OUR FOUNDATIONS

1687
France – Establishment of a powder factory in Pont-de-Buis, now owned by Nobel Sport

1828
United Kingdom – the Eley Hawk shotshell brand is founded in Birmingham

1878
USA – John Moses Browning founds Browning Arms Company in Ogden, Utah

1889
Belgium – Gunsmiths from Liège found the Fabrique Nationale d'Armes de Guerre, now FN Herstal

1892
France & Italy – Founding of Société Bergès, Corbin et Cie., which would later lead to the creation of Cheddite

1896
Spain – Founding of Sociedad Española de Cartuchería, from which some of Sofiam Ibérica's activities originate

1897
Belgium & USA – FN Herstal and John M. Browning partner to manufacture state-of-the-art firearms

OUR PATH TO BECOMING A GLOBAL LEADER

1900
Belgium – In addition to small arms, FN Herstal starts manufacturing bicycles, cars, and motorcycles

1929
Italy – Establishment of Martignoni, now part of Nobel Sport Matignoni

1936
France – Construction of the Bourg-lès-Valence and Anneyron ammunition factories

1938
Belgium – FN Herstal relocates its military ammunition factory from Bruges to Zutendaal

1948
Belgium – FN Herstal diversifies into aircraft and rocket engines

1953
NATO – FN Herstal plays a key role in establishing NATO-standard ammunition

1955
France – Founding of shotshell manufacturer Mary Arm

1960
Italy – Establishment of Romana Caccia (RC) and the Bornaghi shotshell brand

1965
France – Creation of Société Nouvelle des Basaltes, whose hunting and sports shooting activities would later become Sofisport

Japan – Browning joins forces with Miroku, in which the Group is now a shareholder

1966
Belgium – FN women stand up to claim equal pay for equal work, with worldwide impact

1969
Spain – Establishment of Nobel Sport Excopesa

1973
Portugal – Browning Viana is established to manufacture Browning products

France – Construction of the Clérieux ammunition factory

1975
United Kingdom – Establishment of Manroy Engineering, now FN UK

1977
USA – FN Herstal establishes a subsidiary in the United States, now FN America

1982
France – Cheddite France takes over the shotshell and component operations of Société Française de Munitions

Finland – Establishment of the optoelectronics company Noptel

Canada – Libec is founded in Quebec to produce Challenger shotshells

OUR SUSTAINED GROWTH

1998
Belgium – Acquisition of the Group by a Belgian state entity (Walloon Region)

1999
France, Italy – Via Nobel Sport, Société Nouvelle des Basaltes acquires the hunting businesses of Société Nationale des Poudres et Explosifs

2001
France – Sofisport is formed following the division of Société Nouvelle des Basaltes into three entities

2008
Belgium – The Group creates the Ars Mechanica Foundation to promote its heritage

2022
Spain – Sofisport acquires Sofiam Ibérica, including the Maxam Outdoors sites

USA – Sofisport establishes the distribution subsidiary Rio Outdoors in Texas

2024
Europe – Creation of FNX Ventures to support innovative start-ups

2025
Global – FN Browning Group and Sofisport, both world leaders in their respective fields, join forces

4,000+

WE ARE ONE TEAM OF OVER 4,000 COLLEAGUES, RECOGNISED WORLDWIDE FOR OUR WORLD-CLASS EXPERTISE

20+

OUR SUCCESS IS BUILT ON A NETWORK OF OVER 20 INDUSTRIAL SITES

9

WE OPERATE LOCAL INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES IN 9 COUNTRIES ACROSS EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

FN BROWNING GROUP

We are driving leading brands

We set market-leading standards that anticipate the needs of the most demanding defence institutions, law enforcement authorities and responsible firearm owners and hunters.