

# DÜRR GROUP.

## Dürr History: From workshop to world market leader

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Dürr Aktiengesellschaft

October 2024  
Bietigheim-Bissingen



# Dürr's history at a glance



Laying the  
foundation during  
the German  
Empire

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1896-1918



# 1896-1918

## Laying the foundation during the German Empire



1896

Paul Dürr founds a metal shop for roof flashing in Cannstatt near Stuttgart. The workshop carries out metal work on roofs and facades, soon gaining an excellent reputation.

1906

When Paul Dürr erects an additional building on the premises, he also expands his range of machines. The company founder sets great store by technically advanced manufacturing.

1917

During the First World War, in times of extreme material shortage, necessity is the mother of invention. Paul Dürr buys iron sugarloaf molds in order to make many different household objects. This leads to the creation of a separate sheet metal processing business, independent of the metal shop for roof flashing. Dürr's new products include wash cauldrons and watering cans.



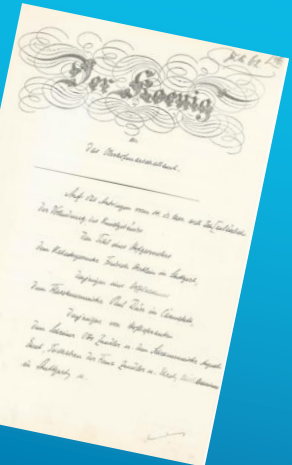
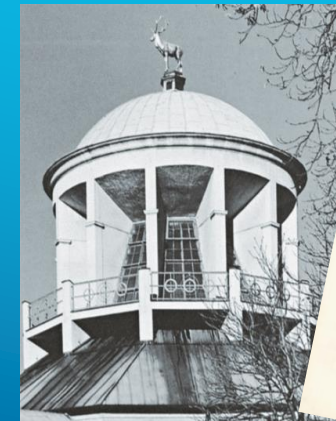
1898

Even during the foundation phase, the order books are well-filled, which is why the craft enterprise must move into larger premises after just two years. Paul Dürr buys a residential building with store-rooms and sets up a workplace that is remarkably modern for its time.



1913

His work on the roof of the Stuttgart Arts Building leads to Paul Dürr's appointment as 'Master Tinsmith to the Court of Württemberg' in 1913.



The ups and  
downs of the  
interwar years

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1919-1932

# 1919-1932

## The ups and downs of the interwar years

### 1920

With the development of virtually vibration-free welded constructions, Paul Dürr and his team have found a lightweight yet robust substitute for heavy and expensive cast iron parts. The reduction in weight makes it not only easier to handle the finished components but also leads to substantially lower transport costs and customs duty rates.



### 1928

On November 4, 1928, Otto Dürr marries Barbara 'Betty' Riedl. For more than 40 years, Betty works alongside her husband and is regarded as the soul and commercial conscience of the company. With her calm manner, Betty is a welcome counterbalance to Otto's spirited demeanor.

### 1932

Otto Dürr takes over management of the business from his father. The handover comes at a point when the company needs to be steered through turbulent times. Although the global economic crisis in Germany has already passed its peak, its effects have also left deep marks on the Cannstatt craft enterprise.



### 1923

During the crisis year of the Weimar Republic, Paul's son Otto joins the family business. From the very beginning, the job requires more than just his skills as a tinsmith. He has to manage the company on behalf of his sick father and lead it out of recession following a period of inflation.

### 1929

By the late 1920s, the sheet metal business has become an independent branch. While the metal shop for roof flashing remains a 'true' craft enterprise for a long time, the sheet metal business relies on the use of increasingly powerful machines and becomes more and more akin to industrial manufacturing, mainly due to the division of labor.



**1933-1945**

**The period of  
National Socialism**

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# 1933-1945

## The period of National Socialism



1936

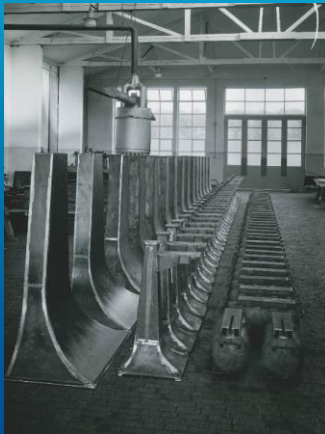
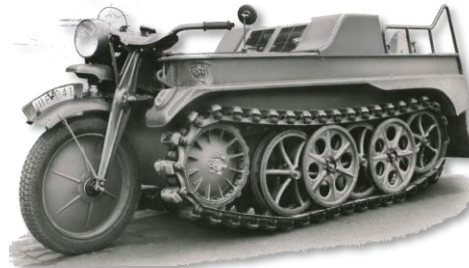
The economic policy of the National Socialists focuses on self-reliance and rearmament. This initially leads to a perceptible upswing for German industry. It is not long before Dürr's order books also look healthy again.

