

■ CREATION

During the First World War (1914-1918), the Old Continent saw much suffering, colossal human losses and widespread material destruction.

In the framework of the rebuilding of France, the Compagnie Générale des Eaux decided to create a “**subsidiary company for the execution of pipeline and plumbing works, all pipeline works** and the retrocession of all water and similar business concessions.” **SADE** (Société Auxiliaire des Distributions d'Eau) **was created on 1 October 1918** with the aim of supporting water distribution services and companies.

Soon after, in 1919, SADE set up an in-house Design Office, which provided its design, building and maintenance support for distribution networks and drinking water supply.

■ REGIONAL EXPANSION IN FRANCE

Further to the registration of its Rouen branch with the Business Register in October 1918, SADE expanded throughout France and opened in Lyon and Arras in 1919, Nevers in 1934, Bordeaux in 1967 and in the South-East in 1978, thus ensuring the company's nationwide reach.

Between 1950 and 1960, the company created two new specialist departments, one in drinking water treatment and the other in the depollution of waste and industrial waters.

In 1976, SADE developed its telecommunications activity, which eventually led to the creation of the SADE Telecom entity in 2008.

In 2014, SADE created two new Departments (Major Projects France and Nuclear Business Activity) to address specific markets.

SADE sold its Telecom business in 2020.

■ INTERNATIONAL ROLL-OUT

On an international level, things all started in 1967 when SADE was entrusted with a design study for water and wastewater treatment networks in Bayda, the future capital of Libya. However, the political context in the country led to the abandonment of the project.

The launch of international business activity took shape between 1968 and 1970, with the creation of a joint venture allowing SADE to tender for and build water and wastewater treatment networks in Abu Dhabi.

In parallel, the Rouen Regional Division won an initial worksite in Belgium in 1969-1970, prior to SADE setting up there.

Over the course of the 1980s, SADE won other contracts in Gabon and Vietnam. At the same time, business opportunities were under study in Cameroon and the Central African Republic. These projects came into being between 1970 and 1980, alongside the development of activities in Burkina Faso (the former Republic of Upper Volta), Niger, Senegal, Gambia and Liberia.

In 2011, SADE completed one of its biggest international projects, Aftout Essahli, to supply drinking water to the Mauritanian capital, Nouakchott, from the Senegal river located almost 200km to the south of the city.

Over the years, the company has expanded to China, Central and Latin America, and has strengthened its positions in Europe and West Africa.

■ SADE TODAY

SADE is a reference player in the field of networks (water and energy) and infrastructure (civil engineering and underground works). With more than 7,000 employees, it has a permanent foothold in 11 countries and operates projects in 5 other countries.

At present, having celebrated its 104th anniversary, the company is renowned for:

- **Its expertise in networks and infrastructure**
- **Its knowledge of industrial and public environments** and its ability to adapt to their requirements
- **Its comprehensive range** from design to building
- **Its innovative technical solutions**, based on digital developments (BIM by SADE)
- **Its references** from major clients and relevant professional qualifications
- **Its commitment to risk prevention, safety and CSR.**