

YESTERDAY AND TODAY

● History of business and management ● History of products

1930s – 1940s

Aiming to develop the world's best cameras

- 1933 ● Canon's predecessor, Precision Optical Instruments Laboratory, is founded in Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo, to conduct research into quality cameras.
- 1934 ● The Kwanon, a 35 mm focal-plane-shutter camera, is produced in prototype form.
- 1935 ● The company files for registration of the "Canon" trademark.
- 1936 ● The Hansa Canon, Japan's first 35 mm focal-plane-shutter camera, is introduced.
- 1937 ● Precision Optical Industry, Co., Ltd. is founded.
- 1939 ● In-house production of Serenar Lens commences.
- 1940 ● Japan's first indirect X-ray camera is developed.
- 1942 ● Takeshi Mitarai is appointed president of Precision Optical Industry, Co., Ltd.
- 1945 ● Production resumes for the midrange J II 35 mm focal-plane-shutter camera.
- 1946 ● The Ginza Camera Service Station opens.
- The Canon S II is introduced, receiving great acclaim from ranking officers in the Occupation Forces and foreign buyers in Japan.
- 1947 ● The company becomes Canon Camera Co., Inc.
- Government designates Canon cameras priority exports when Japan resumes export activities.
- 1949 ● Canon shares are listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange for the first time when postwar stock trading resumes.
- Canon II B wins first prize at a U.S. national camera exhibition.



KWANON



Hansa Canon



Indirect X-ray camera



Takeshi Mitarai



Factory at Shimomaruko Headquarters



Opening of New York office



8T



Canonet



Canola 130

1950s – 1960s

Undertaking the challenges of globalization and diversification

- 1951 ● Canon concentrates head office and manufacturing plants in Shimomaruko, Ohta-ku, Tokyo.
- 1952 ● IV Sb, the world's first speedlight-compatible 35 mm focal-plane-shutter camera, is introduced.
- 1955 ● Canon's New York branch office is opened.
- 1956 ● Canon launches the 8 mm movie camera 8T.
- 1957 ● Canon Europa, the sole European distributor, is established in Switzerland.
- The still camera L1 and 8 mm movie camera 8T are selected as Japan's first Good Design products.
- 1958 ● Canon launches a field zoom broadcast lens.
- 1961 ● The introduction of the Canonet lens-shutter camera sparks massive sales.
- 1962 ● Canon develops its first five-year plan in preparation for full-fledged entry into the business machine market.
- Canon Latin America, the company's sole distributor for Latin America, is established in Panama.
- 1963 ● Canon SA Geneva (Switzerland) is established. By abolishing the sole-distributor system, Canon moves to a new sales system, with outlets under the direct control of the headquarters in Tokyo.
- 1964 ● The Canola 130, the world's first 10-key electronic calculator, is introduced.

- 1965 ● Canon U.S.A., Inc. is established.

- 1967 ● The 30th anniversary slogan—"Cameras in the Right Hand, Business Machines in the Left"—is announced.

- Canon Latin America, Inc. is established.

- 1968 ● Canon Business Machines Sales, Inc. (now Canon Marketing Japan) is established in Japan.
- Canon Amsterdam N.V. (now Canon Europa N.V.) is established.

- The Canon NP System, proprietary electro-photography technology, is introduced and Canon enters the plain-paper copier market.

- 1969 ● The company's name is changed to Canon Inc.
- Canon Camera Sales Co., Inc. is founded for marketing in Japan.

- The world's first lens employing fluorite is introduced.

1970s

Diversification and launch of the first Premier Company Plan

- 1970 ● Canon Inc., Taiwan, Canon's first manufacturing facility outside of Japan, is established.
- Canon enters the personal calculator market.
- The NP-1100, Japan's first PPC, is introduced.
- PPC-1, Japan's first semiconductor lithography system, is introduced.

- 1971 ● Canon Business Machines Sales, Inc. and Canon Camera Sales Co., Ltd. merge to form Canon Sales Co., Inc.

- The top-of-the-line SLR camera Canon F-1 and FD lens are introduced.

- 1972 ● Physotec GmbH (now Canon Giessen GmbH), Canon's first European manufacturing site, is established in Germany.

- The NP-70, the world's first PPC with the liquid-dry system, is introduced.

- 1973 ● Canon Deutschland GmbH is established.
- Japan's first full-color PPC is introduced.
- A macro zoom lens for cinematography wins an Academy Award in the science and technology category from the U.S. Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

- 1974 ● Takeo Maeda is appointed president of Canon Inc.
- 1975 ● Canon France S.A.S. is established.
- Canon develops a laser printer.

