

IEEE Region 8



The early years of IRE Region 9 / IEEE Region 8

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Content

- Preliminary remarks
- Some sources for the history of Region 8
- The dark ages, i.e., the time before IEEE and R8
- The early years
- The boundaries of IEEE Region 8, past and present
- The first IEEE Region 8 Directors
- The importance of Switzerland in IEEE

Preliminary remarks



- The early history of our Region is adequately described by its initiator ([Bruce B. Barrow](#)) in the article [The Benelux Section and Early IRE/IEEE Activity in Europe \(.pdf\)](#) by **Jan Biemond** and **Bruce B. Barrow**, presented at the 2009 IEEE Conference on the History of Technical Societies, Philadelphia, PA, 5–7 August 2009; the article is available in [IEEEXplore](#).
- You may also want to read the article by **Robert C. Winton**, *The start of Region 8 and its Sections*, which is taken from the [Region 8 Centennial Review \(.pdf\)](#), published on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of IEEE, 1984.
- And there is the contribution by **Tony Davies** (8 June 2008) on the Engineering and Technology History Wiki ([ETHW](#)): [IEEE Region 8 \(Europe, Middle East, & Africa\) history](#)

Some sources for the history of Region 8

- The History page on the Region 8 website: <https://ieeer8.org/category/history/>
- Martin J. Bastiaans, [A short history of IRE Region 9 / IEEE Region 8 \(.pdf\)](#)
- Four papers presented at HISTELCON 2012 in Pavia, Italy:
 - Martin J. Bastiaans, [Researching the roots of IEEE Region 8 \(.pdf\)](#)
 - Jean D. Lebel, [Setting up the basis for Region 8 \(.pdf\)](#)
 - Jacob Baal-Schem, [Conferences, technical societies and development – A history of synergy \(.pdf\)](#)
 - Anthony C. Davies, [“... Go East, Region 8, Go East ...” \(.pdf\)](#)
- Minutes of the Region 8 Committee meetings [1962-1970 \(.pdf\)](#), [1971-1983 \(.pdf\)](#), [1984-1993 \(.pdf\)](#), [1994-2009 \(.pdf\)](#), and [2010-2022 \(.pdf\)](#).
- [Region 8 News](#): recent ([2002-2023](#)) and scanned old issues of ([1967-2001](#))

The dark ages, i.e., the time before IEEE and R8

- **5 October 1954:** Israel Section (IRE)
- **8 September 1955:** Egypt Section (IRE)
- **13 May 1959:** Benelux Section (IRE)
- **13 May 1959:** Italy Section (IRE)
- **3 October 1959:** Discussion with Lloyd V. Berkner, an IRE Board of Directors member, at the 1st Benelux Section meeting – “We believe it would be very helpful to us to have Europe (including Russia) designated as Region 9. Boundaries might be drawn to include Egypt and Israel Sections. Such a step would give Europe a Regional Director, and might accelerate the formation of other European Sections, with whom we could effectively cooperate.”

The dark ages, i.e., the time before IEEE and R8

- However, the IRE Board of Directors decided that **the time was not yet ripe**.
- **1960**: More discussion and correspondence
- **13 December 1960**: Geneva Section (IRE)
- **4 January 1961**: **Formation of the IRE International Activities Committee**, chaired by IRE's former president Roland L. McFarlan, to study the international aspects of the IRE
- **3 March 1961**: Sending of a first **petition** by the Benelux Section – supported by Italy and Geneva – for “the establishment without delay of IRE Region 9 in western Europe”

The dark ages, i.e., the time before IEEE and R8

- **June 1961:** Visit of the IRE International Activities Committee to various European countries, in particular UK, France, *Netherlands*, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, *Switzerland, Italy*, “... to find out whether local societies would welcome such a region and, if so, to try and smooth over any stumbling blocks and establish cooperation. ... It has been my feeling that formation of Region 9 should await the results of the forthcoming European discussions of this committee.”
- **17 October 1961:** France Section (IRE)
- The number of Sections is now 4: *Benelux, Italy, Geneva, France*

