UL

Living Our Mission

"We are proud of our plant and very proud of the work we are doing, because, far beyond any particular interest of the underwriter which we may be serving, we are doing something for manufacturers and buyers and users and property-owners everywhere — we are doing something for humanity."

— William Henry Merrill, UL's Founder
May 1, 1913

WORKING FOR
A SAFER WORLD
SINCE
1894

OUR MISSION

- To promote safe living and working environments through the application of safety science and hazard-based safety engineering

- To support the production and use of products that are physically and environmentally safe and to apply our efforts to prevent or reduce loss of life and property

- To advance safety science through research and investigation

- To concentrate our efforts and resources on public safety in those areas where we can make valuable contributions

- To work with integrity and a focus on quality to enhance the trust conveyed by our certification marks

- To charge fair prices that allow us to meet our obligations, sustain our growth and invest in safety science and education

- To invest in our people and encourage them to invest in themselves

- To be a good example of corporate citizenship and social responsibility

LIVING OUR MISSION

UL's legacy of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) remains foundational to our mission; we have a vested interest in good corporate citizenship as embodied by the ethics, values and contributions of our employees.
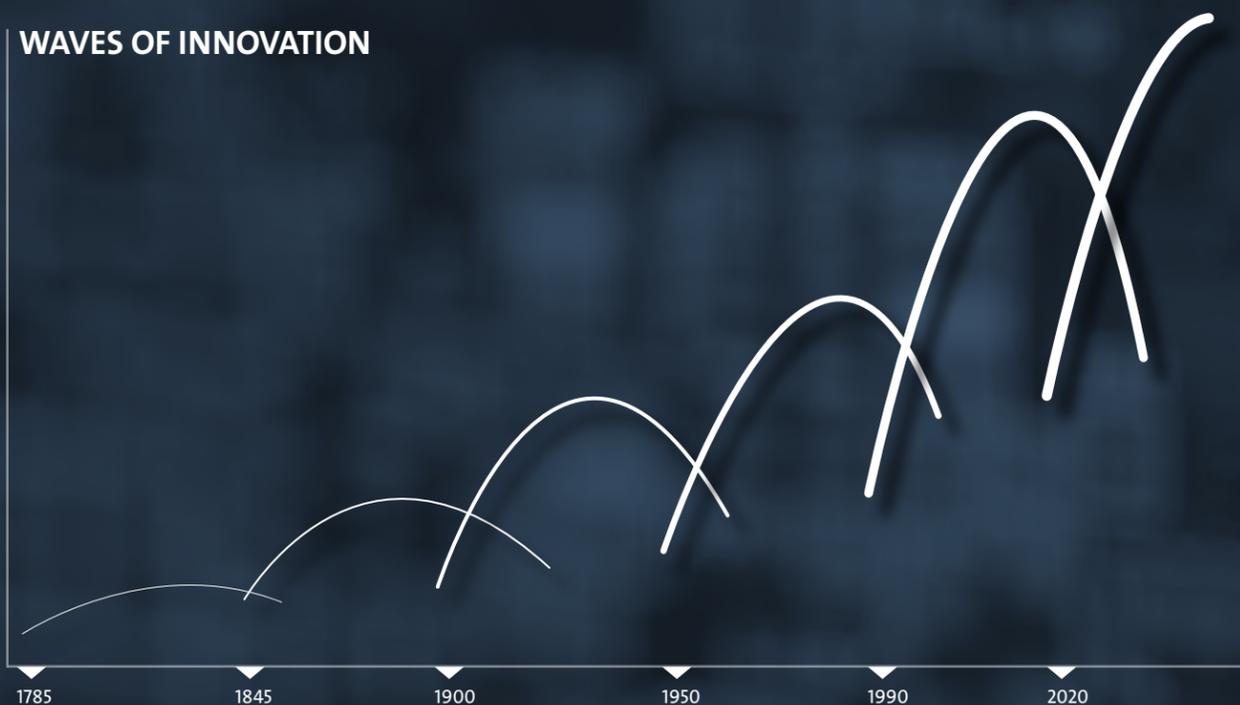
A LEGACY OF RESPONSIBILITY

Like many positive forces, it began with a simple but powerful idea. What if we could make the world safer in a way that respects people, protects the environment and promotes business?

