

The History of the Challenges and Value Creation of the YKK Group

“Making better and more affordable products”—

The history of the YKK Group is also a story of technological innovation to provide customers with better products. The YKK Group will continue in its effort to keep creating new value for our customers and for society.

Foundation: Establishment of the Integrated Production System

1934

Foundation

Founded in Kakigara-cho, Nihonbashi (center of photo)



1939

YKK Utility Model No. 1

Metal slider for zippers

1950

From handicraft industry to mechanization

Four zipper chain machines imported from the U.S.



1952

Establishment of fully integrated production system

Predecessor of Machinery & Engineering Group launches



Global Expansion and Advancement of the Architectural Products Business

FASTENING PRODUCTS

1959

Overseas expansion

First overseas location in New Zealand



1974

Integrated production system starts overseas

First overseas integrated zipper production plant



Macon Plant (U.S.)

ARCHITECTURAL PRODUCTS

1958

Successful application of aluminum alloy

Expansion into aluminum architectural products division and diversification of zipper materials



1986

AP business expansion and start of full-scale overseas production

First overseas aluminum architectural products integrated production plant



YKK Alumico Indonesia (now YKK AP INDONESIA)

MACHINERY & ENGINEERING

1953

YKK Patent No. 1

Development of intermittent chain production equipment



1964

Successful acceleration

Start of production with YKK-CM6 model (certified Mechanical Engineering Heritage*)



*Cultural heritage items which made contributions of historical significance to the development of technology and industry in Japan. These include machines, components and related facilities and documents that are considered cultural heritage for passing on to future generations. They are certified by the Japan Society of Mechanical Engineers (JSME).

Enhancement of Business value

1992

Expansion into growing markets

Full-scale base for expansion into China



Shanghai YKK Zipper Co., Ltd. (China)

2011

Creation of new business model

Core plant of window business



Saitama MADO (window) Plant (Japan)

2011

International level quality assurance system

Registration of Japan's first firewall testing center*



Analysis Technology Center, Machinery & Engineering Group

*The first testing laboratory in Japan to be registered by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) for analysis and certification of lead content in products.

Toward the Creation of New Value

2016

Establishment of a new foundation for value creation at Kurobe, Japan.

YKK's technology accumulation, exchange, and development personnel training base



YKK R&D Center

Region for the integration of the YKK AP's technology: The facility for value proposition to architectural professionals



YKK AP R&D Center

Aiming for continuous evolution of the philosophy of integrated production



Machinery & Engineering Group Slide Fastener Machine Parts Plant