- 1976 ● The first Premier Company Plan is launched. A committee is established to discuss Canon development, production and sales systems.
- Canon (U.K.) Ltd. is established.
- The AE-1 SLR camera with a built-in micro-computer is introduced, triggering an AE boom.
- The CR-45NM, the world's first nonmydriatic retinal camera, is introduced.

- 1977 ● Ryuzaburo Kaku is appointed president of Canon Inc.

- The K-35 series of lenses for cinematography wins an Academy Award from the U.S. Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

- 1978 ● A product-specific business division structure is introduced.
- Canon Australia Pty. Ltd. is established.



POCKETRONIC



NP-1100



PPC-1



F-1



Takeo Maeda



AE-1



CR-45NM



Ryuzaburo Kaku



K-35

- The NP-8500, the world's first retention-type copying machine, is introduced.
- The PLA-500FA, the world's first mask aligner with a laser-based automatic alignment system, is introduced.
- 1979 ● Canon Singapore Pte. Ltd. is established.
- Overseas sales exceed ¥100 billion for the first time.
- The LBP-10, using a semiconductor laser, is introduced.

1980s

Canon's second inauguration and introduction of the *kyosei* philosophy

- 1980 ● The Canoword 55, Japan's first word processor featuring Roman alphabet input, is introduced.
- 1981 ● The professional SLR system New F-1 is launched.
- 1982 ● The Second Premier Company Plan is launched.
- The PC-10 and PC-20, the world's first personal copying machines with replaceable cartridges, are introduced.

- 1983 ● Canon Bretagne S.A.S. is established in France.
- 1984 ● Canon starts OEM supply of laser printers to Hewlett-Packard Co. (U.S.A.).

- World's smallest and lightest laser beam printer, the LBP-8/CX, is launched.

- 1985 ● Canon Virginia, Inc. (U.S.A.) is established.

- The BJ-80, the world's first inkjet printer using Bubble Jet technology, is introduced.

- 1987 ● World's first digital full-color copying machine, the CLC-1, is introduced.

- The EOS autofocus SLR camera system is announced. The EOS 650 and a range of EF lenses are introduced as the initial products of the system.

- 1988 ● Canon announces its second inauguration with the launch of the First Global Corporation Plan, which introduces the corporate philosophy of *kyosei*.

- Canon Opto (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd. is established.

- 1989 ● Keizo Yamaji is appointed president of Canon Inc.

- Canon Dalian Business Machines, Inc. is established in the PRC.

1990s

Launch of the Excellent Global Corporation Plan

- 1990 ● Canon launches its toner cartridge recycling program.
- Canon Information Systems R&D Europe Ltd. (now Canon Research Centre France S.A.S.) is established.
- Canon Hi-Tech (Thailand) Ltd. is established.

- 1993 ● Hajime Mitarai is appointed president of Canon Inc.

- The Second Global Corporation Plan is initiated.
- Canon Group Environmental Charter is established.

- 1994 ● The Japan Institute of Invention and Innovation rewards Canon with the Imperial Award for Innovations for its Bubble Jet printing system.



LBP-10



Canoword 55



PC-10



LBP-8/CX



BJ-80



CLC-1



EOS 650



Keizo Yamaji



Hajime Mitarai

- 1995 ● Fujio Mitarai is appointed president of Canon Inc.
- 1996 ● The Excellent Global Corporation Plan is initiated.
- The ELPH (IXUS in other regions), a compact camera with the Advanced Photo System, is introduced.
- 1997 ● Canon (China) Co., Ltd. is established.
- 1998 ● Canon forms the Management Reformation Committee.
- Canon commences Group-wide production reform activities.
- Copying machine remanufacturing commences in Japan. Canon thus maintains such operations in Europe, the U.S. and Japan.
- Canon Middle East B.V. is established in the U.A.E.



Fujio Mitarai



ELPH / IXUS



Joining the NYSE



PowerShot S100 DIGITAL ELPH / DIGITAL IXUS



imageRUNNER



EOS-1Ds



EOS DIGITAL REBEL / EOS 300D DIGITAL



Fujio Mitarai



Tsuneji Uchida

2000s

Pursuing digitization and No. 1 share in all major businesses

- 2000 ● Canon Inc. begins listing its American Depositary Receipts on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE). (Delisted in March 2023)
- The PowerShot S100 DIGITAL ELPH (DIGITAL IXUS in other regions), a digital compact camera, is introduced.
- The iR series new-generation network MFD is introduced, providing document collation and distribution functions.

- 2001 ● Canon Europe Ltd. (U.K.) is established as the strategic headquarters for Europe.

- Canon Vietnam Co., Ltd. is established.

- 2002 ● Canon Inc.'s new headquarters building opens in Shimomaruko, Tokyo.

- The EOS-1Ds pro-model digital SLR camera is introduced.