OUR LEGACY GROWS AS THE WORLD EVOLVES

A champion of progress, UL is actively engaged in enhancing and protecting our world. Being a good corporate citizen has been part of our DNA since 1894. It fuels our living legacy — a legacy that embraces change and thrives on connection to the world around us.

Our role expands with every technical innovation and emerging market. It becomes visible with every UL Standard being developed and every time our deep knowledge and experience are shared with regulatory authorities, consumers and safety professionals around the globe.

WAVES OF INNOVATION

1785	1845	1900	1950	1990	2020

1st WAVE	2nd WAVE	3rd WAVE	4th WAVE	5th WAVE	NEXT WAVE
• Iron	• Steam	• Chemicals	• Petrochemicals	• Digital Technology	• Sustainability
• Water Mechanics	• Steel	• Internal Combustion	• Electronics	• Biotechnology	• Green Chemicals
• Textiles	• Cotton	• Engines	• Aviation	• Software	• Industrial Ecology
	• Railroads	• Electricity	• Space		• Renewable Energy
					• Nanotechnology

1894
William H. Merrill formally opens Underwriters' Electrical Bureau, the Electrical Bureau of the National Board of Fire Underwriters. UL has two employees and $350 worth of equipment.

1901
UL incorporates as Underwriters' Laboratories Inc. William Robinson joins the staff as chief engineer. The National Board of Fire Underwriters' decides to sponsor the Laboratories, broadening UL's work outside the electrical area. Merrill and Robinson build the first test furnace for doors and windows.

1903
UL inaugurates fire-performance testing, beginning with wire windows and tin-clad fire doors—workhorses of the fire-protection industry. UL publishes its first standard for safety, titled "Tin-Clad Fire Doors."

1906
The San Francisco earthquake destroys 25,000 buildings. UL helps the National Board of Fire Underwriters develop building codes.

1910
UL begins fire tests on building columns of wood, steel and reinforced concrete, launching a major area of research that changes building construction designs in the United States.

1916
UL establishes its first international office in London to inspect British products exported to the United States. UL also establishes councils for burglary protection, casualty, electrical products and fire protection.

1920
William H. Merrill founds Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada.

1935
UL introduces mobile laboratories in cars to test products.

1956
UL begins U.S. testing of European-made products, initiating major new international activity, and begins factory follow-up service in Europe with inspections carried out by European-based testing authorities.

1958
UL opens its fire-protection laboratory in Northbrook with a new floor furnace utilizing movable test frames, setting the stage for numerous major break-throughs in the development of fire-resistant designs for floor and roof assemblies in the 1960s and beyond.

1980
UL establishes an agreement with the Chinese agency CCIC to conduct factory follow-up service in China.

1986
UL opens the first UL-operated inspection centers outside the United States.

1989
UL opens Asia subsidiaries UL Inter-national Ltd. and UL International Services Ltd. and begins local testing of products in Hong Kong and Taiwan. UL operates follow-up services in 89 countries.

1992
UL is granted Certification Organization accreditation by the Standards Council of Canada and introduces a new UL Mark for Canada, the first UL Mark designated for use in a specific country outside the United States.

1996
UL establishes a full-fledged anti-counterfeiting program in conjunction with U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

2007
UL releases a groundbreaking smoke characterization study indicating that materials in today's homes burn faster, leaving building occupants less time to exit a burning building.

2009
UL expands its offerings to reflect the evolving face of safety and features five dedicated businesses focused on Product Safety, Environment, Life & Health, Knowledge Services and Verification Services.

2011
UL acquires the Quality Assurance business of STR Holdings, Inc., the largest acquisition in company history, as part of its strategy to expand its offerings to global retailing and manufacturing customers. This year UL also acquires PureSafety, the leading provider of Occupational Health & Safety software solutions.

CORPORATE
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Every day and around the world we are proud to be fulfilling our safety mission and achieving commercial success in ways that honor ethical values; respect people, communities and the natural environment; and produce an overall positive impact on society.

