

# "All the World's a Stage..." - Sound by AKG

## 1945:

Dr. Rudolf Goerike and Ing. Ernst Pless start their first joint project: supplying Vienna movie theaters with film projectors and loudspeakers. The envisaged company name is "Phonophot".

The company buys film equipment from a closed factory in Hungary. Dr. Goerike makes the necessary modifications such as reducing projector noise and optimizing the optical soundtrack.



The PC 2535 G horn-loaded loudspeaker with cardboard diaphragm for movie theaters is manufactured in a living room. Frequency range: 40 to 12,000 Hz diaphragm diameter: 14 inches, weight: 45 lbs. The magnets are from Goerz and have an induction of 14 kG.



PC 2535 G compact loudspeaker.

## 1946:

The DYN Series is designed. These are the first dynamic microphones from AKG for vocals and instruments. The "Dyn" Series includes models Dyn 60, Dyn 60G, Dyn 60K, Dyn 60K-Studio, etc., each one styled individually. All parts are hand made. Annual output is 500 to 600 units.



Celebrities using AKG mics.

## 1947:

Dr. Rudolf Goerike and Ing. Ernst Pless establish AKG Akustische u. Kino-Geraete Gesellschaft m.b.H. The trading license issued on June 3, 1946 describes the company as an establishment for "the manufacture of audio and film equipment" located at Nobilegasse in the 15th district of Vienna.



One of the first AKG branches.



The "C 1", a collector's item rediscovered in 1997.

AKG offers the first condenser tube microphone, the C 1. Only six units are made, and one user is Wien Film Studios. The diaphragm is made from Styroflex foil gold sputtered by Goerz. In the same year, AKG sells one C 1 to

South America. The capsule is a predecessor of the CK 12 that later becomes an AKG legend.

## 1949:

The first AKG headphones on the market are called the K 120 Dyn. (Not related to the later model K 120.)

The headphones use a "Trolitul" diaphragm from pressed granules because foils are not available at the time. The factory has only one winding machine and one gluing machine. Other AKG products of the time include carbon capsules for telephones and goose neck microphones derived from the Dyn 60.



AKG products are distributed in Austria by Siemens (WSW), export sales already include significant business with eastern European countries.

**1950:**

AKG starts designing the world's first high quality cardioid microphone, the D 12 with its patented "mass-loaded tube". Models derived from it in later years include the D20, D25 (1958), D30 (1958), D36, D45 (1959). The last three models use two transducers to provide selectable polar patterns.



Founder Ernst Pless with a D 12 (circa 1955).

Experiments for building condenser microphones with a collodion diaphragm. AKG makes special automobile horns because the small motorbikes of the day are so loud that motorists could not hear standard automobile horns. In addition, AKG makes exposure meters.



**1951:**

Dummy head for measurement use. Two prototypes with condenser capsules are built for Hungary. Simultaneously, a condenser transducer is designed which is later used in the capsule of the C28. Also, a dual-diaphragm microphone is developed and called the "C 2". About 500 units are made.

The "Rapido" flash is designed.



At this time AKG developed film soundtrack pickups in cooperation with Siemens Austria.



Another new product is the heart tone microphone based on the Dyn 60, a dynamic vibration pickup called "Dyn 2x60/180".

Another curious electromedical product from AKG is impossible to date exactly for lack of information: The only clue is telephone numbers made up of letters and numbers: Austrian telephone numbers were changed to numbers only in the mid-1950s.

Anschlußgerät  
**PANTOSTAT** SIMPLEX



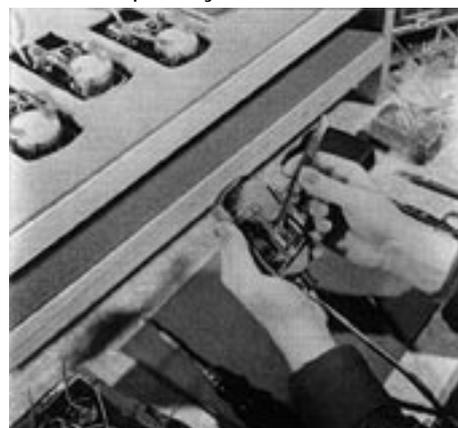
**AKG**  
AKUSTISCHE UND ELEKTRO-GERÄTE  
HERV. ABT.  
WIEN XV, NOBILGASSE 10  
TELEFON 41-5-51

**1952:**

With the ambitious goal of establishing a proprietary studio connector standard, AKG created the "AKG Connector". The breakthrough, however, never came and the last connectors were made in the mid-1960s. They can still be found today in some old installations, e.g., in churches. They are a much sought-after collector's item even today.



