

Corporate History

- Apr. 1950** Nippon ZEON Co., Ltd. founded to manufacture and sell synthetic resins with starting capital of 5 million yen.
Head Office set up within Nippon Light Metal Co., Ltd. (7-3 Ginza Nishi, Chuo-ku, Tokyo).
- Apr. 1952** Polyvinyl chloride resin (PVC) production begins at Kanbara Plant (Shizuoka Prefecture).
- Nov. 1956** PVC production begins at Takaoka Plant (Toyama Prefecture).
- Jul. 1959** Production of Japan's first synthetic rubbers begins at Kawasaki Plant (Kanagawa Prefecture).
Central Research Laboratory opens.
- Sep. 1961** Listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange. Listed on the Osaka and Nagoya Stock Exchanges in October.
- Jun. 1965** Head Office moves to Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo.
- Aug. 1965** Butadiene and SBR production using the GPB Process (Nippon ZEON's proprietary technology for extracting butadiene) begins at Tokuyama Plant (Yamaguchi Prefecture).
- Mar. 1967** Kanbara Plant closed for rationalization.
- Sep. 1969** PVC production begins at Mizushima Plant (Okayama Prefecture).
- Nov. 1971** GPI (ZEON's proprietary technology for extracting isoprene) facility completed in Mizushima Plant and production of IR at the plant.
- Oct. 1981** Spins off the Processed Products Division to establish ZEON Kasei Co., Ltd. (now a consolidated subsidiary).
- Jul. 1988** Establishes ZEON Chemicals, Inc. in the U.S. The company, now a consolidated subsidiary, is engaged in local production of hydrogenated acrylonitril butadiene rubber.
- Mar. 1989** Establishes ZEON Chemicals Europe Limited in the U.K. The company, now a consolidated subsidiary, acquires the nitrile rubber division of BP Chemicals Ltd. and starts operations on April 1.
- Sep. 1989** Establishes ZEON Chemicals USA, Inc. in the U.S. The following month the company acquires the specialty rubber division of BF Goodrich Chemical Co. of the U.S.
- Oct. 1993** Moves into the electronic materials business in China and establishes Suzhou Rui Hong Electronic Chemicals Co., Ltd., a joint venture with Suzhou Electronic Materials Co., Ltd. and Marubeni Corporation.
- Jul. 1995** Spins off vinyl chloride business, transferring it to Shin Dai-Ichi Vinyl Corporation.
- May. 1996** Establishes ZEON Chemicals (Thailand) Co., Ltd. to produce C5 hydrocarbon resins. The company, now a consolidated subsidiary, starts production in April 1998.
- Apr. 1997** Completes Yonezawa Plant (Yamagata Prefecture), now ZEON Chemicals Yonezawa Co., Ltd., to manufacture fine chemicals.
- Sep. 1997** ZEON Chemicals USA, Inc. (now a consolidated subsidiary) acquires the goodwill of acrylic rubber business from EniChem Elastomerie, Inc. of Italy.
- Mar. 1999** U.S.-based ZEON Chemicals L.P. (now a consolidated subsidiary) acquires DSM Copolymer's NBR business in North America.
- Sep. 1999** ZEON Chemicals L.P. (now a consolidated subsidiary) acquires a specialty rubber operation from Goodyear Tire & Rubber, of the U.S.
- Mar. 2000** Discontinues production of PVC at Mizushima Plant and withdraws from the PVC business.
- Jun. 2000** Changes the English company name to ZEON Corporation.
- Jul. 2000** Tokyo Zairyo Co., Ltd. (now a consolidated subsidiary) and ZEON Trading Co., Ltd. merge.
- Jun. 2001** ZEON Kasei Co., Ltd. (now a consolidated subsidiary) and Asahi Chemical Co., Ltd. merge.
- Dec. 2001** Completes a factory for processing light-guide plates for highly functional (thermoplastic transparent) resin COP liquid crystal displays, along with an optical film technical center in Takaoka.
- Mar. 2003** Applies for delisting of stock on the Nagoya Stock Exchange. (Delisted in April 2003.)
- Aug. 2003** Transfers DCPD-RIM operations to RIMTEC Corporation by means of a company breakup.
- Mar. 2005** Head office moves to present location.
- May. 2006** Completes Next-Generation R&D Building No. 10.

Year	Award issuing organization	Award name and technology
1998	Environmental Protection Agency (U.S.A.)	Stratospheric Ozone Protection Award (October 27)
2000	Japan Chemical Industry Association	Environment Technology Award "Development and manufacturing of environmentally friendly fluorinated materials." (May 25)
2000	Tsukuba Foundation for Chemical and Bio-Technology	The 8th Award "Development and evaluation of cyclic fluorinated compounds as environmentally safe materials." (May 29)
2003	The Green Sustainable Chemistry Network (GSCN)	The Green Sustainable Chemistry (GSC), Minister of the Environment Award

ZEORORA®-H received the Green & Sustainable Chemistry, Minister of the Environment Award

Unique fluorine cleaning solvent "ZEORORA®-H", having no harmful effects on the ozone layer and less impact on global warming. We were honored to receive the Green and Sustainable Chemistry (GSC), Minister of the Environment Award. In addition, ZEORORA®-H has received many other commendations, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Stratospheric Ozone Protection Award, recognizing its outstanding features as an environment-friendly cleaning agent. It is widely used in products such as electronics components as a degreasing cleaner in place of CFC or chlorine solvents, and it is being extensively applied to many fields.