The dark ages, i.e., the time before IEEE and R8

- **December 1961:** IRE President Lloyd V. Berkner – “... The idea of a quick formation of an IRE Region 9 at this time represents a great many plusses and minuses. In the balance, it would be my judgement that **this matter should be postponed until the negotiations with AIEE are completed**, since I believe it highly probable that a new society would recognize the need for Region 9, and it could be organized as a part of the shift to a new society.”
- **14 February 1962:** **Informal meeting of the Inter-Sectional Committee, Europe** (Benelux, France, Geneva, Italy) [\[Minutes available!\]](#)

The dark ages, i.e., the time before IEEE and R8

- **6 March 1962:** Sending of a **petition** by the Benelux Section to the IRE Board of Directors – referring to the Inter-Sectional Committee meeting – to form a **new Region, with its territory based on the European Broadcasting Area** defined in the Radio Regulations of the International Telecommunication Union Union; the European Broadcasting Area includes the Western part of the USSR [West of the meridian 40° East] and the territories bordering on the Mediterranean [North of the parallel 30° North]. (*We will see a picture later.*)
- **24 April 1962:** **Approval** of the new Region by the IRE Executive Committee



THE INSTITUTE OF RADIO ENGINEERS
INCORPORATED

August 7, 1962

To: Board of Directors
Section and Subsection Officers

From: Emily Sirjane, Office Manager

Subject: IRE Section Manual Revisions

The following actions were taken by the IRE Executive Committee under dates of April 24 and July 10, 1962:

- (1) Approval of the formation of a new Region, Region 9.
- (2) Approval of the establishment of a new Section, the United Kingdom Section.

The necessary corrections have been made to the IRE Section Manual, and you are requested to substitute the enclosed sheet for that page which immediately follows the territorial assignment of Region 8 in Section 20 of your copy of this Manual.

Our 'birth certificate'

To: Board of Directors
Section and Subsection Officers

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The early years – still Institute of Radio Engineers

- **24 May 1962:** Approval of the new Region by the IRE Board of Directors
- **6 June 1962:** **Inaugural meeting** of the IRE Region 9 Committee – 12 attendees – Dr. R.L. McFarlan (IRE) and 6 Sections: Benelux (4), Egypt (not present), France (1), Geneva (3), Israel (1), Italy (2)
[Minutes available!]
- **10 July 1962:** United Kingdom Section (IRE)
- **22 October 1962:** Second IRE Region 9 Committee meeting – 7 Sections; new Section: **United Kingdom & Eire** (IRE) [renamed 01-11-1966 to **United Kingdom & Republic of Ireland** and 21-6-2014 to **United Kingdom and Ireland**] [Minutes available!]
[Geneva → Switzerland on 20-9-1967]

