

SMITHERS Scientific Services, Inc.
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News Release

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“Creative Solutions for 75 Years”

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SMITHERS’ CORPORATE MILESTONES

April 1925 – Smithers Laboratories was founded in Akron by Vernon L. Smithers, a scientific-minded young man who observed that the rubber companies needed an impartial testing ground for their products.

June 1936 – The Laboratories moved from rented quarters on Sweitzer Ave. in Akron to a newly purchased building on Cherry St.

August 1936 – Smithers Laboratories expanded the scope of its tire analysis operations to include battery testing and analysis.

July 1955 – Robert G. Dunlop, who owned an independent consulting firm specializing in tire development and manufacturing, assumed direction of the operations of Smithers Laboratories, and became president of the company.

October 1966 – Smithers Laboratories moved to the present facilities at 425 W. Market St. in Akron.

November 1970 – Smithers began winter tire testing operations on the streets and highways around Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., working out of a hotel room and the back end of a truck. Today, Smithers Winter Test Center in Racó, Mich., is a 700-acre world-class automotive proving ground with seven buildings to serve clients.

February 1972 – *The complementary capabilities of the consulting firm Hochschwender & Associates Inc. were combined with Smithers Laboratories to form Smithers Scientific Services Inc. Herman K. Hochschwender became president of the new company, and Robert G. Dunlop was named chairman. Smithers continues to provide consulting services to Fortune 500 companies.*

November 1975 – Compliance Testing Inc. (CTI) in Ravenna, Ohio, became part of Smithers Scientific Services Inc., with just four roadwheel machines. Over the years, the Ravenna operations expanded to include 13 machines, a Flat-Trac II® force and moment tire testing unit, and a Flat Surface Tire Dynamics

Machine. Today, the division is known as Smithers Tire & Automotive Testing (STAT) and includes Smithers Winter Test Center in Racó, Mich., Smithers Transportation Test Center in Pecos, Texas; and Smithers Greenville Test Center in Piedmont, S.C.

March 1977 – Smithers began Uniform Tire Quality Grading (UTQG) test operations in San Angelo, Texas.

July 1982 – Smithers began publishing its comprehensive rubber industry studies and five-year market forecasts, encompassing all aspects of tire and rubber production in various countries.

January 1987 – Smithers acquired the Uniroyal Goodrich Automotive Proving Grounds in Pecos, Texas, and named the facility Smithers Transportation Test Center.

March 1988 – Smithers began publishing *The Smithers Report*, a weekly news digest of activities in the tire industry.

August 1989 – Herman K. Hochschwender was elected chairman and chief executive officer, and Douglas C. Domeck was elected president and chief operating officer.

April 1990 – The Ravenna Laboratories began operating the MTS Flat-Trac II® machine to obtain force and moment data to support automotive computer-aided engineering on light trucks and SUVs.

May 1993 – Smithers began tire and automotive testing operations in Piedmont, S.C. near Greenville.

October 1993 – The company established Smithers Quality Assessments Inc. to provide third-party quality system audits and certification services to ISO 9000 standards. Today, the Smithers registrar is accredited to certify both quality and environmental management systems.

January 1996 – J. Michael Hochschwender was elected president and chief executive officer, while Herman K. Hochschwender retained board chairmanship.

March 1998 – The Ford Motor Co.'s Advanced Vehicle Technology Group approved Smithers as the exclusive independent tire treadwear testing authority for Ford light trucks, effective model year 2000.

June 1999 – Smithers' Ravenna Laboratories completed an expansion program to increase its indoor tire and wheel testing capacity by 20 percent.

February 2000 – The company's tire and automotive services division completed a \$1-million capital expansion project at Smithers Winter Test Center in Racó, Mich.