



From the milk centrifuge to the heart of the production plants of numerous industries



GEA Westfalia Separator – Pioneer of technology

When Franz Ramesohl and Franz Schmidt registered their hand-operated “milk skimming machine” for a patent in 1893, they laid the cornerstone for a success story which has persisted until today. The globally operating GEA Westfalia Separator Group GmbH grew out of their small workshop in Oelde in Westphalia, Germany.

The interesting fact: Modern separators and decanters are still based on the same principle as in the beginning of the mechanical separation technology. Liquid mixtures or solids in liquids are separated from each other by centrifugal forces created by rapid rotation in a bowl.

Contemporary history

Immerse yourself in the fascinating world of centrifuge technology and join us on an exciting journey through the history of centrifuges!

Over 100 original machines and impressive masterpieces of engineering and craftsmanship await you on 500 m² of exhibition space. Discover the forerunners of today's high-tech centrifuges and experience how technology has shaped industry and society since the late 19th century.



History

1876

- Construction of the first usable milk centrifuge by engineer Wilhelm Lefeldt

1893

- Foundation of Ramesohl & Schmidt

1908

- Presentation of the first motorized separator

1934

- Construction of the first separator with patented double centripetal pump outlets by Ramesohl & Schmidt

1982

- Breakthrough in biotechnology with steam-sterilizable separators

1888

- Patent granted to Clemens Freiherr von Bechtolsheim for his “Alpha” disk stack separator
- Construction of the first disk separator

1895

- Ramesohl & Schmidt receives patent for spiral disk stack

1931

- Ramesohl & Schmidt receives a patent for the first self-cleaning separator

1958

- Construction of the first countercurrent extractor for the pharmaceutical industry
- Worldwide success with the “Big Sam” separator with belt drive system

2010

- Development and market launch of state-of-the-art drive technologies using frequency converters



GEA Westfalia Separator Group today

GEA Westfalia Separator Group GmbH is a company of GEA Group AG and is recognized worldwide as a technology leader in mechanical separation technology with separators and decanters. The innovative force of the company is underlined by product installations in more than 3,500 different methods and processes. The company operates globally in more than 60 countries and employs approximately 3,500 people, 1,900 of these at the Oelde site alone.



German Museum of Centrifuges

To mark the 110th anniversary of Westfalia Separator in 2003, the German Museum of Centrifuges was opened in Oelde.

Numerous original machines and the predecessors of today's centrifuges can be admired in our museum:

- Manually operated centrifuges for separating raw milk into cream and skimmed milk
- Clarifying separators for beer, wine and fruit juice production
- Nozzle type separators for starch or baking yeast concentration
- Special separators for the chemical and pharmaceutical industries
- Mineral oil separators for cleaning lubricating and fuel oils
- Scroll-type centrifuges (decanters), e.g. for waste water treatment

20th anniversary: Redesign of the museum

The German Museum of Centrifuges in Oelde has reopened after a thorough modernization. Founded 20 years ago at the GEA site, the museum now presents the history and development of centrifuge technology in a new, contemporary way.



Klaus Stojentin (CEO Separation & Flow Technologies) and the three museum curators Dietrich Bretz, Peter Schöttler, Peter Hollenbeck (from left to right)

The development of separators is presented systematically and chronologically using milk as an example. This allows visitors to understand the advancing technology and its application in the dairy industry. Using the example of the companies Ramesohl & Schmidt / Westfalia Separator, the development of separator manufacturers over time is shown, providing a unique insight into the history of the industrial companies and their innovations.

The exhibits are arranged according to different areas of application so that interested visitors can experience a clear and thematically structured presentation of centrifuge technology. The modernization will not only make the museum an informative experience, but also an important cultural anchor point for technology and industrial history.

Museum visits

You can visit the German Museum of Centrifuges at any time by appointment. Guided tours are offered both in German and English.

Visit the German Museum of Centrifuges and be inspired!

Contact

Please direct your inquiries to

GEA Westfalia Separator Group GmbH
Werner-Habig-Straße 1, 59302 Oelde, Germany
Phone: +49 2522 77-0
E-mail: deutsches.zentrifugmuseum@gea.com

Entrance prices

Adults: 5 Euros
School children and students: 2 Euros

All proceeds will be donated to the social fund of the **Emergency Aid Westfalia Separator e.V.**

