History Activities Coordinator — Martin J. Bastiaans

The History Activities Coordinator is assisted by Tony Davies, Past History Activities Coordinator (2013–2020), until his passing away on 22 March 2025, and the current or past IEEE History Committee members Antonio Savini (2022–2025), Evgen Pichkalyov (2022–2023), Mathini Sellathurai (2024–2025) and Sergei Prokhorov (2022–2025).
The team can be contacted via history@ieeer8.org.


Martin


Tony † 22-03-2025


Antonio


Evgen


Mathini


Sergei

Please check our webpages **Region 8 History Activities** and **History of IEEE Region 8** on a regular basis.

A. Focal points for 2025

- **IEEE Milestones**, see http://ieeemilestones.ethw.org/IEEE_Milestones_Program

  The IEEE Milestones program honors significant technical achievements in all areas associated with IEEE. It is a program of the IEEE History Committee, administered through the IEEE History Center. Milestones recognize the technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity found in unique products, services, seminal papers and patents. Milestones are proposed by any IEEE member, and are sponsored by an IEEE Organizational Unit, such as an IEEE Section, Society, Chapter or Student Branch. After recommendation by the IEEE History Committee and approval by the IEEE Board of Directors, a bronze plaque commemorating the achievement is placed at an appropriate site with an accompanying dedication ceremony.
- **Documenting the history of Region 8 Sections** at the Engineering and Technology History Wiki, see https://ethw.org/

  The Engineering and Technology History Wiki (ETHW) is a wiki-based platform that allows IEEE members and Organizational Units to collaboratively preserve and share their history (including, for instance, the history of individual IEEE Sections). ETHW hosts the Milestones, Oral Histories, and Archives programs, and also allows IEEE members to contribute to Wikipedia-style topic articles or to preserve their own first-hand histories.
- **Region 8 history book**, available at https://ethw.org/w/images/a/a6/R8_history.pdf

  The book *A short history of IRE Region 9 / IEEE Region 8* presents a history of IEEE Region 8 spanning its origins from the IRE Region in Europe, through the IRE/AIEE merger forming the IEEE and subsequently to the present day Region 8 consisting of Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. Included are personal reflections of past directors, committee meetings and conferences, student activities, award recipients from Region 8, and Region 8 history papers presented at HISTELCON 2012. A number of archival documents are attached as appendices, including ephemera and minutes from early Region 8 Committee meetings.
  The table of contents of the book has been added at the end of this report for easy reference.
- **Miscellaneous**
  - **HISTELCON 2025** took place in **Bonn**, **Germany**, **30 September – 2 October 2025**. See below under **D. Events** for more information.
  - *History of IEEE since 1984* is a wiki webpage that is currently in progress. Contributions from Regions 7–10 are very welcome, otherwise the book may be too USA-dominated.

B. Recent Milestone dedications in Region 8

- **Szczecin, Zielona Góra, Poland – Frankfurt, Germany**, *Long distance electric power transmission using three-phase alternating current*, 1889–1912 #272 (66)
  Dedicated **9 June 2025** Szczezin, **10 June 2025** Zielona Góra – IEEE Poland Section
  Dedicated **12 June 2025** Frankfurt am Main – IEEE Germany Section
  The world's first long distance (175km), high voltage (15kV), highly efficient (75%) electric power transmission of 300 horsepower using three-phase alternating current (AC) was demonstrated at the 1891 International Electrotechnical Exhibition by Oskar von Miller, German-Bavarian consultant; Michael Dolivo-Dobrowolsky, Allgemeine Elektricitäts-Gesellschaft (AEG), Germany; and Charles Eugene Lancelot Brown, Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon (MFO), Switzerland. This Lauffen-to-Frankfurt demonstration directly influenced the eventual worldwide dominance of electric power transmission using three-phase AC systems.
- **Grenoble, France – Agrate Brianza, Cornaredo, Catania, Italy**, *Integrated circuits for satellite digital radio*, 1996–1997
  Dedicated **24 June 2025** Agrate Brianza – IEEE Italy Section #274 (67)

In 1996-1997, STMicroelectronics developed three low-power integrated circuits (ICs) essential for satellite digital radio reception: a frequency demodulator, a baseband processor, and a compressed audio decoder. Their use in digital radio satellite receivers adopted by Worldspace and Sirius XM Radio provided inexpensive educational and entertainment services in Africa, India, and the United States, and addressed a United Nations humanitarian call for inexpensive radio service to less-developed countries.

