

Heraeus

1669
2025

365 Years Heraeus

MATERIALS. INNOVATIONS. FOR GENERATIONS.

FOREWORD

365 YEARS HERAEUS – A STORY OF SUCCESS FOR THE FAMILY AND THE BUSINESS

For 365 years the development of the Heraeus family and the company of the same name have been inextricably linked.

Over the centuries, the pharmacy has grown into a global technology group that is one of Germany's most important family-owned business. At present, the family company has some 250 shareholders. With around 15,200 employees in 40 countries, Heraeus generated revenues of €29.4 billion in the financial year 2024.

With a great deal of commitment from the family, and a focus on long-term stability, Heraeus is on a path of continuous development, all in line with the new claim **MATERIALS. INNOVATIONS. FOR GENERATIONS.** As in the previous generations, the focus is on the future, and openness to innovation is a key value.

BUT HOW DID IT ALL BEGIN?

The common origins of the family and the company date back to 1660 in Hanau.

The following pages give a sketchy overview of both the family's and the company's history – embedded in the developments of the time.

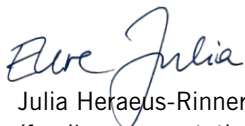
FOCUS & SCOPE

It was of particular concern to us to shed light on the earlier years of our existence, as little has been reported on this so far. 365 years having passed since the acquisition of the pharmacy and thus the beginning of our family as entrepreneurs in Hanau seemed like a good opportunity to make up for this.

This booklet aims to be a start, to give us all a better understanding of our history. Many details had to be left out to make it reasonably compact, for instance, numerous persons of merit who have shaped the path. This is not meant to be a judgment, and we ask for your indulgence. In the following, the start of each generation is marked by the year of birth of the first-born of that generation, regardless of the role he or she played.

We can work together as a family to continue and elaborate this story. For now, however, we hope you enjoy discovering and browsing through this overview of our family and company history.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "BvC Julia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Julia Heraeus-Rinnert
(family representative)



1ST GENERATION:
1636

1ST GENERATION, ISAAC: THE BIRTH OF THE FAMILY AND THE COMPANY

The year 1660 marks the **birth of the Heraeus family and company**. In that year, Isaac Heraeus married the pharmacist's widow Anna Margarethe Fauque in Hanau. He took over the pharmacy from Anna's deceased husband in the same year.

At the time, Isaac was only 24 years old. By becoming a pharmacist, he followed in his father's footsteps at an early stage.

PRELUDE: ISAAC'S ROOTS

Isaac's father, **Johannes** (around 1600-1650), was born in the Hessian village of Wetter. He shaped Isaac's future path, and also that of the family in many ways: the family name, the family crest and the profession of pharmacists can be traced back to Johannes.

There is evidence that Johannes enrolled as Johannes **Heraeus** at the grammar school 'Pädagogium' in Gießen in 1611. It must be assumed that this was not his original name. Johannes' real name is unrecorded. The names 'Heer', 'Herr', 'Lehr' or 'Heere' are possible origins. In fact, there is a record of a 'Hans Heer' ('Hans' for 'Johannes') in Wetter at the time when Johannes was born there. There was a return to ancient values in those days. A Latinized surname was used to identify its bearer as a scholar.



The times in which the family history begins are highly turbulent, especially in German-speaking countries. The schism caused by Reformation movements in the 16th century increasingly developed into a political problem, as the previous solutions did not offer lasting peace between the confessional groups. **The Religious Peace of Augsburg** (1555) stipulated that the sovereign had the right to determine the denomination of his subjects ('cuius regio, eius religio'). If one did not agree with the specified denomination, the only option was to emigrate to a region with a different denomination. That was common practice in other parts of Europe as well.

Both Güstrow, Johannes' place of activity, and Hanau became Protestant at an early stage. Many fellow believers from other countries found refuge in Hanau in particular. On June 1, 1597, **Count Philipp Ludwig II** concluded a treaty with Calvinist refugees from France and the Spanish Netherlands, allowing them to settle in **Hanau's new town area**, the 'Neustadt', especially founded for the purpose. As a result of this, conflicts arose with the Archbishop of Mainz, who also laid claim to the terrain.



On a much larger scale, at the European level, confessional tensions in 1618 led to the **Thirty Years' War** that only came to an end in 1648 when the Peace of Westphalia was signed.

Like many other towns, Hanau got caught in the middle. From 1630 to 1638, **Hanau was a base** for the Swedes. From 1635 to 1636, Hanau was besieged by imperial troops. In Güstrow, on the other hand, Albrecht Wenzeslaus Eusebius von Wallenstein resided from 1628 to 1629. It was not until 1631 that Duke Johann Albrecht II was able to move back into his residence.



It can be assumed that the **family coat of arms** also dates from this time, even though its origin and meaning are not documented. The coat of arms shows a hand holding out three roses. This might be a variation of the "Stargarder Arm", the coat of arms of the city of Stargard. Isaac presumably chose the motif in memory of his native town, Güstrow.

After leaving school, Johannes learned the **profession of pharmacist**. He studied medicine in several places in what is now Germany and Italy and finally settled in Güstrow in Mecklenburg after he had graduated. In 1633, Duke Johann Albrecht II of Mecklenburg-Güstrow granted him a license to run his own pharmacy in Güstrow, after he had already provided good service as a court physician.

Johannes died in 1650 and, according to the family chronicle of 1910, left his wife 'with seven small, still uneducated children'. When he died, the license to run the pharmacy expired for the time being.



ISAAC BECOMES A PHARMACIST IN HANAU

Johannes' widow, Anna, was able to ensure that her eldest son, [Isaac](#) (1636-1676), was allowed to continue running the pharmacy, provided he learned the profession of pharmacist 'elsewhere'. This set the course for Isaac's career.

While the pharmacy in Güstrow is provisionally managed by an employed apothecary, a so-called 'Provisor', Isaac begins his apprenticeship.

Contrary to his plans, however, he did not take over the pharmacy in Güstrow. His path led Isaac to Hanau, where he met [Anna Margarethe Fauque](#), the widow of a pharmacist. He married her in 1660. In the same year, Isaac was sworn in as a pharmacist and initially took over the Fauque pharmacy. In 1668, he opened the pharmacy 'Zum weißen Einhorn' (The White Unicorn) on Hanau's market square and, like his father, was appointed court apothecary.



