

# CompanyFile



When Hurricane Katrina struck the southern states of the United States, the Swedish King and the Swedish government immediately sent condolences and offers of sympathy and support. These were not just empty words. Swedes were quick to spring to action and were soon ready to send off equipment for water purification, emergency power generation and telecommunications. However there did not seem to be any takers on the American side, and Ericsson temporary cell-phone network components, that could have restored telephone communications in the ravaged area in no time, and other equipment remained on standby in a Hercules plane in Sweden.

By now things are largely under control and it is time for a major clean-up. And now Sweden has a form of presence through the company Munters, for which Hurricane Katrina is the largest disaster event so far.

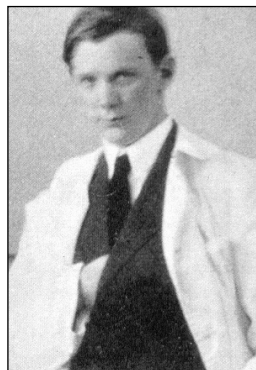
One of the high-profile jobs in New Orleans is the Notarial Archives where Munters is saving thousands of important public records, books and photos and other historic paperwork. More than 20 truckloads of documents have been retrieved and sent for air drying or vacuum freeze drying and then cleaned to remove mold and residue from the flood waters. The New Orleans Arena has also been dehumidified and cleaned up by the company as have several hotels, schools and federal buildings.

Katrina, Rita and the earlier flooding incidents in Switzerland and Austria added incomes of SEK 110 million to Munters' bottom line.

With a network of 30 company-owned offices across North America, and the world's largest fleet of restoration equipment, Munters is equipped to handle any size job attending to any emergency, large or small. Teams are dispatched around the clock ready to handle preliminary activ-

ities such as pumping and vacuuming water, removal of debris, stabilizing buildings and bringing temporary power and climate control. Dehumidifiers with supporting equipment and manpower take care of the building and its contents and prevent mold growth.

The company pioneered the water damage recovery business nearly two decades ago. With over 30 000 successful disaster recovery projects, Munters is the world leader in this field. The group was previously organized in three regions - Europe, Asian and the Americas, but has now been reorganized in three global divisions:



(Above left) Munters CEO Lennart Evrell and (above right) Carl Munters. (Below) Munters at work in New Orleans and (top) the awesome power of Hurricane Katrina



Dehumidification, Moisture Control Services (MCS) and HumiCool (that eliminates mist in, for instance, inlet air to gas turbines).

The company is headquartered in Stockholm and has 3 064 employees in 30 countries. Munters, that is listed on the Stockholm Stock Exchange, had a turnover of SEK 4 543 million last year. It is the only company in its field that is ISO 9001-2000 certified and as a result can provide a written standard and guarantee.

The founder of Munters, Carl Munters (1897-1989) was a successful inventor and entrepreneur. When he died at the age of 92, he left behind more than a thousand patented inventions. One of the most spectacular inventions and the one he is most famous for, was what became the Electrolux fridge without any moving parts, in which "cold was generated using heat", hence making it accessible to everybody, which Munters invented with Baltzar von Platen.

The technology, of the products and services, that the company that bears his name is based on, is the result of Carl Munters' extensive research in basic principles of heat and humidity transfer. The inventor's initial idea was to develop an air-conditioning system based on the use of evaporative cooling and dehumidification.

Shortly after Carl Munters retired from active management in the early 1970s, Munters was acquired by the Incentive Group. During the 1970s, the expansion was continued into new markets through subsidiaries and licensees. The company changed its strategy at the end of the 1970s as some of the patents began to expire. The range of products and applications was gradually extended and the distribution was expanded to most parts of Europe, North America and Japan, largely through licensing arrangement with third parties.

Most of the licensees were acquired in the 1980s. A global moisture control service business (MCS) was started in 1985. In the 1990s, Munters expanded and became an international group with its own organization in 25 countries and manufacturing in over 14 countries. The business was centered around the Humidity Expert theme. Munters AB was floated on the Stockholm stock exchange in 1997. The CEO of the company is Lennart Evrell.