- **Antwerp**, **Belgium**, *Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) enabling broadband internet*, 1993–1997 #277 (68)
  Dedicated **4 September 2025** Antwerp – IEEE Benelux Section
  In 1997, Alcatel's A1000 ASAM product revolutionized broadband Internet access by providing multi-megabit per second downstream speeds over ubiquitous but decades-old and ill-conditioned subscriber telephone lines. A team based in Antwerp, Belgium began development of the product in 1993. The combination of ADSL technology, innovative signal processing, cutting-edge silicon integration, and a revolutionary architecture brought affordable broadband Internet to nearly one billion people worldwide.
- **Galway**, **Ireland**, *Anderson bridge*, 1891 #278 (69)
  Dedicated **5 September 2025** Galway – IEEE UK and Ireland Section
  Developed by Alexander Anderson here, formerly Queen's College Galway, the Anderson Bridge is a modified Maxwell Bridge specialised for measuring electrical inductance by comparing an unknown inductance value with the capacitance of a fixed reference capacitor. While operating in a manner similar to how the Wheatstone Bridge measures resistance, it was the first invention to enable precise measurements of inductance ranging from a few microhenrys to several henrys.
- **Haifa**, **Israel**, *Intel 8087 math coprocessor*, 1980 #279 (70)
  Dedicated **15 September 2025** Haifa – IEEE Israel Section
  Intel's release of its 8087 math coprocessor vastly expanded the capabilities of its 8086 and 8088 microprocessors by enabling floating-point arithmetic, binary-decimal conversion, and transcendental functions, using special CPU instructions designed to invoke a coprocessor. The Intel 8087's robust exception handling and breadth of features surpassed all existing computers. Its data types and arithmetic were the basis of the IEEE 754 Floating-Point Standard, and revolutionized computing.

The total number of dedicated **Milestones** in Region 8 is currently **69**, with plaques located in Belgium (1), Croatia (1), Denmark (1), England (15), France (7), Germany (7), Hungary (1), Ireland (4), Israel (3), Italy (10), Netherlands (4), North Macedonia (1), Norway (1), Poland (3), Russia (2), Scotland (4), Serbia (1), South Africa (1), Spain (2), Sweden, (1), Switzerland (2), Switzerland-France CERN (1), Ukraine (1).

In addition to the actual Milestones, there are 2 **Special Citations**: one in Serbia and Montenegro (#1) and one in Germany (#3). Special Citations recognize events or institutions which – although not technical achievements as defined by the Milestone Program – have contributed to the profession. Examples might be: museums or archives with substantial holdings pertaining to the history of electrical engineering and computing, the holding of a seminal conference, or the formation of a technical society.

C. Recently approved Milestones in Region 8

- **Heverlee**, **Belgium**, *Rijndael and the Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)*, 1995–1998; approved **16–02–2025**
  Dedication ceremony planned for **18 November 2025**
- **Manchester**, **England**, *Manchester Code*, 1948–1949; approved **20–05–2025**
  Dedication ceremony planned for **13-17 April 2026**

A list of all **IEEE Milestones and Special Citations in Region 8** with links to ETHW and to their locations on Google maps, including the ones that are currently under investigation by the IEEE History Committee, is available here (.xlsx).

D. Events

- **HISTELCON 2025**, *Knowing the past for preparing the future: History of technology for meaningful goals in the age of Artificial Intelligence*, took place in **Bonn**, **Germany**, **30 September – 2 October 2025**.

