

December 20, 2019

90th Anniversary of the Foundation of Sumitomo Riko

Sumitomo Riko Company Limited (Headquarters: Nakamura-ku, Nagoya-shi; Representative Director and President & CEO: Tetsu Matsui) celebrates its 90th anniversary today, Friday, December 20. Over the 90 years since our foundation in Yokkaichi-shi, Mie on this day in 1929, our business operations have evolved due to the support and patronage of many people. Once again, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to everyone concerned.



Yokkaichi Factory in 1942

Our company was founded in 1929 as Showa Kogyo Co., Ltd. A year later, in 1930, the company changed its name to Kabata Chotai (Belt) Co., Ltd. and began to manufacture rubber belts (a field that we withdraw from in 2003 due to a transfer of business). Following capital participation by Sumitomo Electric Wire & Cable Works (now Sumitomo Electric Industries, Ltd.) in 1937, we changed our name to "Tokai Rubber Industries Ltd." Having entered the automotive parts business in the 1950s making anti-vibration rubber products, hoses, etc., which are currently our core products, in 1961 we changed our Japanese company name, replacing the Chinese characters for "Rubber" with Japanese katakana characters. Afterward, in 2014, we changed our name to "Sumitomo Riko Company Limited" as part of a drive to expand into new businesses and new areas. The new name combines the well-trusted global brand "Sumitomo" with the word "Riko" meaning the technologies of science and engineering, as exemplified by our polymer materials technology.



Founder: Zenzo Kabata

The automotive industry, in which we conduct our main business operations, is in a major transition phase, a “once-in-a-century period of massive transformation.” Faced with a wave of unprecedented changes known as “CASE*,” we are entering a challenging era that we will not survive by simply expanding our existing businesses. While technological innovation and change are happening far faster than before not only in the automotive industry but throughout all industry, environmental measures and corporate responsibility are becoming increasingly serious. We must face challenges in an expeditious and bold manner, leveraging our technical capabilities developed since our founding, and our pride as a MONOZUKURI company.



Representative Director
and President & CEO:
Tetsu Matsui

The Sumitomo Riko Group will continue to move steadily forward, one step at a time, for the next ten years until our 100th anniversary. Based on “integrity and sound management” and “no chasing easy gains” as stated in the Sumitomo Spirit, and while steadily implementing “S.E.C.-Q. (Safety, Environment, Compliance, and Quality),” the foundation of our business operations, we aim to grow into the kind of “Global Excellent Manufacturing Company” the world needs, “a corporation that contributes to safety, comfort, and the environment for people, society and the earth.” Please look forward to the coming decade of the Sumitomo Riko Group.

* C: Connected, A: Autonomous, S: Sharing, E: Electrification

< Corporate History >

1929	Established in Yokkaichi-shi, Mie as Showa Kogyo Co., Ltd. 【First Founding】
1930	Company name changed to Kabata Chotai (Belt) Co., Ltd.
1937	Joined the Sumitomo Group. Company name changed to Tokai Rubber Industries, Ltd. (using Kanji for Rubber in the Japanese name)
1943	Matsusaka Factory (current Matsusaka Plant) started operation
1949	Listed on the Nagoya Stock Exchange (NSE)
1960	Komaki Factory (current Komaki Plant) started operation
1961	Company name changed to Tokai Rubber Industries, Ltd. (Changed Kanji for Rubber to Katakana, different Japanese character)
1964	Moved the head office from Yokkaichi-shi to Komaki-shi, Aichi
1976	Foreman Training (F-Ken) started as part of efforts to develop human resources as part of the general improvement
1986	Opened the Technical Center at the head office (Komaki-shi, Aichi)
1988	Established DTR Industries, Inc. (current SumiRiko Ohio, Inc.), the Company’s first overseas production base in the U.S. 【Second Founding】
1990	Fuji-Susono factory (current Fuji-Susono Plant) started operation
1994	Listed on the second section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE)
1995	Established subsidiaries in Thailand and China, the Company’s first bases in Asia

1996	Listed on TSE and NSE changed to first section
1999	Established a subsidiary in Poland, the Company 's first base in Europe
2002	Established TRI Technical Center USA, Inc. (current SumiRiko Technical Center America, Inc.), the Company's first overseas development base in the U.S.
2008	Construction of Technopia, an R&D laboratory, completed (Komaki-shi, Aichi)
2013	Acquired Dytech-Dynamic Fluid Technologies S.p.A. (current SumiRiko Italy S.p.A.), an Italian automotive hose manufacturer, and Anvis Group GmbH (current SumiRiko AVS Holding Germany GmbH), a German automotive anti-vibration rubber manufacturer, and made them into consolidated subsidiaries 【Third Founding】 Completed Training Center Unuma Sangakukan (Kakamigahara-shi, Gifu)
2014	Company name changed to Sumitomo Riko Company Limited
2015	SumiRiko FC Seal, Ltd. established to take on the manufacturing functionality of "cell gaskets", the rubber seal components (Komaki-shi, Aichi) SumiRiko Yamagata Company Limited established as the first manufacturing base in the North-eastern region of Japan to manufacture anti-vibration rubber for automobiles (Yonezawa-shi, Yamagata)
2016	Established Global Headquarters (Nakamura-ku, Nagoya-shi) Established collaborative venture between industry, academia, and government at the "Kyushu University Health Care System Lab Itoshima" (Itoshima-shi, Fukuoka) Established Advanced Automotive Systems R&D Center (Komaki-shi, Aichi)
2017	Established New Business Development Center (Komaki-shi, Aichi)
2018	Integrated two industrial hose subsidiaries to form Sumitomo Riko Hosetex, Ltd. (Ayabe-shi, Kyoto) Established IoT Device Center (Komaki-shi, Aichi)
2019	Absorbed and merged with SumiRiko Fine Elastomer, Ltd., rubber seal manufacturing company and established Saitama Plant (Ageo-shi, Saitama) 90th Anniversary of the Foundation

About Us-----

Founded in 1929, Sumitomo Riko is a manufacturing company headquartered in Nagoya-shi, Aichi, Japan. We changed our name from Tokai Rubber Industries, Ltd. in 2014. In the field of "Automotive (Mobility)", we manufacture anti-vibration rubber parts, in which we have a leading global share, as well as rubber and resin hoses, urethane sound controlling & insulation products, and interior equipment. We are also applying the technologies we have accumulated in automobile parts development to expand our business in the fields of "Infrastructure and Housing environment", "Electronics", and "Healthcare". Utilizing our global network of 106 bases in 23 countries, we aim to be a "Global Excellent Manufacturing Company" that contributes to the safety, comfort, and environment of people worldwide.

Contact Information

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