An older family chronicle tells of 'much joy and sorrow' in Isaac's life: He died aged just 40 on May 10, 1676, only one day after the birth of his youngest daughter Philippine Margarethe Heraeus. His son Franz Heraeus was only 15 years old at the time. Anna Margarethe got married again. The pharmacy had to be managed by a 'Provisor'.

PHARMACIES IN PREVIOUS CENTURIES

For a long time, medicines were primarily based on plants, so the first pharmacies probably emerged from **spice and herb shops**. Most of the herbal active ingredients had to be prepared by the pharmacist himself. However, it was also necessary to smartly buy raw materials from places far away.

Founding the field of **chemiatrics**, Paracelsus (1493-1541) introduced the use of chemical medicines. Research and preparation of active ingredients in the modern sense were becoming ever more complex. As a result, some pharmacies specialized in specific active ingredients which they supplied to other pharmacies.

Production on an industrial scale began in the 19th century. Some pharmacies became major enterprises. For a long time, however, a standard repertoire of medicines or established supply chains did not exist. The customer's satisfaction was based on his trust in the pharmacist as a producer and supplier of drugs of highest quality.

Accordingly, success depended on the entrepreneurial skills of the pharmacist. A prestigious interior of the pharmacy and an illustrious name were means to attract solvent customers. The unicorn (German: Einhorn) frequently appeared in the name of pharmacies because its horn was said to have healing powers.



2ND GENERATION:
1661

2ND GENERATION, FRANZ: GOLD AS AN ADDITIONAL LINE OF BUSINESS

It was not before 1683 – six years after his father's death – that **Franz** (1661-1707), Isaac's only son, took over the management of the pharmacy. In the same year, Franz married his stepfather's daughter, **Elisabeth von den Velden**. Six children resulted from the marriage, two of whom died in infancy in 1690 and 1691.

Franz expanded the pharmacy's business activities. For instance, the **first documented evidence of dealing with gold** dates back to his period. It is recorded that Franz delivered fine gold for the gilding of letters, knobs and the weathercock of the French church in Hanau in 1694.

Franz was also very active in other areas, he was appointed town Councillor and hospital master, and later became the **mayor of Hanau's new town area, the 'Neustadt'**. He was also appointed court apothecary of the Count.

His social rank also became obvious when his first son, Philipp Reinhard, was born. The child's godfather was Count Philipp Reinhard von Hanau, the builder of Philippsruhe Castle. Philipp Reinhard is named after the Count.

History



SELECTED EVENTS IN THE 17TH CENTURY

- 1600-1608, HANAU
The 'double church' is built as a place of worship for the settling religious refugees
- 1605, HANAU
The town is haunted by the plague for the first time
- 1618-1648
The Thirty Years' War between the Protestant Union and the Catholic League
- 1620
The Pilgrim Fathers founded Massachusetts, the first colony in New England

- 1636, HANAU

The siege of Hanau by the Imperial forces of General von Lamboy ends. Thanksgiving services are held every year to commemorate the event. The Lamboy Festival has been celebrated in remembrance since the beginning of the 19th century

- 1648-1650

The pharmacist Glauber publishes his important findings in the field of chemistry

- 1661, HANAU

Count's privilege is granted, which leads to the founding of the first German faience manufactory

- 1665, HANAU

Completion of the Hohe Landesschule academy building

- 1668

Friedrich Jacob Merck founds the 'Engel-Apotheke' in Darmstadt

- 1683-1699

Second siege of Vienna by the Ottoman Empire



3RD GENERATION: 1685

3RD GENERATION, PHILIPP REINHARD AND JOHANN DANIEL I: CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF THE PHARMACY IS UNCERTAIN

After Franz's death, **Philipp Reinhard** (1685-1721) took over the management of the pharmacy at the age of 22. However, he died early aged only 36 without having started a family.

The Einhorn pharmacy then passed to his youngest brother, **Johann Daniel I** (1701-1738). However, he did not take over the management of the pharmacy until 1725, so a 'Provisor' was needed again in the meantime.

Johann Daniel I married **Susanna Elisabeth Vaillant**, the daughter of the councilman Johann Vaillant. Six children resulted from their marriage, three of whom died in infancy.

Johann Daniel I ran the pharmacy for 13 years and died in 1738, aged only 37.

From 1738 to 1754, the pharmacy once again had to be managed by a 'Provisor'.

The early deaths of the sons and heirs afflicted the family for almost half a century and jeopardized the continued existence of the Einhorn pharmacy.

LIFE EXPECTANCY IN PREVIOUS CENTURIES

At the end of the 19th century, 200 years after the founding of the family and the company, the average life expectancy was 35.6 years for men and 38.5 years for women.



right: Johann Daniel I (1701-1738),
year unknown, source: Heraeus family archive
left: Susanne Elisabeth Heraeus,
née Vaillant (1699-1773), year unknown,
source: Heraeus family archive





4TH GENERATION:
1726

4TH GENERATION, JOHANN DANIEL II: CONTINUITY IN TIMES OF UPHEAVAL

It was not until **Johann Daniel II** (1726 -1779) that a longer phase of continuity set in. In 1754, he took over the management and ran the pharmacy for the next 25 years until his death. Like his grandfather Franz, he also was the Count's court apothecary. It is recorded that he achieved excellent marks in his apprenticeship and journeyman years.

Johann Daniel II married **Philippine Sauerwein**, the daughter of a weaving mill owner. Philippine died in childbirth after the birth of her only child, Jean Martin Heraeus.



Drawing Academy, today, City of Hanau, source: City of Hanau/Moritz Göbel

The **Seven Years' War** from 1756 to 1763 was a conflict of global proportions. It was about territorial gains in Europe, the colonies and influence in North America, India and Africa as well as dominance over the connecting sea routes. **Hanau** was also involved, and was **occupied by France** from 1759 to the beginning of 1763.

The **Treaty of Hubertusburg** ended the Seven Years' War in 1763. The citizens of Hanau as well hailed the end of the war. The celebrations ended with a parade and a festival of lights on the market square on March 9, 1763. The floors of the Einhorn pharmacy were brightly lit with countless lamps on that day.

After the end of the war, Hanau experienced a **period of prosperity**. Elector Wilhelm I of Hesse-Kassel (also known as Wilhelm IX) particularly promotes the expansion of the town of Hanau. Paradeplatz and Esplanade (now: Freiheitsplatz), the city theater, the arsenal with guardhouse and the Kollegienhaus (now: Behördenhaus) were built in 1765. Moreover, he founded the '**Zeichenakademie**' academy in 1772 that still exists today as one of the oldest training institutions for goldsmiths, silversmiths, engravers, metal sculptors, and gem mounters.