  The program contained not only the usual elements like plenary sessions, keynote papers and regular papers, but also – for the first time – two **Round Tables** (on the conference topic *Knowing the past for preparing the future* and on *Radar – A gateway to modern digitalization*), two **IEEE Panels** (on *Young Professionals* and *Women in Engineering*) and an **IEEE Workshop** of the *R8 Student Activities Committee*.

  HISTELCON – **HIST**ory of **EL**ectrotechnology **CON**ference – is a flagship conference series of IEEE Region 8 held every two years and is dedicated to any aspects of the history of electrical engineering, electronics, telecommunications, computing, and their impact on social and economic development. HISTELCON 2025 will be the ninth HISTELCON, with predecessors in Paris (2008), Madrid (2010), Pavia (2012), Tel-Aviv (2015), Kobe (2017, together with Region 10), Glasgow (2019), Moscow (2021), and Florence (2023).

  The **proceedings of HISTELCON 1 through 8** are available in IEEE Xplore; see https://ethw.org/Histelcon for more information.

  As of 2026, HISTELCON will become an annual multi-regional IEEE conference (of Regions 7, 8, 9 and 10), with the next one taking place in **Tokyo**, **Japan**. Keep your eyes open for the Call for papers.

- In conjunction with HISTELCON 2025, two other IEEE events took place on 29 September: (i) a meeting of the IEEE History Committee and (ii) a meeting of the R8 Life Members Affinity Group Chairs with participation of the R8 History Activities Coordinator. Before the start of these two meetings, the attendees enjoyed a joint networking lunch.

E. Activities of the History Activities Coordinator

- Updated the **History Activities** webpage and the **History** webpage on the Region 8 website.
- Updated the **Region 8 history book** (.pdf).

- Updated the **list of Sections and Subsections in Region 8** (.xlsx); see also Section 2.4 in the Region 8 history book.
- Updated the **list of Region 8 Committee meetings** (.xlsx); see also Chapter 5 in the Region 8 history book.
- Updated the **list of Region 8 Conferences** (.xlsx); see also Chapter 6 in the Region 8 history book.
- Updated the **list of Region 8 Student Paper Contest finals** (.xlsx); see also Section 7.5 in the Region 8 history book.
- Updated the **list of Award recipients residing in Region 8** (.xlsx); see also Chapter 8 in the Region 8 history book.
- Updated the **list of IEEE Milestones in Region 8** (.xlsx); see also Section 9.2. in the Region 8 history book.
- Updated the **list of IEEE Directors residing in Region 8** (.xlsx).
- Updated the **list of Region 8 Section history officers** (.xlsx)
- Updated the **list of Region 8 History Network subscribers** (.xlsx)

- 27-03-2025: Sent the Region 8 History Activities Final Report 2023-2024 (.pdf), as well as the Report (.pdf) and the Presentation (.pdf) for the 124th Region 8 Committee meeting in Budapest, to the people who have shown interest in the Region's history activities.
- 28-03-2025: Attended the HISTELCON 2025 Steering Committee teleconference.
- 05/06-04-2025: Attended the April meeting of the IEEE Region 8 Committee in Budapest, Hungary.
- 05-05-2025: Attended the HISTELCON 2025 Steering Committee teleconference.
- 11/12-06-2025: Attended the Milestone dedication ceremony *Long distance transmission of electrical power using three-phase alternating current* in Frankfurt am Main, Germany.
- 25-07-2025: Attended the HISTELCON 2025 Steering Committee teleconference.
- 08-08-2025: Attended the HISTELCON 2025 Steering Committee teleconference.
- 04-09-2025: Attended the Milestone dedication ceremony *Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) Enabling Broadband Internet* in Antwerp, Belgium.
- 12-09-2025: Attended the HISTELCON 2025 Steering Committee teleconference.
- 29-09-2025: Participated in the Region 8 LMAG/HA meeting in Bonn, Germany, in conjunction with the IEEE History Committee meeting and HISTELCON 2025.
- 30-09/02-10-2025: Attended HISTELCON 2025 in Bonn, Germany.

