

FROM THE PAGES OF HISTORY Sommer



Photos:

1. Sommer logo, 1986.
2. The first operator, 1985.
3. Original plant, 1985.
4. Sommer plant, 1990.
5. Company founder, Uwe Sommer.
6. Sommer headquarters, 2010.

Milestones

- 1980 Uwe Sommer establishes Sommer in Kirchheim/Teck, Germany, producing Egrottronik garage door operators.
- 1987 The company introduces its new Marathon 550N (newtons), the first garage door operator with a traveling motor.
- 1990 Company growth results in a move to a new company building in Kirchheim/Teck.
- 1991 Sommer develops the Marathon 800N garage door operator.
- 1992 The company establishes subsidiaries in France and Hungary.
- 1995 A single-lane traffic-control underground swing gate operator is launched.
- 1996 Mini transmitters, radio receivers, and the solar-powered Sprint Solar GDO are added to the product line.
Sommer extends its product offering to include swing and sliding gate operators.
- 1997 More accessories are added, including a push-button transmitter, the Code Master programming tool, an integrated Sommer safety system for the Marathon and Triathlon operators, and a bike lift.
- 1998 The company launches its Sprint Deluxe operator.
Sommer establishes sales offices in England and Italy.
- 1999 Sommer launches the Funkcody Standard and Deluxe wireless keypads, a 15-channel industrial transmitter, and the Duo 650N operator.
- 2000 A new swing gate operator, the Twist 200, and the new 868 MHz radio are introduced.
Sommer establishes the Sommer Academy, subsidiaries in Austria and Poland, and the Sommer information center in Berlin.
- 2001 The product line expands to include the Somloq Rollingcode system and tubular motors and controls for roller shutters and awnings.
- 2002 The company adds the Starglider 300 sliding gate operator and the FM 868 MHz radio power socket.
- 2003 Sommer launches its universal power supply for Duo operators.
- 2004 Two more products launched: the Marathon Tiga garage door operator for high-cycle parking garages and FunkManager S, a tubular motor control board with integrated radio receiver.
Sommer purchases Groke Türen und Tore, a manufacturer of entry doors, gates, and garage doors.
- 2005 Sommer establishes a subsidiary in China.
- 2006 The company launches the Gator 800N sliding gate operator, the Telecody push-button transmitter, the Jive 200 underground swing gate operator, and the Twist XL, a swing gate operator for large and heavy gates.
- 2007 Sommer opens sales subsidiaries in the U.S.A. and Switzerland.
The company launches industrial door operators, a new generation of tubular motors and control units, the RDC 800 operator for industrial rolling doors, and the RDC Vision operators for residential rolling doors.
The Synoris garage door operator for the U.S. market receives its UL listing.
- 2008 Sommer moves into expanded headquarters with a new three-story extension for offices and production areas.
- 2009 Sommer opens new U.S. facility where manufacturing will begin.