5TH GENERATION:
1760

5TH GENERATION, JEAN MARTIN: ONLY ONE SON AND HEIR



When Johann Daniel II died, his son **Jean Martin** (1760-1809) was only 18 years old, and the only surviving son and heir of the family.

Once again, the Einhorn pharmacy had to be managed by employed apothecaries ('Provisoren').

In the meantime, Jean Martin trained as a pharmacist. He spent time in educational institutions in both Kassel and Strasbourg. During his time in Strasbourg, and in connection with the ideas of the Enlightenment, he probably joined the local Masonic Lodge.

After his return to Hanau, he took over the management of the pharmacy in 1784, and married **Johanna Elisabeth Obiker**, the second daughter of the jeweler Esay Obiker. They had five children together.

THE „ALTE OBIKERN“

Jean Martin's wife was later known in Hanau under her maiden name as 'Alte Obikern'. She grew very old and is said to have been 'a terror for the boys' for decades as she watched what happened on the market square from a corner window of the pharmacy. Her remark made at the time of the French occupation has been preserved: 'For the French officers, you don't even need to be dressed at table, you just have to put on a big headdress'. Her refusal to pay a tax she felt was unjust ultimately led to the seizure of a silver chandelier from the pharmacy.



The American Revolutionary War, and hence the **founding of the United States** (1775-1783), the **French Revolution** (1789-1799), and the beginning of the **Coalition Wars** between France and other European powers (1792-1815) were events that took place in Jean Martin Heraeus' time.

The latter finally led to the **Principal Decree of the Imperial Deputation** in 1803, which reorganized the territory of the Holy Roman Empire and secularized ecclesiastical possessions, the abdication of Emperor Francis II as emperor, and the dissolution of the Empire in 1806.

Hanau was occupied by French troops. The fortifications were demolished. From 1810 to 1813, Hanau was part of the Napoleonic satellite state 'Grand Duchy of Frankfurt'. The period of occupation put great strains on Hanau.

left: Jean Martin Heraeus (1760-1809), ring miniature, around 1800, source: Heraeus family archive
center: Johanna Elisabeth Heraeus, née Obiker, silhouette of Wagenknecht, around 1825, source: Heraeus family archive
right: Johanna Elisabeth Heraeus, née Obiker (1762-1846), pencil drawing Dr. Leisler, source: Heraeus family archive



SELECTED EVENTS IN THE 18TH CENTURY

- 1701-1714

The War of the Spanish Succession: War to determine the new King of Spain. In the end, France prevailed with Philip V of the House of Bourbon

- 1707

Act of Union: The union of the two kingdoms of England and Scotland

- 1714

Personal union between Great Britain and Hanover because George I of Hanover was crowned King of Great Britain

- 1740-1748

The War of the Austrian Succession: Triggered by the succession of Maria Theresa, and thus a woman, to the throne, which was used as a reason for war with Austria

- 1756-1763

The Seven Years' War: War between Great Britain and Prussia on the one side, and the Habsburg Monarchy, France, Russia and Spain on the other, which was fought on almost all continents

- 1756-1763, HANAU

As a result of the Seven Years' War, Hanau was occupied by French troops

- 1763

The Treaty of Hubertusburg ended the Seven Years' War

- 1765-1772, HANAU

Numerous prestigious new buildings were constructed in the town, and the Zeichenakademie was opened

- 1775-1783

The American Revolutionary War, in which troops from Hesse-Hanau fought on the side of Great Britain

- 1785/1786, HANAU

Birth of the Brothers Grimm

- 1789-1799

The French Revolution



6TH GENERATION:
1785

6TH GENERATION, ESAY CARL: A CONTEMPORARY OF THE BROTHERS GRIMM



Jean Martin died in 1809, leaving the Einhorn pharmacy to his son **Esay Carl** (1785-1830). After the pharmacy had been managed by employed apothecaries ('Provisoren'), he ran the pharmacy from 1815 until his death in 1830.

Esay Carl had several children with his wife **Caroline, née Jäger**. His youngest son Wilhelm Carl later took over the pharmacy.

Wilhelm Carl was only three years old when Esay Carl died. Therefore, the widow employed an apothecary ('Provisor') to run the business, the pharmacist Johann Reinhard Crépon, whom she married in 1835.

LEMONADE FOR HANAU

In 1783, the master jeweler Schweppe put a refreshing carbonated drink on the market in Geneva, and lemonade gradually became fashionable throughout Europe.

With his entrepreneurial flair, Wilhelm Carl realized the economic potential, and developed a device that could add soda to water. He sold his homemade lemonade on the market square in front of the Einhorn Pharmacy.

Not everyone considers the era of the **Restoration** (1815-1830), in which the old political order was restored at least in large part, as a 'future-oriented' time.



In 1830, a rebellion against the neo-absolutism of the Elector started in **Hanau**. The aim of the **rebellion** was to establish a modern constitution. Although, in the course of the revolution, the Elector was forced to grant the constitution, it was soon undermined. Despite this, Hanau remained a center of the democratic movement in the time thereafter.

In 1832, as a result of the **Hambach Festival**, some 9,000 people staged a political festival in Wilhelmsbad, the so-called Wilhelmsbad Festival.

left: Logo of the Einhorn Pharmacy in the commemorative publication for the 75th anniversary of Platinschmelze W.C. Heraeus GmbH, 1926, source: Heraeus family archive
right: Einhorn Pharmacy, year unknown, source: Heraeus family archive



7TH GENERATION:
1827

7TH GENERATION, WILHELM CARL: FOUNDING OF THE FIRST PLATINUM SMELTER

Wilhelm Carl (1827-1904) began **studying pharmacy** at the University of Göttingen in 1849, followed by several years as a pharmacist's assistant in Frankfurt. He took over the Einhorn pharmacy in 1851 as a member of the 7th generation.

His studies also included lectures in the fields of **chemistry and physics**, as these fields were becoming increasingly important for the development and preparation of pharmaceuticals.

Important chemical and pharmaceutical companies emerged from individual pharmacies during that period. The reason why Wilhelm Carl took a different path was the strong presence of the jewelry business in Hanau.

At the time, Hanau was one of the most important locations of the **jewelry industry**. Wilhelm Carl quickly recognized the great demand for platinum. However, the quantities available were insufficient for industrial use, which is why he started recycling waste that contained platinum.



