

MEDIA RELEASE

Olle Larsson, Medela founder, has passed away

Olle Larsson, the founder of medical device manufacturer Medela AG in Baar, Switzerland, passed away peacefully in his sleep on 13 July. He was nearly 90 years of age.

Olle Larsson arrived in Switzerland in 1955, a freshly minted engineering graduate from Sweden. He founded Medela AG in 1961, distributing products such as a breast pumps designed by friend and fellow engineer, Einar Egnell. In 1980, Olle Larsson first developed his own breast pump, the Classic. A great success and for decades recognised as the industry standard, the Classic laid the cornerstone for Medela's rapid growth.

Olle Larsson was a tireless innovator, a creative engineer, a courageous entrepreneur and a visionary. He inspired everyone around him. He was also hands-on, making sure his ideas were implemented – even turning them into the first great Medela products. Under his leadership, Medela produced many innovations, becoming the leading breast pump brand and a signature of quality worldwide.

In 2001, Olle Larsson passed on the leadership of Medela AG to his son Michael, who has continued to pursue his father's vision and is the Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Headquartered in Baar, Switzerland, Medela manufactures its products in Steinhausen (Zug, Switzerland) and McHenry (Illinois, USA). Across its two business units, Human Milk and Healthcare, the company today has more than 1,700 employees in 19 subsidiaries worldwide. Medela products are sold in 100 countries.

In all his actions, Olle Larsson was guided by his values and destiny statement – to promote the well-being of mother and baby through the life-giving benefits of human milk. This principle still guides Medela today, which is why Medela products improve the lives of millions of families every year.

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