Heritage. Integrity. Responsibility. In an increasingly borderless world, our role as a corporate citizen expands with every technical innovation and emerging market.
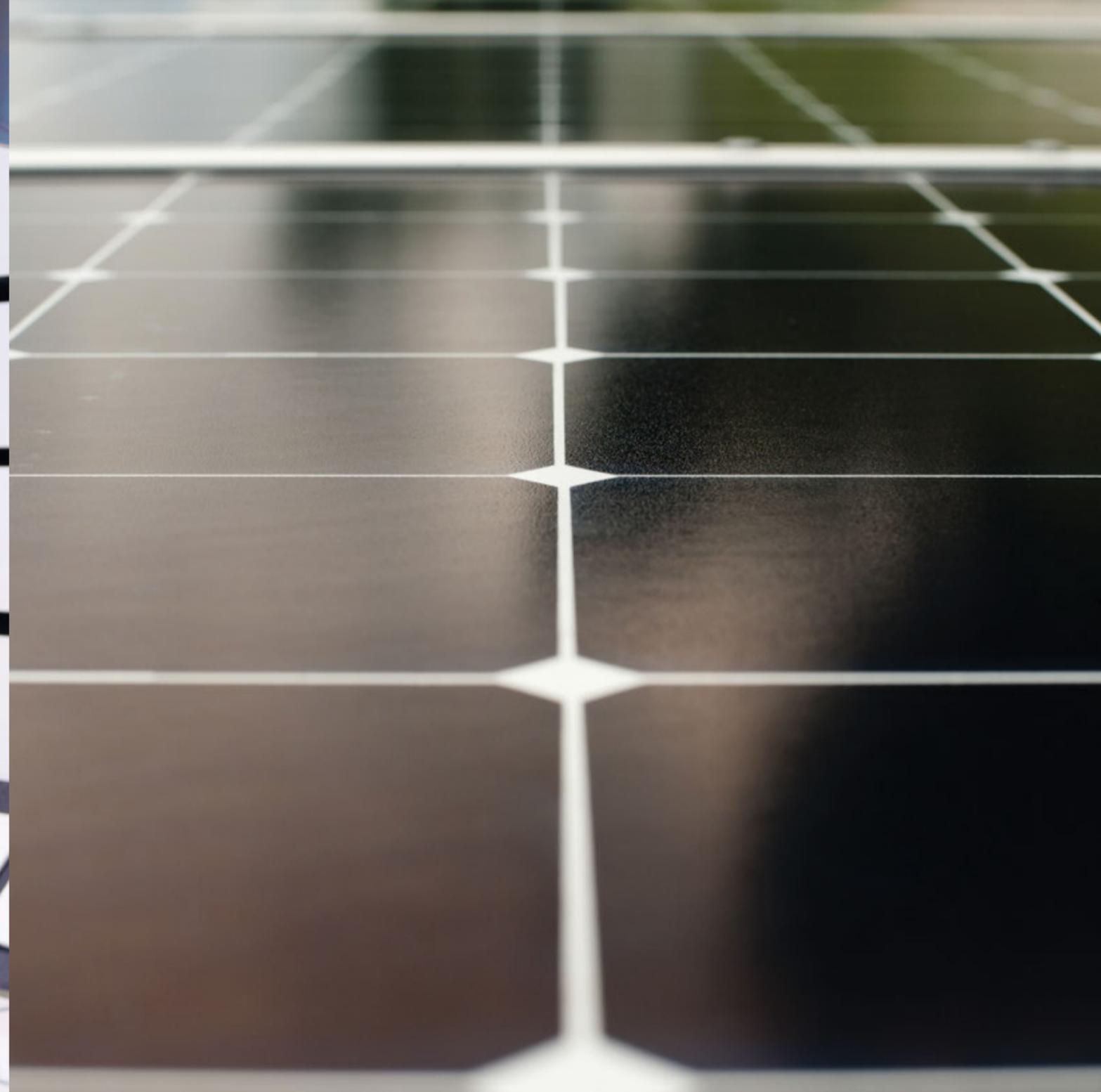
EMC Lab

PV panels

OUR PEOPLE

We consider our employees our most valued asset, and as such we offer challenging and rewarding careers, excellent working conditions, exceptional opportunities for professional and personal development, and a competitive compensation and benefits package.

OUR ENVIRONMENT

We conduct our business in a manner that respects and protects the environment. We strive to comply with all applicable environmental laws and regulations in the countries where we conduct business.

