

History Activities Coordinator

Martin J. Bastiaans

The History Activities Coordinator is assisted by current and past IEEE History Committee members David Dias (2026), Evgen Pichkalyov (2022–2023), and Mathini Sellathurai (2024–2026).

The team can be contacted via history@ieeer8.org.



Martin



David



Evgen



Mathini

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

A. Focal points for 2026

- **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-images.s3.us-east-via.perf.cloud.ovh.us/ethw/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* – HISTory of ELectrotechnology CONference – was 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 in Bonn was 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 9 are available in IEEE Xplore.
As of 2026, HISTELCON will be an annual multi-regional IEEE conference (of Regions 7, 8, 9 and 10), with HISTELCON 2026 taking place in Tokyo, Japan, on 25–27 November 2026.
 - *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 dedication in Region 8

- **Manchester, England, Manchester Code, 1948–1949** #295 (72)
At this site in 1948–1949 Manchester code was invented for reliably encoding digital data stored on the Manchester Mark I computer's magnetic drum. It became a standard for computer magnetic tapes and floppy disks, and was used in digital communications including the *Voyager 1* and 2 spacecraft and early Ethernet networks. It found wide use in domestic remote controllers, Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags, and many control network standards.

The total number of dedicated **Milestones** in Region 8 is currently **71**, with plaques located in Belgium (2), Croatia (1), Denmark (1), England (16), 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

- **Bletchley Park, Milton Keynes, England, *The Colossus computers*, 1944–1945; approved 25–09–2025**
Dedication ceremony planned for **29 September 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 2026** will take place in Tokyo, Japan, on 25–27 November 2026.

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 Conferences** ([.xlsx](#)); see also Chapter 6 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 Region 8 Section history officers** ([.xlsx](#))
- Updated the **list of Region 8 History Network subscribers** ([.xlsx](#))
- 27-07-2026: Attended the HISTELCON 2026 Steering Committee teleconference.

F. Interesting weblinks

- *A short history of IRE Region 9 / IEEE Region 8*
– https://ethw-images.s3.us-east-via.perf.cloud.ovh.us/ethw/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://ieemilestones.ethw.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