100 years of WISKA: from a specialist factory to a multi-solutions supplier

The German supplier for shipbuilding, industry and trade is celebrating its 100th anniversary

In 1919, an engineer at the shipyard Blohm+Voss and his friend set up their own business: a specialist factory for the production of ship installation materials made of brass in Hamburg: Hoppmann & Mulsow. In a conversation between the two founders Wilhelm Hoppmann and Hermann Mulsow, the idea of the name WISKA is born – as an abbreviation of the German “wasserdichte isolierstoffgekapselte Kabelarmaturen” (waterproof insulated cable fittings), becoming the company name from then on. This year, the family-run business celebrates its 100th anniversary.

‘Throughout the WISKA history, we have walked new paths and been a benchmark for individual solutions. Starting with the founders, who laid the foundation for our approach with the idea of manufacturing products to meet the extreme demands at sea – right up until the present day’, says the grandson of company founder Ronald Hoppmann, who is now the third generation of the family to run the business alongside his sister Tanja Hoppmann.

In 1919, the founders of WISKA saw an opportunity to manufacture cost-efficiently switches, sockets and junction boxes made of robust brass in series production which met the requirements of the merchant ship standards committee (HNA) that was founded two years earlier.

Today, the family-run company employs 210 people in Germany and 50 in international subsidiaries. At the headquarters outside Hamburg WISKA develops searchlights, floodlights, reefer container sockets and CCTV video surveillance systems in addition to a wide variety of installation materials that are used worldwide. The material of choice is increasingly plastic. In WISKA’s
own production facility, thirty injection moulding machines work in several shifts, ten of which use the two-component injection moulding process.

In order to deliver the highest quality, WISKA controls the entire supply chain itself, from development to delivery, everything is in one hand. "In order to continue to offer high-quality products "Made in Germany" in the future, we want to invest in our Kaltenkirchen location, expand production and internationally strengthen our sales structure and our subsidiaries," says Ronald Hoppmann.

About WISKA®

Founded in Hamburg in 1919, we are today one of the leading manufacturers of electrical equipment, lighting products and CCTV video surveillance for trade, industry and shipbuilding. We operate our own research and development facilities and production plants next door at our headquarters in Germany. Our global sales network of representatives and subsidiaries ensure a quick and personal on-site customer service for you. The WISKA Group today employs 260 people worldwide.

www.wiska.com

Picture subtitles

Pic “WISKA-GF-1”: ‘Hermann Mulsow and Wilhelm Hoppmann founded the company in 1919’.
Pic “WISKA-GF-3”: ‘The siblings Tanja and Ronald Hoppmann are the third generation to run the company’.

Pic “WISKA-Fer-Messing”: WISKA’s first product: a brass junction box.’

Tags
WISKA, centenary, anniversary, 100 years, installation material, plastic, shipbuilding, trade, industry

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