



## From Styria to the World



# The beginning of Unior

On the outskirts of Pohorje, the first ironworks (*fužine*) is established in the 18th century. Until the 19th century, four ironworks are active in this area, the one in Zreče being among them. They are active as large foundries that manually manufacture tools for farming and other crafts.

**In 1919,**

the Styria Iron Works Company Ltd. was born.

The man named Milko Bremec bought a share of the land and the old mill from Martin Kračun, the mayor of Zreče at the time, who was responsible for reducing the unemployment in Zreče.



Milko Bremec



Old mill

- The factory started regular production in 1922 and was known as the most advanced factory with the latest technological equipment in the Balkans.
- On 26 March 1925, the factory was officially established at court.
- The foundry with the short name Štajerska Zreče employed 250 workers before World War II. They manufactured forged hand tools for farming, forestry, and various crafts.
- A new type of high-quality smith was born – these industry workers conquered the market with a wide range of quality products.
- Styria became very competitive and soon the factory ousted the well-known and renowned Austrian company Vogel&Noot from the Yugoslav market.



## after 1945

- In the night of 24 April to 25 April 1944, the factory was destroyed by fire.
- After World War II, the previous employees returned and built the factory through shock working. The tradition of industrial workers played a decisive role in the development of Unior's future.



The Site of the Fire



Officials during the War



# 1950



- In 1947, the plant is renamed to Factory of Forged Tools Zrece and comes under public ownership. Thorough reconstruction of the factory, predominantly focused on hand tool manufacture, is connected with the introduction of new technologies of American-style drop forging.
- New capacities (a tool shop and a plant for mechanically processed hand tools) give impetus to the development of two production segments: hand implements and tools, and drop-forged parts.

The buyers of hand tools from Zrece are mainly machine shops and other workshops, craftsmen and households, as well as the industry.

Drop-forged parts intended for industrial needs are primarily used in the production of cars, tractors, motorcycles, internal combustion engines, etc.

- In 1950, we exported between 10 to 15% of our production.



Factory in 1951



Interphase Axe Control



# 1970



- the factory with a new vision also gets a new name: Unior, Factory of Forged Tools Zrece. The new name is a newly coined word formation of universal tools for which the factory is already well known.
- New visions are connected with already established co-operative ventures with European, especially West German, companies. Following their example, Unior introduces new production solutions that enhance capacity and productivity, reduce costs, streamline production, and assure higher product quality.



Factory in 1973



The Processing Plant in 1971



Gas Facility Construction in 1973

# middle of 1970's



- In the middle of 1970's, Unior begins building the Rogla mountain resort and Olympic centre in Pohorje, and a few years later also the health resort Terme Zrece in Zrece itself. Later, they increase the number of ski-lifts, hotels and other residences, and sport infrastructure, making Rogla one of the largest sports and recreational tourist centres in Slovenia, while Terme Zrece with its new capacity becomes one of the most popular destinations in Slovenia, which has highly developed spa tourism.



Cottage on Rogla



Rogla



Terme Zreče

# 1980



- Unior starts and later fully strengthens its position as an important European automotive industry partner, developing into one of the major European manufacturers of light forgings and one of the largest European manufacturers of connecting rods for gasoline engines, which puts it among the major suppliers for companies like VW, BMW, and others.
- The first steps in this field are made with a Renault Group contract, which later develops into today's joint-venture plant for the manufacture of forgings, erected at Zrece, with the parallel development of velocity joints and machine building, at first intended particularly for Unior's own needs.