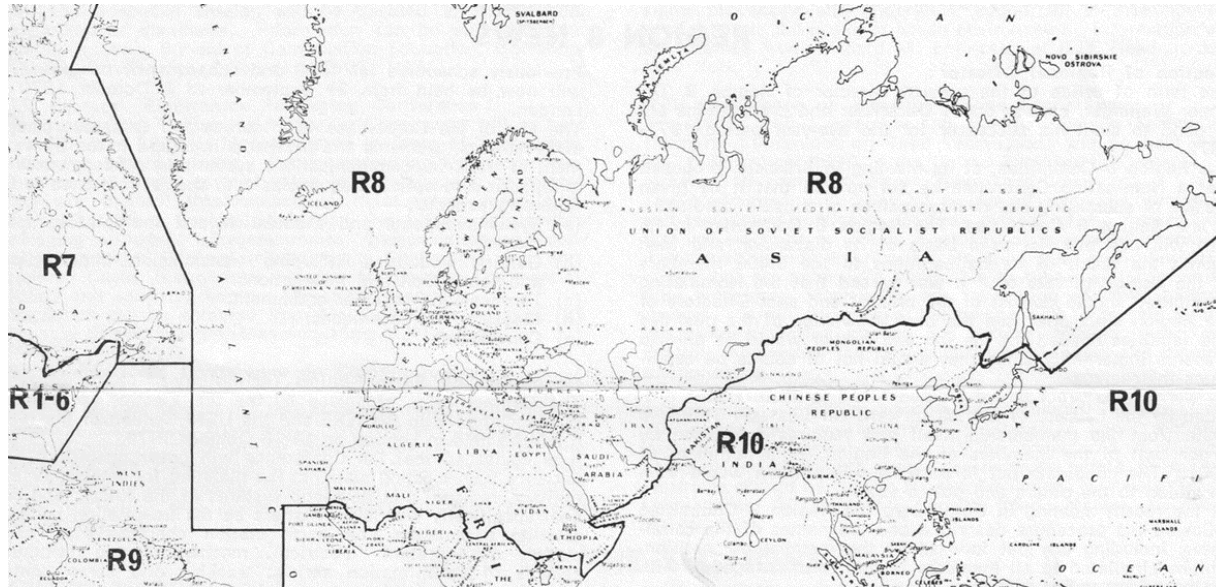
The early years – AIEE and IRE merged into IEEE

1 January 1963: At the merger, IRE Region 9 was renamed IEEE Region 8 without any change in its boundaries; the rest of the world was IEEE Region 9. IEEE Region 10 was established on 1 January 1967.



The early years – huge extension of Region 8

1 January 1970: Greenland was added to Region 8, and all the countries that were partly in Region 8 (the USSR and countries in North Africa) are now considered to belong completely to Region 8.



The early years – Region 8 got its present form

1 January 1981: The rest of Africa was added to Region 8, and Region 8 got the form that it has now. (50th anniversary of Region 8 on 1 January 2031)



Membership in IRE Region 9 / IEEE Region 8

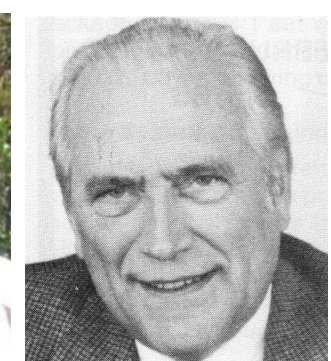
Membership in 1962 (IRE only)

30-10-2023

UK&RI	559	10,295	1
Italy	395	6,084	3
Benelux	208	3,822	4
France	180	3,704	5
<i>Sweden</i>	173	1,866	8
Switzerland	136	2,822	7
<i>Germany</i>	117	8,467	2
...	
<i>Spain</i>	34	3,063	6
...	
Total	2,100	79,856	

The first five Directors of IEEE Region 8

(+ one)



1. Herre Rinia (62-64) Benelux
2. Jean D. Lebel (65-66) France
3. Robert C.G. Williams (67-68) UK&RI
4. **Roger P. Wellinger** (69-70) **Switzerland**
5. Paul G.A. Jespers (71-72) Benelux
11. **Karsten E. Drangeid** (83-84) **Switzerland**

† 29-05-1985 (81)

† 13-02-2021 (93)

† 26-03-2000 (92)

† 30-10-2014 (95)

(>93)

† 04-06-2018 (93)

IEEE Directors and Milestones from Switzerland

Members of the IEEE Board of Directors

1969-1970	Roger P. Wellinger	IEEE Region 8 Director
1983-1984	Karsten E. Drangeid	IEEE Region 8 Director
1992-1992	Karsten E. Drangeid	IEEE Secretary
2008-2009	Giovanni De Micheli	IEEE Division I Director
2022-2023	Ali H. Sayed	IEEE Division IX Director

IEEE Milestones

- 2002 - [Pioneering work on the quartz electronic wristwatch, 1962-1967](#), [Neuchâtel](#)
- 2005 - [CERN experimental instrumentation, 1968](#), [Geneva](#) (endorsed by Switzerland)
- 2010 - [Star of Laufenburg interconnection, 1958](#), [Laufenburg](#)