Wilhelm Carl's time was a time of significant developments. The specialization started by the emergence of factories gave rise to the idea to gradually consider the use of machines to optimize production. The **industrial revolution** led to a change in lifestyle, and to major upheavals in all areas. Developments in science, industry, and politics entailed major economic risks, but also offered considerable opportunities.

With the onset of industrialization, many people sought their fortune in the city. The necessary transport of people and goods experienced a significant upswing. In the first half of the 19th century, the **first railway lines** were built in Germany to meet the increased demands.

Urbanization consolidated and spread ideas of a new political order. The French Revolution, and the collapse of the Holy Roman Empire led to political reorganization in Germany.

History

Hanau was connected to the steadily growing **railway network** in 1848.

Hanau's **first gas lantern for street lighting** was installed in 1850. These and other amenities led to life in a city being seen as more pleasant and progressive, alongside economic aspects.



Goldsmith's house, today, City of Hanau, source: City of Hanau/Moritz Göbel

Hanau's jewelry manufacturers sent their precious metal waste to the laboratory of Wilhelm Carl's pharmacy to have it purified and separated. Sonn, his expertise in this field was appreciated.

However, he made the breakthrough when he solved a problem with the recycling of platinum that still existed. In contrast to the recycling of gold and silver, only platinum sponge is obtained when platinum metals are separated. The sponge cannot be processed directly, but needs to be brought to a white heat and then forged and pressed, because platinum is an extremely ductile metal with a very high melting point (1,769°C). At the time, such hot forging and pressing could only be done in London and Paris, which meant considerable effort and high expenses for the Hanau jewelry industry companies.

Wilhelm Carl tackles the problem. He succeeds in developing to a stage suitable for industrial application the oxyhydrogen blowpipe invented by French chemists, a mixture of hydrogen and oxygen that enables the production of very high temperatures. In 1856, he managed to melt two kilograms of platinum in this way. Wilhelm Carl founded the 'Erste Deutsche Platin-schmelze', later to become "W.C. Heraeus OHG".

Initially, the platinum still needed to be processed by hand to bring it into the shape required by the customer. The rolling of sheet metal was strenuous work that had to be carried out by several people.

Although platinum is very precious, special security precautions were not taken at the time. The chronicle reports that platinum bars were occasionally found in the sand at the 'Scheuerstand' (scouring stand) in the courtyard of the Einhorn pharmacy. It is also recorded that in the early days, the platinum stock was stored in an ordinary wooden box in a lathed shed in the pharmacy.

The young company **W.C. Heraeus** soon grows, and wins new **customers all over the world**: Goldsmith workshops, jewelry factories, dental factories, chemical laboratories, and numerous other branches of industry. Until 1870, Heraeus produced 20 to 50 kilograms of pure platinum per year. Between 1875 and 1879, up to 400 kg per year were sold, and in 1888 more than 900 kg.

Wilhelm Carl continued to experiment, and found ever new areas of application. For instance, the **crucibles and dishes made of platinum and platinum alloys** that even today are still highly valued in laboratories around the world.

Platinum was not the only mainstay. In his laboratory, Wilhelm Carl was the first in Germany to produce chemically pure **hydrofluoric acid** and **osmium acid**, and the rare metals **rubidium** and **cesium** in pure form. For decades he was the only supplier of these substances in Germany.

In addition to his entrepreneurial activities, he was also very involved in local politics. He became an honorary member of the town council in 1874, and was **deputy senior mayor** of Hanau from 1884 to 1898.



Einhorn Pharmacy (courtyard), 1926, source: Heraeus family archive



top: Logo W.C. Heraeus GmbH, 1926, source: Heraeus family archive
bottom: Wilhelm Carl and Kathinka Heraeus, year unknown, source: Heraeus family archive
right: Kathinka Heraeus (1835-1920), source: Heraeus family archive

Wilhelm Carl was the first person to be awarded **honorary citizenship** of the town of Hanau.

On his initiative, and with his financial support, a foundation was established to build a sanatorium for the treatment of lung diseases.

He is actively supported in all these commitments by his wife. In 1853, he married **Katharina (Kathinka) Wilhelmine Deines** (1835-1920), who was very supportive to him in the business. Wilhelm Carl often emphasized that his wife was “**always a wise advisor and encourager**”. She was also highly committed to social causes, and provided funds to various foundations in Hanau.

The couple had eleven children.

Wilhelm Carl died on September 14, 1904, and was buried in a grave of honour in Hanau's 'Hauptfriedhof' cemetery.



SELECTED EVENTS IN THE 19TH CENTURY

- 1806
Dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation
- 1815
Final defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo, and the end of his reign
- 1814/1815
Congress of Vienna to restore political conditions after the revolution, and founding of the German Confederation
- 1821-1829
Greek War of Independence, and founding of a Greek nation state
- 1830, HANAU
Following the rebellion by citizens, the Elector granted a constitution, which he soon canceled again
- 1830/1831
Founding of Belgium by secession of the southern provinces with a predominantly Catholic population from the United Kingdom of the Netherlands

- 1832, HANAU

Hambach Festival: Festival participants demanded national unity, freedom, and sovereignty of the people; Hanau: Some 9,000 people staged the Wilhelmsbad Festival in Hanau, which is likewise a political festival

- 1848/1849

Revolution in Germany and drafting of a federal constitution; however, the rebellion was put down, and the political conditions essentially remained the same

- 1853-1856

The Crimean War between Russia, on the one side, and the Ottoman Empire, France, Great Britain, and Sardinia-Piedmont on the other side

- 1861

Founding of the Kingdom of Italy

- 1861-1865

American Civil War

- 1866

Austro-Prussian War: Conflict between Prussia and Austria; Hanau becomes part of the Kingdom of Prussia

- 1870/1871

Franco-Prussian War and founding of the German Empire under Prussian leadership

- 1877/1878

The Russo-Turkish War



8TH GENERATION:
1854

8TH GENERATION, WILHELM AND HEINRICH: THE COMPANY IS GROWING

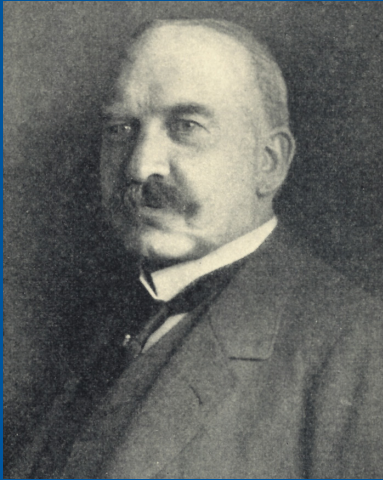
Wilhelm (1860-1948) and **Heinrich** (1861-1910) followed in the professional footsteps of their ancestors.

