



History

This time line shows the most important events for Anoto since 1995.

1995

Christer Fåhraeus is writing his doctorate in neurophysiology at the University of Lund. At the same time the idea is born for a pen-like tool for reading text, based on advanced image processing, digital camera technology and a fast processor.

1996

C Technologies is formed. A feasibility study confirms that C-Pen can be produced at the right size and with reasonable cost. An application is made for a general patent covering a method for a wireless pen-like tool that can read text using a two dimensional sensor.

1997

The first lab prototype of C-Pen is completed. A new algorithm for real-time image processing is developed.

1998

The first prototype of a pocket-sized C-Pen is tested. Negotiations with possible partners within industry, distribution and technology licensing are started. The C-Pen is launched successfully on the Swedish market.

1999

The C-Pen is launched internationally. Anoto AB and WeSpot AB are formed as subsidiaries of C Technologies. Anoto initiates the establishment of a global de facto standard for paper-based digital communication. The intelligent camera surveillance technology from WeSpot puts them on the map as a leading technology innovation company.

2000

Anoto starts working with more partners and thus creates a platform for a global de facto standard for paper-based digital communication. The third generation of C-Pen is launched with the C-Pen 800 BT. C Technologies also presents the concept product Magic Stick (which is later industrialized in cooperation with Acer NeWeb under the trademark BzMate).

2001

Anoto delivers the first prototype system. Their partner network expands, as it now includes more than 50 leading companies within mobile phone, telecom, paper and writing instrument industries. WeSpot signs their first two agreements with industrial partners. C Technologies launches a new simpler and cheaper C-Pen (C-Pen 10). C Technologies buys Ericsson's shares in Anoto and becomes the sole owner of Anoto AB.

2002

Sony Ericsson introduces the first digital pen, Chatpen™, together with Vodafone Sweden. Logitech® puts the second digital pen, Logitech® io™ Personal Digital Pen, on the market. Anoto signs an agreement with Microsoft®. C Technologies delivers Argus totalling SEK 79 million and reports positive cash flow in the fourth quarter. WeSpot™ concludes further commercial agreements. The Group changes its name to Anoto Group AB. Hitachi and Group Hamelin invest SEK 10 million and SEK 15 respectively in Anoto Group. Anoto Group AB implements a new share issue valued at about SEK 207 million, which is fully subscribed.

2003

Nokia puts Nokia Digital Pen, the third digital pen enabling Anoto functionality on the market.

Hitachi launches the infrastructure product EPLS and Hitachi Maxell introduces the fourth digital pen.

HP presents the HP FAS, a system solution enabling forms with Anoto functionality to be printed on laser printers.

2004

Anoto initiates collaboration with Usyston in China, Standard Register in the US, and printing group Dai Nippon Printing as well as education service provider WAO in Japan. In addition Anoto presents collaboration with an unnamed partner operating in an application area which is entirely new to Anoto.

2005

LeapFrog announces FLY Pentop Computer, a new product category to be launched in the fall 2005. Anoto opens an office in Oakland, California focusing on contents and applications.

2006

During 2006 Anoto Group AB adopted a new strategy with strong focus on Forms Solutions. The organization underwent significant change to better be able to support sales and marketing. The operations in Oakland, California with focus on consumer applications was sold to a group of US investors and US management in exchange for a license agreement. The company changed name to Livescribe Inc.

The number of active forms users grew with 137 percent compared with the previous year and amounted to 52 000 users.

2007

Anoto's new strategy and organisational restructuring contributed to favourable financial and business trends during the year. The number of active forms users doubled from the previous year to 110,000. Several large orders were received; 20,000 pen licenses from Anoto's Japanese partner OMS, which develops systems for digital case notes and performs clinical trials for the Japanese healthcare and pharmaceutical sectors, a breakthrough order in the Chinese market for digital pens to be used in the labelling, inspection and maintenance of public fire extinguishers as well as an order from T-Systems in Germany for upgrading of mobile and electronic signature solutions. During 2007 Anoto and Dai Nippon Printing (DNP) in Japan entered into a license agreement covering DNP's rights to develop products based on Anoto technology and Anoto also signed an agreement with Livescribe in the United States covering Livescribe's rights to develop consumer products based on Anoto technology.

2008

2008 was an eventful year, creating positive growth and greater awareness of the Anoto technology throughout the world. During the year Anoto acquired the Hitachi Maxell digital pen division and Covelus router technology and can now offer partners complete solutions within the core businesses. Anoto also sold its subsidiary for Imaging Technology, Logipard, to ARM, one of the world's leading semiconductor companies. During the year the Anoto Qualified Solution Program and Anoto Forms Solution 1.2. was launched. Several Anoto partners launched new products based on Anoto Digital Pen and Paper technology; Hamelin's Papershow product, Livescribe's Pulse-Pen, Leapfrog's TAG reading system etc. Anoto also introduced two products of its own; Anoto penPresenter and Anoto penDocuments.

2009

Polyvision's interactive whiteboard ēno™ and the PLUS Vision Corp.'s wireless interactive panel UPIC are two consumer digital pen products that were launched. Combined with the continued success of Livescribe's Pulse pen, this placed Anoto technology in the hands of hundreds of thousands of new users worldwide.

Anoto received several large orders within the public sector, healthcare and field services.

Anoto launched a Pro version of Anoto penDocuments. This digital pen and paper office productivity solution can be immediately installed and used by a wide range of business consumers.

2010

Anoto continued to win ground in various sectors, including healthcare, field services and education. This year, for example, we saw Swiss Army care workers using digital pen and paper for field triage, and Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust in the UK saving £220,000 a year using a digital pen and paper solution. Now with a \$1.5 million order of pens for use in the Education sector, Anoto continues to reap the rewards in this field.