

# Sharp's century of innovation

The ¥389 billion (\$3.5bn) takeover of Japanese electronics giant Sharp by Taiwan's Hon Hai Precision Industries – better known as Foxconn – ends independence for the 100-year-old company which started out making belt buckles and mechanical pencils

**1915**

Sharp's founder **Tokuji Hayakawa** invents **Ever-Ready Sharp Pencil**, which is origin of company name

**1929**

Sharp replaces crystal set – only one person can listen using headphones – with **Dyne Vacuum-Tube Radio**. Horn speaker allows group to listen together

**1962**

Sharp begins mass production of microwave ovens. **R-10** oven introduces general public to concept of **flameless cooking**

**1925**

Sharp makes history in assembling Japan's very first crystal radio set. National broadcasts begin same year, ensuring success of product

**1953**

Sharp's **Model TV3-14T** debuts, Japan's first television, priced at ¥175,000 (a graduate can earn ¥64,800 per year in 1953). TV transmissions are limited to 4 hours per day with just 866 viewing households nationwide

**1964**

Sharp launches world's first all transistor-diode electronic desktop calculator

**2010**

Sharp introduces **3D LCD TV** which uses four-primary-colour LCDs – RGB plus yellow

**2015**

Sharp debuts **AQUOS UH30 4K Ultra HD TV**. Android TV with 80-inch (203cm) diagonal screen lets viewers play games, watch shows, and listen to music

**2000**

Sharp launches first camera-equipped mobile phone. 110,000-pixel **J-SH04** allows users to e-mail photos

**2009**

Sharp releases **DL-L60AV LED lamp**. Remote controller allows colour of light to be changed

**1973**

**EL-805 pocket calculator** is world's first commercial product to use **Liquid Crystal Display**. Sharp forms LCD directly on glass circuit board onto which other electronic components are mounted

