Medicom was founded in 1988 to help meet healthcare professionals' urgent need for medical gloves at the height of the HIV epidemic.

Operating under various brand names (Medicom, Ritmed, Kolmi, Weesafe, Ocean Pacific and Hedy), the company has since grown to become a leading global manufacturer and distributor of high-quality, single-use infection control & prevention products for the medical, dental, industrial, animal health, laboratory, retail, and health & wellness industries.

Its subsidiaries include Medicom SAS in France, Medicom GmBH in Germany, Medicom Asia in Hong Kong and United Medical Enterprise in the United States.

In 2021, Medicom reinvested in the decommissioned Arjowiggins factory in Bessé-sur-Braye, between Tours and Le Mans, to establish ManiKHeir – France's first factory producing single-use nitrile gloves for healthcare institutions and sensitive industries.

NEEDS & CHALLENGES

CONTEXT

The project involved redeveloping the brownfield site formerly occupied by the ArjoWiggins paper group. The objective was to build a factory producing single-use nitrile gloves for the medical and food industries, at a cost of €88 million – including €22 million for the 45,500 sqm industrial site's design, demolition and construction. 30,000 sqm required demolition work. The new factory provides a total floor area of 17,500 sqm, including 8,000 sqm refurbished.

PROJECT

The site, inaugurated on 18 April 2024, has four "industry 4.0" production lines with a total capacity of more than 900 million gloves a year. It has already recruited more than 150 employees since June 2022. This re-industrialisation project reflects Medicom's CSR objectives by promoting site redevelopment, job creation, minimal soil sealing, optimised energy use and wastewater processing to ensure responsible water stewardship.

TECHNICALS CHALLENGES

Redeveloping the industrial brownfield, the client needed technical advice to establish a process that was unique in Europe – under challenging deadlines. The integration of BIM to manage the interface between the process and the building meant that delivery deadlines could be met, including the construction of a 23-metre-high concrete frame equipped with an overhead travelling crane. Thanks to this approach, the production area was handed over in just five months.

KEY FEATURES

Cooperation with ManiKHeir's process engineering department enabled us to jointly design the building and water treatment system. We assisted the client in analysing two alternate solutions, as part of a design contract that also covered all the administrative procedures relating to applications for environmental and urban planning authorisations.



GSE'S EXPERTISE AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

PROJECT SPECIFICS

With a view to responsible re-industrialisation, ManiKHeir – MEDICOM group, uses a manufacturing process without chlorine or accelerating agents – which are harmful to the environment and to the health of both employees and users. The production is designed to be water-efficient, thanks to an integrated water treatment plant (STEP), avoiding the risk of pollution. ManiKHeir - MEDICOM group has also invested to reduce energy consumption – notably thanks to low-emission burners – and to recycle industrial waste. For a lesser environmental impact, much of the building and road material was crushed on site and the roof has a low-albedo PVC membrane.

FRANCE / BESSÉ SUR BRAYE, NEAR TOURS

MANIKHEIR - MEDICOM GROUP

Redevelopment of an industrial brownfield into a factory producing medical, dental and industrial equipment.








HUGUES BOURGEOIS
MEDICOM GROUP – MANIKHEIR, HEAD OF STRATEGIC PROJECTS,

"France has long depended on South-East Asia, particularly Malaysia, for its supplies of medical gloves. It became crucial to establish this industry in Europe. GSE's support enabled us to secure our local production of medical gloves, reducing our dependence and stabilising costs."