Wilhelm was an apprentice pharmacist in his father's business from 1878 to 1880. He then studied chemistry in Göttingen and Berlin, finishing his studies in Berlin with a pharmacy degree and a PhD title. He returned to Hanau, and joined his father's company in 1887. Like his father, he was active in local politics, and became a city council member in 1898, and a member of the Hanau magistrate in 1907.

Heinrich passed his pharmacist's examination in Strasbourg. He then studied at the mining school in Freiberg/Saxony. He joined the company in 1888.

In 1889, the brothers Wilhelm and Heinrich took over the management of the company.

The chemical industry, the steel industry, the new light bulb industry, and dental medicine needed large quantities of platinum. At the end of the 19th century, Heraeus processed **1,000 kilograms of platinum annually**. The premises at the Einhorn pharmacy became too small. Therefore, new workshops for the mechanical processing were built on the outskirts of Hanau in the years from 1891 to 1896. In **1896**, 40 employees started work at the **new location**, which today is the main site in **Heraeusstraße**.



Industrialization was already well advanced at the time of Wilhelm and Heinrich. With the founding of the German Empire, political and economic conditions within Germany also devel-

oped. Further economic impetus was provided by the general upswing in **transatlantic trade** with North America, and also by the constant innovations in the field of professions and products.



top: Wilhelm Heraeus (1860-1948), around 1912,

source: Heraeus family archive

bottom: Heinrich Heraeus (1861-1910), year unknown,

source: Heraeus family archive

History



top: Historical melting test, around 1912, source: Heraeus family archive

bottom: First car of the W.C. Heraeus factory with employees of the W.C. Heraeus Hamburg shipping company, around 1900, source: Heraeus family archive

Like their father before them, Wilhelm and Heinrich pushed ahead with research and development. In 1890, they brought their school friend into the company: **Dr. Richard KÜch** (1860-1915). With numerous innovations, the physicist and chemist laid the foundations for many business areas that still characterize the company today. He also conducted basic research, and in **1891 he had a share in the first patent in the company's history** that concerned the **gilding of platinum sheet**. In recognition of his services, he was appointed to the management board.

Since 1896, Heraeus has been refining glass and ceramic surfaces with ceramic paints, such as **bright gold or bright platinum**. In 1899, the company was the first to produce **bubble-free high-purity quartz glass**. In 1904, the product portfolio was expanded by the **Hanau Höhensonne** sun lamp.

Heraeus also benefited from the ever-growing North American sales market. Several hundred kilograms of platinum were delivered to North America every year. In 1891, Heraeus opened its first independent representative office in the **U.S.**. In 1905, Heraeus acquired an interest in Hanovia Chemical & Manufacturing Co., Newark, which soon offered customers in the U.S. the entire range of Heraeus products and services.

The two brothers Wilhelm and Heinrich also provided funds to the foundation initiated by their father for a sanatorium for lung patients. A pension fund for workers and employees financed by the company was established in the period from 1895 to 1905.

Also worth mentioning is the founding of the Arbeiterkolonie Hasenpfad, a laborers community where in particular older employees found a place to live in newly built detached and semi-detached houses from 1907 on.

In **1909**, **W.C. Heraeus OHG** was transformed into a **GmbH** (a limited liability company). Each of the brothers made an original capital contribution of 2.5 million Reichsmark. The new GmbH focused on the further expansion of the business.

This was also reflected in the articles of association that included a provision that four percent of the capital should be distributed as a dividend.

Heinrich died in an accident in Berlin in 1910, only one year after the founding of the company. In 1915, Richard Kück also died, leaving Wilhelm to manage the company alone.

At that time, the former pharmacy had long since become a large company. Shortly before the outbreak of the First World War (1914-1918), Heraeus already had over 400 employees, and was the **world's largest platinum smelter**. Many of the company's employees had to do military service and the company had to do without them. And the main supplier of platinum, Russia, also was no longer available. Trade with many other countries is restricted.

However, significant successes are achieved again as early as 1919. The physicist Dr. Wilhelm Rohn (1887-1943) introduced **vacuum metallurgy** at Heraeus.





9TH GENERATION:
1889

9TH GENERATION, WILHELM HEINRICH AND REINHARD: FURTHER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

In 1920, Wilhelm appointed his son-in-law Werner Canthal (1887-1973) to the management board.

Wilhelm left the management at the end of the 1920s. His son **Wilhelm Heinrich** (1900-1985) took over the technical management in 1927. Reinhard (1903-1985), Wilhelm Heinrich's cousin, became the commercial director a few years later.

Unlike their ancestors, **neither of them was a pharmacist**. Rather, their training reflects the fact that Heraeus had become a global company in the field of precious metal processing.

So it was no coincidence that Wilhelm Heinrich assumed the technical management. After leaving school, he studied **physics, mathematics, and physical chemistry**.

Wilhelm Heinrich married **Else Müller** (1903-1987), the daughter of a Hanau timber merchant. He then gathered his first practical work experience at the company of his uncle Charles Engelhard in the U.S. He returned to Hanau in 1925, and joined the family business in the same year. In 1927, he was appointed a member of the management board, and took over the technical management of the company, a position he held for almost 40 years. He devoted himself primarily to advances in the field of **spinning nozzles and dental alloys**, the development of **platinum gauzes** for the combustion of ammonia, and the **mechanical production of quartz glass tubes**.

Hanau was badly damaged at the end of the **Second World War**. Hanau's double church, the **Einhorn pharmacy**, and almost all of the city center were **destroyed** in an air raid shortly before the end of the war. The **factory premises** were also hit. The main task in the post-war years is **reconstruction**.



Destroyed factory premises, 1945, source: Heraeus family archive



Quartz glass from Hanau even made it to the moon in 1969. The **Apollo 11 mission** left a laser reflector on the surface to precisely measure the distance between the earth and the moon. The spaceworthy quartz glass for the reflector that is still in service today stems from Heraeus.



top: Laser reflector placed on the moon in 1969 with the Apollo 11 mission to precisely determine the distance between the Earth and the moon, source: <https://www.heraeus-group.com/de/about-heraeus/history/>
center: Apollo 11 launch, July 16, 1969, source: <https://www.nasa.gov>
bottom: Wilhelm and Else Heraeus, year unknown, source: Wilhelm und Else Heraeus-Stiftung

Despite the difficult times, the cousins Wilhelm Heinrich and Reinhard managed to continue to further expand the company. After the Second World War, both had to relinquish their management positions in the context of the denazification process. They had become members of the NSDAP when the National Socialists seized power. Therefore, the company was managed by Werner Canthal alone until 1948.