One of the first AKG legends is nearing its breakthrough: the D 12, a large-diaphragm microphone that not only provides the first true cardioid polar pattern but introduces engineering innovations such as the mass-loaded tube and deep-drawn diaphragms. Film sound engineers, too, praise the directivity and remarkably low susceptibility to wind noise.



D 12 manufacture in the 50s.



**1953:**

The D 12 conquers the market and large-scale production of it begins.

The same year also sees the birth of another



her legendary AKG product: the C 12, the first remote controlled multipattern capacitor microphone.

The C 12 was originally made in runs of 50 units per month and became an international bestseller. It was purchased by almost all large radio and recording studios. First customers included BBC London whose engineers were deeply impressed with the microphone's styling and quality.



*C 12 manufacture and testing*

**1954:**

Underwater loudspeakers and microphones (Dyn 120 UWS) are developed,

the latter derived from the Dyn 60K. The specifications are impressive: Watertight down to 330 ft. at a diving rate of 25 ft./minute; frequency range 30 to 20,000 Hz; sensitivity 0.2 m/microbar; seawater-proof, chrome plated brass case; weight 15 lbs.; size: 9.8 x



This C 12 was designed by Konrad Wolf ( 1st from left; the picture shows the first AKG team) who retired after many years with AKG. Did he know at the time that this was the hour of AKG's international breakthrough? "I had no idea because I was very young and saw a challenge in every job. AKG had already been quite successful with the C 2. Engineers with RAVAG, as the Austrian national radio network was then called, wanted new microphones for their studios and had some special requirements.

"They were looking for a microphone "as thin as a pen ". Nobody was able to make that at the time but in any case we came up with a slender, cylindrical shape for the C 12.

"The radio people were impressed with the results of the first microphone tests. It was the first microphone whose polar pattern you could switch noiselessly during operation. All previous microphones would make a lot of noise as you switched them over. What's more, competitive microphones would change their output level by some dB but AKG maintained a constant level.

"We selected the 6072 tube because with growing export sales we had to have a tube that was available



everywhere.

"Almost every single part of the C 12 was hand made at AKG. They were all turned - we used no cast parts.

"It took a while before we found the optimum diaphragm material. In the old days, diaphragms were cast from cellulose. Unfortunately, this material absorbed humidity like a sponge and wrinkled easily. The Styroflex foil AKG used at first turned out to be much better but it was relatively hard and developed hair cracks over time. In 1955 when polyester foil became available we had finally found a suitable material."

# Reminiscences ...

Dipl.Ing. Hans Gemperle /shown at left, at the first AKG lab/ is appointed general manager of AKG's first subsidiary in 1955 after heading Product Development at the Vienna parent company "The deep-sea diver Hans Hass had accidentally found out the sharks flee from sounds. A diver's gurgling shriek of fear had made a shark turn away in panic. In order to obtain exact results, Hans Hass wanted to use underwater loudspeakers and microphones. AKG was very happy to accept the challenge. "



So was Product Development, for the first real-life tests had to be done under water So the designers packed up their test equipment, swimming trunks, and diving gear and went to the "Diana-Bad" indoor swimming pool in Vienna, an immensely popular spot at the time. They spent a very nice day at work swimming and diving.

Hans Gemperle take pleasure in reminiscing about the demonstration of the first prototypes: "I went to the Hass couple's villa where I was greeted by Lotte Hass. It was winter already and we were looking for a way of testing the underwater equipment under reasonably realistic conditions. The Hass's had bought a carp for

Christmas which was swimming around in the aquarium, happily ignorant of its ultimate destiny I immersed the microphone and Lotte tickled the back fin of the carp with a straw. For the first time in my life, I heard the sound of fright a fish made with his fin - like a shriek with surprise. It was clearly audible in the loudspeaker The carp fled in terror from the supposed attack. Lotte Hass was highly impressed with the brilliant sound reproduction, so our development was a great success. " Of course, the demand for underwater equipment was very limited. However, AKG also built a perfectly watertight camera case in which you could install a camera and operate it from outside.



