

# A history of innovation and growth

Throughout its 125-year history, GrafTech International has achieved many successes, including the following milestones:

- **1886:** The National Carbon Company, GrafTech's predecessor, is founded
- **1891:** Purchases 115 acres of land in Lakewood, Ohio, for a new factory, "Factory A," that is still in use today
- **1896:** Dr. Edward G. Acheson makes the first synthetic graphite and patents the process
- **1904:** The Clarksburg, West Virginia, facility is built
- **1914:** Introduces the first 12-inch diameter graphite electrodes
- **1926:** Produces the first impregnated electrode pins with high density and high strength
- **1956:** Receives an Oscar® (Class I Scientific or Technical Achievement Award) for the development and production of a high-efficiency yellow flame carbon for motion picture color photography
- **1956:** Dedicates the Parma, Ohio, Research & Development Center on September 18
- **1956-1978:** Develops high performance carbon fibers; this work is later recognized in 2003 with a National Historic Chemical Landmark from the American Chemical Society
- **1969:** Develops rocket nozzles and re-entry vehicle nose cones
- **1985:** Develops advanced technology for carbon/carbon composites used in spacecraft
- **1990:** Introduces first 30-inch diameter graphite electrodes for UHP DC arc furnaces
- **1995:** Develops new graphite for the U.S. Advanced Battery Consortium for lithium batteries in electric vehicles
- **1999:** Develops first thermal interface materials for electronic thermal management
- **2004:** Introduces optimized pinless joint design for large-diameter graphite electrodes
- **2007:** Commercializes high-temperature insulation solutions for the polysilicon and solar industries
- **2007:** Sponsors a robotics competition team at East Tech High School in Cleveland, Ohio, which quickly blossoms into a long-term relationship with the school
- **2010:** Launches highest thermal conductivity SPREADERSHIELD™ products for electronics and lighting applications
- **2010:** In November, closes mergers with two U.S.-based companies: C/G Electrodes, a graphite electrode producer, and Seadrift Coke, the world's second largest needle coke producer
- **2011:** In February, closes merger with super fine grain graphite materials manufacturer Micron Research Corporation

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