

BP is one of the world's largest oil and gas companies, supplying millions of customers in more than 100 countries across six continents. Our business segments are Exploration and Production; Refining and Marketing; and Gas, Power and Renewables. Through these business segments, we provide fuel for transportation, retail brands and energy for heat and light.

Our commitment is to provide energy to customers now and in the future in a safe, sustainable and environmentally responsible way. BP strengthened its commitments to these principles in 2006.

BP history at a glance

1909	1920s-1930s	1922	1954
The company is incorporated in England as the Anglo-Persian Oil Company Limited. The incorporation focuses on the commercialization of Masjid-i-Suleiman in Iran, the first commercial oil discovery in the Middle East.	The Anglo-Persian Oil Company Limited becomes the pre-eminent oil producer in the Middle East. The company enters into international marketing in continental Europe, Africa and Australia.	After eight years of majority share ownership, the British government begins offering ordinary shares of BP stock for sale to the public.	The company name becomes The British Petroleum Company Limited. Marketing activities extend to New Zealand, parts of Africa and more countries in Europe. A consortium agreement for Iranian oil gives BP a 40% stake.
1969	1978	1987	1989
BP enters North America with its discovery and major share of the Prudhoe Bay oil field on Alaska's North Slope. This leads in the following year to BP's taking a sizeable interest in Standard Oil of Ohio.	BP gains a majority interest in Standard Oil. The company acquires the chemicals and plastics interest in Europe of Union Carbide and, in 1979, of Monsanto.	Privatization of BP shares is completed. Following periodic public offerings of a minority of its shareholdings over the previous 65 years, the British government disposes of nearly all its remaining shares. BP acquires the remaining 45% shareholding in Standard Oil, which becomes a wholly owned subsidiary of BP.	New frontier exploration strategy signals a shift in BP's focus to areas of major opportunity and future investment choices.
1997	1998	2000	2002
In response to mounting evidence and concern regarding greenhouse gas emissions and the rising temperature of the earth, BP becomes the first in its industry to state publicly the need for precautionary action on climate change.	BP merges with Amoco, becoming one of three leaders in the oil and gas industry. The merger gives the combined companies the opportunity to compete through a highly distinctive set of people, assets and market positions.	ARCO joins the BP group in a \$34-billion transaction that provides coast-to-coast coverage of the US fuels market. BP's acquisition of Burmah Castrol strengthens BP's market-facing business with one of the world's great brands.	Acquisition of Veba's retail and refining assets in Germany and central Europe makes BP the market leader in Germany and Austria. BP markets under the Aral brand in Germany.
2003	2004	2005	2006
TNK-BP, the joint venture between BP and AAR (the Alfa Group and Access-Renova), operating in Russia, is finalized. The venture gives BP a 50% stake in one of the world's great hydrocarbon provinces.	BP announces plans to sell Innovene, comprising its olefins and derivatives business and refineries in Grangemouth, UK and Lavéra, France, while retaining its aromatics and acetyls business.	BP sells Innovene to UK-based INEOS for \$8.3 billion cash. BP Alternative Energy, a new business dedicated to generating low-carbon power from wind, solar, hydrogen and gas sources, is launched. A major explosion and fire occur at BP's US Texas City refinery.	The BP-operated Azeri-Chirag-Gunashli and Shah Deniz gas projects start up in Azerbaijan. First oil is lifted from the 1,768-kilometre BP-operated Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline linking the Caspian and Mediterranean seas. BP sets up a new biofuels business, including a partnership with DuPont to develop, produce and market a new generation of biofuels.