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Headline:	Welcome to a short journey through 125 years of Rhein Chemie	Date:	August
Publication:	Rubber India	Circulation:	5000
Web link:		Section/ Page:	94&95
Journalist:		City:	All India

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DIE ZUKUNFT IM FOKUS

Welcome to a short journey through 125 years of Rhein Chemie

Rhein Chemie In 2014, celebrate their 125th anniversary, “Focusing on Progress” has been their motto from a small chemical start-up in Mannheim at the turn of the 20th century to a highly diversified provider of customized, premium solutions that are in demand all over the world in this new millennium.

1889: Our Beginnings

The long history of success begins with the establishment of the general partnership Müller & Dubois OHG, registered by the young chemists Dr. Albert Müller and Dr. Hermann Dubois in 1889 in the company register of the Mannheim district court. First products are chlorine compounds for cleaning agents and solvents. Just one year after it was founded, the company moved 20 kilometers (about 12 ½ miles) from Waldhof to Rheinau, where company headquarters are still located today.

1900: Pioneers in the Rubber Industry

Here, where Carl Benz designed the first modern automobile, the company’s founding fathers envision an area of operations with huge growth potential early on: the rubber industry. Even before the turn of the century, due to advances in rubber processing, natural rubber has become scarce and expensive. Based on the initiative of the new partner, Dr. Victor Kaufmann, in 1902 we start manufacturing factice – an extender for natural rubber. This material is still used today in a wide variety of products

1923: Early commitment to sustainability:

In the 1920s the brand turned towards reprocessing and recycling of waste rubber and production scrap – an early example of technological sustainability as it continues to shape our current company consciousness today. The recycled, so-called reclaimed rubber is an important component in the manufacture of technical rubber products such as hoses, seals or molded items in times



of rapid progress in motorization. Reclaimed material production remains a mainstay in the company from 1923 until the mid-1960s. In 1926, Dr. Kaufmann and like-minded colleagues found the Deutsche Kautschukgesellschaft (DKG, German Rubber Association).

1936: Extending the product range

Starting in 1936, the rubber experts in the Rheinau factory developed many substitute materials with which they provided their first processing promoters for rubber compounds. For example, Aktiplast®: this substitute for stearic acid makes processing natural rubber easier. In 1941, the company is renamed Rhein Chemie GmbH. World War II leads to decreasing resources, which also compels Rhein Chemie to begin with war production in 1942. In the following years, the most important products are factice, reclaimed rubber and processing promoters. In 1950, liquid release agents and anti-sun check waxes are added.

1956: Expertise for the lubricant industry...

In 1956, we start producing lubricant additives. Alongside additives for motor oils, in 1957 we develop our first light-colored sulfur carriers (EP additives) and corrosion inhibitors. Based on this foundation, as the years go on we establish a comprehensive product range of additives for industrial lubricants. The technical facility for chemical reactions was commissioned in 1965 thus reinforcing their position n advanced technology.

The plastics industry:

Rhein Chemie recognizes new opportunities for growth in the increasing use of plastics in automobile manufacturing – in 1961, plastics department starts operation. At first, manufacturing was started in large containers from polyethylene; specialization in plastics additives comes later. This lays the foundation for today’s business lines – rubber, lubricants and plastics.

