



MRI Global was founded as the not-for-profit Midwest Research Institute on June 17, 1944 by Kansas City-area business leaders to support industry, provide jobs and advance scientific knowledge.

This visionary and community-minded cadre of leaders determined that a research facility could help the region find ways to retain workers whose jobs were vanishing due to farm mechanization and the loss of the military manufacturing industry.

MRI Global's story is one of humble origins, but marked by steady expansion as the organization addressed challenges of ever-increasing scope and scale and complexity. MRI Global's reach and solutions now have global impact.

On June 17, 1944, Midwest Research Institute was incorporated.

1944

Incorporated as **Midwest Research Institute**.



1945

Old Westport Fire and Police Station is converted to a modern laboratory for 33 employees.

1955

New building at 425 Volker Blvd., Kansas City, Mo., is occupied.

It's 1950; staff count is 128 and research volume is \$638,000.

1957

Deramus Field Station is donated by the Deramus family.



Staff has grown to 273 and research volume reaches \$3,211,000.



1960

Two additional wings are added to the Kansas City headquarters.



1977

The organization begins management of the new **Solar Energy Research Institute**, later renamed **National Renewable Energy Laboratory**, in Golden, Colo.



1982

A venture group is created to commercialize inventions. **Expansion and growth** continues.



1995

New **state-of-the-art** laboratory for human subject studies is developed.



1999

Through acquisition, a **Florida Division** in Palm Bay is added.



1940s

First major project:

Find a way to keep **ammonium nitrate fertilizer** from caking, for Spencer Chemical Co. (Succeeded in 1946, allowing the conversion of the Jayhawk Ordnance Plant to peacetime use.)



Synthesized and screened organic compounds for use in the fight against **cancer**.



Developed a **bactericide** that could be sprayed safely into the air to help control contagious disease.

Soil stabilization for barnyard lots, improving cleanliness while avoiding the need to pave them.



1950s

Bananas, coffee & candy :

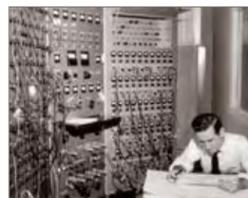
Early in the decade, our scientists **isolated a bacterium** causing blight in Central American banana crops. This organism had never before been identified or classified.



For J. A. Folger & Co., developed soluble coffee and equipment that could automatically make and dispense hot coffee, a forerunner of today's **auto drip coffeemakers**.



Perfected the coating process for M&M® candies, developing a machine that could coat 3,300 pounds of chocolate centers every hour.



Operated a special-purpose **analog computer** to analyze data for clients and designed and built a **printer for digital computers**.

1960s

1,000th client:

In 1963, **Ideal Cement Co.** of Colorado becomes the organization's 1,000th client.

Project leader is Dr. John Nebgen, who as a student was one of the first KC Science Fair winners. As a community service, the organization managed Science Pioneers, which sponsored the Science Fair.



Established a Regional Economics Laboratory, which **analyzed and projected regional income, population, productivity, and trade**.



Developed the total plan for construction of the **Kansas City International airport**.



Studied **drug addiction and marijuana detection**.

1970s

Protecting the planet:

In 1972, the organization won its largest single contract to date: **\$2.8 million for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**. Service as the analytical laboratory for the **U.S. Environmental Toxicology Program** also began in 1972.



Conducted popular **quality-of-life studies** on various U.S. cities.



1980s

Renewable energy:

Following the energy crisis of the 1970s, **renewable energy, including wind, solar, hydrogen, and biomass**, receive national attention.



Staffed **solar desalination pilot plant** in Saudi Arabia.



Conducted studies for the **National Cancer Institute** on the safety and toxicity of **drugs used to treat cancer and AIDS**.

Engineered lightweight **thermoelectric cooling devices** for U.S. Army aircraft to cool flight personnel while operating in tropical and desert climates. This technology **earned an R&D 100 Award** and was used in **Operation Desert Storm**.



1990s

Human health:

The 1990s' focus was health. **Disease prevention and treatment** studies included analysis of cancer and AIDS treatments, smoking cessation, and lead exposure in children. Conducted research on new pharmaceuticals.



For NASA, invented a **thermoelectric cooling system** to cool astronauts in the bulky suits they wear upon departure and re-entry.



Conducted studies of the effect of **electromagnetic fields** on humans.

For the U.S. Army, helped with **destruction of chemical weapon stockpiles and remediation**.



Introduced the **SpinCon® air sampler** for monitoring contaminants in the air. It was used in late '90s to monitor urban air for rubber tire fragments as a possible cause for increased prevalence of asthma in children. It was later added to a bio-agent detection system placed in post offices nationwide.

2002

A laboratory in Rockville, Md., is added to serve the **round-the-clock bioanalysis** needs of the **federal government**.

2003

Additional expansion and growth occurs as the **Frederick, Md., office** is added to provide advanced consultation in biological threat prevention and procedures.

2004

Growth comes with a new field station in Butler, Mo., and **expansion of the Florida facility**.

2000s

National defense:

Events of September 11, 2001, propelled national defense programs to the forefront.

Biological sensors and monitors are tested in our **bioaerosol chamber**.



Working with pharmaceutical clients, a new **Automated Plate Replication System** is deployed to dispense small quantities of samples for screening purposes.

The organization begins management of **bioanalysis labs** in the **Pentagon** and at **several military sites**. This leads to the **Guardian** project to help **protect 200 military installments worldwide**.

Kansas City and Rockville facilities receive **ISO 9001:2000 certification**.



Engineers develop an automotive fuel tank to store **absorbed natural gas fuel** in a smaller, low-pressure tank that can be mounted under the floor of a car.

The U.S. Department of Defense awards a contract to provide support services for defense of **chemical and biological threats**.

2008

The organization launches the **Solar Technology Acceleration Center (SolarTAC)**, one of the world's largest solar test and evaluation facilities.

The **Center for Integrated Algal Research** is created, focusing on algae as biofuel.

As one of two partners in the **Alliance for Sustainable Energy**, a new contract continues a 30+ year relationship as management contractor for **NREL**.

2009

Michael Helmstetter, Ph.D., is promoted to President and Chief Executive Officer.

LEED Certification is awarded for the renovation of the Kansas City headquarters and laboratory facilities, demonstrating energy and water savings, and commitment to a more suitable environment.



Scientists focus on to **vaccine development** to help the country respond to biowarfare threats.

The organization develops the next generation of **chemical weapons detection technology** to be used in the field, such as a **portable gas chromatograph**.



The ScanEagle unmanned air vehicle is modified to look for **biological warfare agents** as part of a program funded by the **Defense Threat Reduction Agency of the Department of Defense**.

A **humanoid robot is developed** to test protective gear against chemical exposure, ultimately to protect U.S. troops.

PATH selects the organization to **advance the development of influenza vaccines**, supporting worldwide pandemic influenza preparations.

2011



The organization adopts a **new identity** – MRIGlobal – which reflects the **global impact** of the solutions delivered in Research and Development, Test and Evaluation, and Operations and Management.

With world-class expertise in science, engineering and program management, MRIGlobal solves increasingly complex challenges facing clients in government, academia and industry.

MRIGlobal delivers innovative technology-based solutions with global impact.

With approximately 3,000 staff, the annual research volume exceeds half a billion dollars.

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MRIGlobal delivers global technology-based solutions in national security and defense, energy and environment, life and animal sciences, agriculture and food safety and transportation.

MRIGlobal's research and engineering contributions advance knowledge and improve our world.

