SCHOTT History

Historical and Technological Milestones
Historical Milestones

1884 Otto Schott, Ernst Abbe and Carl and Roderich Zeiss found the Schott & Associates Glass Technology Laboratory in Jena, Germany.

1889 Ernst Abbe founds the Carl-Zeiss-Stiftung (Carl Zeiss Foundation).

1891/1919 The glassworks in Jena become a foundation-owned enterprise. Its sole owner is the Carl-Zeiss-Stiftung.

1900 Export share already about 50%.

1927/1930 The first subsidiaries: Farbenglaswerk Zwiesel (1927), Deutsche Spiegelglas AG (DESAG) in Grünenplan (1930), Glaswerk Mitterteich (1930).

1945 “The Odyssey of 41 Glassmakers”: After the end of World War II, American troops bring the management and selected experts from Jena to West Germany.

1948 The original factory in Jena (Soviet zone of occupation/GDR as of 1949) is expropriated and converted into a state-owned company (VEB).

1952 The foundation enterprise is rebuilt in Mainz (Federal Republic of Germany) under the direction of Erich Schott, the son of the company’s founder.
Mainz becomes the headquarters and main production site of the SCHOTT Group.

1954 First production subsidiary outside of Germany (Vitrofarma in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil).

As of 1963 Establishment of production plants and sales offices in western and southern Europe. A sales office is opened in the U.S. (New York City). SCHOTT grows to become an international group of companies.

1966 First sales office in Asia (Tokyo).

1969 First production plant in the U.S. (Duryea, PA).

1974 First production plant in Asia (Penang, Malaysia).

1989 The Otto Schott Research Center in Mainz is put into operation.

1991/1995 After the reunification of Germany, SCHOTT in Mainz takes over the ownership of the old main plant in Jena.

As of 1993 Establishment of production plants and sales offices in Eastern Europe.

2002 First production plant in China.

2004 Conversion of the foundation enterprise to the corporation SCHOTT AG. Its sole shareholder is the Carl-Zeiss-Stiftung.
Technological Milestones

1884  Otto Schott develops new optical glasses and provides the scientific basis for developing specialized glasses. (1)
1884  Glass tubing for thermometer and water gauge glasses.
1887/1893  Invention of chemically resistant borosilicate glass that is able to withstand high temperatures and thermal shocks.
1894  Casting of large scale optical disks up to 140 cm in diameter for astronomical telescopes.
1895  Extremely durable cylinders made of borosilicate glass help the Auer incandescent lighting achieve a breakthrough. (2)
1908  Glass tubing is developed for pharmaceutical ampoules, which are distributed under the brand name FIOLAX® starting in 1911.
1911  SCHOTT becomes the world’s first specialized glass manufacturer to adopt continuous melting in tanks.
1914  Processed flat glasses for the household appliance industry.
Market launch of heat resistant household glasses that are marketed under the brand name JENAer Glas® as of 1921.

Automated and continuous drawing of glass tubing based on the Danner process. (3)

Ampoules for pharmaceutical packaging.

Automated and continuous drawing of flat glass based on the Fourcault process.

Development of the first coating techniques.

Glass-to-metal seals for electro-technology.

DURAN® laboratory glass becomes the new universal glass for the chemistry laboratory.

Fully automated production of television glass components and hollow glass. (4)

Optical glasses from Mainz and Jena are put to use in both American and Soviet aerospace applications.

Fiber optic components for light and image guides. The main application fields are medical technology and lighting technology. (5)

ZERODUR® glass-ceramic introduces a new era of telescope mirror substrates for astronomy.
**1969**
Optical glasses from SCHOTT in television and photo cameras deliver spectacular photos and television images of „Apollo 11“, when Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin become the first human beings to walk on the moon.

**1969**
Market launch of glass-to-metal seals for automotive applications. (6)

**1973**
Lightweight eyeglass lenses result in improvements for eyeglass wearers.

**1973**
SCHOTT CERAN® glass-ceramic cooking surfaces make their way into kitchens worldwide. (7)

**1978**
Market launch of PYRAN® fire-resistant glass.

**1979**
The first dust removal system is put into operation on a glass melting tank. In the years that follow, SCHOTT sets standards in environmental protection.

**1979**
ROBAX® transparent glass-ceramic for window panels in stoves and fireplaces.

**1985**
Anti-reflective AMIRAN® glass for glazing shop display windows, for example.

**1986**
Electronic packaging components for aviation technology.

**1989**
Joint venture with float glass manufacturers, Glaverbel (Belgium) and AFG (USA) to expand production of flat glasses for the household appliance industry. (8)
1991/1996 Manufacturing of ZERODUR® telescope mirror substrates with a diameter of 8.2 meters for the Very Large Telescope (VLT) in Chile, using the centrifugal casting process. (9)

1993 Thin glasses with thicknesses that start at only 0.03 mm help advance flat display technology.

1994 The first floated borosilicate glass worldwide: BOROFLOAT®

1996 Internally coated pharmaceutical vials. (10)

2002 SCHOTT CERAN® glass-ceramic cooking surfaces without harmful heavy metal additives.

2002 Serial manufacturing of prefillable polymer syringes.

2005 Market launch of solar receivers for solar thermal power plants based on parabolic trough technology. (11)

2007 The first floated glass-ceramic worldwide: PYRAN® Platinum

2010 German Innovation Award for environmentally friendly SCHOTT CERAN® glass-ceramic cooktop panels.

2011 Xensation® Cover Alumino-silicate glass for touch technologies. (12)

2013 The American Ceramic Society’s Corporate Environmental Achievement Award for sustainable manufacturing processes for SCHOTT CERAN® and PYRAN® Platinum glass-ceramics.