

# The KOITO Group's History

The foundation of KOITO began in 1915 with the development and production of the Japan's first fresnel lenses for railway signal lamps. Since then, we have been contributing to the safe and comfortable society by developing lighting equipment for all kinds of transports, including automobiles, railways and even aircraft and ships.

1915 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010 2022 (FY)

Net sales (billion yen)

## Founding Period 1915-1945

- 1915** Koito Genrokuro Shoten founded (Kyobashi, Tokyo) Fresnel lenses for railway signal lamps introduced
- 1930** Koito Genrokuro Shoten becomes KOITO MANUFACTURING
- 1935** Shinagawa Plant opens (Tokyo, Japan)
- 1936** KOITO MANUFACTURING CO., LTD. incorporated (capital 2.5 million yen)
- 1943** Shizuoka Plant opens (Shizuoka, Japan)

## Post-war Recovery and Developing Period 1946-1980

- 1949** KOITO MANUFACTURING listed on both the Tokyo and Osaka Stock Exchange
- 1955** Enacted **KOITO** trademark
- 1961** Transferred a head office to Minato-ku, Tokyo
- 1968** Chicago Representative Office opens (Illinois, U.S.A.)
- 1970** Headquarters building completed (Minato-ku, Tokyo)
- 1972** Aircraft equipment and electronics plant opens (Shizuoka, Japan)
- 1977** Haibara Plant opens (Shizuoka, Japan)
- 1979** Production and sales of Japan's first aerodynamic-type headlamps begins

## Expanding Period 1981-1999

- 1981** Production and sales of the world's first plastic lens headlamps begins
- 1983** North American Lighting, Inc. established (Illinois, U.S.A.)
- 1985** "Innovative ideas and decisive action" corporate slogan introduced
- 1986** THAI KOITO COMPANY LIMITED established (Thailand) Sagara Plant opens (Shizuoka, Japan)
- 1988** Capital interest in Ta Yih Industrial Co., Ltd. acquired (Taiwan)
- 1990** Production and sales of projector headlamps begins
- 1992** Fujikawa Tooling Plant opens (Shizuoka, Japan)
- 1996** Capital interest in Britax Vega Limited acquired (U.K.)
- 1997** Technical Center opens in Shizuoka Plant (Shizuoka, Japan) INDIA JAPAN LIGHTING PRIVATE LIMITED established (India)
- 1999** Britax Vega Limited becomes Koito Europe Limited

## To be a "Global No.1 Supplier" 2000-Present

- 2001** Koito Czech s.r.o. established (Czech Republic)
- 2003** Production and sales of the world's first swivel AFS begins
- 2005** Fuzhou Tayih Industrial Co., Ltd. becomes a KOITO subsidiary (China) KOITO KYUSHU LIMITED established (Saga, Japan) GUANGZHOU KOITO AUTOMOTIVE LAMP CO., LTD. established (China)
- 2010** PT. INDONESIA KOITO established (Indonesia)
- 2012** North American Lighting Mexico, S.A. de C.V. established (Mexico)
- 2014** Hubei Koito Automotive Lamp Co., Ltd. established (China)
- 2015** KOITO celebrates its 100th anniversary
- 2017** NAL do Brasil Indústria e Comércio de Componentes de Iluminação Ltda. established (Brazil) KOITO MALAYSIA SDN. BHD. established (Malaysia)
- 2019** Capital interest in BrightWay Vision Ltd. acquired (Israel)
- 2020** Capital interest in Cepton Technologies, Inc. acquired (U.S.A.) KI HOLDINGS CO., LTD. absorbed and merged KOITO Development Center opens (Aichi, Japan)
- 2022** Transitioned to Prime Market following the market reorganization of the Tokyo Stock Exchange

### 1915

#### Koito Genrokuro Shoten founded

Founder Genrokuro Koito founded Koito Genrokuro Shoten in Kyobashi-ku, Tokyo (current Kyobashi, Chuo-ku, Tokyo) to sell fresnel lenses for railway signal lamps, which he succeeded in the Japan's first production in 1912.



### 1957

#### Production and sales of all-glass sealed beam (SB) headlamps begins

Since 1951, KOITO has been developing all-glass SB headlamps with higher luminous flux than SSB headlamps. As a result of repeated trial manufacture and improvement, KOITO succeeded in its commercialization in 1957. KOITO then started supplying the products to various automotive manufacturers, including Toyota Motor Company (current Toyota Motor Corporation), from October 1957.



