

Important Dates in Television History

- 1831: Joseph Henry's and Michael Faraday's work with electromagnetism jumpstarts the era of electronic communication.
- 1862: Abbe Giovanni Caselli invents his Pantelegraph and becomes the first person to transmit a still image over wires.
- 1884: Paul Nipkow sends images over wires using a rotating metal disk technology calling it the electric telescope with 18 lines of resolution.
- 1900: At the World's Fair in Paris, the first known use of the word "television."
- 1906: Lee deForest invents the Audion vacuum tube to amplify signals.
- 1923: Vladimir Zworkin patents his iconscope, a TV camera tube.
- 1925: Vladimir Zworkin patents a color television system.
- 1926: John Baird operates a television system with 30 lines of resolution system running at 5 frames per second.
- 1927: Philo Farnsworth, files for a patent on the first complete electronic television system, which he called the Image Dissector.
- 1928: The Federal Radio Commission issues the first television station license (W3XK) to Charles Jenkins.
- 1929: Vladimir Zworkin demonstrates the first practical electronic system for both the transmission and reception of images using his new kinescope tube.
- 1930: Charles Jenkins broadcasts the first TV commercial.
- 1936: About 200 hundred television sets are in use world-wide.
- 1937: CBS begins its TV development.
- 1939: RCA's David Sarnoff used his company's exhibit at the 1939 World's Fair.
- 1941: The FCC releases the NTSC standard for black and white TV.
- 1948: Cable television is introduced in Pennsylvania as a means of bringing television to rural areas. One million homes in the United States have television sets.
- 1956: AMPEX introduces the first practical videotape system of broadcast quality.
- 1962: AT&T launches Telstar, the first satellite to carry TV broadcasts.

- 1967: Most TV broadcasts are in color.
- 1969: July 20, first TV transmission from the moon and 600 million people watch.
- 1972: Half the TVs in homes are color sets.
- 1976: Sony introduces Betamax, the first home video cassette recorder.
- 1982: Dolby surround sound for home sets is introduced.
- 1983: Direct Broadcast Satellite begins service in Indianapolis, IN.
- 1984: Stereo TV broadcasts approved.
- 1986: Super VHS introduced.
- 1993: Closed captioning required on all TV sets.
- 1996: The FCC approves ATSC's HDTV standard. A billion TV sets world-wide.