

Global Footprint

With over 180 years of construction and innovation expertise, Volvo CE is at the forefront of technological development. For us, the latest technology is not just nice to have, it's essential to stay competitive and secure long-term profitable growth. Intense research and development work are carried out at Volvo CE's R&D centres and manufacturing facilities worldwide. Dedicated work teams use the Volvo Production System, a unique production philosophy that uses highly advanced technologies and techniques to ensure Volvo's quality standards.



WORLD-CLASS EXCAVATORS

The legacy behind Volvo's performance excellence





Åkerman gradually expanded its product range and by 1985, more than 10,000 units of hydraulic excavators had been delivered to customers all over the world.



Volvo has more than 180 years of technical know-how and 75 years of excavator experience to develop some of the world's finest earth moving machines.

With a history that can be traced all the way back to 1832, Volvo CE is one of the true pioneers of the construction equipment industry. Through its introduction of world famous innovations such as wheel loaders and articulated haulers, Volvo CE has revolutionized the construction equipment industry.

The history of Volvo's excavators is closely linked to that of Swedish company Åkermans Gjuteri och Mekaniska Verkstad, founded in 1890. The company started out manufacturing equipment such as pumps and grinders and later moved into construction equipment. Åkermans' first excavator was built in 1939, the 8 ton Åkerman 300 rope-shovel model became an instant success and marked the start of the company's international expansion.



Åkerman 300



Volvo EC210

Focused on excavators

Over the following years, the excavator business gradually developed and by 1956, Åkermans was specialized only in this product line. During the 1960s, the company introduced its first hydraulic excavator and these machines helped make Åkermans the most successful engineering company in Sweden during the 1970s.

Åkermans' engineers continued to develop high quality and high performance excavators and in the 1990s the company was brought into the Volvo family. Åkermans' experienced engineers were now tasked with developing excavators under a new brand, Volvo.

Asian footprint

In 1998, Volvo CE expanded its excavator business and established an Asian industrial footprint through the acquisition of Samsung's Construction Equipment Division in Korea. Following this acquisition, Volvo added more than 180 years of industrial experience and Åkermans' long-running legacy in European excavator design. This was combined with a strong focus on quality, safety and fuel efficiency and so began the development of a new generation of excavators.



Volvo also invested heavily into the Korean manufacturing plant in Changwon, harmonising it with the company's global standards. The first two Volvo models from the facility, the EC210 and EC240, were launched in 1999 and the Volvo hallmarks of quality, safety, productivity and fuel efficiency were immediately apparent.

Larger range of machines

Volvo CE also utilized technology and know-how from its other product lines, like wheel loaders and articulated haulers – both world leaders and with state-of-the art product features. Volvo's unique expertise in these areas contributed to the outstanding fuel efficiency, productivity and cost of operation of the new excavator range.

Over the years, Volvo's excavator range has been continually growing in size to match the growth of its hauler equipment – machines are available from 1.5 to 90 tons. The most recent addition is the 90 ton Volvo EC950E excavator launched in 2016.

Still uncovering new ground

Volvo is world-renowned for its commitment to safety. Within the context of excavators, that means protecting both operators and those around them.

Volvo also works closely with its customers to constantly develop new features to bring down their total cost of ownership. The innovations introduced by Volvo to its excavators include: automatic engine shutdown and auto-idle functions for fuel efficiency; load-sensing hydraulics for reduced power consumption; ergonomic and intuitive controls for better operator productivity; and wide-opening hoods for safe and easy access to components during servicing.

Global Milestones

1832	Johan Theofron Munktel started his company	1966	Åkerman launches hydraulic excavators
1844	Bolinder Brothers started their company	1991	Åkerman became a part of Volvo CE
1889	Åkerman started as a company	1998	Volvo CE acquired Samsung Construction Equipment
1927	Volvo was founded	1999	New generation of excavators with Volvo technology launched
1932	Bolinder's and Munktel's companies merged to form AB Bolinder-Munktel (BM)	2001	B Series excavators launched with Volvo engines
1939	Åkerman introduced its first excavator	2011	D Series excavators launched with improved fuel efficiency
1950	Volvo acquired Bolinder-Munktel	2014	E Series excavators launched with Tier 4 final engines
1956	Åkerman specialises in excavators		