

Space Systems/Loral Celebrating Fifty Years Of Satellite Innovation



PHILCO

1957
The company is founded in the San Francisco Bay Area as the Western Development Laboratories (WDL) division of Philco Corporation and breaks ground for a Palo Alto facility.



1961
Ford Motor Company purchases Philco.



1969
Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin land on the Moon. Four months later, Apollo 12 brings to the moon a Philco-Ford-built magnometer to measure the magnetic field at the lunar surface.

1974

Philco-Ford becomes the first company to build geostationary operational weather satellites, launching SMS-1 in 1974.



1976
The company, now renamed Ford Aerospace, contracts to build seven satellites for Intelsat. The success of the Intelsat V series prompts Intelsat to order eight more satellites. The satellites are launched between 1980 and 1989.

1986
The company is awarded the contract to build the Superbird satellites, the first spacecraft to use the 1300 satellite platform.

1989

President of the United States, George H. W. Bush, visits Ford Aerospace, touring the satellite assembly facility in Palo Alto in recognition of the company's contribution to foreign trade.



1957

1960

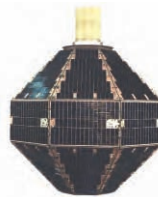
Philco launches its first communications satellite, Courier 1B. Courier is the world's first active repeater satellite. President Eisenhower uses Courier to transmit a message to the United Nations.



The company begins building ground terminals, starting with a 60-foot two-axis antenna at Vandenberg Air Force Base.

1966

The company changes its name to Philco-Ford.



Philco-Ford designs the Initial Defense Communications Satellite Program (IDCSP) and builds 27 satellites.

1971

The NATO IIB satellite, built by Philco-Ford, is launched, linking NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, with national capitals and NATO command locations on land and sea.



1975

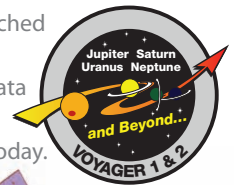
The company is renamed Aeronutronic Ford.

The company begins successful period of cooperation with Japanese industry with CS1 A/Sakura A satellite contract.

1977

1977

The Voyager I and II spacecraft, launched in 1977, use the company's Ka-band antennas to transmit pictures and data from Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune, and Uranus. They continue to perform today.



1987

1988

The company receives the Intelsat VII contract award following success of Intelsat V program.



1990

LORAL

Loral Corporation and a consortium of international partners acquire Ford Aerospace. Ford Aerospace is renamed Space Systems/Loral (SS/L).



1994

SS/L builds five weather satellites for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The satellites are launched between 1994 and 2001.



1996

NASA honors SS/L with the coveted Goddard Contractor Excellence Award for its performance on the GOES program.

1997

SS/L delivers the industry's first 8-kW high-power satellite, fueling the burgeoning direct-to-home TV industry.



Loral Space and Communications becomes the sole owner of SS/L.

1997

1998

Twenty Globalstar satellites are launched with 40 more launched in 1999.



2000

SS/L delivers on orbit the first three satellites for Sirius Satellite Radio.

The company provides over 22,000 lbs of batteries and high-power equipment for the International Space Station.



2005

Thaicom 4 (IPSTAR-1), one of the world's largest satellites, is launched. It delivers over 45 Gbps data throughput for broadband Internet access in Asia.



2006

SS/L wins seven commercial satellite contracts, the most in one year since 1997, also adding 730 headcount to keep pace with industry expansion.



2007

2007

With several 20-kW satellites under construction, SS/L continues its high-power leadership.



CEO Patrick DeWitt is named "Satellite Executive of the Year" by Via Satellite magazine.

Previous SS/L President and Chairman Robert Berry is inducted into the SSPI Hall of Fame and receives the ISCe Lifetime Achievement Award.



Today

As the world leader in commercial satellite manufacturing, SS/L continues to advance the world's ability to communicate.