At the time, the first priority was **reconstruction**. Thereafter, Wilhelm Heinrich focused his interests on the **quartz smelter** and the **quartz lamp company**. The product range of the quartz smelter was constantly expanded, and made a major contribution to the growth experienced in the 1950s and 1960s. Likewise, **internationalization** was forced step by step. In 1958, the first marketing companies are founded abroad.

No children resulted from the marriage of Wilhelm Heinrich and his wife Else. They established the Wilhelm und Else Heraeus-Stiftung.

In 1970, Helmut Gruber was the first non-family person to take over the management of the company. As a physicist highly regarded in the field of metallurgy, he is responsible for the technology division across the company. In particular, he promoted the activities in the fields of **quartz glass, precious metal chemistry, and special metals**.

THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE HERAEUS FAMILY

**WILHELM UND ELSE
HERAEUS-STIFTUNG**



In 1963, Wilhelm Heinrich and Else Heraeus set up their charitable foundation to support research and education in the natural sciences, particularly physics. The foundation promotes the exchange of ideas among scientists. It organizes international conferences of experts and seminars, supports talented students, and contributes in many ways to improving science teaching in schools. Since the mid-1970s, the foundation has been cooperating closely with the German Physical Society (DPG, Deutsche Physikalische Gesellschaft). The Wilhelm und Else Heraeus-Stiftung enjoys a high reputation among physicists. It is regarded as the most important private funding organization in the field of physics in Germany.



**Heraeus
Bildungsstiftung**

PERSÖNLICHKEIT MACHT SCHULE

In 1965, Bertha Heraeus, the wife of Heinrich Heraeus, established a foundation to promote education. At a later time, Kathinka Platzhoff, the granddaughter of Wilhelm Carl Heraeus, contributed further funds. The Bertha Heraeus und Kathinka Platzhoff Stiftung was established, which was renamed Heraeus Education Foundation in 2009. The Heraeus Bildungsstiftung is committed to educational issues and focuses on training measures for teachers, school principals and school administrators. Under the motto 'Persönlichkeit macht Schule' (personality makes the school), the foundation reaches more than 9,000 teachers and school administrators every year in its seminars on the topics of personality development, leadership, relationship culture in schools and school development.



Heraeus Sozialstiftung

Established in 1973, the Heraeus Sozialstiftung is a relief fund for active and former Heraeus employees and their families. Under the motto 'listen, speak, act', it offers a comprehensive assistance and counseling program in all areas of social life. The foundation offers support to people who experience difficulties in caring for a family member, and provides counseling during personal crises. The foundation makes contact with therapy facilities, provides financial assistance in emergency situations, and offers support in dealing with family problems. The aim of the foundation is to provide individual counseling and support to defuse, and actively and cooperatively resolve, crisis situations.



Since it was established in 1981, the Kathinka-Platzhoff-Stiftung charitable foundation has been providing support and encouragement to children, young people and senior citizens in cooperation with the Walloon-Dutch congregation. It aims to support and educate children and young people on their way to becoming independent, creative, and responsible individuals, and to provide active assistance specifically targeted to the needs of older people. Among other things, the foundation maintains a social welfare center with a meeting place for senior citizens and young people, a child and family care facility, two sites for all-day care at elementary schools, an outpatient nursing service, and a residential complex for disabled and senior citizens.

SELECTED EVENTS IN THE 20TH CENTURY

- 1914-1918
First World War
- 1919
The Treaty of Versailles leads to a fundamental reorganization of the political conditions in Eastern Europe
- 1923
Hyperinflation leads to a rapid decline in the purchasing power of the Reichsmark
- 1929
Stock market crash on Wall Street, and start of the Great Depression
- 1933
NSDAP receives 33.1 percent of the vote in December 1932; Hitler is appointed Reich Chancellor on January 30, 1933
- 1939-1945
Second World War
- ab 1946
Development of the spheres of influence of the Western powers and the Soviet Union in Europe

- 1946-1954
The Indochina War between the French Union and the Vietnamese independence movement
- 1949
Proclamation of the People's Republic of China by Mao Zedong, and Sardinia-Piedmont on the other side
- 1950-1953
The Korean War leads to the division of the country into North and South Korea
- 1955-1975
Vietnam War
- 1957
Founding of the European Economic Community
- 1989/1990
Self-determined realignment of many states of the so-called Eastern Bloc leads to the end of Soviet dominance in Eastern Europe. This also leads to the reunification of Germany
- 1991
Dissolution of the Soviet Union
- 1992
Rapid progress of European integration with the Maastricht Treaty
- 1995
Accession to the Schengen Area in 1990: Border controls with many European countries are abolished from 1995 on
- 1999
The euro is introduced as the book currency



10TH GENERATION: 1913

10TH GENERATION, JÜRGEN: A FAMILY MEMBER TAKES OVER THE MANAGEMENT OF THE COMPANY AGAIN



Reinhard's son **Jürgen** (born in 1936) took over the management of the company in 1983.

Jürgen first studied business administration in Freiburg and Munich, and then earned his PhD. He joined the company in 1964, and was appointed to the management team in 1970. He was then appointed deputy managing director in 1977, and finally chairman of the management board in 1983.

Under his leadership, the company underwent a **transformation into a globally active technology group**. In 1985, he founded **Heraeus Holding GmbH** as a strategic management holding, and structured the operational business into five decentralized, independently operating management companies that represent the core competencies of **precious metals/metals, sensors, dental and medical products, quartz glass and specialty light sources**.

Management started to push the **internationalization** of Heraeus in the early 1970s. The strategy was to follow the customer. First of all, the U.S. market was developed.

Globalization gathered pace in the early 1970s. In particular, Nixon's visit to China and the subsequent **normalization of relations between the U.S. and China** contributed to the increasing importance of the Asian economic region.

Reunification occurred in 1990, and the Iron Curtain finally fell. Economic relations with Eastern Europe and Russia can be expanded, and the opportunities of reunification can be exploited.



top: On the night of October 3, 1990, the flag of unity was raised in front of the Reichstag building.
© Bundesstiftung Aufarbeitung, Eastblockworld
left: Jürgen Heraeus, year unknown, source: Heraeus family archive



In 1974, Heraeus is one of the first Western companies to open a sales branch for precious metals in **Greater China (Hong Kong)**. Further sales offices and factories in China and Taiwan, regional research and development centers in Shanghai and Taipei, and an applications competence center in Shanghai followed in later decades. Today, the region is one of the company's most important markets. In **1979, international sales exceeded domestic sales** for the first time.

