FRONIUS AUSTRALIA

History

For over 60 years the name Fronius has stood for intensive research and the constant search for new, innovative solutions. The perfect efficiency of every product has repeatedly been awarded both national and international prizes.

10th June 1945 — **Company**

The firm is established by Günter Fronius in Pettenbach, Austria, and commences production of battery chargers and welding transformers.

around 1950 — **Welding Technology**

Market launch of Fronius' first welding transformer with magnetic yoke-type regulation, permitting continuous adjustment of the welding current.

around 1955 — **Welding Technology**

Semiconductors are used in Fronius welding rectifiers for the first time - making convenient DC welding a reality.

around 1958

First battery chargers, based on 50 Hz technology.

1972 — **Company**

The company's 2nd facility is opened in Wels-Thalheim, Austria.

1980 — **Company**

Handover of company management to Klaus Fronius and Brigitte Strauß

1981 — **Welding Technology**

Unveiling of the world's first-ever primary transistor-switched power source (TransArc 500). The inverter technology used not only brings such advantages as low weight and volume, but also - and even more importantly - opens up hitherto unheard-of new possibilities in terms of welding technology.

1986 — **Company**

A Fronius sales and production facility opens for business in Istanbul, Turkey.

1988 — **Company**

Buying of the location in Wels: Buxbaumstraße 2 (Austria)

around 1988

Launch of the second product category - chargers for traction batteries based on 50Hz technology.

1990 — **Welding Technology**

Launch of a revolutionary high-performance MAG welding process known as the T.I.M.E. Process, which - for the first time in welding history - makes very high welding speeds possible.

1991 — **Company**

Opening of a sales and production facility at Kiev in the Ukraine.

1992 — **Company**

A sales and production facility is opened at Ceský Krumlov in the Czech Republic.

1993

In another "first", inverter-technology know-how is used for transistor-switched chargers for vehicle starter batteries (ACCTIVA Series). The result: Precision charging is now possible with a small and - above all - lightweight unit.

1993 — **Welding Technology**

Fuzzy technology is used for the first time in the field of welding-process control (MagicWave 2000).

1993 — **Company**

Sales organisations are set up in Germany, Switzerland, France and Norway.

Certification to ISO 9001.

1994

Market launch of transistor-switched chargers for traction batteries (SELECTIVA Series).

1994 — **Welding Technology**

The Innovation Prize of the Province of Upper Austria is awarded to Fronius for its use of fuzzy technology in the field of welding-process control (MagicWave 2000).

1995

Establishment of the Energy & Environment Division, with business units for photovoltaics and battery charging systems.

1995

Welding Technology

The world's lightest portable MMA welding unit is launched, weighing a mere 4.2 kg (TransPocket 1400).

Innovation Prize of the Province of Upper Austria for product design (MagicWave 2600).

1995

Solar Electronics

Establishment of the Energy & Environment Division, with business units for photovoltaics and battery charging systems.

Launch of the "Sunrise" grid-connected solar inverter for generating electricity from solar energy and feeding it into the power grid.

1997

Market launch of what is, to date, the smallest transistor-switched charging unit for traction batteries in its power class (SELECTIVA PLUS Series).

1997

Solar Electronics

Innovation Prize of the Province of Upper Austria for the "Sunrise" solar inverter.

1998

Welding Technology

Unveiling of the world's first-ever completely digitally controlled MIG/MAG welding power sources (TransSynergic 4000 / 5000; TransPuls Synergic 2700 / 4000 / 5000). From now on, quality is 100% reproducible.

Innovation Prize of the Province of Upper Austria for "Virtual Welding".

1998

Solar Electronics

Launch of the "Solarix", a sine-wave solar inverter for stand-alone operation. The first such unit - anywhere - in which the inverter and charge controller really do work together smoothly.

1999

Solar Electronics

Innovation Prize of the Province of Upper Austria for the sine-wave solar inverter "Solarix".

1999

Company

Establishment of the Private Trust “Friedl and Günter Fronius”.

2000

Company

For tighter focus of the various fields of the company's business, 4 Divisions are established: "Welding Technology", "Battery Charging Systems and Car Repair Equipment", "Solar Electronics" and "Plasma Technology".

