





50
years
1955-2005



Over the past 50 years, FMP has grown to be one of the region's leading manufacturers, producing more than 13.1 million brake parts each year.

We attribute our company success to our dedicated employees, the development of excellent products and manufacturing processes, and a strong customer base.

FMP also plays an important role in the Australian economy, supplying products to seven out of every 10 vehicles on Australian roads, and as a leading exporter of automotive components for more than 30 years.

With more than 520 employees, FMP plays an integral role in the Ballarat community through both

employment and the provision of support to local groups and organisations.

FMP is proud of its history and will continue to be proactive, introducing new products and services to ensure it remains a leader in the global brake industry.

We invite you to join us as we celebrate this important milestone.

A.W. Stone
Managing Director



1955 - 1965



- British friction material company BBA establishes an Australian manufacturing plant in Ballarat, called Mintex Ltd.
- The Ballarat site is preferred over locations at Sydney and Melbourne. The land and buildings appear suitable, as do various other incentives offered to encourage industry outside the metropolitan area.
- The site is strategically located for the supply of automotive components.

- The site — a former Commonwealth Government explosives plant erected in World War II — is bought for 13,000 pounds. It consists of a number of buildings, giving a total of 14,000 square feet.
- The plant produces brake linings for a variety of vehicles in Australia.

- During 1955, the first employees from BBA UK start to make their way to Australia. The movement of key employees extends over a two-year period.
- The manufacturing plant begins with 30 employees at the Elizabeth St site it remains at today.

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1955 - 1965



- The Bendix Corporation of the USA acquires 51 per cent ownership of Mintex Pty Ltd. As a result, on October 14, 1963, Bendix Mintex Ltd comes into existence.
- In 1965 Bendix Mintex starts to manufacture disc pads. In the same year, the first original equipment contract is won to supply GMH with brake linings for the Holden.

- During the mid-1960s, a service block is built, using new boilers to provide process steam and factory heat.
- Additions are also made to the office block, while extensions are carried out to the factory to house the newly purchased Bendix oven, compression moulded roll machine, benders and ancillary equipment.

- A unique position now exists where two large overseas competitors — Mintex, a British specialist in the manufacture of friction materials — and the Bendix Corporation — a large, diverse American company producing a very wide range of products, including friction materials — are joined in partnership in Ballarat, Australia, to produce friction materials.

1966 - 1975



- Bill Anderson is in his first year as general manager of the company. Over the next 15 years he guides the company to market dominance.
- Bendix Mintex begins exporting its products in the late 1960s.
- Bendix Mintex moves outside normal wholesale distribution to deal directly with service stations.

- In 1967, the company receives an original equipment order to supply the Chrysler Valiant with Mintex M33 disc pads.
- In the same year, Bendix Mintex becomes the sole supplier of brake linings to GMH.
- In 1969, a decision is made to establish a distribution warehouse in Sydney.

- In 1970, the company decides to manufacture its own backing plates.
- Bendix Minitex buys the clutch facing manufacturing sector of H.J. Porter Ltd in 1971, and the rights to "Thermoid" clutch facings, truck blocks and truck brake linings. This addition is significant as H.K. Porter has a considerable number of equipment contracts for clutch facings.

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1966 - 1975

Bendix

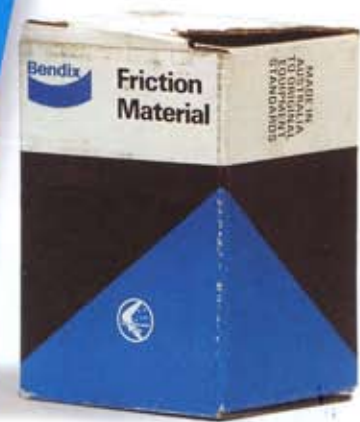


- In early 1972, another significant development comes to fruition when the first of a number of home-built "Troika" presses goes into production. This new press concept was conceived, developed and produced by Bendix Mintex and quickly becomes the sole method of manufacture of all disc pads produced by the company for the next seven years.

- As a result of using the Troika presses, the company reinforces its standing as a leader in the manufacture of automotive friction materials.
- In 1975, a Bendix distributor is established in Singapore to develop sales in South East Asia.
- The company is moving forward in the 1970s as a result of its realignment and revitalisation during the 1960s.