- 2003 ● The EOS Kiss Digital (EOS 300D Digital and EOS Digital Rebel in other regions) entry-level digital AF SLR camera is introduced.

- 2004 ● Canon Ru LLC is established in Moscow, Russia.
- Igari Mold (now Canon Mold) becomes a Group company.

- 2005 ● The Compliance Card is distributed to 110,000 Canon Group employees.

- ANELVA Corporation (now Canon ANELVA) becomes a Group company.

- NEC Machinery Corporation (now Canon Machinery) becomes a Group company.

- Canon receives the Imperial Award for Innovations for the invention of a large-screen sensor for real-time X-ray imaging systems.


- 2006 ● Canon Inc. appoints Fujio Mitarai as chairman and CEO, Tsuneji Uchida as president and COO.
- Chairman Fujio Mitarai is appointed the second chairman of the Japan Business Federation.
- Canon Sales Co., Inc. changes its name to Canon Marketing Japan Inc.

- 2007 ● Tokki (now Canon Tokki) becomes a Group company.
- Canon and the Kyoto Culture Association start the Tsuzuri Project to pass on Japanese cultural assets to future generations.

YESTERDAY AND TODAY

2008


- Canon makes a full-scale entry into the commercial digital printer market by introducing the imagePRESS C7000VP.




imagePRESS C7000VP

2009

- The Canon Institute for Global Studies and the Canon Foundation are established.
- The EOS 5D Mark II, the first camera ever to incorporate full HD video, is introduced.
- All headquarters functions of Canon Europe are consolidated in London.
- The imageRUNNER ADVANCE series of next-generation office network MFPs with enhanced IT environment integration is introduced.



EOS 5D Mark II




imageRUNNER ADVANCE C5051

2010s

Challenge of growth and diversification in current businesses

2010


- Océ (now Canon Production Printing) becomes a Group company.
- Fujio Mitarai is appointed president of the Rugby World Cup 2019 Organising Committee.



Cinema EOS System

2011


- Canon Prachinburi (Thailand) Ltd. is established.
- Canon Business Machines (Philippines), Inc. is established.
- Canon enters the motion picture production industry with the launch of the Cinema EOS System of cinema cameras and lenses.



Fujio Mitarai

2012


- Fujio Mitarai is appointed president, in addition to chairman and CEO, of Canon Inc.
- The Subaru Telescope at the NAOJ Hawaii Observatory is equipped with a prime focus camera and lens unit enabling a wider field of view.
- Canon enters into collaborative research agreements with Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham and Women's Hospital.
- The compact and lightweight mirrorless camera EOS M is introduced.
- Canon receives a Technology & Engineering Emmy® Award for improvements to large-format CMOS imagers for use in high-definition broadcast video cameras at the 64th Annual Technology & Engineering Emmy® Awards.



Subaru Telescope

2013


- Chairman Fujio Mitarai receives the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun from the Emperor of Japan.
- Canon Solutions America, Inc. is established.
- Canon enters the 4K video production display market with the launch of the DP-V3010 30-inch 4K display for professional use.




EOS M

2014

- Fujio Mitarai is appointed Honorary President of the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- Molecular Imprints (U.S.) (now Canon Nanotechnologies) becomes a Group company.
- Milestone Systems (Demark) becomes a Canon Europe Group company.
- Canon enters the machine vision market with the launch of the RV1100 3D Machine Vision System.




DP-V3010



RV1100

2015


- Axis Communications (Sweden) becomes a Group company.



Fujio Mitarai

2016


- Canon Inc. appoints Fujio Mitarai as chairman and CEO, and Masaya Maeda as president and COO.
- Toshiba Medical Systems (now Canon Medical Systems) becomes a Group company.
- Co-development with Axis of the AXIS Q1659 interchangeable-lens network camera.




Masaya Maeda

2017


- Customer Experience Center Tokyo, a facility for experiencing Canon's commercial printing solutions, opens at Canon headquarters.
- Canon Electronics succeeds in launching the CE-SAT-I micro satellite.
- Canon delivers the nanoimprint lithography system FPA-1200NZ2C to Toshiba Memory Corporation's (now Kioxia) Yokkaichi Operations plant.
- Canon develops the Free Viewpoint Video System.
- The Colorado 1640 UVgel wide format printer is introduced.



AXIS Q1659




CE-SAT-I



FPA-1200NZ2C

2018


- The Canon Eco Technology Park opens to serve as a focal point of environmental activities.
- The software training facility Canon Institute of Software Technology is opened.
- BriefCam (Israel), a leading video analytics software developer, becomes a Group company.
- Canon launches a joint research project with the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage for the creation and use of high-resolution facsimiles of cultural properties.
- The EOS R System is announced. The EOS R full-frame mirrorless camera is introduced as the initial product of the system, along with RF lenses featuring the new lens mount.