Region 8 activities in Switzerland

15 Region 8 (and IRE Region 9) Committee meetings

- **Geneva: 9:** 6-6-1962, 22-10-1962, 22-4-1963, 4-11-1963, 27-4-1964, 26-10-1964, 26-4-1965, 7-9-65; 30-10-1970
- **Lausanne: 3:** 8-9-1967 (with **1st Student Paper Contest finals**, 7-9-1967); 23-10-1971 (with **1st EUROCON**, 18/22-10-1971), 16/17-5-1992
- **Montreux: 1:** 24-5-1969 (with **Student Paper Contest finals**, 22-5-1969)
- **Zürich: 2:** 31-10-1975/1-11-1975; 27/28-4-1979 (with **SPC finals**, 27-4-1979)

1 Region 8 Conference

- **Lausanne:** 1st EUROCON, 18/22-10-1971
- **Zürich :** EUROCON, 18/21-5-1992 – **cancelled** – After the 8th EUROCON in 1988, the series was resumed in 2001

11 Major IEEE Medals

- *Alexander Graham Bell Medal* – **1992** James L. Massey
- *Richard W. Hamming Medal* – **1994** [Gottfried Ungerboeck](#)
- *Jun-ichi Nishizawa Medal* – **2007** Nicolaas Frans De Rooij
- *Jun-ichi Nishizawa Medal* – **2008** Martin Schadt
- *Robert N. Noyce Medal* – **2011** Pasquale Pistorio
- *Richard W. Hamming Medal* – **2012** Amin Shokrollahi
- *Simon Ramo Medal* – **2014** Lyndon Evans
- *Richard W. Hamming Medal* – **2014** Rüdiger Urbanke
- *Jack S. Kilby Signal Processing Medal* – **2017** Martin Vetterli
- *Medal for Environmental & Safety Technologies* – **2018** Jerome Faist
- *Edison Medal* – **2019** Ursula Keller

IEEE Honorary Membership

- **1997** Pekka J. Tarjanne

IEEE Recognitions

- *Ernst Weber Engineering Leadership Recognition* – **1993** Percy Barnevik
- *Ernst Weber Engineering Leadership Recognition* – **2004** Pasquale Pistorio

IEEE Prize Paper Awards

- *W.R.G. Baker Prize Paper Award* – **1983** Kurt Feser
- *W.R.G. Baker Prize Paper Award* – **1987** James L. Massey
- *Donald G. Fink Prize Paper Award* – **2005** Henry Baltes
- *Donald G. Fink Prize Paper Award* – **2005** Christoph Hagleitner
- *Donald G. Fink Prize Paper Award* – **2005** Andreas Hierlemann
- *Donald G. Fink Prize Paper Award* – **2006** Suhas N. Diggavi



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29 IEEE Technical Field Awards

- *Award in International Communication* – **1981** Richard Cyril Kirby
- *Charles Proteus Steinmetz Award* – **1983** William A. McAdams
- *Emanuel R. Piore Award* – **1983** Niklaus Wirth
- *Award in International Communication* – **1989** Theodor Irmer
- *Koji Kobayashi Computers and Communications Award* – **1991** Martin Reiser
- *Eli Lilly Award in Medical and Biological Engineering* – **1993** Max Anliker
- *Award in International Communication* – **1993** Pekka J. Tarjanne
- *Koji Kobayashi Computers and Communications Award* – **1993** [Gottfried Ungerboeck](#)
- *Andrew S. Grove Award* – **2000** Wolfgang Fichtner
- *Eric E. Sumner Award* – **2003** Werner Bux
- *Eric E. Sumner Award* – **2003** Hans R. Mueller

