



# Millipore History

In 1954, a recent college graduate named Jack Bush started a membrane company that over the next five decades would grow from a handful of employees to a multinational Life Science corporation with 6,000 employees and annual sales of \$1.53 billion (2007).

This fledgling firm would pioneer the use of membrane technology in hundreds of diverse applications. Through strategic acquisitions, substantial R&D investments and international expansion, it would broaden its technology and market base to become a leader in the Life Science industry, serving biotechnology firms, pharmaceutical companies and laboratories around the world.

## Bold beginning

In the early 1950s, Jack Bush, son of Vannevar Bush (science advisor to U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt and co-founder of Raytheon Corporation), was working for the Lovell Chemical Company, a small, privately owned business just outside of Boston, Massachusetts. One day Lovell's owner was approached by the U.S. Army Chemical Corps and asked to bid on a contract to develop and manufacture membrane-based filtering devices and systems used to separate the molecular components of fluid samples.

Beating out such giants as Eastman Kodak and DuPont for the government contract, this small (20-person) operation set to work successfully developing membranes first used in Germany after World War II, when saturation bombing resulted in widespread water contamination.

When the membranes were declassified in 1953 and offered for commercial use, Bush bought Lovell Chemical's right to the technology for \$200,000

and established the Millipore Filter Company, which later changed its name to Millipore Corporation to reflect its wide range of products for analysis and purification. Other companies declined to bid for the rights to this membrane technology, believing there would be no commercial future for the membrane filter.

## Global growth

In its early years, Millipore made some major contributions to water microbiology methods that have become part of the standard of the U.S. Public Health Service. Eventually the broader needs Bush had predicted surfaced. Separations technologies and products were needed not only by researchers, but also by medical schools, hospitals and dialysis centers, and many industries – including the pharmaceutical, chemical, plastics, food and beverage, and microelectronics industries.

Soon after its founding, Millipore aggressively pursued new markets by establishing distributorships around the world. Canada was the first in 1959 and by 1961 there were distributors and sub-agents in Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal, England, Australia, the Scandinavian countries and Switzerland. The distributorships were so successful that Millipore established subsidiaries in seven countries by the end of the decade. To meet the growing demand for its worldwide products, the company also opened manufacturing plants in Jaffrey, New Hampshire; Molsheim, France; Cork, Ireland; and several other locations.

### Expanded capabilities

Since its founding, Millipore has continued to expand its core capabilities through strategic acquisitions, targeted capital investments and organic growth. Recent acquisitions include NovAseptic AB, MicroSafe B.V., and Newport Bio Systems.

In 2006, Millipore acquired Serologicals Corporation, an Atlanta (Georgia) -based company doing business as Chemicon, Upstate, Linco and Celliance. This acquisition gave Millipore leading positions in a broad range of high-growth markets, such as drug discovery products and services,

antibodies, cell biology reagents and stem cell research. By integrating Serologicals' products and services into its core capabilities, Millipore has become the only company in the Life Science industry to offer both upstream cell culture and downstream separations offerings for biopharmaceutical production.

### Life Science leader

Today, the reach of Millipore's global organization and the breadth and depth of its offerings are a far cry from the little company Jack Bush started more than a half century ago.

In 2008, Millipore maintains subsidiaries or offices in 47 countries and a vast network of distributors and dealers in many more. It is a leader in the Life Science industry, providing cutting-edge technologies, tools and services for bioscience research and biopharmaceutical manufacturing, and collaborating with customers to confront the world's challenging human health issues.



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