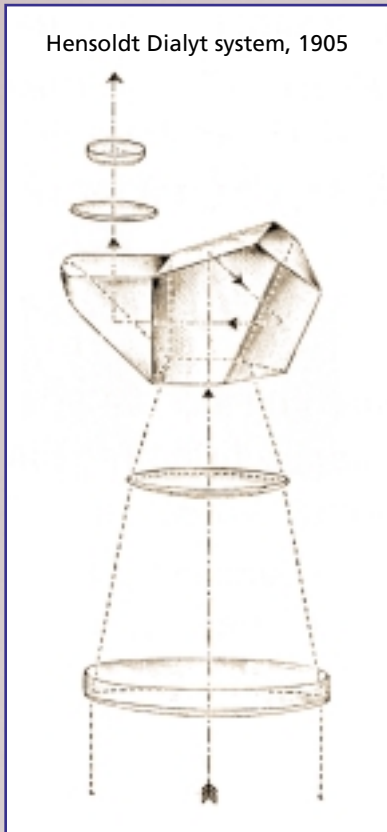


150 Years of Hensoldt

Who does not know the name "Dialyt"[®] – a byword for high-performance binoculars of the highest quality? However, who knows that the story of this legendary prism binocular began in Wetzlar, Germany, in 1905 and that this was the first binocular in which roof prisms were used to erect the upside-down, inverted image produced by the objective lens?



This small town on the Lahn river in the heart of Germany where Goethe wrote the famous "Sorrows of Young Werther" during his law studies at the Imperial Supreme Court was the domicile of the "Optische Werke Moritz Hensoldt & Söhne". In 1865, Moritz Hensoldt moved his workshop from Sonneberg in Thuringia to Wetzlar. With its microscopes, binoculars and surveying

instruments, the successfully growing company greatly contributed to the reputation of this region as the second most important center for the development and production of opto-mechanical top-quality products in Germany after Jena at the beginning of the 20th century.

In 1896, his sons Waldemar and Carl joined the company as partners. In addition to the manufacture of binoculars, rifle-scope production became a special field where the company excelled. In 1922, the company was listed as a stock corporation which was acquired by Carl Zeiss in 1928. Since 1964, Carl Zeiss has concentrated its binocular and rifle-scope production at Hensoldt AG in Wetzlar. In 1991, the new "Illumination Systems for Microchip Fabrication" business unit was set up. In the ten years since the founding of this unit, sales have risen from € 1 million to € 100 million.

In March 2002, Hensoldt AG celebrated its 150th anniversary. In the anniversary year, the company employs a workforce of approx. 800, making it one of the most important employers in the region. Three divisions currently form the pillars of business at Hensoldt AG: the Carl Zeiss Sports Optics Division (binoculars and rifle-scopes), Hensoldt System Technology (resulting from a merger of the military optics operations of Leica and Hensoldt) and the Illumination Systems for Microchip Fabrication. The company which is now a 100% subsidiary of Carl Zeiss is currently recording sales totaling € 150 million and a positive operating result.

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Figs 1 and 2:
Hensoldt's Dialyt system dating back to 1905 and today's version: Victory 12 x 56 BT*

