

History of N.E. CHEMCAT

We have continued to take on the challenge of providing new value through catalysts based on the knowledge and technology we have accumulated over more than a half a century, since N.E. CHEMCAT was founded in 1964.

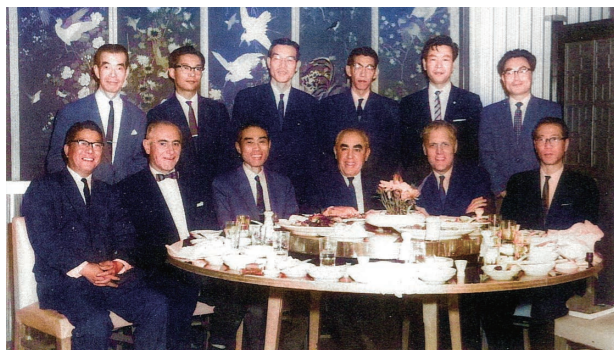
Early Years

1964-1978

As a catalyst manufacturer, N.E. CHEMCAT contributed to the development of the Japanese chemical industry during the country's period of rapid economic growth.

Founded as Nippon Engelhard Ltd. on April 9, 1964, the company was established with a total of 37 employees as a 50:50 joint venture between Sumitomo Metal Mining Co., Ltd. and Engelhard Corporation of the United States. The Ichikawa Laboratory was set up later in the same year. In 1970, operations began at the Numazu Factory (now Numazu Plant), which is still a base for manufacturing and R&D today.

By manufacturing a wide range of products, including catalysts, chemical products (precious metal salts, plating chemicals, electrodes, etc.), as well as liquid gold (luster), and through its precious metal recovery and refining business, N.E. CHEMCAT helped promote the development of the Japanese chemical industry.



First management team



Numazu Factory at the start of operations

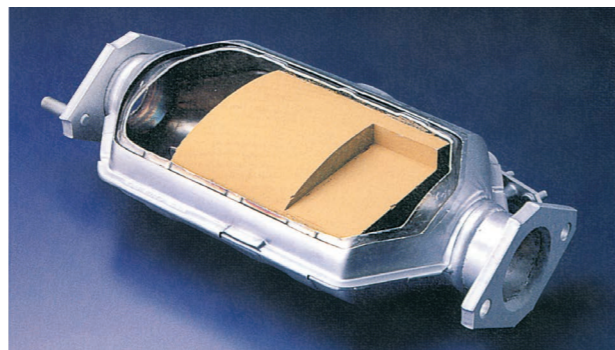
Breakthrough Period

1979-1995

Expanding the exhaust catalyst business along with the motorization of society

In 1979, the company started manufacturing auto exhaust catalysts. As automobile use grew, the health effects of harmful substances contained in exhaust gas, such as carbon monoxide (CO), hydrocarbons (HC), and nitrogen oxides (NOx), began to raise concern. At that point, the exhaust catalyst business expanded rapidly due to the tightening of emissions regulations.

In June 1989, the company name was changed to N.E. CHEMCAT CORPORATION, and the company went public in September of the same year.



Catalytic converter



First shipment of auto exhaust catalysts

Expansion Period

1996-2019

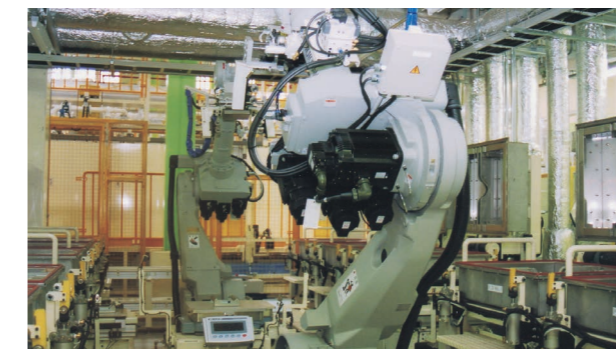
Eco-friendly business expanded beyond Japan

The company began its global expansion in 1996, and by 2002, it had sites in locations including Singapore, Thailand, and China. In response to stricter vehicle emission regulations for diesel vehicles, the company opened the Tsukuba Plant in 2002 to create a mass production system for diesel auto exhaust catalysts.

In order to accelerate decision-making capabilities, the company delisted in 2010, and became a 50:50 joint venture between Sumitomo Metal Mining Co., Ltd. and the BASF Group.



BASF Chemcat (Thailand) Limited



Mass production equipment for diesel auto exhaust catalysts

Toward the Next Stage of Challenges

2020-

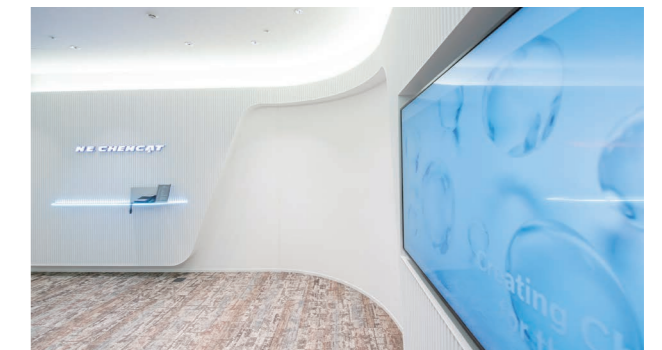
Management focused on building a sustainable society

The Numazu Plant celebrated its 50th anniversary in July 2020, the head office relocated in May 2021, and the Tsukuba Plant marked its 20th anniversary in February 2022.

In April 2021, the company formulated a new Corporate Philosophy and started practicing sustainability management.

While helping to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), N.E. CHEMCAT is now pursuing structural reforms to achieve Vision 2030, which outlines the company's long-term direction and aims.

In April 2022, the new corporate tagline, "Excite the Imagination," was unveiled.



Moved to a new head office in May 2021

N.E. CHEMCAT
Excite the Imagination

"Excite the Imagination" expresses the company's aspiration to bring about new innovation by spurring the imagination. It conveys a passion for building an even better future by fostering excitement and motivation in all employees.