While a modern production site is established in Stuttgart-Zuffenhausen, a workshop for apprentices is set up in Cannstatt, since the company is training more and more new recruits.

1939

The invasion of Poland by the German army triggers the Second World War on September 1, 1939.

Dürr becomes part of the Nazi arms industry and delivers, among other things, sheet metal parts for military vehicles. During the war, the company also uses forced laborers.



1937

The first engineer joins the business and a drawing board is purchased – this heralds the beginning of the engineering era at Dürr. A design office is established, now enabling more complex sheet metal products to be manufactured.

1943

The main plant in Cannstatt is completely destroyed during an air raid. Dürr subsequently moves all its activities into the Zuffenhausen premises.



Entry into plant  
engineering

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**1946-1962**

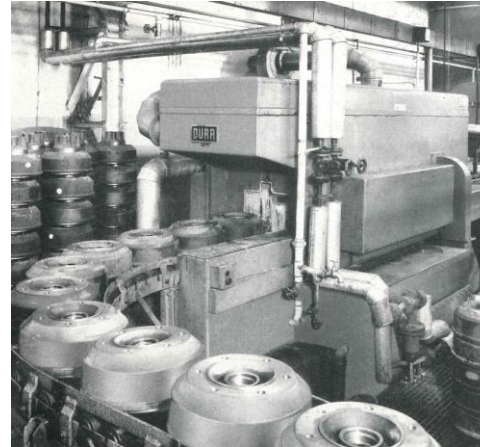
# 1946-1962

## Entry into plant engineering



1949

Otto Dürr realizes that there is little future for his company based on the metal shop for roof flashing and the sheet metal business alone. He toys with the idea of entering the plant engineering business. A fact-finding trip to the United States reaffirms his intention.

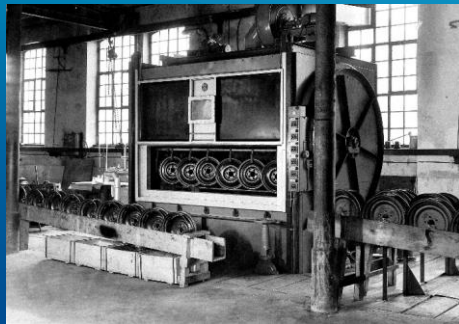


1958

A clean solution: Dürr enters the industrial cleaning technology business by building a machine for cleaning crankcases and cylinder blocks. In the same year, the first pretreatment plant for car bodies is installed.

1950

The company completes its first self-built surface treatment plant: a phosphating plant for disk wheels. The plant proves so successful that a patent is filed, earning Dürr its first laurels in surface technology. During the German economic miracle era, the company becomes a sought-after plant engineering specialist.



1960

Having entered into the family business three years earlier, Heinz Dürr joins his father at the helm of the company management. He is particularly involved in plant engineering and wants to increase contact with the automotive industry.

Technology  
partner to the  
international  
automotive  
industry

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**1963-1988**

# 1963-1988

Technology partner to the international automotive industry



**1963**

Electrifying new development: With electrophoretic dip coating, Heinz Dürr and his engineers bring a new coating process to market maturity. This is Dürr's ticket to international business with paint shops for the automotive industry.



**1967**

Dürr now has more than 1,500 employees. In order to keep them informed of what is going on in the Group, Heinz and Heide Dürr launch an employee magazine – a first at the time.



**1973**

Headfirst into the treatment bath: Dürr presents the VERTAK process. This involves car bodies being immersed vertically into a silo-shaped tank to receive their protective coating against corrosion.



**1964**

Dürr establishes its first foreign subsidiary in Brazil. The reason for this is customer focus: Volkswagen expands its plant in São Bernardo do Campo and wants Dürr to build the painting line. Two years later, Dürr ventures into Mexico, followed by more company foundations in South Africa, the United States and the UK.