Chicago, Illinois

UL Headquarters | Northbrook, Illinois

OUR COMMUNITIES

We are committed to improving the quality of life in the communities in which we conduct our business through mission-related initiatives such as our youth safety education program and our funding of public safety research and through supporting locally relevant community initiatives and employee volunteerism.

OUR BUSINESS

At UL, our guiding principle is integrity. Since 1984, we have built our reputation for integrity and independence based on a policy of strict compliance with the law and the highest standards of moral and ethical conduct.

MISSION
PARTNERS

UL is honored to be working with our mission partners and proud of our collective ability to work together to advance a safer world.

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY TODAY

Working together, we have a more profound and lasting effect in achieving safer living and working environments.

In collaboration with Disney, UL developed the Safety Smart® Program — an initiative aimed at improving a child's awareness and understanding of safety, health and environmental stewardship. Whether it's in Disney Parks and Resorts, in classrooms, on a field trip to UL, on-line or in your own home, UL's Safety Smart® award-winning materials offer an engaging, empowering and edu-taining way to reach kids around the globe with life-critical messages.

UL serves as the safety strategic ally for FIRST® *(For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology)* and its *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC®) robotics program for high school students. UL's contributions include 2,500 employee volunteer hours as safety advisers at more than 60 events across North America; event sponsorship and mentoring of local *FIRST* teams; judging at the *FIRST* regional and championship levels, including the judging of an annual safety animation award; and providing media and marketing support to *FIRST*. UL is committed to be the *FIRST* safety partner through 2015.

CITIZENSHIP IN ACTION

As active citizens in action, our employees shepherd our corporate mission on a local level by fostering safety and goodwill in communities, schools, natural environments and businesses around the world. UL employees are a vital extension and the lifeblood of our ongoing commitment to CSR.

CITIZENSHIP IN ACTION

Sponsor, Chicago Botanic Garden World Environment Day

Earth Day

Global Green Teams

American Heart Association Wear Red Day

UL Safety Smart Programs in Countries Around the World

Safety Smart Super Challenge Events at Schools

Student Tours of UL Facilities

Safety Ambassador Materials in 17 Languages

UL's Youth Safety Community

Solartastic Youth Educational Video

Fire Safety Day in Universities

Safety Smart in the Water! Program

Police and Fire Night at U.S. Cellular Field

Fire Safety Day at Citi Field

Charter Legacy School Program

National Consumers League LifeSmarts Program

Michael J. Miller Scholarship Program

National Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee Scholarships

UL Changing Lives Annual Giving Campaign

Corporate Giving Grants to Charitable Organizations

Contributions to Mission-Related Not-for-Profits

Contributions to Community-Focused Not-for-Profits

Disaster Relief Efforts Throughout the World

Sponsor, the Arc Flash Research Project

Sponsor, the Minute of Safety Float

Member, the Disney Planet Challenge Advisory Board

Judge, the Future Competition and Awards

Blood Drives in Several Corporate Offices

Food, Clothing, Toy and School Supply Drives

Volunteer, Local Food Banks and Homeless Shelters

Judge, Local Engineering and Science Fairs

Member, Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition's Steering Committee

UL Safety Smart Goes Green Program

Chicago Botanic Garden's Corporate Roundtable

Hong Kong Caring Company

Sponsor, Museum of Science and Industry Science Storms Exhibit

Supporter, American Red Cross Team Firestoppers Program

Participant, Habitat for Humanity Build Days

Revamp of a Head Start School Outside San Diego

Environmental Cleanups

Pro Bono Legal Services, Association of Corporate Counsel

International IP Crime Investigators College With INTERPOL

Host, Fourth Annual International IP Crime Conference

National Children's Safety and Health Survey

Partner, Indian Institute of Technology

Strategic Alliance With State Grid Electric Power Research

Sponsor, Research Study at the Center for Corporate Citizenship at Boston College

Sponsor and Coordinator, ANSI's World Standards Day

Global Voices Employee Survey

Supporter, Code Development in ICC and NFPA

Attended 520 Authorities Having Jurisdiction Meetings

UL Fire Wizard (Access to UL Certification Information)

Safety Messages for Moms

Third Annual Consumer Holiday Safety Campaign

Italian Consumers Study on Perception of Green Products

Commit a Minute for Safety

Research on Safety Measures at Home in Mexico

Sponsor, ASEAN Safety Summit

Supporter, Community Safety and Wellness Event