

DKSH – nearly 150 years of experience

In the 1860s, three Swiss entrepreneurs sailed east to Asia. Independently and within a few years of each other, Wilhelm Heinrich Diethelm set off for Singapore, Eduard Anton Keller for the Philippines, and Hermann Siber for Japan. Over the years, they established flourishing trading houses, which later evolved into major players in South East Asia, China, the eastern Asia Pacific region, and Japan.

1865

Siber & Brennwald, the precursor of the SiberHegner Group, is founded in Yokohama. The company will be at the forefront of the silk trade for decades.

1868

Eduard Anton Keller joins C. Lutz & Co., founded in Manila in 1866. He takes over Lutz and sets up Ed. A. Keller & Co. in 1887.

1871

Wilhelm Heinrich Diethelm joins Hooglandt & Co., Singapore, established in 1860 and later acquired by Diethelm & Co. Ltd. founded in 1887. The company is strong in kerosene and rubber.

To the end of the 19th century

With the opening up of Japan and the expansion of global trade, textiles, timepieces and industrial goods from Switzerland, and raw silk from Japan, flow between the continents. By the turn of the century, all three trading houses have headquarters in Zurich.

Beginning of the 20th century

Trade between Asia and the West is developing vigorously. SiberHegner enters China in 1902. The trading firms are converted into public limited companies and the second generation takes over.

1914 – 1945

After struggling through two world wars and the Great Depression, the three companies survive, making acquisitions along the way. SiberHegner operates in Japan and some regions of China; Ed. A. Keller is in the Philippines and Hong Kong; and Diethelm concentrates on Singapore, Indochina, Thailand, and Malaysia.

1946 to the end of the century

Globalization takes off and business booms. To deal with growing protectionism in newly independent colonies, the trading houses set up their own local production facilities. Thailand becomes a major market. The companies endure difficult years and the 1997 Asian financial crisis.

2000

Diethelm Holding Ltd. and Edward Keller Holding Ltd. merge to form Diethelm Keller Holding Ltd. This follows decades of independence yet cooperation. There are four great-grandsons of the original founders involved, and the companies succeed in remaining family firms.

2002

On June 19, DKSH Holding Ltd. is formed through the merger of Diethelm Keller Services Asia Ltd. and SiberHegner Holding Ltd., with annual revenues exceeding CHF 4 billion and over 14,000 employees in 30 countries. The two companies complement each other perfectly in terms of activities, markets, and strengths.

2002 – 2005

DKSH achieves fast post-merger integration. In line with our strategy to centralize corporate functions, the Corporate Shared Services Center, DKSH's new centralized IT services center, opens in Malaysia. To serve our clients even better, the Group is

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re-organized on Business Unit rather than geographic lines. State-of-the art distribution centers are set up in Vietnam and Singapore. While remaining focused on organic growth, new businesses are acquired in Malaysia (East Asiatic Co. and EAC Transport), Korea (KOSE Logistics), and Switzerland (Medinova Ltd.). The Group's excellent performance sees double-digit profit growth, with Net Sales topping CHF 5 billion in 2005.

2006 – 2008

The Group continues its successful development and double-digit profit growth, with 2008 a new record year. More state-of-the-art distribution centers open in Thailand, Vietnam, Korea, South China, Cambodia, and Malaysia. To accelerate growth further and sustain its successful expansion, DKSH broadens its equity base in 2008 through a capital increase and welcomes FFP, the French holding company of the Peugeot family, Swiss financial entrepreneur Rainer-Marc Frey, and the Stephan Schmidheiny family as new investors. The new Finance Center opens in Singapore, and DKSH embarks on a global branding initiative with the aim of establishing a strong global services brand for the entire Group. Key to this global DKSH branding program is the definition and establishment of a new category: Market Expansion Services.

2009

Additional distribution centers open in Australia, Thailand, and Myanmar. DKSH launches its new client magazine: expand, along with a new website. All legal entities still carrying legacy names are renamed to DKSH; the DKSH design implementation is completed; and DKSH's in-house training facility in Singapore, the Fantree Academy, is launched. There are further acquisitions in Denmark (Dasico A/S), India (Voltas Ltd.), Japan (Michael Weing Japan K.K), and Thailand (Shell Distribution Company). An agreement is also signed on a Joint Venture with Smollan Group Pte. Ltd. of South Africa, a leading field marketing company. In addition, growth strategies for the Group and the Business Units are developed and implemented. Excellent performance continues, with increased Net Sales of well over CHF 6.4 billion.

2010

DKSH's Business Unit Healthcare receives 20 quality certificates for its pharmaceutical and healthcare distribution centers across Asia. A new state-of-the-art healthcare distribution center opens in Taiwan, and DKSH invests in new application and formulation laboratories in Japan, France, Vietnam, Thailand, and the Philippines. Acquisitions in Switzerland (Hagemeyer-Cosa Liebermann Group), Taiwan (Chiao Tai Logistics and Trekintal), Malaysia (Biolife), and

Japan (Mikron Machining) complement DKSH's organic growth.

2011

Another record year, delivering double-digit growth. Two new state-of-the-art distribution centers are inaugurated in Singapore and North Vietnam, and two existing facilities in Phnom Penh and Hong Kong are expanded. To further develop innovative ideas and applications, five new innovation centers for Performance Materials are established, while two new showrooms in Taiwan and in Vietnam, plus three new research laboratories in Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam opens for Business Unit Technology. Complementing our organic growth, five acquisitions are done: Brandlines and FNZ in New Zealand, Tiger Chemicals Company in Australia, 3D Asia in Taiwan, and Maurice Lacroix in Switzerland. Net Sales reach CHF 7.3 billion, while operating profit (EBIT) grew impressively by 21.7% to CHF 238 million. Profit After Tax rose by 25.7% to CHF 152 million. All Business Units contributed to these excellent results. Since the merger in 2002, DKSH has created over 11,000 jobs, and expanded its footprint by 165% to 650 business locations worldwide.

2012

The Group is publicly listed on SIX Swiss Exchange.