

## Printing and Communications Media Business: newsprint paper and printing paper

The origins of the machine-made paper (newsprint paper and printing paper) business can be traced back to the establishment of Shoshi Kaisha advocated by Eiichi Shibusawa in 1873, which laid the foundation for the Oji Group. Tomakomai Mill began operations in 1910 and established a domestic self-sufficiency system for newsprint paper. We continued to provide a stable supply of newsprint paper and printing paper, supporting Japan's economic growth. Since then, paper has been developed to meet the requirements of the times, such as lighter weight, colorization, multi-functionality, and environmental friendliness, and continues to evolve today.



**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.



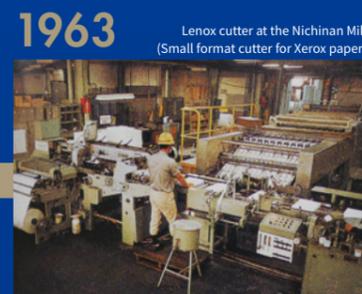
**1948** Brush coater at Kanzaki Mill  
Kanzaki Paper revived as an art paper production mill  
Kanzaki Mill, which suffered devastating damage during the war, was spun off from Oji Paper in September 1948 and revived Kanzaki Mill of Kanzaki Paper. Only one month after its establishment, the #1 coater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



**1949** 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  
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 started 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).



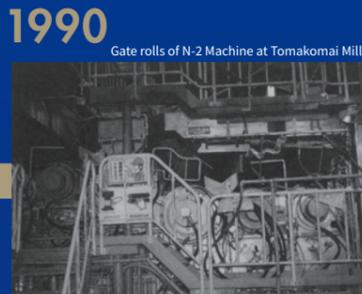
**1997** "OK Green 100 Series" Brochure  
Birth of the "OK Green 100 Series"  
In the late 1990s, as growth for consideration of environment conservation, and expectations for printing paper with higher content of recycled paper rose dramatically. In this context, Oji Paper launched the "OK Green 100 Series", a recycled printing paper series containing 100% recycled paper, in fine, coated, and fine coated papers.



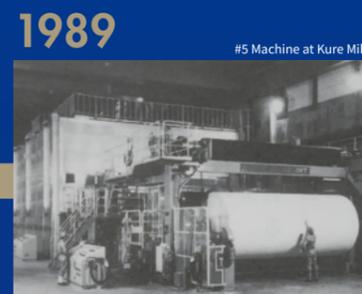
**1996** "OK Prince Fine Paper" Brochure  
Birth of "OK Prince Fine Paper"  
In response to growing demand for alkaline paper with high whiteness, opacity, and preservation properties, "New OK Fine Paper" (Ebetsu Mill) and "Phoenix" (Kure Mill) were converted to alkaline paper and combined with "Sunflower" (Nichinan Mill) to form the new brand name "OK Prince Fine Paper".



**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".



**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** #5 Machine at Kure Mill  
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%.



**1981** "Yamayuri" 100 actual product (not the 70% product at that time)  
Developed recycled paper "Yamayuri"  
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.



**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** "the POD Series" Brochure  
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** "OK Topkote Plus" Brochure  
Launch of "OK Topkote Plus", which provides excellent ink quick-drying properties  
"OK Topkote Plus", an A2 coated paper that achieved both print glossness and ink drying at a high level through innovative coated paper design technology, was launched.



**2006** "The Plus News Series" Brochure  
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.