

Timeline

- 1835** Samuel Morse invents the telegraph.
- 1876** Alexander Graham Bell invents the telephone.
- 1880** *Scientific American* magazine runs an article about the possibility of distance vision (television).
- 1884** German scientist Paul Nipkow invents the optical scanning disk used in mechanical television systems.
- 1887** Heinrich Rudolph Hertz discovers radio waves.
- 1895** Guglielmo Marconi develops a wireless or radio telegraph.
- 1897** German scientist Karl Ferdinand Braun develops the first cathode ray tube.
- 1900** Russian scientist Constantin Perskyi coins the term “television” at the Paris World’s Fair.
- 1900** David Sarnoff immigrates to the United States from Russia.
- 1901** Guglielmo Marconi sends and receives radio signals across the Atlantic Ocean.
- 1907** Russian physicist Boris Rosing designs an electronic television receiver with a cathode ray tube.
- 1911** Boris Rosing and his assistant, Vladimir Zworykin, achieve the first successful transmission of crude television images, using a mechanical transmitter and an electronic receiver.
- 1912** The Radio Act of 1912 allows the U.S. government to issue licenses to people who wish to broadcast signals over radio waves.

- 1912** David Sarnoff, working as a telegraph operator, claims to have received distress signals from the sinking luxury oceanliner *Titanic*.
- 1919** The Radio Corporation of America (RCA) is formed.
- 1921** American inventor Philo T. Farnsworth, age 14, has a vision of an all-electronic television system.
- 1921** Commercial radio broadcasting begins in the United States.
- 1922** Philo T. Farnsworth explains his television system to his high school science teacher.
- 1923** Vladimir Zworykin applies for a patent on an all-electronic television system.
- 1925** Vladimir Zworykin demonstrates a TV system for his bosses at Westinghouse, but they decide against funding further TV research.
- 1926** Philo T. Farnsworth gathers investors and opens a television research laboratory in San Francisco, California.
- 1926** The National Broadcasting Company (NBC) is formed as a radio network.
- 1926** American Charles Francis Jenkins and Scotsman John Logie Baird independently invent working mechanical television systems.
- 1927** Philo T. Farnsworth builds his all-electronic TV system and successfully transmits an image.
- 1927** The Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) is founded as a radio network.
- 1927** Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover appears in the first long-distance transmission of television signals, between Washington, D.C., and New York City.
- 1927** The Radio Act of 1927 first mentions broadcasters' duty to serve the public interest.
- 1928** The U.S. government issues the first permits for experimental TV stations.