Value Creation – Our Track Record

The Yokowo Group started with precision metal pipe processing developed by its founder, Chutaro Yokoo, at the time when he was a craftsman in the industry. From these beginnings, we introduced various new technologies centered on micro precision processing, expanding the business to a wide range of fields. With Tomioka Town within Kita-Kanra District, (now Tomioka City), Gunma Prefecture, where the founder was born and raised, as the center of development and production, we are developing and providing cutting-edge products for the global market while expanding its bases overseas.

Yokowo's History

Yokowo's Manufacturing

1920

As the founder of Yokowo Manufacturing Co., Ltd., the predecessor of YOKOWO CO., LTD., Chutaro Yokoo refined his skills as a craftsman processing precision pipes used in pocket watch hinges.

1922

Founded in Sumida District, Tokyo.

After having finished his apprenticeship, Chutaro Yokoo (1894-1977) decided to go out on his own and start a business, opening the Seirinsha bicycle shop the following year in 1923. This was destroyed on the day of opening by the Great Kanto Earthquake, but reopened just one month later. In 1926, using the skills he had acquired over 15 years as a craftsman, he opened a precision pipe processing factory in Mukojima, Tokyo. Thus was born Yokowo Manufacturing Co., Ltd., the predecessor of YOKOWO CO., LTD.

Chutaro Yokoo

In front of the Seirinsha bicycle shop

1930

Developed a spring bar for watches that, at that time, captured the largest share of the global market.

Chutaro Yokoo invents a belt mounting component, the "spring bar," which extends at both ends. This landmark invention became widely adopted overseas, capturing the world's largest market share. This was the starting point of "technical Yokowo" that exists to this day.

Conceptual image of watch band and spring bar.

Spring Bar

1951

Incorporated.

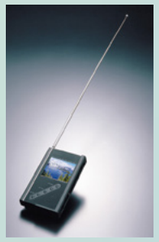
株式会社 横尾製作所
YOKOWO MFG. CO., LTD.

1956

Started Rod Antenna business. (withdrew in 2003)

Yokowo's high-quality antennas with their smooth extendibility based upon precision pipe processing technologies garnered recognition from household electronics manufacturers, positioning antenna technology as a main business driver.

Rod Antenna



1957

Started Vehicle Communication Equipment business.

With the rise of private car ownership in the 1950s, the need for automobile radios grew. Leveraging this opportunity, Yokowo entered the automotive industry and launched the Vehicle Communication Equipment (now VCCS) business.

Pillar Antenna

AM/FM Motor Antenna

1959

Started Sporting Goods business. (withdrew in 1995)

In the midst of the leisure boom during the period of high economic growth, Yokowo took advantage of our pipe technologies to begin manufacturing and selling golf shafts. The Company has also expanded into metal bats and shafts for rackets.

Golf Goods

1961

Opened the Tomioka Plant in Tomioka City, Gunma Prefecture.

Tomioka Plant

1962

Listed on the second section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

1967

Established YOKOWO MFG. CO., (TAIWAN) LTD. in Taiwan.
(now YOKOWO MICRO TECH CO., LTD.)

YOKOWO MFG. CO., (TAIWAN) LTD.
(Wugu District, Taiwan)

1974

Relocated YOKOWO MFG. CO., (TAIWAN) LTD. to Shulin Industrial Zone.

YOKOWO MFG. CO., (TAIWAN) LTD.
(Shulin Industrial Zone)

1978

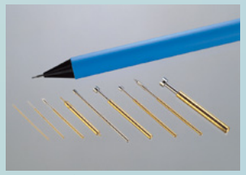
Established YOKOWO (SINGAPORE) PTE. LTD. in Singapore.

Building that YOKOWO (SINGAPORE) occupied at the time.

1979

Started Circuit Testing Connector business.

Harnessing the world's top-tier class micro precision processing technology and microwave technology, Yokowo started the development of semiconductor testing fixture. Yokowo offers global solutions to semiconductor testing processes that are increasingly miniaturized and high-performing.



Contact Probes

1983

Started Personal Communication Antenna (PCA) business. (withdrew in 2014)

During the first year of new media, Yokowo embarked on the development of personal radio antennas, which started the PCA business. NARDI promoted personal radio antennas as a cordless phone and cell phone solution in both the European and Japanese markets, while NARDII focused on developing ODU for satellite broadcast reception, paving the way for Yokowo's MICO business.