5.5 dia. in. The total output of 20 units was sold to scientists and port authorities. Hans Hass uses a Dyn 1 20 UWS in shooting his first underwater sound movie, "Abenteuer im Roten Meer" (Adventures in the Red Sea) which won first prize at the "Biennale" biannual film festival at Uenice, Italy

## 1955:

The first postwar Salzburg Festival AKG microphones.

A unidirectional microphone is specifically designed for Herbert von Karajan. Unlike in his later years, Karajan rejected all audio equipment. When he conducted a performance, he allowed no microphones to be visible to the audience. So AKG had to design a special shotgun microphone that could be set up far from the musicians, in the wings or in the orchestra pit.



Foundation of the German subsidiary, AKG Munich.

D 36: the world's first dynamic microphone with remotely selectable polar patterns.

C 28: A small-diaphragm condenser microphone.

D 11 for amateur recordists.



**1956:**

D 11: unidirectional dynamic microphone for amateur tape recordists.

Introduction of professional cardioid microphones with adjustable rear sound entries for reduced proximity effect (D 24, D 19).

Introduction of the Dyn 200 Series of dynamic microphones including goose-neck models and M410, M411 OEM microphones for Telefunken. The east bloc business grows significantly.

**1957:**

Worldwide distribution network, varied product range, many patents. AKG buys a building on Schanzstrasse in Vienna's 15th district, which remains AKG's property until 1992. The "sheet metal capsule", a dynamic capsule in a tight sheet-metal case, is developed and used over the following years in many AKG microphones including the D9, D 11, and D 14 as well as OEM microphones for Saba, Körting, Telefunken, Stuzzi, and Eumig.

**1958:**

D 15: first dynamic reporters' microphone with a tight unidirectional pattern

D 25: shock mounted, unidirectional dynamic microphone for use on a fish-pole in radio, TV, and film work



D 30: first dynamic studio microphone with four selectable polar patterns.

**1959:**

World's first supraaural, open-back, lightweight headphones (K 50) with superior sound quality, produced in large quantities over the following years.

D 45 - as D 30, except with shock mount and remotely selectable polar patterns.



**1960:**

AKG designs and manufactures for Telefunken the ELA M250 and ELA M251, two extremely rare thus much sought-after collector's items.



Rerun of the C 12 and several other versions for Telefunken and Siemens using the then advanced GE 6072 double triode.

Design of the first professional small-diaphragm condenser microphone

**1960/61:**

AKG establishes its own Domestic Sales department for Austria.



First modular capacitor microphone system with CK 28 and CK 29.

The C26 and C30 capacitor microphones are developed further into the C 60 with Nuvistor miniature tube (the name is derived from "nueva vista" - a new vision).

First experiments with spring reverb systems.

**1962:**

An analog computer is built for simulating acoustical networks using electrical equivalent circuits of mechanical systems. A V-shaped dual microphone for interviewing (ENG) use is built and later continued by another company that even applies for a patent assigned by one Mr. Hagopian.



The C 12A Nuvistor condenser microphone is developed as a predecessor of today's C 414.

**1963:**

The DX11 reverb microphone is an innovative idea which, however, is not accepted by the market. This is one of the few flops in AKG's history of success.

**1964:**

K 58: first lightweight headset derived from the K50 headphones. The headsets were used by commentators at the Winter Olympics in Innsbruck, Austria, where most audio equipment came from AKG. But the hour of triumph turned into a nightmare as the opening speech (picked up by an AKG

microphone) remained totally inaudible. The AKG engineers panicked but the defect was found quickly. It had begun to thaw and snow water had penetrated into the connection between two of the extremely long cables. Moments later, the excellent AKG sound quality was restored.



*A headset in action.*

A capacitor microphone with an RF type signal converter called the C601 is developed. Due to electrical stability problems, the microphone never reached the production stage and the development is cancelled in 1968.

**1965:**

This is a turning point in the history of AKG and a new course is plotted for the future. The rapid spreading of TV kills many movie theaters. AKG responds by discontinuing optical equip-



ment and concentrating exclusively on designing and manufacturing audio transducers.

AKG introduces the K60 "humanized" hi-fi headphones whose frequency response matches human hearing characteristics.