**1968**

The environmental technology business unit is established. Exhaust-air purification is added to Dürr's portfolio.

**1969**

Otto Dürr retires from management. Heinz Dürr takes over sole responsibility for the growing group of companies.

**1980**

Causing a stir in the German industrial landscape: Heinz Dürr takes over as head of electronics giant AEG, which is in need of restructuring. Later on, he will also sit on the board of Daimler and become head of the German Federal Railway after the reunification. But he retains close ties with 'his' company, Dürr.





**IPO and  
acquisitions**

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**1989-2004**

# 1989-2004

## IPO and acquisitions



1989

Dürer goes public and takes over application technology specialist Behr. This enables the Dürer Group to significantly expand its core competency, the supply of turnkey paint shops, thus becoming the world market leader.



Dürer grows rapidly through acquisitions. In quick succession it takes over service company Premier, measuring technology group Carl Schenck, and French plant engineering firm Alstom Automation.



1996

Until now, cars have been painted either manually or using static machines. Dürer, however, focuses on automation and develops its own painting robot. This marks the beginning of a success story: Today, these efficient helpers are an integral part of the paint shops used in the automotive industry.

2001

Car bodies need movement too: In the new RoDip process, they perform a somersault while passing through the dip tank. This helps to ensure that all areas and cavities of the car body are optimally pretreated and protected against corrosion.



Reorientation and  
investment in the  
future

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# 2005-PRESENT

# 2005-present

## Reorientation and investment in the future

### 2005

Following the acquisitions, earnings development cannot keep pace with growth of sales. In 2005 the tide is turned through the FOCUS optimization program. Debts are reduced and business processes improved.

### 2010

Dürr polishes the image of paint booths, which have developed a reputation as energy guzzlers, through a pioneering innovation: The new **EcoDryScrubber** no longer relies on water to bind excess paint, but instead uses dry filters. This reduces the energy required to condition the air in the booth by around 70%.



### 2015

Digitalization is becoming an ever more apparent megatrend. Dürr takes over German software company iTAC to expand its expertise in the fields of IoT and manufacturing execution systems.

### 2016

In 2016 Dürr presents the first 7-axis painting robot, offering improved flexibility and productivity.



### 2009

Thanks to FOCUS, Dürr is robust and emerges well from the financial crisis. In the summer, Dürr moves its Stuttgart-based activities to what is now the headquarters in Bietigheim-Bissingen. It also expands its capacities in China – the next large growth market where the automotive industry gets off to a flying start after the financial crisis.

### 2014

In search for new opportunities for expansion, Dürr finds what it is looking for in the Black Forest: It acquires HOMAG, the world-leading supplier of woodworking technology. HOMAG becomes a strong pillar of the Dürr Group.





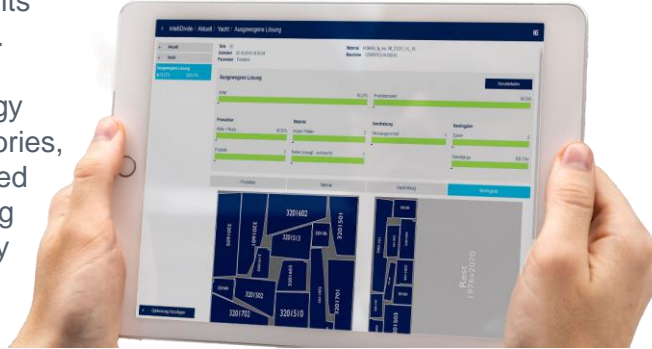
# 2005-present

## Reorientation and investment in the future

### 2017

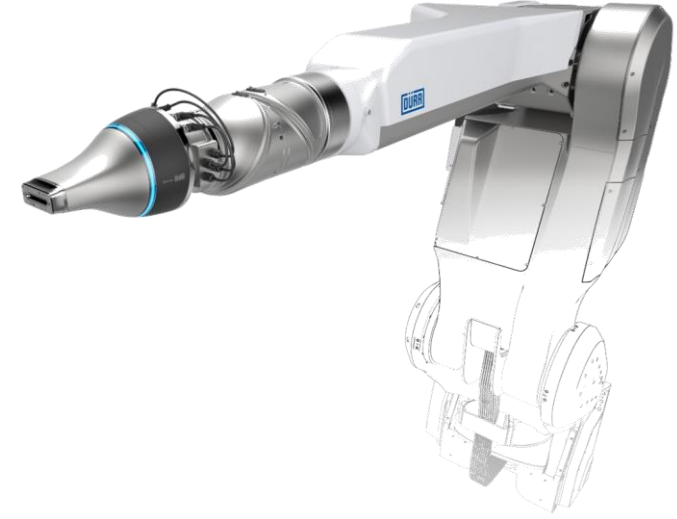
Amid great media attention, the ADAMOS IoT alliance is created for the mechanical engineering industry. Dürr is one of the founding companies and thus demonstrates its proactive approach to digitalization.