Cellular Phone Antenna

Wireless Communication Antenna

1983

Started Microwave Component (MICO) business. (transferred to VCCS business in 2002)

To enable the practical deployment of satellite broadcasting, Yokowo leveraged the expertise cultivated in antenna manufacturing to develop a compact, high-performance low noise converter (LNC) ideal for household reception. Taking this step, Yokowo's business would advance dramatically from mechanics into electronics.

LNC (Low Noise Converter)

1984

Expanded the Tomioka Plant.

1986

Started Fine Connector business.

In trying to unlock new possibilities for its founding spring bar product, Yokowo adopted it as the signal contact in compact radio earphones. From an early point of pin-only supply, Yokowo aimed for greater ease of line assembly, prompting the company to design resin-holder units and diversify options, from conductivity to plating and compact resin molds, which expanded the FC (Fine Connector) business division.

SPRING CONNECTOR™

1987

Established YOKOWO ELECTRONICS (M) SDN. BHD. in Malaysia.

1987

Began OEM supply of various satellite broadcast reception devices in tandem with NHK's launch of satellite broadcast services.

When satellite broadcasting began in Japan, NHK adopted it across its entire network, helping to usher in the dawn of domestic satellite broadcasting.

Outdoor Unit for BS

1989

Completed new head office building in Kita District, Tokyo.

1920 1930 1940 1950 1960 1970 1980

Value Creation – Our Track Record

Yokowo's History

1990

Changed company name to YOKOWO CO., LTD.

1994

Established DONGGUAN YOKOWO ELECTRONICS CO., LTD. in Guangdong, China.
(merged with DONGGUAN YOKOWO CAR COMPONENTS CO., LTD. in 2017)

1995

Established DONGGUAN YOKOWO CAR COMPONENTS CO., LTD. in Guangdong, China.

1999

Established DONGGUAN YOKOWO COMMUNICATION COMPONENTS CO., LTD. in Guangdong, China.

Relocated YOKOWO EUROPE LTD. to London, U.K.

2001

Listed on the first section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

2002

Established YOKOWO MANUFACTURING OF AMERICA LLC in Ohio, U.S.A.

Established YOKOWO KOREA CO., LTD. in Korea.

2005

Established YOKOWO CORP. (H.K.) LTD. in Hong Kong.

2007

Established YOKOWO Advanced Device Center. (reorganized into a joint corporation in 2019)

YOKOWO Advanced Device Center

2008

Took over probe card business from Genesis Technology Inc.

Established YOKOWO MEMS development center.

2011

Established YOKOWO VIETNAM CO., LTD. in Vietnam.

2012

Acquired ISO 13485 certificate.

2014

Acquired ISO 27001 certificate.

2016

Acquired OHSAS 18001 certificate. (Transferred to ISO 45001 in 2020)

2018

Established Advanced Measurement Technology Center in Tomioka Plant.

2019

Registered the SmartWeld® trademark for its original technology for bonding different metallic materials.

Established a joint corporation as LTCC Materials Co., Ltd.

2020

Established YOKOWO EUROPE GmbH in Germany.

Established a joint corporation as Lumax Yokowo Technologies Pvt. Ltd. in India.

Established YOKOWO MANUFACTURING OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC. in Philippines.

2021

Relocated the head office to JR Kanda Manseibashi Bldg. in Chiyoda District, Tokyo.

2022

Transitioned to the prime market of Tokyo Stock Exchange, in accordance with the restructuring of market segments.

Established YOKOWO FUTURE-ORIENTED SUPPORT CO., LTD. (Special subsidiary certification obtained in March 2023)

Established YOKOWO ELECTRONICS VIETNAM CO., LTD. in Vietnam.

100th anniversary since foundation

100th ANNIVERSARY

2023

Established the Micro Process R&D Center (MP Center) in the Tomioka Plant.

2025

Succeeded to network solution businesses of KOHA Co., Ltd. through a company split.

1990 2000 2010 2020

Yokowo's Manufacturing

1992

Developed a small-sized ceramic patch GPS Antenna.

Small GPS Antenna

1996

Developed the world's first Micro Antenna for automotive AM/FM radio.