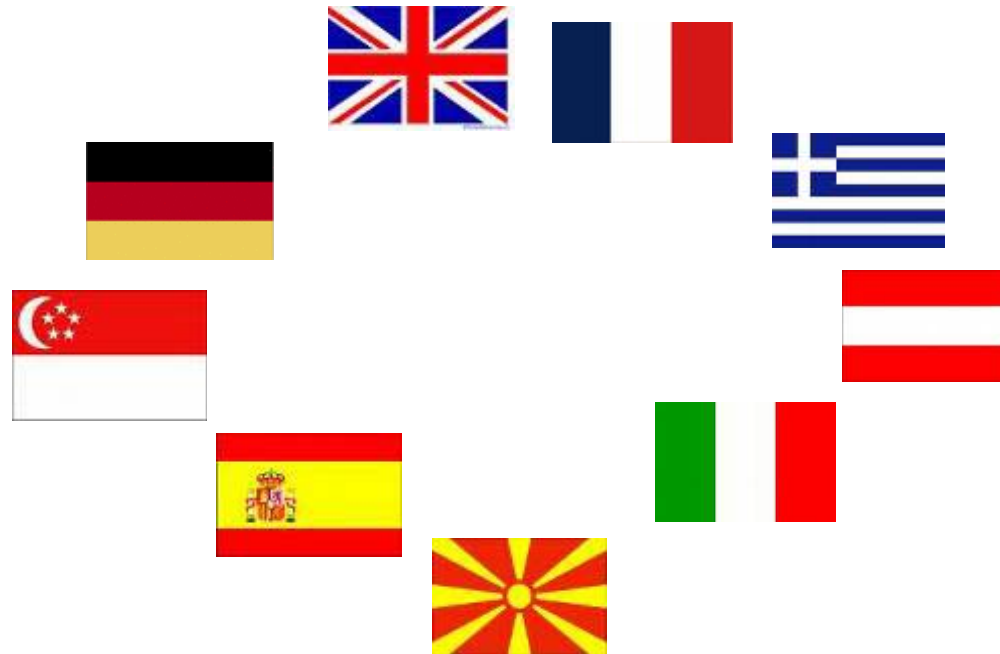
Foto Renalt



# In the 1990s,



- Unior increases its export of hand tools by establishing a world-wide distribution network, where Unior's own distribution companies for marketing and sales in Austria, Germany, Great Britain, France, Italy, Spain, Greece, Macedonia, and Singapore become especially important.



## 1996

- On 16 December UNIOR received the second consent issued by the Agency of Republic of Slovenia for Privatisation and Restructuring and became a joint stock company in accordance with the Companies`Ownership Transformation Act.

## 1997

- On 15 April the Company UNIOR Kovaška industrija Zreče was entered into the Court Register as a joint stock company. On 12 December, the first assembly of Company UNIOR d.d. was held, and the Supervisory Board appointed a four-member Management Board: Janez Špes, the President of the Management Board, Gorazd Korošec, the Vice-President of the Management Board and Viljem Brvar and Robert Ribič as Members.

## 1998

- On 1 July, the company UNIOR Hellas in Greece was established.



# 1999



- On 5 May, the company UNIOR Italia was established.
- In July, UNIOR acquired a 20% share in the company INEXA Štore d.o.o.
- In July, a construction of the Terme 2000 in Zreče was completed.
- A system of quality control according to the requirements of ISO 9001; 1994 was introduced in the company UNIOR d.d.



Co-workers from  
UNIOR Italia



Štore Steel d.o.o.



Terme 2000

# 2000



- A new production hall was constructed and new equipment purchased for the Sinter plant.
- On 10 November, UNIOR d.d. became a 65% owner of the company LUMAR-HIŠE d.o.o. Gomilsko which was renamed into BIVA-HIŠE d.o.o. in 2004.
- A system of automotive industry quality control according to the requirements of QS 9000 was introduced in the Kovačnica plant.



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Sinter plant



# 2001



- On 7 April, a fire broke out in Terme Zreče
- On 12 April, a company MPP Inženiring d.o.o. Maribor was acquired.
- On 25 April, we concluded a contract on the acquisition of the company MMP Tehnološka oprema d.o.o Maribor.
- On 4 July, a contract on the acquisition of the company UNIOR Espana, Spain, was concluded.
- On 17 October, a company UNIOR Deutschland was established in Germany.
- After a devastating fire, a reconstruction of Terme Zreče was completed in December.



- MPP
- Unior {panija
- Unior Deutsch

# 2002



- A system of quality control according to the requirements of ISO 9001; 2000 was introduced in the Company UNIOR d.d.
- On 4 December, a company UNIOR Werkzeugmaschinen was established in Germany.
- On 12 December, a term of office terminated for the Management, The Supervisory Board thus appointed a new Management: Gorazd Korošec, the President of the Management Board, Robert Ribič, the Vice-President of the Management Board, and Marjan Korošec and Darko Hrastnik as Members. The Management was appointed for five-year term of office on the 13 December 2002.



UNIOR Werkzeugmaschinen

# 2003



- On 20 January we sold a 48.9% share in the company Orbis-Werk GmbH to the firm Knipex-Werk in Germany.
- On 6 May, we sold 35.5% share in the company Rydcon d.o.o. to the firm Hansa-flex Armerding GmbH Bremen.
- A system of automotive industry quality control according to the requirements of VDA 6.1 and QS 9000 were introduced in Forging Programme.
- A system according to the requirements of HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point) was introduced.
- In July, we acquired a share owned by the Swedish partner in company Inexa Štore and renamed into Štore Steel d.o.o.
- In November, we took over the management in Cankarjevi ribniki (Cankar`s Ponds) in Stranice.



Cankar`s Ponds

Foto.Orbis  
RYdcon.

# 2004



- Unior d.d. acquires RTC Krvavec d.d. on 9 June.
- Unior d.d. joins MRC on 2 September with the aim of reviving Rimske Toplice.
- The construction of the treatment plant at Rogla and Jurgovo is completed in December.
- Unior Bionic d.o.o. is established on 7 December to produce and market medical devices.
- Unidal d.o.o. is established in Vinkovci in Croatia on 31 December, with Unior d.d. holding an interest of 49.5% in the forgings producer and Dalekovoda 50.5%.



Krvavec



Rimske Terme



Unidal d.o.o.



