History

Corporate Management

Mar.	1918	Shokosha Watch Research Institute, forerunner of Citizen Watch Co., founded.
May	1930	Citizen Watch Co., Ltd. founded.
May		Mr. Yosaburo Nakajima appointed president.
May	1936	Tanashi Factory built.
July		Exports of watches to Southeast Asia and South Pacific begun.
Oct.	1945	Mr. Shinji Nakajima appointed president.
Mar.	1946	Mr. Eiichi Yamada appointed president.
June	1949	Citizen Trading Co., Ltd. established.
Mar.	1953	Rhythm Watch Co., Ltd. became an affiliate of Citizen Watch Co., Ltd.
Jan.	1958	Exports of watches to People's Republic of China begun.
Mar.	1960	Exports of machine tools to People's Republic of China begun.
Mar.		Import-export agreement with Bulova Watch Co. of the U.S. concluded.
Mar.		Technical assistance agreement (export of watch production plant) with Indian government signed.
June	1962	Engineers' mission to India dispatched.
July		Agreement with Gilman & Co. of Hong Kong for exports to Southeast Asia.
Dec.		Work on a national watch production plant in India completed.
Aug.	1964	Tokorozawa Technical Laboratory built.
Dec.		Citizen Business Machines (now Japan CBM Corp.) established.
Oct.	1965	Citizen Office opened in Germany. Full-scale export of watches to Europe commenced.
Sept.	1969	Business cooperation with Rhythm Watch Co., Ltd. strengthened, common brands introduced.
June	1971	Precision Machinery Division established.
July		First automatic watch plant exported to India.
Feb.	1978	Citizen Watch Co., Ltd. and Citizen Trading Co., Ltd. moved Head Office to Shinjuku Mitsui Building.
June	1981	Mr. Rokuya Yamazaki appointed president of Citizen Watch Co., Ltd.
Oct.		Systems and Peripherals Division (now Systems and Peripherals Group) established.
Sept.	1982	Special Sales Division (now Special Sales Group) established. Watch parts sales begun.
June	1987	Mr. Michio Nakajima appointed president of Citizen Watch Co., Ltd.
May	1990	Citizen Watch Co., Ltd. introduced "Refresh Vacation" system.
Feb.	1992	Citizen Watch Co., Ltd. acquired German machine tool firm, Boley G.M.B.H.
Apr.	1996	Light-powered "Eco-Drive" became the first watch to receive an Eco-Mark.
June	1997	Mr. Hiroshi Haruta appointed president of Citizen Watch Co., Ltd.
Mar.	2001	Citizen's head office is moved to Nishi tokyo-shi.

Product Development

Dec.	1924	Citizen's first pocket watch manufactured.
June	1931	Citizen's first wristwatch completed.
July	1941	Production of machine tools begun.
Mar.	1952	Japan's first watch with calendar marketed.
Apr.	1956	Japan's first shock resistant watch, "Parashock," marketed.
June	1958	Japan's first wristwatch with alarm, "Citizen Alarm," marketed.
July	1959	Japan's first water-resistant watch, "Parawater," marketed.
Apr.	1961	Industrial machinery sales begun.
Aug.	1962	World's thinnest three-hand watch marketed.
Mar.	1965	Production of business machines started.
Dec.		Automatic water-resistant wristwatch with day and date, "Crystal Seven," marketed.
Mar.	1966	Japan's first electronic wristwatch, "X-8," and Japan's first electronic clock, "Elitron," marketed.
Oct.		Automatic assembling machine, "Synecton," developed.
Jan.	1967	World's first transistorized electronic quartz clock, "Crystron," marketed.
Dec.	1970	CNC lathe "Cincom" developed.
Oct.	1971	First Japanese-made tuning fork electronic watch marketed.
June	1973	"Citizen Diamond 5C" introduced in the domestic marketed.
Aug.		Analog quartz watch, "Citizen Quartz Crystron," marketed.
Apr.	1974	"Citizen Quartz (Liquid Crystal)" marketed.
Jan.	1975	Yves St. Laurent brand watches marketed.
Dec.		Marketing of high-frequency "Citizen Mega Quartz" analog quartz watch accurate to within three seconds per year — the world's most accurate watch.
Mar.	1976	Production of quartz oscillators begun.
Apr.		World's first LCD quartz watch with alarm, "Citizen Quartz Crystron Alarm LC," introduced.
Aug.		World's first analog quartz watch using sunlight as power source, "Citizen Quartz Crystron Solar Cell," marketed.
Apr.	1977	Japan's first LCD quartz watch with alarm, stopwatch, and calculator, "Citizen Quartz Calculator," marketed.
June		High-quality, thin-type liquid crystal watch "Exceed" marketed.
May	1978	Ultra-slim analog quartz watch, the world's first with a movement breaking the "one-millimeter barrier," "Citizen Quartz 790," marketed.
Nov.		LCD quartz watch combined with analog quartz watch, "Citizen Quartz Digi-Ana," marketed.
Nov.	1979	World's first LCD quartz watch with time signal function, "Citizen Quartz Multi-Alarm II," marketed.
May	1980	"Ana-Digi" marketed.
Nov.		World's smallest ladies' analog quartz watch, "Citizen Quartz 1500," marketed.
Oct.	1981	World's first watch with internal IC temperature compensation marketed.
Aug.	1982	"Professional Diver 1,300 M," first in the world in pressure resistance, marketed.
Oct.		Automatic chip part mounting machine, "Board Packer," developed.
Mar.	1983	Chip-type LED marketed.
May		Electronic thermometer marketed.
June	1984	World's first 1-inch-thick, 3.5-inch FDD marketed.
June		LC TV "Citizen Pocket" marketed.
May	1985	Dot matrix printer "MSP" marketed.
June		LC color TV "Bookvision" marketed.

