

History of Innovation

Printing and Communications Media Business: newsprint paper and printing paper

1910



Tomakomai Mill

Tomakomai Mill started operations

Hydro Power station was constructed in June 1910, the paper machine went into operation in August, sales activities began in September, and the comprehensive construction was completed in December. An inauguration ceremony was held on May 18 of the following year.

1948



Brush coater at Kanzaki Mill

Kanzaki Paper revived as an art paper production mill

Kanzaki Mill, which suffered devastating damage during the war, was spun off from Oji Paper in September 1948 and revived Kanzaki Mill of Kanzaki Paper. Only one month after its establishment, the #1 coater went into operation, and the first art paper was produced at the new Kanzaki Mill.

1997

**Birth of the "OK Green 100 Series"**

In the late 1990s, as growth for consideration of environment conservation, and expectations for printing paper with higher content of recycled paper rose dramatically. In this context, Oji Paper launched the "OK Green 100 Series", a recycled printing paper series containing 100% recycled paper, in fine, coated, and fine coated papers.

1996

**Birth of "OK Prince Fine Paper"**

In response to growing demand for alkaline paper with high whiteness, opacity, and preservation properties, "New OK Fine Paper" (Ebetsu Mill) and "Phoenix" (Kure Mill) were converted to alkaline paper and combined with "Sunflower" (Nichinan Mill) to form the new brand name "OK Prince Fine Paper".

1998



N-6 Machine at Tomakomai Mill

#N-6 Machine started operation

In January 1997, construction began at Tomakomai Mill on a new #6 Newsprint Paper Machine (N-6 Machine), the first major capital investment in 18 years since the new #5 Paper Machine (N-5 Machine). Construction of DIP (deinked pulp) facilities and a new office building were also started in sequence.

2001

**World's first speciality paper for on-demand printing**

The world's first speciality paper optimized for on-demand printing with high imaging quality, "the POD (Print On Demand) Series", was commercialized.

2004

**Launch of "OK Topkote Plus", which provides excellent ink quick-drying properties**

"OK Topkote Plus", an A2 coated paper that achieved both print glossiness and ink drying at a high level through innovative coated paper design technology, was launched.

2006

**Launch of the "Plus News Series"**

New coating technologies, "Fine Plus Coat" and "Super White Carbon", were developed to meet the ever-evolving needs of newspaper printing, such as the increasing quality of advertising pages. As a result, the new generation newsprint "Plus News Series" was launched, which has a high printing opacity, ink acceptability, high contrast, and good dot reproducibility.

2009



N-1 Machine at Tomioka Mill

#N-1 Machine at Tomioka Mill started commercial operation

To strengthen the competitiveness of light-weight coated paper, #N-1 Machine at Tomioka Mill, an all-online concept machine that finishes all processes from wire to super calender, started commercial operation in February 2009, and production of A3 coated paper and fine coated paper started.

2022

**Joint development of the newly unified brand for pocket sized edition "Oji Common Library Paper"**

In response to declining demand for publishing paper, four publishers (Kadokawa Haruki Corporation, Kawade Shobo Shinsha Publishers inc., Chikumashobo Ltd., and CHUOKORON-SHINSHA INC.) and Oji jointly developed the "Oji Common Library Paper" ahead of the industry.

1949

Presidents of the three new companies (from left to right: Itsuki Nishi(Jujo); Keiji Nakajima(Tomakomai); Takeji Tanabe(Honshu).)

Split into three companies and restarted

Dismantled into three companies, Tomakomai Paper, Jujo Paper and Honshu Paper, as a result of dissolution of Zaibatsu.

1952

First coater at Kasugai Mill

Started sales of coated paper

Diversification of products and increased value addition took place against the backdrop of a growing trend towards higher quality printing paper. Oji Paper completed a coated paper facility (coater) at its Kasugai Mill and started selling "Kasugai Coated Paper" in June of the same year.

1963

Lenox cutter at the Nichinan Mill (Small format cutter for Xerox paper)

Developed Xerox Paper

In 1962, when Fuji Xerox Co., Ltd. was established, electronic copiers rapidly became popular. In response, Nippon Pulp Industry developed a medium thicker M Paper for plain paper copier paper (which was called Xerox Paper).

1977

Newspapers with extensive use of color printing

Reduction of the weight of newsprint

In 1977, the basis weight of newsprint, which had previously been 52 grammes per square metre, was stated to reduce to 49 gsm. Since then, weight reduction has continued with the second (1979-, 46 gsm), third (1989-, 43 gsm) and further (2000-, 41 gsm).

1981

#5 Machine at Kure Mill

1989

"Yamayuri"100 actual product (not the 70% product at that time)

In 1980, Honshu Paper was requested by the Kanagawa Prefectural Government to develop recycled paper with higher content and developed "Yamayuri", a recycled paper containing 70% of brightened DIP(deinked pulp). The product was thrust into the limelight against the background of the urban waste problem in 1998, and became a pioneer in sparking the recycled paper boom.

1990

Gate rolls of N-2 Machine at Tomakomai Mill

Gate roll installation

Gate roll coating equipment was installed on the newsprint machine. By the 1990s, newsprint printing methods had shifted from letterpress to offset printing, and as number of color pages and printing speed increased, the surface strength of newsprint paper became a requirement, which was met by the introduction of coating equipment.

1989

Started production of fine paper "Phoenix"

Toyo Pulp, which became a subsidiary of Oji in 1985, decided to add a fine paper machine to its Kure Mill. It was completed in 1989 as #5 Machine and started production of fine paper ("Phoenix"). As a result, the percentage of fine paper sales in FY1989 increased from 17% to 35%.

1993

At the time of the signing of the memorandum of understanding for the merger Oji and Kanzaki 3 leaders

Merger of two companies and integration of coated paper brands

Kanzaki Paper and Oji Paper merged and became New Oji Paper in 1993. In April 1995, in an effort to streamline the coated paper production system and integrate brands, "OK Topcoat", an A2 gloss product, and A3 gloss products were integrated into "OK Coat L".

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