

IMPROVING PATIENTS' LIVES FOR 60 YEARS



1965
The company was renamed Rocket of London Ltd and began selling stainless steel instruments.

1964
Rocket Medical was founded in 1964 when Ernie Bernberg acquired Hypo Instrument Manufacturing.

Rocket Medical began life back in 1964, when Ernie Bernberg acquired Hypo Instrument Manufacturing, a UK company specialising in the sale of glass syringes for use in medicine. The company set up shop in West End Lane, London, in what is now a thriving hardware store.

As a qualified accountant, he and his business adviser quickly realised that sales were in decline, and he needed to diversify in order to grow. The business launched a range of reusable, stainless steel instruments and rebranded as Rocket of London Ltd.

This strategy was successful, and in 1970, the company moved to custom built premises in Watford, Hertfordshire, where our head office is still located today.

Sales grew rapidly, and in 1973, a new manufacturing facility was opened in Washington, Tyne and Wear, UK closely followed by a new clean room in 1974.

In 1985, Ernie's son Robi joined the business. Robi was tasked with bringing the Chest Drain bottles to market.

1973
Opened a manufacturing facility in Units 3 and 4 at Sedling Road, Washington, UK.



1970
The company relocated to custom-built premises in Watford, Hertfordshire, where our head office is still located today.

At the time Rocket was a small business, and the chest drain tooling represented a significant investment for the company, but one that paid off. The bottle became the company's fastest growing product ever and the UK market leader.

In 1989, Ernie retired and Robi became Managing Director, ensuring that Rocket could continue as a family business. Robi built upon the legacy established by his father, transforming it into the business we see today.

Injection moulding commenced at Washington in 1992. Some of the first products included forceps, and the Uripot™ and Urikone™, the latter two remaining available in the product range to this day. In 1996, Rocket of London, Ltd. became Rocket Medical Plc., in order to clearly delineate it as a medical supplier.



1989
Ernie retired and Robi became the Managing Director.

1985
Ernie's son Robi Bernberg joined the business and was tasked with bringing the Chest Drain bottles to market.

The company continued to innovate, working closely with leading clinicians in the field. This led to the development of the UK's first IVF range, together with obstetric devices such as Fetal Blood Sampling Kits and spiral Fetal Scalp Electrodes. Rocket invested in manufacturing and operations, installing extrusion capabilities and acquiring an additional warehouse to enable expansion. The company's manufacturing capabilities were recognised twice, when the company won BFA (Best Factory Awards) including Innovation and Best Small Company.

The company refocused on market expansion from the early 2000s, setting up a number of global subsidiaries, including in the US, Australia, New Zealand, Ireland and Germany.



1992
Injection moulding commenced at Washington, with some of the first products including forceps, as well as the Uripot™ and Urikone™.

1996
The company was renamed from Rocket of London Ltd to Rocket Medical plc.

2000
From the early 2000s, the company refocused on market expansion, establishing several global subsidiaries.

2002
Purchased our first extruder line and acquired Unit 2 at Sedling Road Warehouse for expansion.

2003
Acquired Hexham Tool and Mould Ltd.

Rocket® IPC was launched in 2007 and Thoracentesis in 2009. After slow growth for a few years, the IPC product line went on to become the company's biggest selling product range.

Robi Bernberg continued as managing director when Rocket was acquired in 2021, by Röko AB, Sweden. The acquisition by Röko secured the company's future and allowed it to continue to operate according to its well established method of operation.

2004
Set up the USA division in Hingham, Massachusetts. Won Britain's Best Factory award.



2007
Rocket® IPC was launched in 2007. The Apple iPhone was also launched that year. Additionally, the company won Britain's Best Factory award for the second time.

2020
Rocket built a second cleanroom to accommodate increased global demand.



2021
Majority shareholding in Rocket Medical was acquired by Röko AB, and a 20,000 sq. ft. extension was built at Sedling Road.



As of 2024, Rocket Medical has been in business for 60 years. Robi Bernberg has transitioned to Chairman, and handed the reins to Daniel J. Agustus.

2024
Rocket Medical has proudly been in business for 60 years.

INSPIRING OUR FUTURE
Robi transitions to the role of Company Chair, handing over the Managing Director reins to his successor, Daniel J. Agustus.

His advice for those who are starting out in business?

It takes a long time to grow a business and the early days may be tough. You can think of a business like a flying carpet – you have to achieve a lot of things to keep the points of the carpet up in the air – a lot of things have to be right at the same time. Teamwork is critical, and that has played a big part in the success of Rocket Medical.

Consistency in decision making is important. You need to get as many decisions right as possible, but you should never blame anyone when those decisions are wrong. A zero blame culture is essential to allow risk taking, and risk taking is important in a responsive business.

My hopes for the future are that Rocket continues to grow while retaining its unique culture. Rocket has always been a good place to work. I am a firm believer, that if we look after our people, growth will follow.