Dr. Goerike designs a loudspeaker with a flat Styrofoam diaphragm which is later made by Yamaha under license.

**1966:**

World's first wide-band ultrasonic transducer (CK 40)

The design of the world's first Mo-way cardioid microphone D 202 provides a response that almost equals that of capacitor microphones. In addition, its proximity effect is almost zero compared to that of conventional directional microphones. AKG for the first time uses its proprietary sintered cap.



D 202 advertisement of the late 60s



**1968:**

A smaller version of the D 202 is launched, the D 222 dynamic microphone using a patented two-way transducer for extended frequency response and minimal proximity effect. It soon becomes the most popular reporting and speech microphone and remains a bestseller for decades.



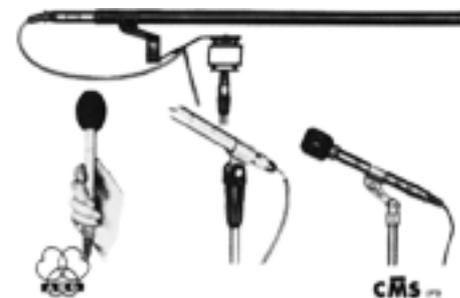
After the D12, the first true performance microphone in what is revolutionary styling at the time is developed: the D1000 (originally in gold). The most important feature at the time is that "it will not hide the face of the artist."

Parabolic reflectors for microphones are made in cooperation with a sheet-metal working company, mainly for recording bird calls.

An AKG subsidiary is established in Zurich, Switzerland.

The "CMS" modular capacitor microphone system with the C 451 with FET preamp and CK1, CK2, etc. is developed and later becomes famous all over the world. After initial problems have been solved, it strengthens AKG's monopoly with BBC. The capsules originally had embossed metal diaphragms that were susceptible to humidity and therefore later replaced with plastic diaphragms.

**1969:**



Foundation of the British subsidiary, AKG London.

New headphones with "SCS - Subjective Controlled Sound" are designed and called K180. The speakers can be repositioned within the earcups to provide different "acoustics". OEM business is expanded.



K 180

**1970:**

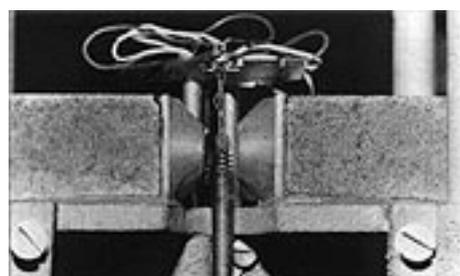
Experimental telephone transducers are made. The original capacitor capsules are soon replaced with dynamic designs for better stability.

Total sales of AKG Vienna to third parties reach ATS 199 million this year.

The C 412, a solid-state version of the C 12A with three polar patterns and a preattenuation pad selectable on the microphone is designed.



After 8 years of intensive study of mechanical reverberators (helical springs and other mechanical vibrating bodies), the BX20, the world's first, truly portable studio reverberator is ready for production. The spring reverb system design was practically finished and it took almost another year to design an appropriate suspension for it that would allow for safe shipping.



**Reminiscences ...**

Dipl.Ing. Werner Fidi, who developed this breakthrough invention, comments on the AKG spring reverb principle:

"The breakthrough of this design was to use one-dimensional waveguides with a sufficiently high density of eigentones in order to create linear diffusion in the time and frequency domains which so closely resembled a natural room that the difference would be inaudible.

"We achieved this by using helix



springs with long time delays whose transfer characteristics we changed statistically by etching the wire surfaces. Any residual correlated signals were filtered out. In this way, we created in a small box the same kind of reverb found in large concert halls.

"AKG was, and remained, the only company in the world that successfully created excellent sounding reverberation using this technology. These units were state-of-the-art until high performance digital reverbs came along.

For many years, the BX20 and its successor, the BX25, defined AKG's image."

**1971:**

A high quality electret capsule for use in a new, professional small cassette recorder from UHER is developed (OEM order).

The C 412 is further improved and renamed C 414.



**1972:**

AKG moves into the building at Brunhildengasse 1 formerly owned by the Bally shoe manufacturers.



