

Business History

Idemitsu and Showa Shell have been working to ensure a stable energy supply for over 100 years. We will continue to create new value together with all stakeholders based on our Management Vision and Action Mindset.

Idemitsu

1911



Idemitsu Shokai founded in Moji (Fukuoka Prefecture)
Oil sales business launched in Moji, Kitakyushu by Idemitsu Shokai

人間尊重

Respect for human beings designated as the corporate credo by Sazo Idemitsu

1919

Developed non-freezing axle oil for South Manchuria Railway in China



1940

Idemitsu Kosan Co., Ltd. established

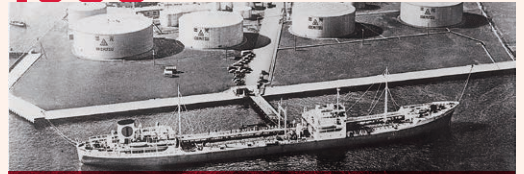
1945

Operations at home and abroad discontinued due to Japan's defeat in World War II

1947

Marking a return to the oil business, 29 Idemitsu outlets across Japan were named retailers for the Oil Distribution Public Corporation

1953



Nissho Maru Incident

Idemitsu became the world's first private company that imported petroleum products directly from Iran.

1957

Tokuyama Refinery completed

Constructed the refinery in just 10 months, harnessing the tremendous potential of human beings, while simultaneously establishing a greenbelt in consideration of the environment



1964

Broadcasting began for our sponsored music TV show "Daimei no Nai Ongaku-kai" ("Untitled Concert")
Contributed to the development of Japan's music culture

Showa Shell

1833

Marcus Samuel opened a shop in London selling oriental seashells, the origin of Shell's trademark

1893

Imported kerosene in bulk for the first time in Japan, popularizing kerosene

Contributed to the widespread use of kerosene by achieving high-volume, low-cost shipping

1900



Rising Sun Petroleum Co., Ltd. established

Contributed to people's daily life by importing paraffin wax to manufacture and sell candles while focusing on the sale of kerosene for lamps.

1924

Imported tanker trucks from England for the first time

Contributed to the widespread use of gasoline by working to enhance our supply capacity after the Great Kanto Earthquake



1951

Shell Group and Showa Oil Co., Ltd. entered into capital alliance

1956

Founded the Shell Art Award

Contributed to the development of the art world in Japan

1977

Commenced operation of the world's first heavy-oil thermalolysis equipment through TOA Oil Co., Ltd.

Conducted forward-looking investments anticipating a future shift toward refined petroleum products

Our Founding

Post-War Recovery

1985

Began developing OLED materials

2006

Stock listed on First Section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange

2011

Initiatives for the stable supply of petroleum products in response to the Great East Japan Earthquake

Restored the Shioyama Oil Depot six days after the earthquake to swiftly supply fuel to hospitals and other facilities

Embracing Renewable Energy

2011

Took a stake in Futamata Wind Development Co., Ltd.



Futamata Wind Power Station

2015 Tosa Power Plant of Tosa Green Power Co., Ltd. began operation

2018 The Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Prize (the top prize) of the New Energy Awards received by Takigami Binary Power Plant

2018

Received the top prize, an Excellent Invention Award, at the Fiscal 2018 National Commendation for Invention Program for the invention of an OLED element

2018



Nghi Son Refinery in Vietnam began commercial operation

Constructed a second refinery in Vietnam, contributing to the economic development of the country, which depends on imports of gasoline, diesel oil, and other petroleum products

2019

Began pilot testing a Mobility as a Service (MaaS) business using ultra-small EVs

Offered regional services through our dealers network



2019



Newly integrated company launched

1978



Commenced research and development of solar technologies

Developed new energy as petroleum replacements

1985

Shell Sekiyu K.K. and Showa Oil Co., Ltd. merged to become Showa Shell Sekiyu K.K.

1994

Received the Excellent Contributing Company Award (Nippon Broadcasting System Award) at the Third Global Environment Awards

Received praise for our contribution to environmental conservation for using paper packaging for oil

2002

Established the Basic Diversity* Policy

*Later renamed the Basic Diversity & Inclusiveness Policy

2006

Completed the Miyazaki Plant, the first plant for CIS thin-film solar modules

2010

Began commercial operation of Ohgishima Power Station, a natural gas power station

Expanded the electric power business using former refinery sites

2011



Supported recovery efforts after the Great East Japan Earthquake

Focused on the steady supply of energy with distributors and partner companies

2015

Began commercial operation of Keihin Biomass Power Plant

2019

Completed a mega solar power plant in Vietnam

Developed the first large-scale solar power plant in Southeast Asia for the group



Energy Transition Period

Highly Competitive Era

Launch of Newly Integrated Company