

We summarise below the most important milestones in the history of the company:

1947

Alfred Talke founds Alfred Talke Spedition in Hürth, near Cologne, with a single delivery vehicle. Even in these very earliest days of the regeneration of the German economy, vision, innovation and the careful recruitment and training of staff are the key elements that give TALKE its decisive competitive edge. The company logo at the time – the letters AT intertwined with an HGV tyre – symbolise the bond between the company and the road as a dynamic means of transport and become a familiar trademark within the industry.

1950 – 1960

The young company specialises in the transportation of acid and lye. By **1952**, Alfred Talke has already developed the first specialist transporter for acid and lye. This vehicle consists of an HGV with a container placed on top made from a former railway tank wagon, something unimaginable by today's safety standards.

1960 – 1970

Following the development and patenting of further specialist transporters in the **1960s**, the company decides to specialise exclusively in the transport of acid and lye. Led by customer demand, the size of the fleet and the number of employees expands rapidly.

1970 – 1980

Led by customer demand, the size of the fleet and the number of employees expands rapidly. In **1970**, this leads to a move from the Luxemburger Strasse site – where today a residential and office building stands – to new premises in Hürth that offer scope for expansion and where the company headquarters are still based today. The space now available on the Kalscheuren industrial estate, still in its early stages of development, enables the company to think big and to expand its portfolio of services to encompass filling and storage for the first time.

In the years leading up to **1980**, the first company branches are opened in Stade (**1972**), Ludwigshafen (**1974**) and Cologne-Niehl (**1975**). TALKE chooses sites close to its clients so as better to meet customer needs.

1980 – 1990

Already in **1985**, the company introduces TIPS (Talke's Intensive Personnel School) a training programme for professional drivers. Well over 8,000 people have completed the TIPS programme to date.

In **1987**, the first foreign subsidiary is founded in Antwerp.

In **1989**, TALKE completes the design, construction and commissioning of a logistics centre in Antwerp on a site belonging to a prestigious plastics manufacturer – the first ever outsourcing project within the petrochemical industry.

After the death of company founder Alfred Talke, responsibility for the management passes to his two sons, Armin and Norbert Talke.

1990 – 2000

The development of TALKE Logistic Services is now increasingly characterised by expansion. Thus, in the wake of German reunification, TALKE establishes a subsidiary in Schwarzheide (**1990**) and acquires Grimmener SpeziTrans. In **1995**, this is followed by the establishment of a presence in Poland. In **1997**, after founding the TALKE NEDERLAND subsidiary in Moerdijk, TALKE takes over the on-site services for another major plastics manufacturer. Shortly thereafter, in **1999**, the new multi-client logistics centre goes into operation adjacent to the existing facility, and in **2005**, this is expanded to include a container terminal for bulk goods.

2000 – present day

In **2001**, the TALKE Group's most modern logistics centre for hazardous material to date enters operation at the Hürth-Knapsack chemical industrial estate. The highest standards of safety technology and a sophisticated warehousing design lead the way in the development of subsequent facilities.

In the same year, the joint venture HOYER-TALKE Dry Bulk Logistics is founded, as well as TALKE Ukraina in Kiev. In **2003**, the logistics centre in Ludwigshafen is extended to include a high silo facility with fully automated bagging and a further 6,000m² of storage space.

The beginning of the new millennium sees TALKE setting new milestones in Europe and the Middle East. In **2003**, the company gains its first customer in Al Jubail (Saudi Arabia) – a well-known polymer manufacturer. By operating a facility for 450,000 tonnes of plastics, TALKE realises its first outsourcing project in the region. Just two years later, TALKE takes over the operation of a logistics facility for a customer in Oman.

TALKE opens the Methocel logistics centre in **March 2004** on a site belonging to its long-standing customer DOW in Stade. The new centre is a logical continuation of its close collaboration with the Stade production plant.

In recognition of his commitment to quality and safety and his credentials as a socially responsible entrepreneur and employer, Armin Talke receives the German Hazardous Cargo Award in late **2004**.

In **2005**, the commissioning of the multi-user facility on the site belonging to BASF in Schwarzheide marks the high point in outsourcing projects to date. The comprehensive integration of the two companies' SAP-based systems represents for both of them the closest connection that either has ever had with another partner.

TALKE becomes one of the first companies in Europe to implement the new SQAS (Safety & Quality Assessment System) from Cefic (Conseil Européen de l'Industrie Chimique/European Chemical Industry Council).

Towards the end of **2005**, TALKE signs a cooperation agreement with the Spanish transport company, Global Spedition. In **January 2006**, the newly founded joint venture Global-TALKE commences operation at the Bayer production plant in Barcelona. In **May 2007**, this is followed by the commissioning of a silo facility in Tarragona. In August, Global-TALKE takes over a 20,000m² logistics centre in the city.

In 2006, TALKE strengthens the Dry Bulk Logistics range of services by becoming sole shareholder in the joint venture with Hoyer. In the autumn, the company opens its first representative office in China. At the same time, Aljabr-TALKE in Sohar (Oman) takes over the on-site logistics for Oman Poly Propylene Ltd.

In mid-**January 2007**, Kerry Logistics (China) and TALKE Logistic Services sign a joint venture agreement. The two companies in the consolidated form of Kerry-TALKE Chemical Logistics share the common goal of opening up the Chinese market.

Global-TALKE starts operating the silo facility belonging to Lustran Polymers in Tarragona in **May 2007**. In August, Global-Talke acquires a 20,000m² logistics centre.

March 2008 is a date of historic significance for the TALKE-Group. In Doha, capital city of Qatar, Armin Talke and Dr Mohammed Al-Mulla, General Manager Qatofin, sign what is the biggest and most important contract for the family-run company. The agreement specifies that TALKE will build and operate the largest silo logistics centre in the Arabian Gulf.

In early June, TALKE opens its new container terminal at its headquarters in Hürth. The purpose of the terminal is to provide the chemical logistics specialists with significantly more than merely the storing and handling of containers. Over and above this, they intend to exploit the high flexibility of containers as a storage medium. The extensive on site value-added services support this approach.

Only three years after construction of the chemical logistics centre in Schwarzheide, a ground-breaking ceremony in June heralds the expansion of the logistics centre in Schwarzheide Süd.

In **September 2008**, TALKE opens its first multi-user logistics centre in the Middle East at Al Jubail (Saudi Arabia). On a site area of 100,000m², customers can avail themselves of the full range of services provided by TALKE Dry Bulk Logistics. Saudi Industrial Services Company (SISCO) becomes a partner in the ALJABR-TALKE joint venture. The company, operating under the name SISCO-ALJABR-TALKE, now features increasingly on the west coast of Saudi as a serious contender for major projects.

Shortly thereafter, the opening of the Istanbul branch marks TALKE's entry into the Turkish transport market.

In spring **2009**, TALKE completes construction of the new Liquid Logistics Centre in Zwiïndrecht (Belgium) in the heart of the port of Antwerp. The centre specialises in value-added services for liquid goods. In addition, it offers storage for hazardous materials, tank transport, transportation of packaged goods, tank leasing, storage of containers, general tank cleaning and container repairs.

For the LyondellBasell production plant in Münchsmünster, Germany, TALKE constructs a logistics centre with a two-level silo facility comprising 21 silos (each 900m³), a packaging facility, offices and break rooms as well as 16,500m² of hard standing. The project is completed in **May 2009**.