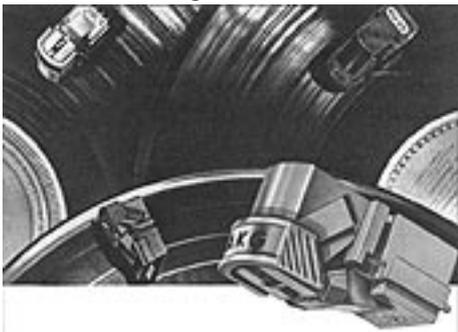
Production at Brunhildengasse.

Marketing of the first digital delay, the TDU7202 bought from Lyrec, begins.



A special stamp by the British Post Office

commemorating the 50th anniversary of the BBC shows historical microphones along with AKG models from the AKG catalog.



Grado phono cartridges are distributed under the designations AKG PU2, PU3, and PU4, the latter suitable for CD4 quadraphony. AKG starts design work for a new cartridge technology, the patented AKG Moving Iron System.

The C 24 is relaunched as the C 24 cb large-diaphragm stereo capacitor microphone with separately, remotely selectable polar patterns for each channel.

**1973:**

The AKG Lab gets its first computer. The first production runs of electret microphones are made. The first AKG dummy head microphone, made by AKG Munich, is used for head related stereo (binaural) recording.

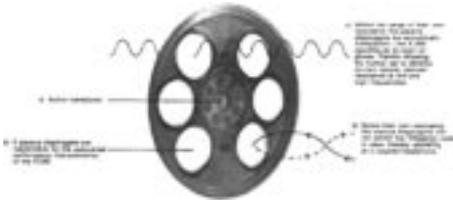


**1974:**

The DKK32 design dramatically improves headphone frequency response. The K 140 "integrated open" headphones are developed and made in enormous quantities. The 100th Distribution is established and the 1000th patent granted.

**1975:**

The K 240 headphones with b passive diaphragms per channel for improved bass response and imaging is developed.



The D 140 is a small, top quality dynamic studio microphone with virtually no competition at the time.



The BX 10, a smaller version of the BX 20, is designed, primarily for use in O/B vans.

The SM2006 portable mixer is designed. In cooperation with Koerting of Germany,

The first wireless AKG headphones based on the K 140 is created, the AKG K 140 Libero. After initial experiments with ultrasound transmission, the designers decide to use infrared light because it is less susceptible to interference. The system does not sell because most customers find it too complex and prefer the familiar hard-wire headphones.



**1976:**

AKG begins to make its own phono cartridges PbR, P6E, P7E, P8E, later on the P8ES, with the revolutionary TS knife-edge bearing for better imaging.



*K 140 Libero*

*AKG manufacturing 1975*



AKG has 105 Representatives worldwide, total sales are ATS 350 million. Mr. Cooper of AKG London tries to design a special mixer for speech recording but fails.

The first international product concept meeting is held in Vienna attended by AKG Representatives from all over the world with the aim of creating new product concepts and product lines. One of the results is a fundamental restructuring of the company and the introduction of matrix organization.

**1977:**

Sales are increased by another 10%. 30% of total sales come from Germany. The OEM proportion is 40%, AKG has 800 employees and makes 20,000 microphones a week.

A new compact reverberation unit (BX 5) is launched.

C 414 EB: first C 414 version with improved circuitry and integrated XLR connector Cofounder Ing. Ernst Pless leaves AKG.

The C303 line level microphone with builtin compressor and headphone monitor amplifier for the newly created ORF regional TV stations is designed and made in small runs.

The C414 is retouched again, specifically the housing, and fitted with an XLR connector. The designation is changed to C414EB.

**1978:**

The first true vocal microphone line is developed. Originally planned as "Alpha", "Beta", and "Gamma", they are later renamed D310, D320, and D330. The first endorsement contracts are concluded with Jon Hiseman, Roger Whittaker, and other artists.

World's first two-way headphones from AKG combine dynamic and electrostatic speakers for the first time (K 340).



**1979:**

AKG steps into the lion's den by founding a subsidiary in Japan.

World firsts: TDU 7000 modular digital time delay unit; vocal microphones combining extreme ruggedness with studio grade sound quality (D 300 Series).



"Studio quality for stage..."



"Tested on rally cars..."



"...1.248 times drop tested on stones"

C 422 cb: large diaphragm stereo condenser microphone with advanced solid-state electronics.

And, this year sees the first issue of "AKG Report", a totally hand made publication with a circulation of 1000, which gives all AKG employees and associates worldwide an overview of the events of the year.

