



OUR HISTORY OUR HERITAGE

Our organisation and history

Originally a family company, the business was established in 1984 by Gerrit Wassenburg and has developed into a highly-regarded specialist in all aspects of automated endoscope reprocessing. In **2002**, Gerrit passed the torch to his sons Arno and Ronald, who successfully lead the business today.

Wassenburg Medical B.V. specialises in:

- Development and manufacture of innovative washer-disinfectors; drying and conditioning cabinets; and tracking, tracing and workflow management software for the cleaning and disinfection of flexible endoscopes.
- Development and delivery of detergents, disinfectants and consumables for endoscope reprocessing.
- Services to provide successful endoscope reprocessing for the entire lifetime of your equipment.

We are constantly fuelled by our passion for innovation, the development of state-of-the-art products and designing innovative ways of doing business. These drivers keep us ahead of our competitors to fight off infection at every turn.

Wassenburg Medical B.V. is represented by subsidiaries (in the Netherlands, Belgium, United Kingdom, Ireland, France and Germany) and authorised distributors around the world.

History

In **1984**, following a number of incidents and debates revolving around the challenges of washing and disinfecting endoscopes, Gerrit Wassenburg recognised the need for a new endoscope washer-disinfector and began designing one. His revolutionary and patented concept – in which endoscope channels are individually connected, washed, disinfected, controlled and monitored during reprocessing – is still the foundation for our state-of-the-art endoscope washer-disinfectors today.

In the **1980s** it was normal practice in most Dutch hospitals to manually wash and disinfect flexible endoscopes. Automation and monitoring of the process was an important step forward and resulted in a considerable improvement in the quality of the cleaning and disinfection process. Today it is standard practice that automation and monitoring ensure a safe environment for both patient and operator.

All of our Endoscope washer-disinfectors are designed around our strong belief that thorough knowledge of the endoscope construction and its reprocessing process result in high-quality washer-disinfectors that stay ahead of their time.

Enduring customer relationships

The first WASSENBURG® endoscope washer-disinfector was manufactured in **1987** and delivered to the Tjongerschans Hospital in Heerenveen, the Netherlands. To this day, the hospital continues to use our products. Initially, WASSENBURG® washer-disinfectors were primarily supplied to Dutch hospitals.

The production of the 100th WASSENBURG® washer-disinfector in **1995** coincided with expansion into Germany, followed by expansion into the UK in **1999**.

From **2001** onwards, a number of international collaborations initiated a period of rapid and extensive growth. The collaboration with Advanced Sterilization Products, a Johnson & Johnson company, resulted in the AdaptaScope™ registration of the WASSENBURG® WD440 endoscope washer-disinfector. The opening of a new factory, office facilities in Dodewaard, the Netherlands, and the expansion to Ireland paved the way for further professionalisation of the company.

Around this time we also noticed an increasing demand for further optimisation of the endoscope reprocessing process, an echo of events two decades earlier. This time, the need centred around an appropriate drying solution for flexible endoscopes. In **2005**, we launched the DRY series, the next generation of endoscope drying and conditioning cabinets. Together with the introduction of the first asynchronous (two-basin, separately operating) pass through endoscope washer disinfector, the WD440 PT, Wassenburg responded successfully to the need for safety, optimum hygiene and efficacy for endoscope reprocessing.

In **2007** new facilities were built in Hanoi, Vietnam. With this modern production factory, Wassenburg prepared itself for a future of rapid growth.

The 25th anniversary of Wassenburg was celebrated in **2009**. This was also the year that Wassenburg Ltd was founded in the UK, to accelerate business as established by DawMed International Ltd.

The global footprint grew rapidly through the establishment of Wassenburg Ireland Ltd, Wassenburg Belgium bvba and the acquisition of Wassenburg France SAS in **2012**.

In **2013** Wassenburg entered into a strategic alliance with Hoya and became part of the Hoya Lifecare Group (www.hoya.com). This alliance has created a platform for synergy with Pentax and additional growth into new markets and segments, such as the introduction of the WASSENBURG® product portfolio into the Asia Pacific region.

In April **2014** activities shifted from machine supply towards supplying a total solution for endoscope reprocessing. To reflect this shift, the company name was changed from Wassenburg Medical Devices B.V. to Wassenburg Medical B.V. This year also saw the introduction of EndoHigh® detergents and disinfectants.

July **2016** marked the opening of the German subsidiary of Wassenburg Medical B.V. in Mönchengladbach, Germany.

In **2017/2018** we expanded our global network to Iberia (Spain and Portugal) and the ANZ region (Australia and New Zealand), both represented by dedicated Wassenburg Country Managers.

With the launch of the EndoFender®, our endoscope protection device, in **2017** and the launch of the EndoCart transport trolley in **2018**, Wassenburg has pursued its mission in becoming a total solution provider for the entire endoscope reprocessing cycle, offering **for every patient a safe endoscope**.