F. Interesting weblinks

- *A short history of IRE Region 9 / IEEE Region 8* – https://ethw.org/w/images/a/a6/R8_history.pdf (.pdf)
- Engineering and Technology History Wiki – https://ethw.org/
- List of IEEE Milestones – https://ethw.org/Milestones:List_of_IEEE_Milestones
- List of achievements suitable for Milestones – https://ieeemilestones.org/List_of_Achievements_Suitable_for_Milestones
- List of all Oral Histories – https://ethw.org/Oral-History:List_of_all_Oral_Histories
- List of First Hand Histories – https://ethw.org/First-Hand:List_of_First_Hand_Histories
- Sample IEEE OU Page – https://ethw.org/ETHW:Sample_IEEE_OU_Page
- More links can be found on the IEEE Region 8 History Activities and History webpages.

G. Table of contents of the Region 8 history book 'A short history of IRE Region 9 / IEEE Region 8'

- Preliminary steps towards and the early history of a new Region
  - Information taken from the Benelux Section archives
  - IRE Region in Europe – Bruce B. Barrow
  - A Region's 'Birth Certificate'
  - The start of Region 8 and its Sections – Robert C. Winton
  - IRE/AIEE Merger – Bruce B. Barrow
- The later history of IEEE Region 8
  - The creation of IEEE Region 10 and the extension of Region 8
  - The Eastward spread of Sections in Region 8 – Tony Davies
  - Yugoslavia Section from 1971 to 1992 – Baldomir Zajc
  - The present IEEE Region 8 Sections
  - Geographic Unit statistics at year end
  - Membership statistics at year end

- IEEE Region 8 Operating Committees and Appointed Members
  - Operating Committees
  - Appointed Representatives
  - Appointed Coordinators and Subcommittee Chairs
  - Past Directors gallery
- Personal reflections of Past Directors
  - Jean D. Lebel (Director 1965–1966)
  - Rolf Remshardt (Treasurer 1983–1998, Director 1999–2000)
  - Anthony C. Davies (Director 2003–2004
  - Baldomir Zajc (Director 2005–2006)
- IEEE Region 8 Committee meetings
- IEEE Region 8 conferences
  - EUROCON 71 – Reminiscences by Fritz Eggimann
  - Conference activities in Region 8 – The first 30 years – Jacob Baal Schem
  - Conference activities in Region 8 – After the first 30 years – Baldomir Zajc
- Student activities
  - The early years of IEEE Region 8 Student Activities – until 1984
  - Student Activities Committee meetings – until 1984
  - Student Branch (and GOLD / Young Professional) Congresses
  - Cross-Sectional Student Branch (and GOLD / Young Professional) Congresses
  - Student Paper Contest Finals
- IEEE Award recipients from Region 8
  - Medal of Honor
  - IEEE Major Medals
  - IEEE Recognitions
  - IEEE Service Awards
  - IEEE Corporate Recognitions
  - IEEE Prize Paper Awards
  - IEEE Technical Field Awards
  - Presidents' Change the World Competition
  - Joint Awards Established with National Societies
  - Member and Geographic Activities Board Awards
  - Region 8 Awards
  - Life Members Awards
- Miscellaneous lists
  - Region 8 News
  - IEEE Milestones in Region 8
  - Miscellaneous
- History papers presented at HISTELCON 2012
  - Researching the roots of IEEE Region 8 – Martin J. Bastiaans
  - Setting up the basis for Region 8 – Jean D. Lebel
  - Conferences, technical societies and development – A history of synergy – Jacob Baal–Schem
  - . . . Go East, Region 8, Go East . . . – Anthony C. Davies
- Appendices
  - Minutes of the meeting of the IRE Inter-Sectional Committee
  - Birth certificate
  - IEEE Regions after the merger
  - Invitations/agendas for the IRE Region 9 Committee meetings
  - Minutes of the two IRE Region 9 Committee meetings
  - Invitations/agendas for the early IEEE Region 8 Committee meetings
  - Minutes of the early IEEE Region 8 Committee meetings