**1981:**

The new BX 25 ED digital/analog reverberation unit combines analog reverb and digitally generated delay and early reflections.

**1982:**



The compact headphones line comprising the K 1, K 2, K 3, and K 4 provides all the features of "big" headphones. In spite of their high-end quality, they do not sell. Hi-fi enthusiasts simply want "big cans" for their money. The folding K 1 at least make a splash worldwide.



**1983:**

New CMS system comprising a C460 electronic preamp and CK 61, CK 62, and CK 63 capsules also includes remote capsules CK 1X, CK 2X that can be connected to the preamp with cables up to 200 ft. long.

The AKG Tube: Black market prices for C 12 microphones skyrocket. Responding to the market situation, AKG makes the first rerun of a large-diaphragm tube microphone using the same 6072 tube as the original C 12.



Falco (of "Amadeus" fame) with the most spectacular new AKG product of the early 80s.

**1984:**

AKG goes public. AKG Holding AG is established and holds 75 % of AKG GesmbH.



Golden Microphone (AKG C 535) for Frank Sinatra

Introduction of the ULS Series microphones designed specifically to meet the stringent requirements of digital audio in the recording studio.



**1985:**

Foundation of the 100% US subsidiary in Connecticut.

**1986:**

Acquisition of Boston based Ursa Major -> transformed into the Digital Products Division of AKG Acoustics. The first product by the new Division is the ADR 68K.



Introduction of the C 1000, the world's first condenser stage microphone with a convertible polar pattern and alternative phantom or 9 V battery powering.



C 1000, shown with PPC 1000 in place.

The C 414 B-ULS launched in that year is the first C 414 version using ULS circuitry

**1987:**

Introduction of the "K 280 Parabolic" headphones with "acoustic lenses"; a completely new listening experience stuns hi-fi experts. Presentation of the DSP 610M Delta Processor for the "Delta Stereophony" sound systems.



C 414 B-ULS



K 280 Parabolic

**1988:**

Introduction of the MicroMic Series miniature clip-on microphones. They allow the number of microphones cluttering the stage to be significantly reduced.



C 747 cb: the first high quality pen-size microphone whose specifications

meet professional requirements. "AKG Acoustics (India) Ltd." established. AKG Vienna mourns for cofounder Ing. Ernst Pless who died unexpectedly.

**1989:**

The internal publication, "AKG International Report" is published again. The first issue appears at the beginning of the year. There is no lack of controversial articles.

AKG intensifies its expansion policy. Acquisition of Orban (May, 1989) and dbx Professional Products (October 1989); the factory in India is opened and starts production; "AKG Acoustics (India) Ltd." is admitted to Indian stock exchanges.



Spectacular presentation of the K 1000: this head speaker system for advanced binaural reproduction conquers the hearts of hifi purists and studio pros. The presentation of the "CAP 340 M" Creative Audio Processor for room simulation and binaural reproduction creates a worldwide splash.



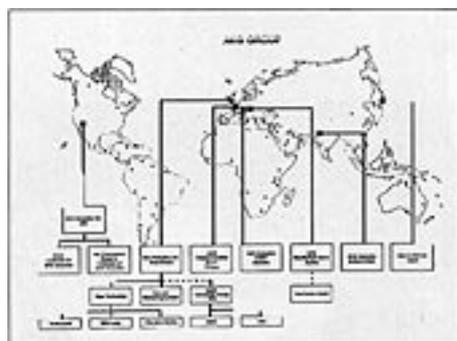
Another product by the Digital Division, the DSE 7000 Digital Sound Editor, is a surprisingly simple solution to the problem of quickly editing short radio news items and jingles.

**1990:**

IXT transducers for telephones are developed and manufactured.

Development of a compact version of the CAP 340 M for the "Audimir" space research mission.

Merger of SCJ and AKG Japan. AKG acquires 62 % of the UK based Edge Technology Group with its subsidiaries BSS Audio Ltd., Turbosound Ltd., Precision Devices Ltd.



*AKG's worldwide expansion.*

**1991:**

A 20 % stake in the German company CeoTronics is acquired.

A 30 % interest in AMEK Technology Group PLC (UK), the holding company that owns AMEK Systems & Controls Ltd., and TAC Total Audio Concepts Ltd.

A new Product Line of Integrated Handsets (IHA) for telephones is introduced. Foundation of "AKG Communications France".

