In the 1980s, Ricoh proactively pursued global business development. Export sales grew to account for 34.1% of the total for fiscal 1978, and operation bases were set up in new locations around the globe.

Major subsidiaries established at that time included Ricoh Electronics Inc., a manufacturing company for office automation equipment founded in California, USA, in 1979; and Ricoh UK Products Ltd., a manufacturing firm established in Telford, UK, that went on line in December 1983 to produce office automation equipment. Following expansion in North America, an earlier target region for advancement, we began to focus on Europe to build the foundations for future growth.

Ricoh UK Products Ltd. (RPL), our first manufacturing subsidiary in Europe

Norman Lamont, the then UK Minister of State for Trade and Industry (left), and Ricoh President Hiroshi Hamada announcing the establishment of RPL in October, 1983

Related website

Ricoh UK Ltd
http://www.ricoh.co.uk

Company History
http://www.ricoh.com/about/company/history/