"Success through Research" award from the Austrian Industrial Research Promotion Fund (FFF) in recognition of the enduring successes achieved by Fronius though its innovation strategy.

2001

Launch of the mini-size transistor-switched plug-in charger "ACCTIVA easy". As well as having a very gentle charging characteristic, the unit also features a unique design approach and makes it possible to both test and charge the battery with one and the same unit.

2001

Welding Technology

Unveiling of the world's first-ever genuinely industrial-grade LaserHybrid welding system, with welding speeds of up to 9 m/min.

Innovation Prize of the Province of Upper Austria for "LaserHybrid".

Market launch of a series of MMA welding units (TransPocket 1100 / 1500 / 1500 RC / 1500 TIG) with resonant intelligence, which permits an almost perfect approximation to the principle of the ideal characteristic.

2001

Solar Electronics

The "Fronius IG" grid-connected inverter is launched. With features such as data communication via plug-in cards, low weight and its compatibility with all common makes of photovoltaic module, the "Fronius IG" achieves the utmost in flexibility for the client.

Award of the Environment Prize of the Province of Upper Austria for the "Fronius IG" solar inverter.

2001

Company

A brand-new production facility is opened in Pettenbach, Austria.

2001

Company

Extension of the management team to 6 persons: Elisabeth Engelbrechtsmüller-Strauß, Klaus Fronius, Heinz Hackl, Herbert Mühlböck, Volker Lenzeder, Brigitte Strauß

2002

Welding Technology

The strong, silent type. The new Fronius systems, MagicWave 1700, MagicWave 2200, and TransTig 2200, offer a higher power density, lower noise levels, more stable arcs, and greater ease of operation than conventional welding systems.

Market launch of the VarioSynergic and VarioStar product ranges. These step-controlled welding systems are synonymous with low operating costs, easy handling, long life, and flawless welding quality.

2002

Company

Fronius goes USA! April 2002 saw the launch of a Fronius sales and service subsidiary in Detroit, focusing on the local automobile industry as its initial target market.

2003

Welding Technology

Premiere for the “TimeTwin Digital” process. In this process, two independently controlled power sources with two insulated wire electrodes work together in a single gas nozzle and a shared welding pool. These innovative systems achieve maximum economy and efficiency in automatic welding of low and high-alloy steel and aluminium materials.

The TransPuls Synergic 7200 and 9000 are launched on the market. These systems consist of two linked TransPuls Synergic 4000 or 5000 systems and produce a current of 720 and 900 amperes respectively. This procedure is designed to deliver the kind of high performance that is required in automatic and robot welding.

The remote control unit RCU 5000i with full text display. This RCU features logical user prompting and is easy to use. To standardise procedures for backing up, exchanging, and documenting welding data, a Smart Media Card is used. Another new feature is the Windows-compatible USB interface for easy data transfer.

2003

Solar Electronics

Market launch of the Fronius IG 40 / 60 with MIX concept. The MIX concept achieves a marked increase in energy yield under part load and also enables more efficient utilisation of the inverter.

2004

First deliveries of Acctiva easy charging systems that communicate with motorcycle wiring systems.

2004

Welding Technology

TIG product range extended with the addition of the MagicWave 4000/5000 and TransTig 4000/5000: these robust and powerful welding systems are available in Standard and Job versions. Active Wave provides a highly stable arc with minimum noise emission.

All high-performance Fronius welding systems are now fully digital, including the TIME 5000. Extended stick-out means up to 30 % improved wire feeding speeds or burn-off rate.

2004

Solar Electronics

Fronius Solar Electronics triples its production capacity from 70 MW to 200 MW! Additionally, inverters are UL certified for the USA, and the first sales partner for the Far East is won.

2005

World premiere for the new SELECTIVA platform charging device with Active Inverter Technology for battery-friendly and constant charging.

Market launch of the new Acctiva Professional Flash charging systems to provide power while running diagnostics on vehicles with central electronics.

2005

Market launch of new Acctiva Professional Flash chargers for supplying power whilst performing diagnosis on vehicles with in-car electronics.