AKG takes to the stars: The "Audimir" space project uses AKG products for room simulation in outer space. This demonstration of advanced binaural technology creates sufficient demand to warrant the design of a consumer version of this system.



*Space equipment from AKG.*

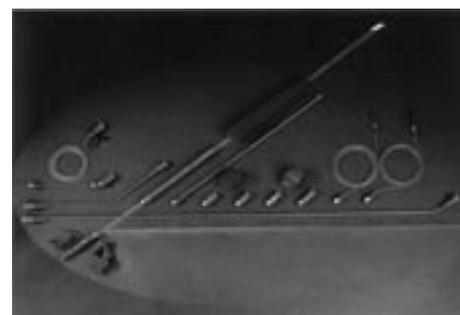
Introduction of Wireless Microphone Systems WMS 900 and WMS 100. Introduction of a new generation of headphones called the "K Series".

**1992:**



The Audiosphere BAP 1 000 Binaural Audio Processor for Individual Virtual IAcoustics is launched.

Introduction of the ergonomically shaped, triangular-section Tri-Power Series dynamic musicians' microphones and the AKG Blue Line Series modular microphone system.



AKG introduces the C 547 boundary microphone and C 621 , C 647 "slim-line" gooseneck microphones for stage and sound system use.

IXT telecom transducers are replaced with the new IXR transducers.

Introduction of the O 400 handsfree microphone for car telephones.

Strategic alliance with Lectrosonics for the worldwide distribution except for the US and Canada of Lectrosonics products complementing the AKG sound system product line.

AKG increases its holdings in AKG India and Edge Technology Group/UK to 51 % and 84,56 % respectively.

The expansion of Production causes a space problem. AKG Vienna operates three locations within Vienna and they are becoming more and more cramped. AKG decides to move to a single location and start construction on the outskirts of Vienna.

**1993:**

Introduction of the "Tri Power C-Series"



C 414 B-TL II: dedicated version of the C 414 B-ULS for vocal use  
First wing of the new factory building is completed. All production-related departments move to the new location. Introduction of more "K Series" headphones into the consumer electronics market. Harman International Industries Inc. becomes the new majorly owner of AKG GesmbH. AKG Holding AG leaves the Vienna



stock exchange as AKG Holding AG is wound up. Holdings in CeoTronics and AKG France are sold.

**1994:**

AKG founder Dr. Rudolf Goerike dies. As AKG sales rise, Harman purchases the remaining shares. From now on, AKG is a 100 % Harman International Company. AKG completes its move to the new location at the 23rd district of Vienna. AKG Vienna takes over Marketing and Distribution of Studer Austria whose head office relocates to the new AKG building. The wireless microphone line is extended with fast moving products used, e.g., by Rod Stewart or Peter Gabriel on their tours.

**1995:**

Introduction of the world's smallest

dual-diaphragm system in the world, the CK 77/ C 577 - big in sound, smaller than a thumbnail in size, specifically designed for theater, TV, and film uses.



Introduction of the Performer Series, affordable microphones for Karaoke, homerecording, and emerging musicians.



The "K 290 Surround" surround sound headphones are introduced. New "EARgonomic" infrared headphones K 444 IR, K 333 IR are launched. Forte installs AKG earphones in its virtual reality helmets. Introduction of IHA90 integrated handset for computer communication.



Mini headsets for telephone and PC communication use open up new market segments. The C 12 VR is honored with the "Tec Award" by the US Mix Foundation.

World famous British rock group "Simply Red" becomes an AKG endorser.

**1996:**

Introduction of the WMS 300 UHF wireless microphone system.



Introduction of the WMS 51 VHF wireless system.

The new MicroMic Series II, a new generation of clip-on microphones for instrument and vocal uses, are introduced. Introduction of HSC 100 ("Mini-Elf") and HSC 150 ("City-Elf") miniature headsets for intercom, PC, and telecom applications. AKG applies for a patent for the Varimotion System, a new diaphragm type divided into various zones of different thickness for better overall response. The new K Series headphones comprising the K 301 and the Varimotion models K 401 and K 501 are launched.



Introduction of "K 205 UHF" RF headphones. Emotion Series performance microphones with Varimotion System are launched and become hot sellers right away.

**1997:**

**50th anniversary of AKG**