### 1936

#### Entering the automotive lighting equipment business

Based on KOITO's experience in supplying headlamps to military motorcycle with sidecars called "Kurogane" in 1932 and three-wheeled trucks in 1933, KOITO has started to produce headlamps for four-wheeled vehicles. We have supplied headlamps for the AA passenger cars to the automotive department of Toyoda Automatic Loom Works, Ltd. (current Toyota Motor Corporation) in 1936. This commemorates KOITO's participation in automotive lighting equipment business, which contributes to safe and comfortable automotive society.



### 1975

#### Production and sales of jet-type headlamp washers begins

Cleaning dirt on headlamps is crucial for ensuring safety, and relevant regulations were started to be drawn up in Europe. KOITO has developed jet-type headlamp washers, and its installation to export vehicles began in August 1975.



### 1950

#### Semi-sealed beam headlamps developed

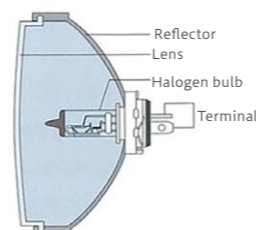
Focusing on the brightness of U.S.-made all-glass sealed beam headlamps, KOITO has developed and succeeded in commercializing semi-sealed beam headlamps in August 1950. Until all-glass SB was developed, semi-sealed beam headlamps were adopted in various domestic automobiles.



### 1978

#### Production and sales of halogen headlamps begins

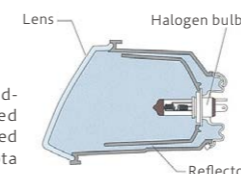
As halogen light bulbs with high luminous flux and excellent antiglare performance can contribute to reduce traffic accidents, they were standardized in Europe in 1971 and in the U.S. in 1978. KOITO has started producing halogen headlamps by incorporating halogen light sources (originally imported products) into SB and SSB headlamps in July 1978.



### 1979

#### Production and sales of uniquely shaped headlamps begins

KOITO has begun developing uniquely shaped headlamps (a kind of SSB headlamps), which are shaped to fit individual vehicle designs. These lamps started to be installed in the Nissan Skyline and the Toyota Crown in June 1979.



### 1985

#### Production and sales of all-resin aerodynamic-type headlamps begins

As a result of steady efforts on headlamps' resinification to reduce weight and improve design, KOITO has succeeded in developing plastic lenses and a BMC reflector with even higher heat resistance and molding accuracy in 1981. In January 1985, the world's first all-resin aerodynamic-type headlamp was adopted in Toyota Motor "Soara."



### 1996

#### Production and sales of discharge headlamps (GDHL) begins

With a light source that utilizes arc discharge between electrodes, discharge headlamps (GDHL) were excellent in increasing light intensity, and has long life and high energy efficiency. As the next-generation lamp contributes to improve vehicle fuel efficiency, KOITO succeeded in developing discharge headlamps as well as a control circuit called ballast, and were installed in the Nissan Terrano and the Toyota Mark II in 1996.



### 2007

#### Production and sales of the world's first LED headlamps begins

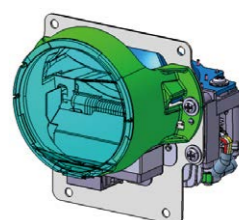
KOITO has developed LED headlamp using white LEDs as a low-beam light sources, which offers improved visibility with higher luminous flux, longer life, and lower power consumption compared to GDHL and halogen headlamps. In May 2007, they were installed in the Lexus LS 600h, as the world's first LED headlamp in the market.



### 2014

#### Production and sales of the world's first LED Compact-Bi-function begins

KOITO has started producing and selling the world's first LED Compact-Bi-function, capable of switching high beam and low beam with a single LED and achieved lower power consumption and weight compared to conventional lamp units. In November 2014, it was installed in the Toyota Prius Alpha, and contributed to the worldwide spread of LED headlamps, being adopted by various vehicles.



### 2019

#### Production and sales of the world's first BladeScan™ ADB begins

KOITO has developed the world's first BladeScan™ ADB (Adaptive Driving Beam) system, which is expected to further improve safety by enabling high-resolution light distribution than the conventional ADB systems. It was installed in the Lexus RX in August 2019, becoming the world's first system in the market.