Corporate governance as well was significantly developed by this generation. Even the first articles of association of the new Heraeus Holding provide for a **shareholders' committee** as the governing body of the holding. Then as now, the shareholders' meeting elected the members of the shareholders' committee from among the shareholders.

The **Youngsters Meeting** and the **Family Weekend** were created around the year 2008. The purpose of both events is to strengthen family ties across many degrees of relationship.

In the context of internationalization, Jürgen also took advantage of the opportunities presented by the reunification of Germany. In 1991, the company laid the foundation for the world's largest production of synthetic quartz glass in Bitterfeld.

Further milestones are achieved in the optimization of temperature sensors and the expansion of precious metal recycling.

At the beginning of the year 2000, Jürgen joined the supervisory board. He remained a member until 2020.



11TH GENERATION: **1942**

11TH GENERATION, JAN: THE GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY GROUP IS DEVELOPED

Jürgen's move to the supervisory board at the beginning of the year 2000 meant that no family member was represented on the management board of Heraeus. Nevertheless, the family was active, and in 2006 was one of the first German family-owned companies to adopt a **family code**. The code defines the values and goals of the Heraeus shareholders, and provides for regulations regarding the group of shareholders, share transfers, corporate governance, and family governance.

In 2004, **Jan Rinnert** (born in 1968), the husband of Jürgen's daughter **Julia Heraeus-Rinnert** (born in 1978), joined the Heraeus Group to head Heraeus Kulzer GmbH, the healthcare division of the Heraeus Group, as managing director until 2007. In August 2007, he became a member of the Heraeus Group management board. With that, a family member was again represented on the management board of the holding. Jan has been leading Heraeus as CEO and chairman of the board of managing directors since June 2013.

Jan continues to develop Heraeus as a global technology group. He is laying a solid foundation for the future by implementing a modern management structure and culture, excellence and innovation, and a strong focus on customers and solutions. Significant investments in research and development, the sharpening of the Group's profile, and the expansion of production capacities strengthen Heraeus. Digitalization and artificial intelligence are used to improve processes and find innovative solutions in many areas.

At the moment, approximately **30 percent of the Heraeus Group's revenue** is generated in **Germany and Europe, in Asia, and in America**. The currently **15 business segments** are divided into **four business platforms: Metals & Recycling, Healthcare, Semiconductor & Electronics and Industrials**.

The Metals & Recycling business platform sells materials and technologies related to metals, in particular precious metals, and the circular economy (recycling of PET bottles). The Healthcare business platform sells materials and technologies relating to medical technology, orthopedics, and infection management. The Semiconductor & Electronics division is active in a wide range of materials and technologies for electronics, e-mobility, semiconductors, optical fibers and digital technologies. On the Industrials business platform, materials and technologies for industrial production and processes are sold, currently in particular Heraeus Electro-Nite in the area of technology for measurements in molten metals.

Julia assumed the role of **family representative** in 2014, and at the same time became a member of the shareholders' committee. She still is holding both offices. Julia makes a major contribution to ensuring a personal and cordial culture despite the size of the family – meanwhile around 250 shareholders across four generations. In particular, the regular events held for the extended family contribute to this.



Jan Rinnert, today



12TH AND 13TH GENERATION: 1968

12TH AND 13TH GENERATION

Some family members of the 12th and 13th generation have already been born in 2025, and they are actively interested in the company. Just recently, more than 30 young shareholders between the ages of 14 and 29 came together in Hanau to discuss the responsibilities, rights, duties, and challenges of Heraeus shareholders, and to learn about the company.

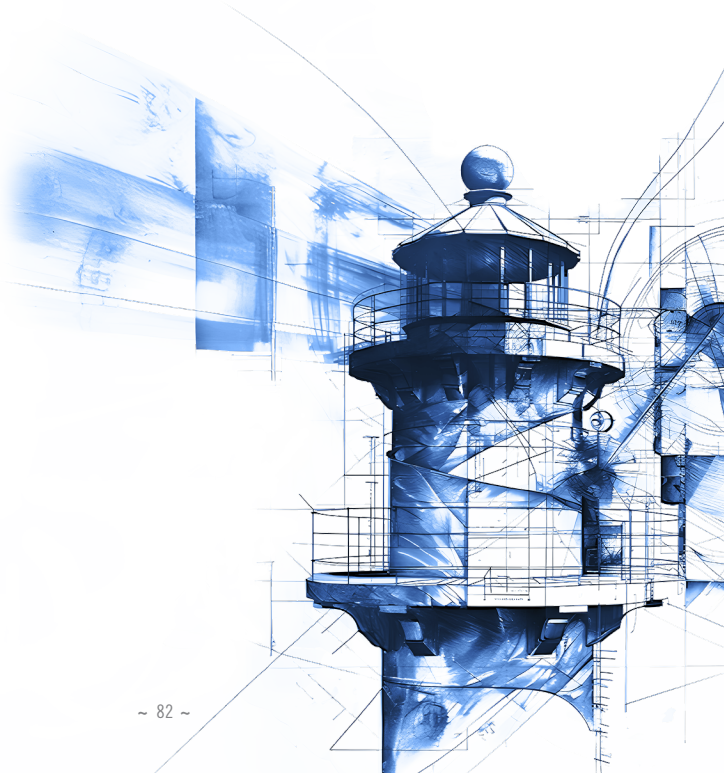
The **Heraeus Day** now is another event that is firmly established. It will be staged for the third time in 2025. On a weekend in May, the family will come together to exchange ideas, hear about the company and strengthen ties.



Family members on Heraeus Day 2024

IN THE FUTURE

The family and the company Heraeus can look to the future with confidence and courage. Shaped by the experience of the last 365 years, they will successfully continue on their path in line with the new claim: **MATERIALS. INNOVATIONS. FOR GENERATIONS.**



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GESCHICHTE DER FAMILIE HERAEUS

ZUR FEIER DES 250JÄHRIGEN BESITZES
DER EINHORN-APOTHEKE ZU HANAU
AM 4. OKTOBER 1910

ZUSAMMENGESETZT VON
PROF. DR. WILH. HERAEUS



ANNEX

List of all managing directors and board members from the date of founding of Heraeus Holding GmbH in 1985 until today, and corresponding information of Einhorn Verwaltungsgesellschaft mbH and Unicornis GmbH.

