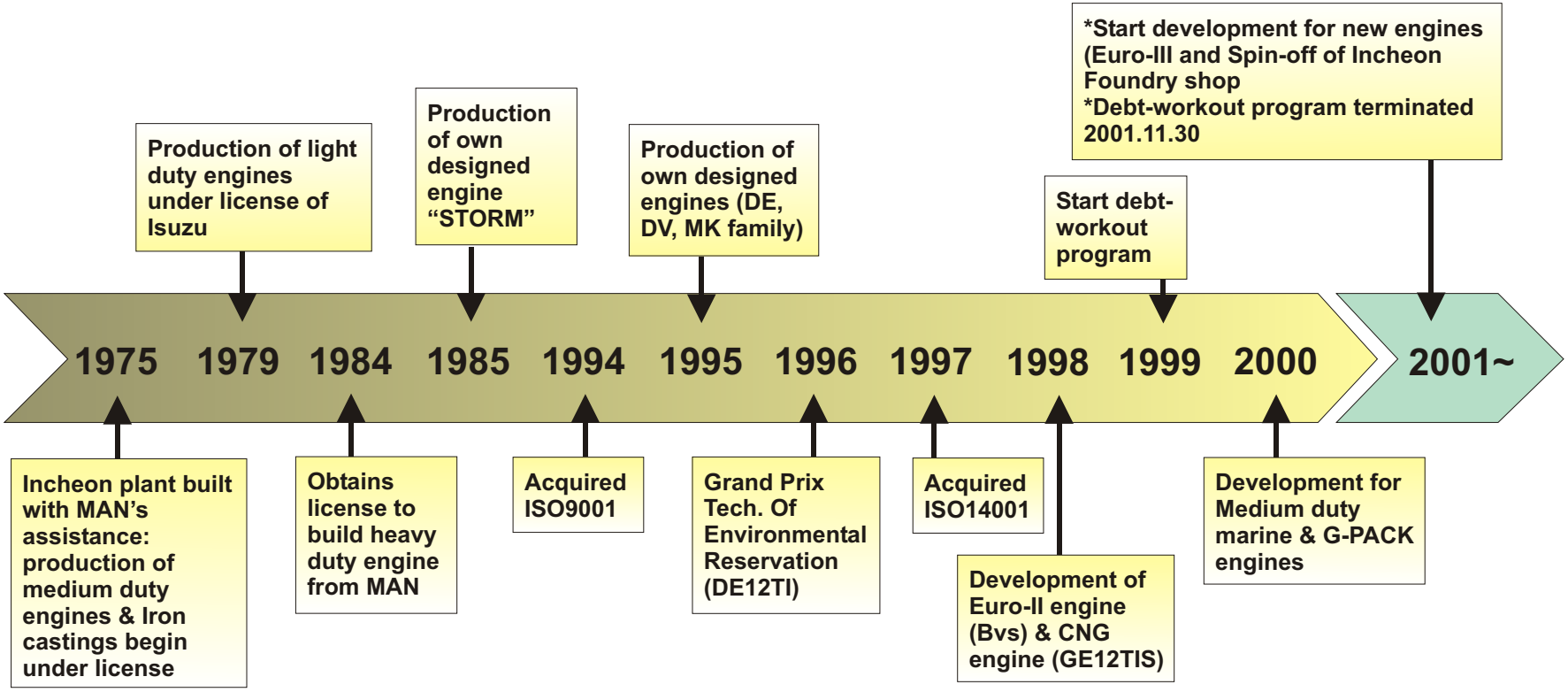Background on EMD