Historical Milestones

1884 Otto Schott, Ernst Abbe and Carl and Roderich Zeiss found the Schott & Associates Glass Technology Laboratory in Jena, Germany.

1889 1889 Ernst Abbe founds the Carl-Zeiss-Stiftung (Carl Zeiss Foundation).

1891/1919 The glassworks in Jena become a foundation-owned enterprise. Its sole owner is the Carl-Zeiss-Stiftung.

1900 Export share already about 50%.

1927/1930 The first subsidiaries: Farbenglaswerk Zwiesel (1927), Deutsche Spiegelglas AG (DESAG) in Grünenplan (1930), Glaswerk Mitterteich (1930).

1945 “The Odyssey of 41 Glassmakers”: After the end of World War II, American troops bring the management and selected experts from Jena to West Germany.

1948 The original factory in Jena (Soviet zone of occupation/GDR as of 1949) is expropriated and converted into a state-owned company (VEB).

1952 The foundation enterprise is rebuilt in Mainz (Federal Republic of Germany) under the direction of Erich Schott, the son of the company’s founder.
Mainz becomes the headquarters and main production site of the SCHOTT Group.

First production subsidiary outside of Germany (Vitrofarma in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil).

Establishment of production plants and sales offices in Western and Southern Europe. A sales office is opened in the U.S. (New York City). SCHOTT grows to become an international group of companies.

First sales office in Asia (Tokyo).

First production plant in the U.S. (Duryea, PA).

First production plant in Asia (Penang, Malaysia).

The Otto Schott Research Center in Mainz is put into operation.

After the reunification of Germany, SCHOTT in Mainz takes over the ownership of the old main plant in Jena.

Establishment of production plants and sales offices in Eastern Europe.

First production plant in China.

Conversion of the foundation enterprise to the corporation SCHOTT AG. Its sole shareholder is the Carl-Zeiss-Stiftung.
Technological Milestones

1884 Otto Schott develops new optical glasses and provides the scientific basis for developing specialized glasses. (1)

1884 Glass tubing for thermometer and water gauge glasses.

1887/1893 Invention of chemically resistant borosilicate glass that is able to withstand high temperatures and thermal shocks.

1894 Casting of large scale optical disks up to 140 cm in diameter for astronomical telescopes.

1895 Extremely durable cylinders made of borosilicate glass help the Auer incandescent lighting achieve its breakthrough. (2)

1908 Glass tubing for pharmaceutical ampoules, which are distributed under the brand name Fiolax® starting in 1911.

1911 SCHOTT becomes the world’s first specialized glass manufacturer to adopt continuous melting in tanks.

1914 Processed flat glasses for the household appliance industry.
Market launch of heat resistant household glasses that are marketed under the brand name JENAAer Glas® as of 1921.

Automated and continuous drawing of glass tubing based on the Danner process. (3)

Ampoules for pharmaceutical packaging.

Automated and continuous drawing of flat glass based on the Fourcault process.

Manual production of television bulbs.

Development of the first coating techniques.

Glass-to-metal seals for electrotechnology.

DURAN® laboratory glass becomes the new universal glass for the chemistry laboratory.

Fully automated production of television glass components and hollow glass. (4)

Fiber optic components for light and image guides. The main application fields are medical technology and lighting technology. (5)

ZERODUR® glass-ceramic introduces a new era of telescope mirror substrates for astronomy.
Optical glasses from SCHOTT in television and photo cameras deliver spectacular photos and television images of „Apollo 11“, when Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin become the first human beings to walk on the moon.

Market launch of glass-to-metal seals for automotive applications. (6)

Lightweight eyeglass lenses result in improvements for eyeglass wearers.

SCHOTT CERAN® glass-ceramic cooking surfaces make their way into kitchens worldwide. (7)

Market launch of PYRAN® fire resistant glass.

The first dust removal system is put into operation on a glass melting tank. In the years that follow, SCHOTT sets standards in environmental protection.

ROBAX® transparent glass-ceramic for window panels in stoves and fireplaces.

Glass tubing for solar thermal power plants based on parabolic trough technology.

Anti-reflective AMIRAN® glass for glazing shop display windows, for example.

Electronic packaging components for aviation technology.
1989  Expansion of expertise in processing flat glasses for the household appliance industry by founding joint ventures with the float glass manufacturers Glaverbel (Belgium) and Gemtron (U.S.A.). (8)

1991/1996  Manufacturing of ZERODUR® telescope mirror substrates with a diameter of 8.2 meters for the Very Large Telescope (VLT) in Chile, using the centrifugal casting process. (9)

1993  Thin glasses with thicknesses that start at only 0.03 mm help advance flat display technology.

1994  The first floated borosilicate glass worldwide: BOROFLOAT®

1996  Internally coated pharmaceutical vials. (10)

2002  SCHOTT CERAN® glass-ceramic cooking surfaces without harmful heavy metal additives.

2002  Serial manufacturing of prefillable polymer syringes.

2005  Market launch of solar receivers for solar thermal power plants based on parabolic trough technology. (11)

2007  The first floated glass-ceramic worldwide: PYRAN® Platinum

2010  German Innovation Award for environmentally friendly SCHOTT CERAN® glass-ceramic cooktop panels.

2011  Xensation® Cover Alumino-silicate glass for touch technologies. (12)