HERAEUS HOLDING GMBH

MEMBERS OF THE MANAGING DIRECTORS OF THE HERAEUS HOLDING GMBH

1985-1999	Dr. Jürgen Heraeus (Chairman 1985-1999)
1985-1992	Günther Rath
1985-1999	Dr. Peter Vischer
1985-1990	Prof. Dr. Dieter Röß
1985-1991	Dr. Gerhard Mai
1992-2003	Dr. Klaus Goffloo
1999-2003	Dr. Horst Heidsieck (Chairman 2000-2003)
2000-2007	Dr. Dieter Truxius
2003-2008	Dr. Helmut Eschwey (Chairman 2003-2008)
2003-2013	Dr. Frank Heinrich (Chairman 2008-2013)
2013-2015	Rolf Najork
2015-2016	Dr. Roland Gerner
2016-2023	Dr. André Kobelt

2007-today	Jan Rinnert (Chairman 2013-today)
2014-today	Rolf Wetzel
2020-today	Dr. Frank Stietz

**SHAREHOLDER REPRESENTATIVE ON THE SUPERVISORY BOARD OF
HERAEUS HOLDING GMBH**

1985-1987	Dr. Jakobus Greven
1985-1990	Helmut Plettner
1985-1992	Dr. Gustav Wagner
1985-2000	Prof. Dr. Karl-Heinz Büchel
1985-2005	Dr. Günther Saßmannshausen (Chairman 1985-1999)
1985-2005	Warner Conring
1988-2000	Dr. Wolfgang Eychmüller
1991-1996	Dr. Tyll Necker
1992-1995	Günter Rath
1995-1999	Dr. Horst Heidsieck
1996-2001	Heinrich Weiss
2000-2006	Dr. Martin Kohlhaussen

2000-2010	Jörg Menno Harms
2000-2020	Dr. Jürgen Heraeus (Chairman 2000-2020)
2001-2011	Prof. Dr. Claus Weyrich
2005-2011	Dieter Ammer
2010-2024	Uwe Raschke
2005-today	Dr. Hans-Tjabert Conring
2011-today	Dr. Simone Bagel-Trah
2012-today	Dr. Hubert Lienhard
2006-today	Franz Haniel (Chairman 2020-today)
2020-today	Birgit Heraeus-Roggendorf
2025-today	Dr. Mohsen Sohi

**MEMBERS OF THE SHAREHOLDERS' COMMITTEE OF
HERAEUS HOLDING GMBH**

1985-1995	Dr. Martinus Emge (Chairman 1985-1990)
1985-2005	Warner Conring (Chairman 1990-2000)
1985-2020	Dr. Jürgen Heraeus (Chairman 2000-2020)

1990-1995	Helmut Noll
1990-2014	Wilhelm Ernst Heraeus
1990-2014	Helmut André
1995-2020	Andreas Noll
1990-today	Michael Heraeus
2005-today	Dr. Hans-Tjabert Conring (Chairman 2020-today)
2014-today	Ursula Heraeus
2014-today	Julia Heraeus-Rinnert
2014-today	Grace Palmer
2014-today	Christiane Sommerfeld
2020-today	Dr. Nicolas André
2020-today	Birgit Heraeus-Roggendorf

EINHORN VERWALTUNGS- GESELLSCHAFT MBH

MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD OF THE EINHORN VERWALTUNGS- GESELLSCHAFT MBH

1994-1999	Vincent Hübner
1999-2013	Clemens Blaumeiser
2002-2005	Dr. Jürgen Heraeus
2013-heute	Helge Müller

MEMBERS OF THE SUPERVISORY BOARD OF THE EINHORN VERWALTUNGS- GESELLSCHAFT MBH

1994-2005	Dr. Günther Saßmannshausen (Chairman, 1994-2005)
1994-2005	Adolf Kracht
2005-2014	Grace Palmer
1994-today	Michael Heraeus
2005-today	Dr. Jürgen Heraeus (Chairman, 2005-today)
2014-today	Petra Friedmann
2019-today	Edzard Conring

MEMBERS OF THE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE OF THE EINHORN VERWALTUNGSGESELLSCHAFT MBH

1995-2004	Adolf Kracht (Chairman 1995 -2004)
1995-2004	Dr. Günther Saßmannshausen
1995-1999	Dr. Peter Vischer
1995-2004	Detlef Bierbaum
1995-1996	Dr. Knaebel
1996-2004	Hans-Dieter Schollbach
2000-2002	Dr. Jürgen Heraeus
2002-2014	Michael Heraeus
2004-2012	Prof. Dr. Jörg-Engelbrecht Cramer
2014-2021	Martin Lucas
2004 -today	Dr. Henrik Leber
2004 -today	Thomas Etzel
2012-today	Jan Rinnert (Chairman 2012-today)

UNICORNIS GMBH

MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD OF THE UNICORNIS GMBH

2021-2022 Christoph Probst

2021-today Helge Müller

MEMBERS OF THE SUPERVISORY BOARD OF THE UNICORNIS GMBH

2022-today Dr. Jürgen Heraeus
(Chairman, 2022-today)

2022-today Michael Heraeus

2022-today Edzard Conring

2022-today Petra Friedmann

MEMBERS OF THE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE OF THE UNICORNIS GMBH

2022-today Jan Rinnert
(Chairman, 2022-today)

2022-today Thomas Etzel

2022-today Dr. Hendrik Leber



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As of: April 2025

Publisher: Heraeus Holding GmbH,
Heraeusstraße 12-14, 63450 Hanau

Photos: Heraeus Holding GmbH, Group Communication; city of Hanau

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MILESTONES IN THE FAMILY AND COMPANY HISTORY

1660

Issac Heraeus takes over the Fauque pharmacy in Hanau

1694

Franz Heraeus supplies fine gold for the gilding of elements of the French church in Hanau

1851

Wilhelm Carl Heraeus takes over the Einhorn pharmacy. He founds the “Erste Deutsche Platinschmelze”, later the “W.C. Heraeus OHG”

1896

The new location on Heraeusstrasse is put into operation

1914

Heraeus is the largest platinum smelter in the world

1985

Foundation of Heraeus Holding GmbH as a strategic management holding company

2006

Adoption of the first Heraeus Family Code

2025

365 years of the Heraeus family and company