EOS R

2019


- The instant camera printer IVY CLIQ+ ZV-123 is introduced.
- Fujio Mitarai is appointed chairperson of the Expo '90 Foundation.
- Canon Medical introduces the world's first MRI system featuring noise reduction reconstruction technology that utilizes deep learning.
- The native 4K laser projector REALiS 4K6021Z is introduced.
- Joint research begins with the Center for iPS Cell Research and Application, Kyoto University.
- Tomo-e Gozen, an astronomical observation system at Kiso Observatory, University of Tokyo, equipped with Canon's ultra-high sensitivity CMOS sensors, begins full operation.
- EOS series camera production reaches a total of 100 million units.
- The 8K broadcast lens UHD DIGISUPER 51 is introduced.
- Canon invests in the Japanese Organization for Medical Device Development.
- Development of video analytics technology for counting people in crowds.



IVY CLIQ+ ZV-123 / Zoemini S ZV-123



MRI system utilizing deep learning



UHD DIGISUPER 51

2020s

Achieving grand strategic transformation

2020

- Océ corporate name is changed to Canon Production Printing.
- The ME20F-SH ultra-high sensitivity multi-purpose camera is the recipient of the 71st Annual Technology & Engineering Emmy® Awards.
- Fujio Mitarai is appointed president, in addition to chairman and CEO, of Canon Inc.
- Canon develops the world's first 1-megapixel SPAD image sensor.
- Canon develops VisualSLAM technology and enters the mobile robot market.



ME20F-SH



Fujio Mitarai



1-megapixel SPAD sensor



EOS R3



RF5.2mm F2.8 L DUAL FISHEYE for VR shooting

2021

- Remote network camera system that controls multiple cameras for video production is introduced.
- Fujio Mitarai is appointed president of the Scout Association of Japan.
- Canon introduces the full-frame mirrorless camera EOS R3 featuring a back-illuminated stacked CMOS sensor.
- Canon Medical starts joint research with National Cancer Center Japan for the development of photon-counting CT systems.
- Redlen Technologies (Canada), a leader in X-ray imaging and detection, becomes a Group company.
- The EOS VR System for capturing VR video is introduced.
- The Canon Group Human Rights Policy is established.
- The PowerShot PICK, a camera that controls recording processes and shoots automatically, is introduced.
- Canon Medical launches a CT diagnostic system featuring Precise IQ Engine (PIQE), a super-resolution reconstruction technology that utilizes deep learning.
- The world's first large-format printer GP series featuring aqueous fluorescent pigment inks is introduced.
- Canon develops a 3.2-megapixel SPAD sensor.



PowerShot PICK (PowerShot PX)



CT system with super-resolution reconstruction technology



imagePROGRAF GP



3.2-megapixel SPAD sensor

2022


- Canon Optron develops oxide electrolytes.
- Edale (U.K.), a manufacturer of label and packaging presses, becomes a Canon Production Printing Group company.
- Lithography Plus, a solution platform that improves the efficiency of operating semiconductor lithography equipment, is introduced.
- AI Accelerator AS-AN11, which adds AI features/ functions to Axis network cameras, is introduced.

2023


- Canon Healthcare USA, Inc. (U.S.) is established.
- Canon Medical starts clinical research of a photon-counting CT system with National Cancer Center Japan.

2024


- The FH-300-20 thin, lightweight, and precise force sensor is introduced.
- The PowerShot V10, a vlogging camera for enjoying casual video recording, is introduced.
- The MS-500 ultra-high-sensitivity camera, with the world's first SPAD sensor for color photography, is introduced.
- The FPA-1200NZ2C semiconductor manufacturing system using nanoimprint lithography technology is introduced.
- Canon EXPO 2023, showcasing new products and future technologies, is held in Yokohama.
- The University of Tokyo, Canon Inc., and Canon Medical sign an industry-academia collaboration agreement.
- Cleveland Clinic (U.S.) and Canon Inc. agree to a strategic research partnership.
- Heidelberg (Germany) and Canon agree to a global business partnership for sheetfed inkjet printing.
- Canon launches precision waste sorting equipment with proprietary Raman spectroscopy tracking technology that sorts various plastics including black pieces.
- Canon develops high-performance material that improve the durability and mass-production stability of perovskite solar cells.
- The EOS R1, the first flagship model of the EOS R System, is introduced.
- The imageFORCE series of color multifunction devices featuring D2 Exposure, a new technology for high print resolutions, is introduced.




FH-300-20




PowerShot V10




MS-500



FPA-1200NZ2C



EOS R1



imageFORCE

For details on
Canon's history,
scan the QR code