- During the 1970s it was realised that because of the relatively small Australian market, further growth could only be achieved by looking at new markets beyond the Australian shoreline. Exports prove to be of immense importance in the years to come.

1976 - 1985



- During the mid 1970s, export volumes increase, with expansion into Singapore and Thailand as marketing efforts in these regions increase. As a result, a distribution warehouse is established in Singapore in 1979.

- The Bendix product is sold under various brand names and the introduction of a new material which creates a mid-priced product to suit a niche market is not only highly successful in the US but also domestically.

- Towards the end of the 1970s, the company expands once again and actively chases export opportunities, particularly in North America.
- The company supplies Repcoparts, which sells directly into Canada.

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1976 - 1985



- In 1980 Bill Gribble is appointed general manager, following the retirement of Bill Anderson. Mr Gribble serves in this role until 1988 and also becomes chairman of Bendix Mintex in the same year.
- By 1980, the workforce has grown to 308 employees.

- In 1981 the Bill Anderson Memorial Social Centre is opened. It later becomes the company's training and briefing facility.
- In the same year, Bendix Mintex receives an award for Outstanding Export Achievement from the Australian Government.

- In 1985 construction of a \$1 million warehouse begins. It is designed to cater for the booming export market and general increases in domestic sales.
- Bendix Mintex supplies friction material for GMH Commodore.

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1986 - 1995



- In the early 1990s, a purpose-built laboratory is established to test disc pad brakes and truck drum brakes. This allows a team of internationally-respected and accredited engineers and technicians to test brake materials under simulated working conditions and applications.

- The Australian Automotive Aftermarket Association names Bendix Mintex Manufacturer of the Year in 1993.
- The company also gains Ford Q1 Quality Certification and PBR Automotive QP102 Quality Certification.

- By 1994 there are more than 800 employees.
- Access to global technology, a heavy ongoing investment in research and development, along with aggressive marketing at home and abroad, result in a wide product mix noted for its quality and reliability.

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1986 - 1995



- In 1986 a new tool room is complete. It accommodates the expanded needs of the department.
- A year later, in November 1987, the new administration building in Latrobe St is officially opened by Peter Heinz.
- In 1986 Bendix Mintex introduces the Total Quality Control practice into the workplace.

- By 1988 work has begun on a new two storey building in Elizabeth St to house a canteen, change rooms and new administration offices.
- In the same year Bob Jackman takes over as general manager from Bill Gribble.
- In 1989 Bendix Mintex is a finalist in the Australian Export Awards. Bendix is exporting to more than 40 countries.

- In 1992 Bendix Mintex gains recognition under the Australian Best Practice Demonstration Program, receiving a substantial grant to assist in implementing workplace reform.
- In the same year, a fine blanking press is installed. The press produces better quality backing plates for disc pads.

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1996 - 2005



- In the mid-1990s, the company has the only fully-equipped noise analysis laboratory in the region. This means Bendix's ability to detect, analyse and treat squeal and other brake noises is unsurpassed.
- The provision of brake pads for the 1998-99 Chevrolet Malibu was the first significant contract to North America.

- In 1999, Ian Addison is appointed managing director.
- A new range of non-asbestos products is introduced to meet the specific applications of clientele, including the 4WD Europack, Protrans CV Linings and Premium.

- In 2002 Bendix Mintex Pty Ltd. decided to relinquish its name because of its connection to a former parent company. It takes the name FMP Group (Australia) Pty Ltd — Friction Materials Pacific.

1996

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50
years
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1996 - 2005



- In 2002 Tony Stone is appointed managing director.
- The initial process of combining and mixing raw materials for the manufacture of friction materials is automated at the end of 2003.
- By December 2003, the company has entirely phased out the use of asbestos in its products, as required under Australian law.

- A new range of friction materials is implemented to replace the former asbestos-based materials. This presents a huge period of change for the company.
- FMP and Caledonian Primary School take out top honours in the SeeMores Workplace Challenge — organised by Workplace K.I.D.S — by raising \$11,500, the highest amount in the state.

- FMP is improving efficiency and flexibility through plant layout changes and the introduction of new technologies. This is improving the company's competitiveness by reducing costs and product turnaround time.
- Fifty years on, FMP is proud of its products and stands by its promise to deliver high-quality friction materials to the automotive industry in Australia and overseas.

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