Another part of Dürr's digital strategy is the establishment of Digital Factories, in which software skills are combined across the divisions in order to bring smart applications to market quickly and with agility.



### 2019

Dürr introduces the **EcoPaintJet**, a robot system that uses a special applicator to enable automated, razor-sharp, two-tone painting without generating any overspray.



### 2018

Dürr gears up for the trend toward sustainable production processes. The acquisition of Megtec/Universal, a US group of companies, leads to the doubling of sales in environmental technology. In the automotive business, Dürr prepares itself for the growing demand for production technology for electric cars.

### 2020

The 'paint shop of the future' breaks with the traditional line layout in automotive construction. A modular concept provides greater flexibility and scalability.

Despite the coronavirus pandemic, the Group continues its acquisition strategy: HOMAG acquires the Danish mechanical engineering firm System TM, thus enhancing its position in production systems for sustainable timber houses. Through its investment in Teamtechnik, Dürr strengthens its skills in automation technology and enters the business field of production technology for medical products.



# 2005-present

125 years Dürr

## 2021

Dürr turns 125. On this occasion, a book on the history of the company is published – richly illustrated, entertaining and with a focus on what constitutes Dürr's corporate culture: entrepreneurship, innovative power, confidence and a sense of community.

Ingo Stader, Jesko Dahlmann: „From the Workshop to the World Stage — 125 years of Dürr“ Hanser Verlag, 224 Pages, ISBN: 978-3-446-47262-4



Further insights into our multifaceted company history can be found here:

[From workshop to world market leader - Dürr Group \(durr-group.com\)](https://durr-group.com)



125 years in 8 minutes: Roll the film!



## 2022

Due to the corona pandemic, the Dürr Group is celebrating its 125th anniversary a year later than planned. In addition to an event for guests from politics and business, the company is also organizing parties for employees.

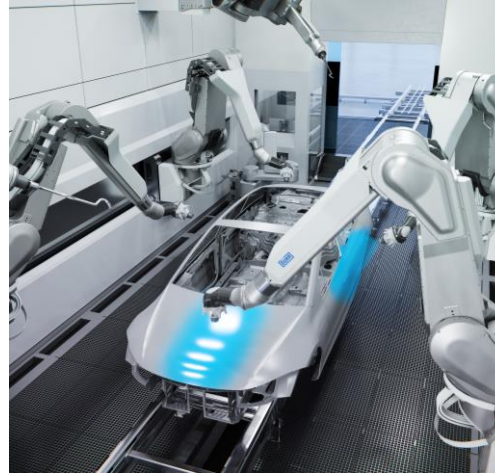


# 2005-present

Focus on sustainability and automation

2023

In summer 2023, the Dürr Group enters into a long-term strategic partnership with the automobile manufacturer Mercedes-Benz in the field of paint shops. The aim is to reduce energy consumption in vehicle painting to a new record low, thus jointly setting new standards in sustainability.



2023

In August 2023, the Dürr Group acquires the automation specialist BBS Automation. The Dürr Group is thus continuing its growth trajectory in industrial automation. BBS Automation, based in Garching near Munich, offers systems for manufacturing electronic components, batteries and whole drive trains, as well as medical products such as syringes, inhalers and pharmaceuticals or hearing aids and electric toothbrushes.



2023

Heinz Dürr passes away in November 2023. It is a drastic event for the Dürr Group and its more than 20,000 employees. The Honorary Chairman of the Supervisory Board and anchor shareholder of Dürr AG lived to the age of 90. Heinz Dürr was one of the most prominent entrepreneurial personalities in the Federal Republic of Germany. Under his leadership, the Dürr family business, founded by his grandfather in 1896, developed into one of the world's leading mechanical and plant engineering firms.



# Dürr History

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**Corporate Communications  
& Investor Relations**

October 2024  
Bietigheim-Bissingen

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