



The History of ITW

Celebrating its 100-year anniversary in 2012, ITW (NYSE: ITW) is a Fortune 200 global diversified industrial manufacturer of value-added consumables and specialty equipment with related service businesses. ITW's revenues totaled \$17.8 billion in 2011.

The beginning

In 1912, on the eve of World War I, Chicago financier Byron L. Smith placed an ad seeking an investment opportunity for “a growing manufacturing business.” Four men answered: Frank W. England, Paul B. Goddard, Oscar T. Hogg and Carl G. Olson. Together, these forward-thinking businessmen formed a company to manufacture and sell metal-cutting tools.

1920s to 1950s

In 1922, ITW Canada founded in Toronto, Ontario.

ITW engineers develop the Shakeproof twisted tooth lockwasher. Hobart Brothers builds its first electric arc welder. ITW's contributions during WWII include the development of a new timesaving wafer cutter to rifle heavy artillery barrels.

1960s to 1970s

By its 50th anniversary, the company has been officially named Illinois Tool Works (ITW) and is listed shortly thereafter on the New York Stock Exchange with an initial stock price of \$26.

Fueled by its product developments for the construction industry, ITW became the only company in the world to produce fastening systems for wood, metal and concrete/masonry applications.

Formation of Buildex, a new business unit that becomes a leading supplier for the construction industry.

With the acquisition of Devcon, ITW takes a major step to solidify its ability to supply adhesives and epoxies for a variety of industrial applications.

1980s to 1990s

1986, launch of the first Paslode gas cordless framing nailer. 1992, launch of Ramset Trakfast gas cordless fastening tool.

1998, production of Paslode nails begins in Ontario, Canada.

Paslode, Ramset and Duo-Fast join ITW. Other acquisitions include Hobart Brothers Company and Miller Group.

The acquisition of Premark International, a manufacturer of commercial food equipment and laminate products, marks the largest acquisitions in ITW's history. Premark's well-known brand names include Hobart, Wilsonart, Vulcan and Traulsen.

2000s to 2010s

Launch of Paslode CF325 with QuickLode fuel system, the Ramset T3SS and Gypfast gas fastening systems.

2008, ITW Canada acquires GRK Fasteners of Thunder Bay, Ontario. Makers of UberGrade fasteners.

ITW's proven strategies of increasing market penetration with product innovations, extending current products to new industries and acquiring businesses that improve customer offerings provide the foundation for continued success in the 21st century.