# 2005



- A contract is signed with DaimlerChrysler on 11 February to establish Starkom d.o.o. in Maribor, a joint venture to produce car parts that is registered in June.
- Unior Aqua d.o.o. is established on 25 February in Pristina in Kosovo, Unior holding 60% of this mineral water and soft drinks producer.
- Unior USA Corporation is established on 1 April to sell tools on the American market; the Illionis-based company is owned 100% by Unior.
- Unior Professional Tools is established in May; based in St Petersburg in Russia, The company is owned 55% by Unior and sells tools under the Unior brand.



Starkom d.o.o.



Unior Aqua d.o.o.

Foto> Unior Profesional tools

# 2005



- Unior acquires 25.99% of Zlati grič d.o.o. in May.
- Unior Australia Tools Company Co PTY Ltd is established in Melbourne on 19 July 51% owned by Unior, it sells hand tools.
- Unior d.d. buys a 79.56 stake in ZASTAVA Alati d.o.o. of Kragujevac in Serbia-Montenegro on 1 September and Unior Components d.o.o. is established.
- The prime minister and economics minister visit Unior d.d. on 7 September, meeting senior managers and viewing the production facilities.
- Ningbo Unior Forgings Co.Ltd is established on 28 October in Yuyao in China; Unior owns 50% of the company, which has four forging lines at its plant.



Zlati grič d.o.o   Unior Australia Tools Company   Unior Components d.o.o.   Ningbo Unior Forgings



# 2006



- In April, UNIOR TEPID S.R.L. was established in Romania.
- A water bottling plant was built in Stranice
- In October, Croatian President Mesič visited UNIOR's showroom in Split.
- The FPZ-250 flexible cell was chosen as one of the 50 best innovations at the presentation of entrepreneurial innovations and inventions in the scope of the Hevreka 06 forum.
- In November, the UNIOR AQUA water bottling plant in Kosovo was opened. - In December construction of a six-seat ski lift was completed on Krvavec and put into use on 15 December.



President Mesič visited UNIOR's showroom



UNIOR TEPID S.R.L.





# 2007



- As of 1 January, Unior d.d. introduces the Eur currency into its business operations.
- In the beginning of February, Unior d.d. bought a 58 % share of Bul Tool Ltd. In Bulgaria. A company named Unior Bulgaria Ltd.
- On 30 March. A contract for 20 % share acquisition in the Teos alati company signed in Belgrade and Unior Teos Alati was established.
- In September, the Manager magazine named Unior d.d. the largest and third most intensive funder of scholarship in Slovenia.
- On 2 September at Bled, Unior d.d. received the Best innovation Award for its Wrench for the removal of the freewheel and apokes on a bicycle.



Teos alati



Co-workers from Unior Bulgaria Ltd.





# 2007



- On 10 September, the Ministry of the Economy issued a decision in co-financing the construction of a new hotel in Zreče for the amount of Eur 4 million.
- The Supervisory board renewed the term of office of Mr. Korošec, president of the Management Board, for another 5-year term.
- On 28 November 2007, the partnership contract on the co-founding of Roboteh d.o.o. was signed; in this new company, Unior d.d. holds a 28% share.
- In November a contract of member was signed with the Weba Austria GmbH company on the establishment of a joint venture - Weba Maribor d.o.o., with Unior d.d. holding an interest 26%.
- On 5 December, a purchase contract on acquiring the Coframa Polska company from French company Aropolis was signed in Poland, Unior owns 51 % of the company.
- Unitur trade mark was established for the needs of Tourism Programme.



Weba Maribor d.o.o.



Co-workers from Unior Coframa z.o.o.



# 2008



- On 1 January 2008, the Sinter Programme became independent. Prior to that, the programme was a part of the Forging Parts Programme.
- On 18 March 2008, the Centre for International Relations at the Faculty of Social Sciences presented a list of the 25 largest Slovenian multinational companies.
- Unior was ranked 11th. The list was compiled using international methodology in collaboration with the Programme on International Investment at the Columbia University in the City of New York.
- In Bolzano, Italy, the Rogla Ski Resort won a golden award in the Fun&Action category. Also, the resort was placed 2nd in the Best Slovenian Ski Resort 2007/08 contest.



Golden award



Fun&Action



# 2008



- At the end of August, the Special Machines Programme underwent a recertification audit and introduced a new version of the VDA 6.4:2005 automotive industry standard intended for manufacturers of production equipment in the automotive industry.
- On 3 September 2008, the Manager magazine announced the following news: For the second time in a row, Unior PLC was ranked first in the category of the largest scholarship providers and third in the category of the most intensive scholarship providers (the highest value of scholarships awarded compared to labour costs).
- The biggest audit so far by Bureau Veritas Certification was successfully completed in the middle of October. Also, the quality management system was recertified in accordance with the ISO 9001 standard and the scope of the ISO 14001 environmental management standard was extended to the plants in Lenart and Stari trg. The Forging Parts Programme and the Sinter Programme also underwent control audits for the ISO/TS 16949 automotive industry standard.