

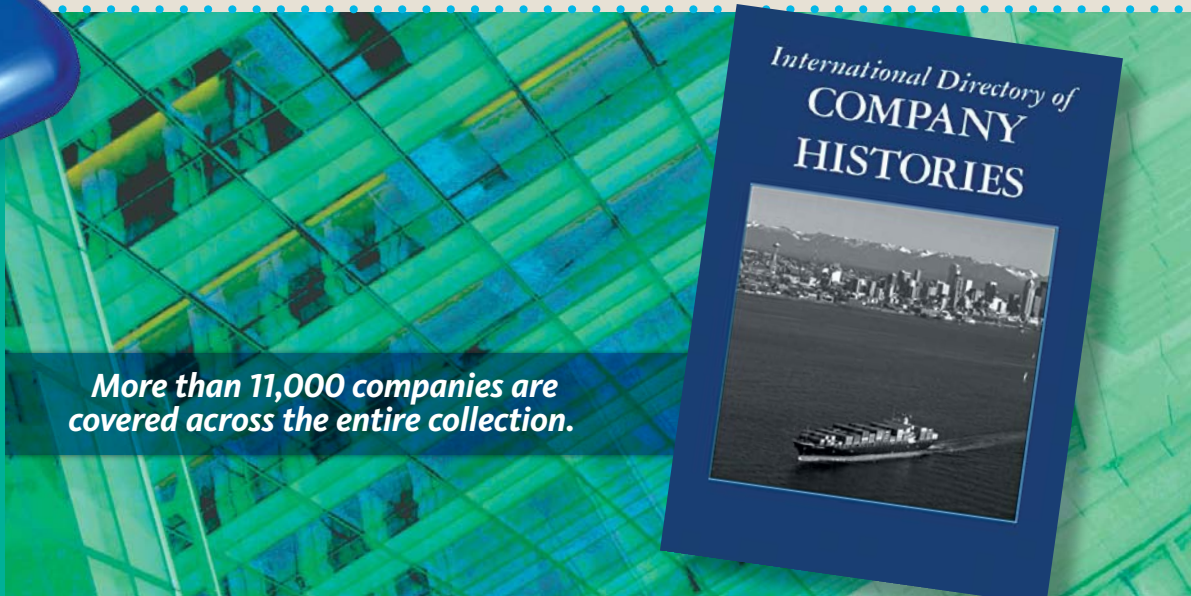


International Directory of Company Histories

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BP p.l.c.

bp

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Public Company
Incorporated 1998 as BP Amoco PLC
Employees: 107,000
Sales: \$148.06 billion (2000)
Stock Exchanges: London New York Chicago Pacific Toronto
Ticker Symbol: BP
NAIC: 32411 Petroleum Refineries; 211111 Crude Petroleum Liquid Extraction (gt); 48621 Pipeline Transportation of Natural Gas; 48691 Pipeline Transportation of Refined Petroleum Products; 42272 Petroleum and Petroleum Products Wholesale
NAIC 324151 Petroleum Lubricating Oil and Grease Manufacturing, Wholesalers

Formed by the 1998 merger of British Petroleum Company a largest oil company in the world. The company is integrated, exploration and production, operates in 29 countries and produces 10 million cubic feet of natural gas each day. BP's second segment refining, marketing, supply, and transportation. In this segment total daily throughput of 3.2 million barrels, and 29,000 service stations around the world. BP's third major segment is the production of petrochemicals—substances obtained from petroleum. BP's petrochemicals are used in a wide range of applications, including packaging, fuel additives, synthetic rubber, detergents, cosmetics, and pharmaceuticals. The company is the world's largest maker of purified terephthalic acid, a substance used to manufacture polyester and fibers and resins used in bottles and containers. The company also has growing operations in solar power.

British Petroleum: Early 20th-century Origins

BP originated in the activities of William Knox D'Arcy, an adventurer who had made a fortune in Australian mining. In 1901 D'Arcy secured a concession from the Grand Vizier of Persia (now known as Iran) to explore for petroleum throughout most of his empire. The search for oil proved extremely costly and difficult, since Persia was devoid of infrastructure and politically unstable. Within a few years D'Arcy was in need of capital. Eventually, after intercession by members of the British Admiralty, the Burmah Oil Company joined D'Arcy in a Concessionary Oil Syndicate in 1905 and supplied further funds in return for operational control. In May 1908 oil was discovered in the southwest of Persia at Masjid-i-Suleiman, the first oil discovery in the Middle East. The following April the Anglo-Persian Oil Company was formed, with the Burmah Oil Company holding most of the shares.

The dominant figure in the early years of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company was Charles Greenway. Greenway began his career in the firm of managing agents who handled the marketing of Burmah Oil's products in India. Invited by Burmah Oil to help in the formation of Anglo-Persian Oil, he became a founding director, was appointed managing director in 1910, and took the place of Sir James Gordon as chairman in 1914. The first few years of the company were extremely difficult. The company's first major oil discovery in the Middle East was in 1908.

International Directory of Company Histories, Tina Grant, ed., Vol. 110, Detroit: St. James Press, 2010, 711 pp.

About this Publication: [eTable of Contents](#) [eBook Index](#)

Title: International Directory of Company Histories
Title Grant: Tina Grant
Volume No.: 110
Imprint: St. James Press
Place of Publication: Detroit
Publication Year: 2010
Total Pages: 711
ISBN: 978-1-4144-4106-1
eISBN: 978-1-55862-773-4
Format: Directory
Frequency: Monographs
Language: English
Audience: General
Gale Subject Headings: General business; International business; Business and economic history; Business and industries; Economics; History specialties
LC Subjective: Big business-History-Directories-Business enterprises-History-Directories-Corporations-History-Directories
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