

**SMITHERS** Scientific Services, Inc.  
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## **News Release**

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*“Creative Solutions for 75 Years”*

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### **SMITHERS WITHSTANDS THE ULTIMATE TEST – TIME: 75 YEARS**

AKRON, Ohio – What began in April 1925 as an impartial testing ground for an infant tire industry starting to thrive in and around Akron, Ohio, has evolved into a multidisciplined, independent research and consulting firm with an international client base.

From a one-man tire analysis operation 75 years ago in a garage in South Akron, Smithers Scientific Services Inc. has grown into a “big-small” company, employing over 300 people at five operating locations in the U.S.

Smithers’ humble beginnings have withstood the test of time, from initially serving the tire industry with tire analysis reports, to emerging as a leading supplier of technical, engineering and management consulting services to a global clientele.

**The company experienced a major redirection in February 1972, when the complementary capabilities of the consulting firm Hochschwender & Associates Inc. were combined with Smithers Laboratories to form Smithers Scientific Services Inc.**

“Up until 1972, Smithers was basically a tire analysis lab,” recalls Herman K. Hochschwender, who was then named president of the new company and is currently chairman of the board. “Our focus went from tires to analyzing a variety of other rubber products and formulations. Through our consulting division, there

were projects in distribution management, inventory control, strategic planning and due diligence in acquisitions and mergers.”

This diversity of services successfully paid off for Smithers, especially in the ‘80s and ‘90s when a wrenching consolidation of the worldwide tire industry resulted in a flurry of foreign takeovers, altering strategic planning for many Akron, Ohio-based companies.

Smithers’ client base grew to include designers and manufacturers of, not only tires, but also automotive, aerospace, elastomeric, plastic, steel, chemical, medical and transportation products.

Today, Smithers is recognized worldwide as a leader in the fields of testing, problem solving, consulting, product development, product analysis, and quality systems certification,” said J. Michael Hochschwender, Smithers’ president and chief executive officer. Clients range from individuals and small businesses to Fortune 500 multinational corporations and government agencies.

“The total scope of our services allows us to view products or industry segments from many perspectives, encompassing all facets of the industrial supply chain in every region of the world,” said J. Michael Hochschwender, Smithers’ president and chief executive officer.

In 1993, Smithers expanded its services in a new direction and established Smithers Quality Assessments Inc., which offers third-party certification for quality and environmental management systems to manufacturers and service providers throughout the world.

Headquartered in Akron, Smithers operates two automotive proving grounds, one in Pecos, Texas, and the other near Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.; indoor tire and wheel dynamics testing laboratories in Ravenna, Ohio; a vehicle test center near Greenville, S.C.; and analytical, physical and environmental testing and research laboratories in Akron.

“Now into the new millennium, our primary expectation is to continue to be the best at what we do, expand our capabilities, and continue to improve our international reputation for quality and customer service,” Mr. Hochschwender said.

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