

# HALDA WATCH Co 1887

S W E D E N

## FACT SHEET – the Halda Watch Company

**1887** – The Halda Watch Company is founded by Henning Hammarlund in Svängsta, Blekinge in the south of Sweden. Henning Hammarlund was educated at Geneva Academy of Horology in Switzerland, the most prominent school for watch manufacturing in the world at that time. The Halda Watch Company is the first watch manufacturing facility in northern Europe.

**1889** – The first Halda pocket watch leaves the factory. The price is equivalent to seven months salaries at that time. It takes ten months to produce and the production process includes about 3,000 different production elements and testing.

**1893** – The Halda Watch Company is awarded a gold medal at the World Exhibit in Chicago in competition with the best watch producers at that time.

**1896** – Launch of the Halda Tele-timer, a never before seen method for timing phone conversations. One of the customers was the Swedish telecom company LM Ericsson.

**1897** – His Majesty the Swedish King Oscar II is presented with a unique pocket watch from the Halda Watch Company. The King's portrait is engraved at the back of the watch-case.

**1900** – The Halda Watch Company passes the milestone of 6,000 watches manufactured.

**1902** – Launch of the Halda taxi meter, which rapidly becomes a export success. In the beginning of the century, the Halda taxi meters are the only approved taxi meters in the city of London.

**1914** – Launch of the Halda typewriter, an imminent success on the Scandinavian market.

**1918** – Due to the war, the demand for exclusive pocket watches declines dramatically leading the bank to withdraw the loans from the Halda Watch Company and put it up for liquidation. The factory is shut down on Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> that same year.

**1920 to 2008** – The fascination for mechanical products and the innovative entrepreneurial spirit on which Henning Hammarlund once founded the Halda Watch Company, successively creates a base for several other successful companies. Among these companies are ABU (Aktiebolaget urfabriken) that manufactures high-class fishing gear, Halda Trancometer AB, which produces taxi meters and Haldex AB, a manufacturer of gearboxes and the mechanism behind FWD.



Henning Hammarlund



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Halda pocket watch, 1903



Chicago world exhibit gold medal



Engraved portrait of King Oscar II

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**2009** – The legacy of Henning Hammarlund and the Halda watches is passed on to Swedish engineer and entrepreneur Mikael Sandström. Following Hammarlund's example of a profound enthusiasm for innovative engineering that never compromises with quality and function, Sandström sets out to present the world with a watch never before seen. He collects a team consisting of pioneering engineers, renowned watchmakers and astronaut Christer Fuglesang.

In August, the first prototype of the pioneering watch is tested in space onboard the Discovery during the NASA STS-128 mission.

**2010** – World premiere of the first modern Halda watch, the *Halda Space Discovery, Limited Edition* at the international Basel Watch Fair. Featuring a revolutionary watch concept with the Time Platform and the two interchangeable Time Modules, one a high beat mechanical movement and the second an advanced electronic watch, it is designed to fit any situation from space to a high society event.

*Halda Space Discovery* is awarded a placement within the Swedish pavilion of the World Expo 2010 in Shanghai.

**2011** – The *Halda Space Discovery* is featured as part of the 'NASA – A Human Adventure' exhibition world premiering at the National Museum of Science and Technology (Tekniska museet) in Stockholm in late January. On February 17<sup>th</sup>, the first *Halda Space Discovery*, out of the limited series of 128 watches, is delivered to astronaut Christer Fuglesang.



Halda Docking System



Halda Space Discovery



Astronaut Christer Fuglesang