2005

Welding Technology

CMT (Cold Metal Transfer) market launch. This new MIG/MAG welding process enables thermal joining of steel and aluminium and shows convincing performance with spatter free soldering of coated sheet metal and ultra-thin bonds.

The 100 percent digitally controlled welding system range is extended to include Resonant Intelligence with the TransPocket 2500/3500 – extremely robust, small, light, but powerful.

2005

Solar Electronics

Market launch of the first central inverter with MIX design, the Fronius IG 500, in Europe and Korea. Multiple small power components in an inverter boost efficiency under partial load.

2006

Welding Technology

“Welding Technology of the Year 2006 Award” for the welding processes Cold Metal Transfer and DeltaSpot.

2006

Welding Technology

Fronius is bringing out its first plasma-cutting device. On the TransCut 300, a fluid serves as the cutting medium. This portable cutting system also sets up a brand-new benchmark for “green cutting”.

Market launch of DeltaSpot. The “world first” of this resistance spot-welding system is its spooling process tapes which protect both the electrodes and the workpiece, revolutionising the weld quality.

2007 **Solar Electronics**

Market launch of the new grid-connected PV-inverters "Fronius IG Plus": New power classes expand the proven Fronius IG series. These high-tech devices include many advantages and grant maximum earnings security – in any weather!

2007 **Company**

Opening of the new production and logistics centre at Sattledt, Austria

Opening of the sales and service centre at Santa Catarina/Monterrey, Mexico and Missisauga, Canada

2007 **Solar Electronics**

HyLOG presents a CO^2-free internal logistics system in Sattledt with photovoltaic, electrolysis and hydrogen power. The project was honored by the Austrian Solar Award and the Energy Globe Award.

2008 **Solar Electronics**

Start of the service subsidiary of the solar electronics division in Verona, Italy

2008 **Solar Electronics**

Fronius is honoured for the development of the inverter series Fronius IG Plus as well as for its outstanding service with the renowned „Frost & Sullivan Best Practices Award 2008“.

2008 **Company**

Groundbreaking of a research and development centre in Thalheim, Austria.

Expansion of the sales and production facility in Kiev, Ukraine.

2009 **Solar Electronics**

Fronius and Frauscher present the worldwide first electric boat powered by hydrogen fuel cell.

2009 **Solar Electronics**

The Fronius energy cell is the world's first TÜV Süd certified hydrogen-powered fuel cell system that generates electricity without any emissions whatsoever.

2009 **Solar Electronics**

Premiere of the first transformerless PV inverter “Fronius IG TL” with standard system monitoring. It also has a unique feature in which a commercially-available USB stick can be used for easy system monitoring as well as simple inverter updating.

2009 **Solar Electronics**

The Solar Electronics Division is present in the subsidiaries in France and Czech Republic and launches a new subsidiary in Spain.
Expansion of the previous support- and service branch in Italy to a sales subsidiary.

2009

Company

Opening of the sales and service centre in Prague, Czech Republic.

2010

Solar Electronics

The Fronius Energy Cell is now in the 2 kW and 4 kW power categories in full-scale production. The first stage involves the fuel cell.

2010

Solar Electronics

Launch of the new „Fronius CL“ central inverter series. These inverters provide maximum earnings along with the highest system stability due to the combination of high-yield power electronics with a unique modular system design using the Fronius MIX™ concept. The Fronius CL with power classes 36, 48 and 60 kW is perfectly suited for PV systems of up to several hundred kilowatts.

2012

Product placement of the Fronius Ailo. As the first central inverter in its performance class that can be completely installed and maintained by the installer, the Fronius Agilo sets new standards. With a maximum output power of 75 kVA and 100 kVA the Fronius Agilo is particularly suitable for industrial or commercial systems.

2013

For the Solar Energy Division, 2013 is the year of innovation. To increase market presence, many product innovations are presented to the customers and introduced to the market in the course of the year. The motto is:

'Why we love a challenge? Because challenges breed innovation.'

2013

Not just an inverter, but an energy management sytem.
With power categories ranging from 1.5 to 3.1 kW, the Fronius Galvo is perfect for households – and is especially suitable for self-consumption systems. The integrated energy management relay allows the self-consumption component to be maximised. A host of other smart features make the Fronius Galvo one of the most future-proof inverters in its class.