

# The Institute for Electrical and Electronic Engineers

IEEE—pronounced “eye-triple-E”—is the world’s largest technical professional organization dedicated to advancing technology for the benefit of humanity.

The Franklin Institute illuminated by electric light, with a portrait of Benjamin Franklin. *Library of Congress*

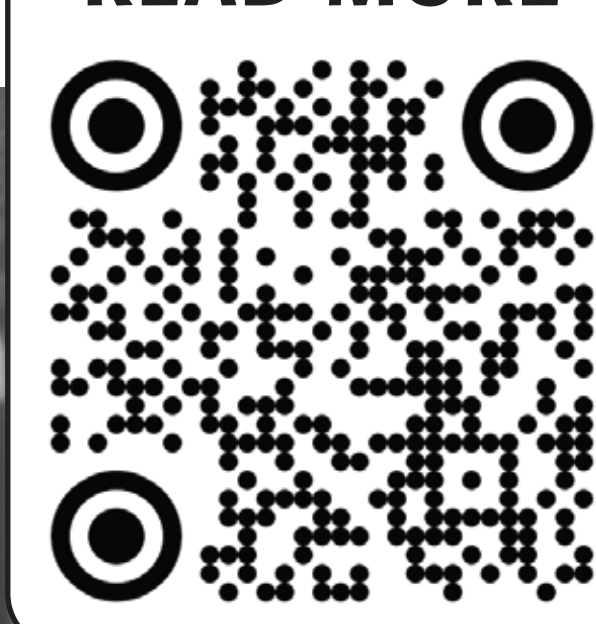


## 1884

IEEE’s roots reach back to the late 19th century. Telegraph networks connected the world and electrical light and power were on the horizon. In 1884, a group of industry professionals met in connection with the International Electrical Exhibition held in Philadelphia to form the AIEE, the American Institute of Electrical Engineers.

The first AIEE president, Norvin Green, was the president of Western Union, the major U.S. telegraph company. The AIEE’s six vice presidents included Thomas Edison, who had recently opened his first electric power station in New York City, and telephone inventor Alexander Graham Bell.

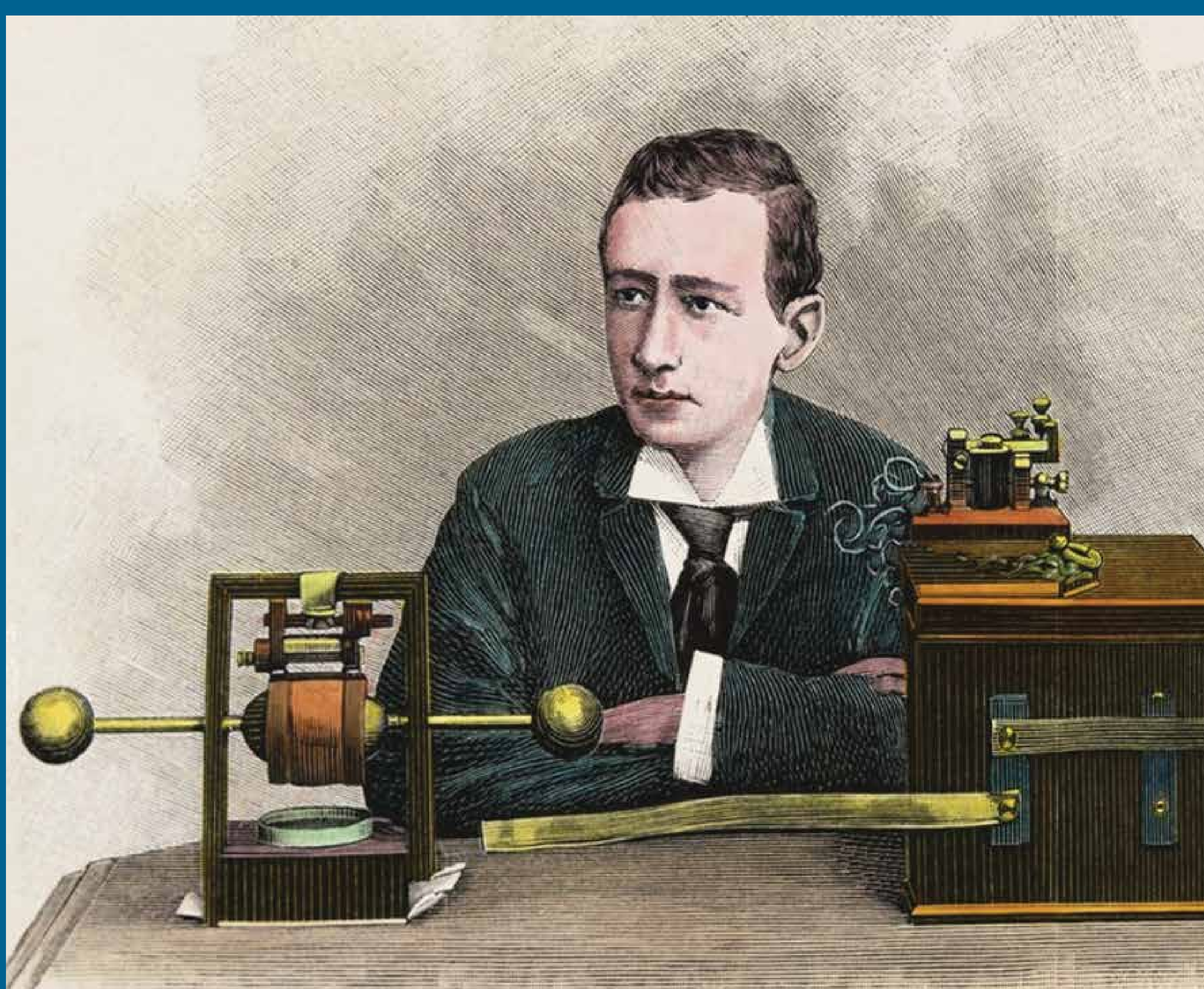
[READ MORE](#)



## 1912

Physicists and engineers developed radio in the first decade of the twentieth century. In 1901 Italian inventor Guglielmo Marconi broadcast Morse code across the Atlantic; a decade later radio telegraph stations connected ships at sea. A month after the Titanic disaster demonstrated radio’s lifesaving value, Robert Marriott, Alfred Goldsmith, John V. L. Hogan and others formed the IRE, the Institute of Radio Engineers.

Illustration of Marconi next to wireless signaling equipment, 1897. *Public Domain*



Thomas Edison and dynamo for powering his West Orange, New Jersey laboratory, 1906. *Library of Congress*

## 1963

As electronics grew in importance, the AIEE and IRE became closer, holding joint meetings, developing a joint membership policy, combining student chapters, and cooperating on standards. In 1963 the two societies merged to form the IEEE.

## TODAY

IEEE members inspire a global community through journal publications, conferences, technology standards and professional, educational and humanitarian activities.

When IEEE was formed, the IBM1401 was the world’s most widely used solid-state computer. *IBM Archives*