Dec.	1985	World's first diver's watch with an electronic depth meter, “Aqualand,” marketed.
Dec.	1986	Became world's No. 1 producer of movements.
Dec.		“Astronomy Watch & Lunar Watch” marketed.
June	1987	Titanium watch “Attesa” marketed.
July		World's first voice recognition watch, “Voice Master VX-2,” marketed.
Nov.		Striking marionette clock “Karakuri” marketed.
Nov.	1988	Digital blood pressure monitor marketed.
Dec.		Digital watch “Shock Sensor” marketed.
Mar.	1989	World's slimmest 3/4-inch thick, 3.5-inch FDD marketed.
May		High-class gold watch “Ascenda” marketed.
May		World's first professional climbing watch with elevation sensor, “Altichron,” marketed.
June		24-pin dot matrix printer “GSX-140” marketed.
Oct.	1991	World's first 32 bit CPU, DSP loaded precision assembling robot “CSR/CRR” series marketed.
Apr.	1992	World's first diver's watch with analog depth meter, “Analog Aqualand,” marketed.
Dec.		“W” series 11mm-thick ultra-thin type FDD marketed.
Mar.	1993	“Cincom M16/M20,” featuring the industry's first robotic turret function, marketed.
May		World's first multizone “Radio-Controlled Watch” marketed.
May		“J-League” watches, clocks marketed.
Nov.		Color liquid crystal car TV “DK840” marketed.
Apr.	1994	“Promaster” titanium case marketed.
Aug.		High-efficiency, low-priced, compact CNC automatic lathe “Cincom B-12” marketed.
Nov.		World's smallest, lightest printer “PN60” marketed.
Dec.		High-productivity “Board Packer M11” compound parts inserter marketed.
May	1995	“The Citizen,” watch with a 10-year warranty and free repairs for life, marketed.
Nov.		“Eco-Drive” marketed.
July	1996	“Eco-Drive Slim” marketed.
July		Hyperscan-type color liquid crystal TV DN260 marketed.
Oct.		Original watch design system by personal computer, “Watch Studio Creation,” begun.
Nov.		Watch for contemporary women, “xC,” marketed.
Nov.		Trend watch for young people, “Independent,” marketed.
Feb.	1997	Network machine tool “Cincom L16/20” marketed.
June		World's first watch requiring no battery change accurate to within 10 seconds a year, “Exceed,” marketed.
Sept.		Braille watch marketed on order-only basis.
Oct.		“Exceed Eco-Drive International Model” featuring time difference adjustment function marketed worldwide.
Dec.		OEM sales of the NTT DoCoMo Pocket Board e-mail terminal begun.
Apr.	1998	The Cincom FL 25 automatic CNC lathe with network capability launched.
July		“Promaster Eco-Drive Analog Depth,” the world's first analog depth meter diver's watch not to require a battery change, marketed.
Oct.		“Exceed Ladies Eco-Drive,” a women's bracelet watch with Eco-Drive, the world's smallest movement, marketed.
Oct.	1998	“DataSlim,” the world's smallest and lightest PC card size PDA, marketed.
Dec.		The world's first hybrid-type light powered/automatic generation watch, “Promaster Eco-Drive DUO,” marketed.
Dec.		The world's first gardener's flower almanac watch, “Hanadokei Creative Kit,” marketed.
Feb.	1999	Low-priced automatic CNC lathe Cincom BL12 launched.
Mar.		The Cincom M12 automatic lathe adapted to handle network operations.
May		The truly outdoor watch, “Promaster Eco-Drive Super Tough,” incorporating Parashock, marketed.
June		“Attesa Radio-Controlled Eco-Drive Watch” with eletcronic correction and a light powered system marketed.
June		Mass production of business-card size, large-volume memory device, “Clik! drive,” begun.
Sept.		PC card-type measurement data recording instrument, the Datalogger, launched.
Nov.		The Eco-Drive Thermo, which uses heat differential as an energy source, launched.
Mar.	2000	OEM sales of NTT DoCoMo's Pacty, an e-mail terminal with Internet browser, begun.
May		Business card-sized card-type PDA, the DataSlim 2, launched.
June		The economical LT-1220 and LT-1320 line-thermal printer mechanisms are introduced.
Aug.		OEM shipments of NTT's Pocket Board Pal mobile e-mail terminal begun.
Oct.		The Eco-Drive Vitro, incorporating the first transparent solar cell in a watch, is introduced.
Nov.		The Campagnola collection of watches is introduced.
		OEM shipments of Polaroid's P500 PhotoMate digital photo printer begun.
Dec.		The latest model of The Citizen watch collection is introduced.
Feb.	2001	Sales of watches designed by customers are launched on the My Create Design Atelier Net website.
Feb.		OEM shipments of NTT's Color Browser Board mobile web/email terminal begun.
Mar.		The Promaster Cyber Aqualand dive computer watch, featuring a PC syncing function, is introduced.
Apr.		The universal-design Mu watch is introduced.
Apr.		The high-speed Cincom C16VII CNC automatic lathe with a sliding headstock is introduced.
May		The high-speed CLP9000 series barcode printer is introduced.
June		Named after the major league baseball sensation Ichiro Suzuki, the Ichiro watch is introduced by Japan CBM Corp.
Sep.		The high-precision, multifunction Cincom BL20 and BL25 CNC lathes with a fixed headstock are introduced.