The world's first micro antenna was an innovative new product that transformed a conventional vehicle radio antenna, previously a mechanical component, into an electronic part. Yokowo managed to cut the antenna length dramatically, and it was subsequently equipped on a broad spectrum of automobiles.

Micro Antenna

1996

Started Microwave Ceramics business.

Ceramic patch antennas, a crucial part of GPS and VICS (vehicle information and communication system), were initially purchased from outside sources. To enhance Yokowo's capabilities as a technology-development company, it embraced new elemental technologies and realized complete in-house manufacturing in 1996.

Ceramic Antenna

1997

Developed a BGA Test Socket to make a full entry into the semiconductor testing market.

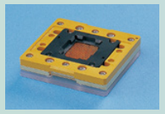
Yokowo developed a spring probe-based BGA test socket. By enabling vertical contact with a 0.5 mm pitch, it provided high density, high frequency compatibility and simplified removal and installation. It has been highly evaluated for its mechanical and electrical characteristics and has been adopted by major U.S. semiconductor manufacturers.

BGA Test Socket

2002

Sold the industry's first hi-giga socket for high frequency testing.

To seize the movement toward high frequency applications, the CTC business launched the hi-giga socket. Recent years saw a dramatic uptick in demand, driven by high frequency semiconductor devices and increased testing speed. The newer, higher-performance version of this socket supports testing of 5G-focused chips at renowned semiconductor companies worldwide.

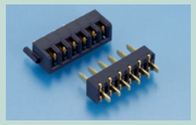


Hi-Giga Sockets

2005

Developed a two piece blade connector and fully entered the handheld device market.

The two piece blade connector incorporates a floating structure unique to Yokowo on its receptacle side, absorbing misalignments from vibrations or shocks and maintaining a stable connection. High impact and vibration resistance are now integrated into handheld device products used in harsh environment, achieving a strong market entry.



Two Piece Blade Connector

2006

Started Medical Device (MD) business.

Yokowo leveraged its micro precision processing technology to launch a new line of medical device products. Utilizing Yokowo's core technology, such as producing catheter parts for minimally invasive treatments that impose minimal burden on patients, the company is committed to driving progress in the medical device sector.

Tip Terminal of Catheter

2011

Started OEM of guide wires for medical treatment.

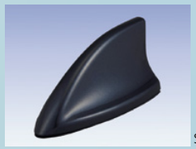
Yokowo started the OEM supply of "guide wire units," where a core wire is joined with a metal coil. Based on customer specifications, Yokowo create prototypes for development and evaluation that are ready for mass production, manufactured inside the Tomioka Plant's cleanroom, and then supplied to customers.

Guide Wires for Medical Treatment

2011

Developed shark fin antennas.

After being launched in the U.S. market, it was also released in the domestic automotive accessories market. While maintaining the same reception performance as conventional antennas, Yokowo kept the height at 63 mm and achieved weight reduction through extensive use of resin components, which also improved fuel efficiency.

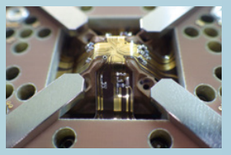


Shark Fin Antennas

2013

Commercialized the YPX Series.

Commercialized the YPX probe card series for the testing of high frequency devices using MEMS technology, targeting the semiconductor wafer testing market for high frequency devices.



YPX Series

2019

Entered the MaaS market and provided key access systems.

Yokowo accelerated development of an operation service leveraging cloud technology, developed the onboard device for vehicles and the overall system including the control server, and created a system that allows unlocking and locking automobiles using a smartphone. In addition to selling equipment, Yokowo set out to establish the foundation for a subscription business that yields steady revenue from operating services.

On-Board Key Access System

2021

Developed the 5G-compatible hi-giga full shield coax socket.

Yokowo developed its first 5G (28 GHz band) compatible 0.4 mm pitch, hi-giga full shield coax socket, which served as a testing socket for semiconductor back-end process testing.

Hi-Giga Full Shield Coax Socket

2024

Developing the world's smallest SPRING CONNECTOR™.

Yokowo developed the world's smallest SPRING CONNECTOR™, which measures just 0.35 mm in diameter. This product maintains the ease of attachment and removal offered by SPRING CONNECTOR™ while realizing even greater space savings, allowing customers to design with greater freedom.

0.35 mm Diameter SPRING CONNECTOR™