Company History

Adecco Group

1957
Adia SA is founded in Lausanne, Switzerland, by Henri Lavanchy. The firm grows rapidly in its home country before expanding abroad.

1964
Philippe Foriel-Destezet founded Ecco in Lyon. By the early 1980s, Ecco is the largest supplier of temporary personnel in France.

1961–1980
In the 1960s, Adia opens offices in various European countries and then in 1972 takes a first step overseas, with a branch in Menlo, California. In 1974, Lavanchy recruits Martin O. Pestalozzi and a phase of expansion by acquisitions begins. In the next twelve years, Adia buys over 85 companies, tripling in size and gaining footholds in more than a dozen countries. These include France (1975) and the UK (1977), where it buys the market leader: Alfred Marks Bureau Ltd.

Early 1980s
Adia continues to expand overseas, including Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Hong Kong and Canada. Meanwhile, Ecco is focusing on its home market. By the mid-1980s, it is the market leader in France and a decade later world no.2. The growth of both companies is part of a wider trend: temporary staffing becomes the world's third-fastest growing industry in the 1980s.

Late 1980s
Sales topping USD 1 billion in 1986 make Adia the European leader. Its success is partly down to a focus on quality and high value services. The 1990s sees a growing trend towards specialised skills, e.g. accounting and word-processing, including in-house training programmes.

1990s
Further acquisitions from the late 1980s onwards strengthen the presence in highly skilled, specialised fields. Also, moves are made into socially related programmes for mature workers in the USA, promoting the benefits of temporary work for retirees and the value for companies of tapping into their experience, skills and dedication.

In 1991, recognising the importance of the industry's role in job creation and its growth potential, Klaus J. Jacobs invests in Adia on the way to becoming its majority shareholder.

1996
Adia and Ecco merge to form Adecco. Two of the world's top three personnel services firms, with complementary geographical profiles, merge to form a strong global leader with annualized revenues of over EUR 5.4 billion. Operations are combined to form a global network of 2,500 branches. The new company has an exceptional range and quality of services. The core staffing business places around 250,000 people in work each day.

1997–2000
The 1997 acquisition of TAD Resources International strengthens Adecco's technical and IT staffing business in the USA. In 2000, Adecco acquires the IT and generalist staffing business of the Olsten Corporation to become no.1 staffing services business in the USA and worldwide leader in the IT sector. The merged companies revenues reach over EUR 11.6 billion, reflecting organic growth and successful acquisitions. Partnerships with Monster.com and Jobs.com mark Adecco's intent to be at the forefront of harnessing the web in the recruitment process.

Company History

Adecco Group

2002
To keep at the forefront of the trend towards increasing demand for professional and expert services Adecco consolidates its business under three operating divisions: Adecco Staffing; Ajilon Staffing/Managed Services, and Career Services/ e-Business.

Legislative change in Germany creates a more favourable environment for the growth of flexible staffing, reflecting greater acceptance of the industry's positive role in generating employment and economic growth.

2004
The acquisition of PeopleOne Consulting in, India signal Adecco's commitment to play a leading role in the industry's development in emerging markets.

2005 - 2006
In 2005 Klaus J. Jacobs, assumes the Chairman and CEO roles, initiating a strategy review. The Group's focus on professional staffing services intensifies. To create a strong platform for growth, Adecco's existing operations are realigned into global business lines defined by specific occupational fields, complementing the established office and industrial offering with professional staffing lines.

Acquisitions of Altedia and Human- Group strengthen Adecco's involvement in professional segments in Europe. In 2006, the acquisition of DIS AG in Germany gives Adecco leadership in the German professional staffing industry. Joining from DIS AG, Dieter Scheiff becomes Adecco Group CEO and Dominik de Daniel becomes CFO. Adecco adopts a dual strategy focused on professional and general staffing.

2007
The annual General Meeting of Shareholders approves the nomination of Jürgen Dormann, the former Vice-Chairman, as Chairman of the Board. Rolf Dörig becomes Vice-Chairman.

Klaus J Jacobs, hands back his mandate. Adecco acquires Tuja Group, an industry leader in Germany, one of the world's fastest-growing temporary staffing markets.

2008
Adecco acquires the professional staffing businesses DNC in the Netherlands and IT specialist Datavance in France. Country operations take greater responsibility for growing professional business as the dual professional and general staffing model becomes further embedded.

September 11: Klaus J. Jacobs, co-founder and Honorary President of the Adecco Group passes away. Jürgen Dormann, who made a vital contribution to the successful turnaround of the Group and its long-term strategy, steps down as Chairman of the Board at the end of the year. He is succeeded by Rolf Dörig, Vice-Chairman, on January 1, 2009.

2009
January 1: Rolf Dörig starts his term of office as Chairman of the Board of the Adecco Group. June 1: Patrick De Maeseneire becomes Chief Executive Officer of the Adecco Group.

Adecco acquires Spring Group in the UK, bolstering the Adecco Group's UK professional and general staffing business, and tables an offer for MPS Group.

2010
The acquisition of MPS Group is officially closed. With MPS's strength in the USA, Canada and the UK, the Adecco Group becomes world leader in the professional staffing sector.

Adecco set up a joint venture in Shanghai with leading Chinese HR services company Fesco. FESCO Adecco began operations on January 1, 2011 with over 100,000 associates and a well-established local and multinational client base.