Agilent Technologies, a spin-off of Hewlett-Packard Company, broke records on Nov. 18, 1999 as the largest initial public offering (IPO) in Silicon Valley history.

The US $2.1 billion raised from that IPO was a sharp contrast to the $538 in working capital that Bill Hewlett and Dave Packard began with in 1938.

From a small garage in Palo Alto, California, to employees around the world serving customers in 110 countries, Agilent has a long history of innovation and leadership in the communications, electronics, semiconductor, test and measurement, life sciences and chemical analysis industries.

1939 - 1998: the Hewlett-Packard years

60-year heritage of leadership and innovation

Hewlett-Packard Company formed in 1939, and focused on developing test and measurement products. In the 1960s the company branched out into fields such as medical electronics and analytical instrumentation. In addition, the first gas chromatography (GC) was launched during this decade. This was then followed in the 1970s, with the launch of the world’s first mass spectrometer (MS) in 1976.

1999: Agilent is born

Independently carrying the torch of innovation

Hewlett-Packard (HP) test and measurement (and related divisions) spin-off formed Agilent Technologies. Now a fully independent measurement company, Agilent was in position to lead the test and measurement industry into the 21st century with its innovation and excellence. Agilent Research Laboratories (Agilent Labs) is also formed to power the growth of Agilent Technologies through breakthrough science and technology, with the legacy of the program being retained since 1967 (known then as HP Labs).
2000s: rapid industry leadership

A decade of firsts

Following its successful IPO in 1999, Agilent became a fully independent company focusing on high-growth markets in communications, electronics and life sciences. Recognized as an industry leader, Agilent topped the test and measurement worldwide market.

In 2004, Agilent innovations enabled DNA microarrays to identify and locate genetic alterations that contribute to cancer and developmental disorders with greater precision, creating new applications in research and diagnostics. In the same year, Agilent acquired Silicon Genetics, a leading provider of software solutions for life science discovery, positioning Agilent to become a market leader in life science informatics.

Agilent introduced the E4898A Bit Error Ratio Tester (BERT) in 2006, the first of its kind to operate at speeds of up to 100 Gb/s, enabling the development of next-generation optical receivers.

In 2009, Life Sciences and Chemical Analysis (LSCA) separated into the Chemical Analysis Group (CAG) and Life Sciences Group (LSG). Agilent then became comprised of three business groups - CAG, LSG, and Electronic Measurement (EMG). This change in structure reflected the growth opportunities of each business and supported Agilent's continued evolution as a leading bio-analytical company.

2010-2018: transformation and diversification

A focus on life sciences, diagnostics and applied chemical markets

A relentless customer focus and commitment to innovation, saw Agilent launch several transformative initiatives. In under a decade, Agilent accelerated growth and global reach with a steady record of industry leading acquisitions and continued to develop breakthrough innovations in the life sciences, diagnostics and applied chemical markets.

Agilent purchased Varian, Inc. in 2010, where the majority of Varian's product lines joined Agilent's CAG, while the LSG gained key businesses, including nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR). This acquisition furthered Agilent's evolution toward becoming a global leader in bio-analytical measurement.

In 2012, Agilent entered oncology diagnostics by acquiring Dako, a cancer diagnostics company headquartered in Denmark. This was the largest acquisition in Agilent's history and enabled Agilent to grow its diagnostics business and expand its role in life sciences. Approximately 1,000 Dako employees joined Agilent.

Two years later, in 2014, Agilent achieved another industry first, with the world’s first Q-TOF designed for Gas Chromatography (GC) – the 7200 series GC/Q-TOF. This development redrew boundaries of GC/TOF technology by delivering the highest detection selectivity and accurate molecular formula for structural confirmation.

The same year, Agilent completed the spinoff of its former electronic measurement business, Keysight Technologies, and was classified by Standard and Poors as a healthcare company.

Agilent Labs Key Developments

2000–2004

- First LC Chip-MS polymer microfluidic device for protein analysis
- First DNA microarray platform
- Synapsia informatics software

2005–2009

- First-of-its-kind E4898A Bit Error Ratio Test (BERT)
- SureSelect Target Enrichment System to advance sequencing
- 6220-Accurate-Mass (AM) TOF and 6520 AM QTOF LC-MS systems
- Array Comparative Genomic Hybridization (CGH) microarrays for genome-wide chromosomal analysis
- Expanded probe content for CGH microarrays
- Innovative chemistry and probe design for microarray-based microRNA profiling

2010–2014

- Inert Flow Path (IFP) components to extend GC performance
- Ion Mobility Quadrupole TOF system visualization software for precision measurement
- Microarrays for measuring coding and long non-coding RNAs together
- SureFISH probes, the next generation of fluorescent in situ hybridization (FISH) assays
- Extended chip-LC portfolio with the intro of mAb-glyco Chip Workflow improved performance and glycan analysis
- 6550 iFunnel quadrupole QTOF LC-MS system
- First GC-QTOF 7200 series
- Comparative genomic hybridization microarrays for alternative means of genome-wide screening
- GeneSpring 12.0+/ Pathway Analysis software suites for intuitive statistical data analysis and visualization
Agilent completed the acquisition of Seahorse Bioscience in 2015, an industry leader in tools for measuring cell metabolism, complementing Agilent’s leading separations and mass spectrometry solutions, in particular for metabolomics and disease research in pharma.

In 2016, Agilent introduced transformational technology for GC with the launch of Intuvo 9000 GC System, that enabled laboratories meet operational, scientific and financial goals.

In the same year, continuation of business acquisitions expanded Agilent’s offerings, with the acquisition of Multiplicom N.V., a leading European diagnostics company with state-of-the-art genetic testing technology, and products to enhance next-generation sequencing workflow capabilities. Agilent also acquired iLab Solutions, a leader in cloud-based laboratory management software that enables robust and scalable laboratory solutions.

One year later in 2017, Agilent announced the launch of the revolutionary Triple Quadrupole Mass Spectrometer (Ultivo Triple Quadrupole LC MS), which is 70% smaller than its predecessor, but with equal or better performance.

In 2018 Agilent acquired a record number of high profile businesses to expand opportunities and help customers grow, including Cobalt Light Systems, to provide state-of-the-art raman spectroscopy technology across the pharmaceutical industry, applied markets and public safety, and Advanced Analytical Technologies, Inc., to offer technology advances in genomics, metabolomics, and proteomics.

**Agilent today**

**Keeping innovation at the heart**

Agilent is a global leader in life sciences, diagnostics and applied chemical markets. With more than 50 years of insight and innovation, Agilent instruments, software, services, solutions, and people provide trusted answers to its customers’ most challenging questions.

Agilent’s culture is based on innovation; trust, respect and teamwork; and uncompromising integrity. Added to these traits are speed, focus and accountability to meet customer needs and create a culture of performance that draws on the full range of people’s skills and aspirations. Agilent is regularly recognized by external organizations for its culture as well as its practices around processes and people.

For further information about the history of Agilent visit [www.agilent.com/about/companyinfo/history](http://www.agilent.com/about/companyinfo/history)

For further information about Agilent Research Labs visit [www.agilent.com/labs](http://www.agilent.com/labs)