

From Tesla and Marconi to the Communication Satellites

by Kurt R. Richter, Life Fellow IEEE *)

Summary:

Despite of their conflict concerning the priority of demonstrating the wireless transmission of information Tesla as well as Marconi have to be referred as the first pioneers who paved the way to the application of wireless transmission of signals in general which finally lead to today's most sophisticated satellite borne relay and transmitter/receiver facilities. A review will show some milestones of technical innovation and development which are met on the way to space. On this time journey over a little more than a century the door to space technology was opened by Herman Potočnik, born in Pula. He had the vision of a space station 30 years before Sputnik 1 was launched on October 4, 1957. In this review, unfortunately, also the technical progress must be mentioned which was promoted by the 2 World Wars and the long lasting Cold War. If people would learn in wars as much as scientists and engineers the world would be more peaceful as it is.

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