

Key Dates in Wireless Communication

TIMELINE

- >> **1895:** Guglielmo Marconi successfully transmits wireless signals at his father's country estate in Italy. He was subsequently awarded the world's first patent for a system of wireless telegraphy (England, 1896). Among Mr. Marconi's many accomplishments, he in July 1897 formed The Wireless Telegraph & Signal Company Limited, transmitted in 1901 the first wireless signals across the Atlantic, and patented his horizontal directional aerial (1905) and a "timed spark" system for generating continuous waves (1912). Mr. Marconi was awarded The Nobel Prize in Physics in 1909.
- >> **1939:** George Stibitz and Samuel B. Williams at Bell Labs, introduce the first remotely operational, electronic relay calculator. The name of this calculator was Bell Labs Model 1.
- >> **1973:** The first public telephone call is placed on a portable cellular phone.
- >> **1978:** Payment transaction company Hypercom is founded in Australia; begins developing card payment terminals featuring a single line display.
- >> **1979:** Visa introduces the first electronic dial terminal at the point-of-sale, allowing for faster transactions. This leads the way to electronic data capture (EDC) point-of-sale terminals, which virtually eliminate the time-consuming process of paper deposits.
- >> **1983:** Motorola introduces the "DynaTAC 8000X," the first portable cellular phone to receive FCC type acceptance, with an initial retail price of \$3,995.
- >> **1984:** Psion introduces the PDA and it becomes the first digital organizer. It was just a bit larger than a pack of cigarettes and had 10k of character storage.
- >> **1987:** Cellular telephone subscribers exceed one million.
- >> **1994:** Jeff Hawkins invents the PalmPilot™.
- >> **1996:** Palm Computing introduces the PalmPilot™ 1000 and PalmPilot™ 5000 that led the revolution in hand held computing.
- >> **1998:** Research in Motion introduces the first handheld wireless Blackberry™.
- >> **2006:** Hypercom introduces the first palm-sized 32-bit mobile wireless card payment terminal for true anytime, anywhere electronic payments, and the first such terminal capable of contactless payments.

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Sources include: Nobel Lectures, Physics 1901-1921, Elsevier Publishing Company, Amsterdam, 1967, Wikipedia, Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc and various other publicly available information sites on the Internet.

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www.hypercom.com

World Headquarters:
Hypercom Corporation: 2851 West Kathleen Road | Phoenix, Arizona 85053, USA.
Tel: +1.602.504.5000 | Fax: +1.602.504.4655

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