlen near Lucerne proved a more successful investment in the longer term. And this in turn spawned the CPH Group's packaging division, which was established in the 1960s, primarily to serve the pharmaceuticals sector.

The international expansion of the CPH Group began back in 1979, when the Chemistry Division embarked on a joint venture in the USA. CPH today is active worldwide with nine production plants in six countries in Europe, Asia and North and South America. Its three business divisions of Chemistry, Paper and Packaging are each established among the three leading suppliers in their target markets. So the CPH Group is ready, equipped and positioned for the future, too.

## 100 years of occupational pension care

**Even back in the 19th Century, the Schnorf brothers were keen to provide their workers with occupational pension benefits. They first set up a company health insurance scheme; and in 1918 they founded the first occupational pension scheme of the CPH Group.**

With the state limiting its social services to poor relief and schools, many a 19th Century employer would provide social benefits for their workers. The Schnorf family were closely involved with the Uetikon community, holding public office and supporting local schools, churches and further institutions. They also founded the village's first kindergarten, established a charity house and helped to ensure the provision of the first local retirement home.

For their employees the Schnorfs established a health insurance scheme in 1864. They followed this with a company old-age pension scheme in 1901 and pension payment regulations the following year. And 1918 saw the establishment of the Stiftung Pensionsfonds – the forerunner to today's CPH occupational pension scheme – with an initial capital of CHF 800 000.

The Perlen paper factory created its own company pension scheme in 1938. On the Uetikon scheme's 100th anniversary in 2018, the Uetikon and Perlen institutions merged to become the CPH Group Occupational Pension Scheme. The fully autonomous scheme holds assets under management of some CHF 313 million and, with a funding ratio of 108%, is in sound financial health.



- 1** Peter Schaub, Chairman of the Board of Directors of CPH Chemie + Papier Holding AG, presents Swiss Minister of Economic Affairs Johann Schneider-Ammann with a rock of the mineral pyrite, which was used to manufacture sulphuric acid in the 19th Century.
- 2** Some 500 guests attended the formal bicentenary celebration.
- 3+4** Then and now: a 200th anniversary exhibition offered insights into both factory life in the 19th Century and the CPH Group today.
- 5+6** The anniversary and "Farewell Uetikon" public party and funfair attracted some 3000 visitors to the original factory site.

1818

1828

1838

1848

1858



1818 Chemische Fabrik Uetikon, CH

1818–2012 Sulphuric acid

1825–1964 Hydrochloric acid

1825–1898 Sodium carbonate



## Chemistry

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## Paper

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## Textiles

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**200**  
Years CPH  
1818-2018

## The journey to today's diversified and globally active industrial group

The key companies (in blue) and products (in grey) in the 200-year story of the CPH Group

1868

1878

1888

1898

1908



**1880–2017** Fertilizer

**1902** Leim- und Düngerfabrik Märstetten, CH

**1902–1976** Glues



**1881** Holzstoff- und Papierfabrik Perlen, CH

**1881–1959** Printing and packing papers

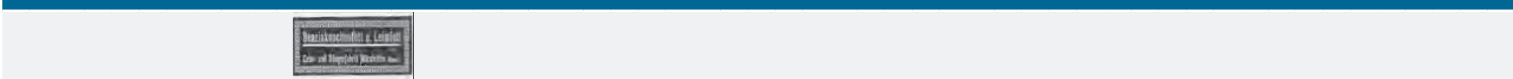
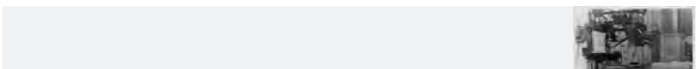
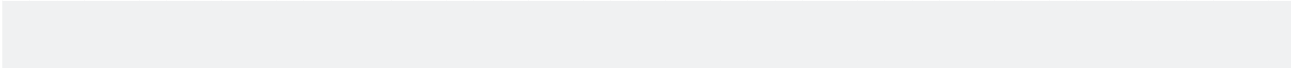
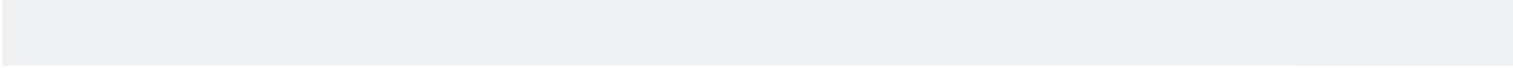


**1882** Oetiker Tessitura, I

**1882–1931** Sheet and furniture fabrics

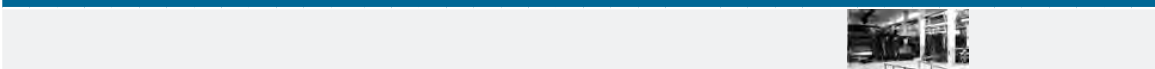


1918 1928 1938 1948 1958 1968



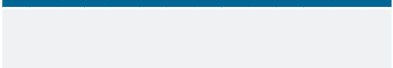
1939–today Silica gels

- 1
- 1971 E
- 1971–20
- 1971–to



1959–today Magazine paper

1954–today Newsprint



## Packaging



1962 Perlen Conve

1962–today Coated films

1978

1988

1998

2008

2018



1979 Zeochem, USA

2015 ALSIO Technology, CN

ZEOCHEM®



1973–today Molecular sieves (zeolites)

Elektrochemie Turgi, CH

1992 Imhausen-Chemie, D

–2011 Organic chemistry

–today Deuterated products



2017 Armar, CH



perlen papier ag

onverting, CH

2001 ac-Folien, D

2018 Sekoya, BRA



perlen packaging

2001–today Monofilms