29 IEEE Technical Field Awards (continued)

- *Donald O. Pederson Award in Solid-State Circuits* – **2004** Eric A. Vittoz
- *Reynold B. Johnson Information Storage Systems Award* – **2005** François B. Dolivo
- *Control Systems Award* – **2005** Manfred Morari
- *Nikola Tesla Award* – **2006** Konrad Reichert
- *Eric E. Sumner Award* – **2007** Amin Shokrollahi
- *Koji Kobayashi Computers and Communications Award* – **2011** Rüdiger L. Urbanke
- *Frederik Philips Award* – **2015** Benedetto Vigna
- *Robotics and Automation Award* – **2016** Raffaello D'Andrea
- *William E. Newell Power Electronics Award* – **2016** Johann W. Kolar
- *Photonics Award* – **2018** Ursula Keller
- *Gustav Robert Kirchhoff Award* – **2020** Martin Hasler

29 IEEE Technical Field Awards (continued)

- *James L. Flanagan Speech and Audio Processing Award* – **2022** Hervé Bourlard
- *Fourier Award for Signal Processing* – **2022** Ali Sayed
- *Andrew S. Grove Award* – **2022** Heike Riel
- *Leon K. Kirchmayer Graduate Teaching Award* – **2023** Rüdiger Urbanke
- *Kiyo Tomiyasu Award* – **2024** Davide Scaramuzza
- *Cledo Brunetti Award* – **2024** Adrian Mihai Ionescu
- *Lotfi A. Zadeh Award for Emerging Technologies* – **2024** Andras Kis

Region 8 Clementina Saduwa Award

- **2014** Monique Jeanne Morrow

Participation in early Region Committee meetings 1

- **Baumgarten, W.** (1) 1962
- **Borgnis, Fritz E.** (6) 1964-71 – Chair, Past Chair, Awards, Publications
- **Boyle, A.W.C.** (3) 1964-65
- **Dessoulavy, Roger** (4) 1971-72 – Chair
- **Diggelman, Hans** (3) 1969-70 – Chair *LM since 1994*
- **Drangeid, Karsten E.** (1) 1982 – **R8 Director candidate** (Director in 1983-84)
- **Eggimann, Fritz** (**13**) 1967-81 – SAC, **R8 Secretary/Treasurer** (69-70), **EUROCON**
- **Forrer, M.P.** (3) 1979-80 – Chair
- **Gardiol, Fred E.** (4) 1971-76 – Secretary, Chair *LF since 2001*
- **Gayer, John H.** (7) 1962-65 – Secretary/Treasurer, **R8 Secretary/Treasurer**, (62-65)
- **Gerber, W.E.** (7) 1962-67 – Vice-Chair-Elect, Past Chair

Meetings until 1982; not all minutes have a list of participants



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Participation in early Region Committee meetings 2

- **Gross, Gerald C.** (2) 1962-63 – Chair, **ITU Secretary General**
- **Guanella, G.** (3) 1967-68 – Vice-Chair, Chair
- **Guekos, G.** (1) 1967 – Secretary/Treasurer
- **Heierle, J.** (2) 1978-79 – Secretary/Treasurer
- **Kartaschoff, P.** (2) 1979 – Secretary/Treasurer
- **Lapostolle, P.M.** (1) 1962 – Chair-Elect
- **Mey, Hans-Jürg** (2) 1969-77 – Secretary/Treasurer, Chair
- **Moschytz, George S.** (1) 1981-82 – Chair *LF since 2000 – currently in Israel*
- **Neiryneck, Jacques** (2) 1981-82 – Vice-Chair
- **Schmid, Pierre E.** (2) 1973-74 – Chair
- **Wellinger, Roger P.** (25) 1964-1982 – **(Past) Region Director**, Awards, Publications

Need: Geneva (65), Leuven (66), Tel-Aviv (68), Dubrovnik (74)

Updating your Section history

- Please appoint a person who takes care of documenting the Section's history.
- The Engineering and Technology History Wiki (ETHW) offers a website for each [Section](#) to document its history. In particular, some interesting copies of early correspondence can be found [there](#), including a copy of *The News Bulletin published by the Geneva Section of the Institute of Radio Engineers*, Vol. 1, No. 1, January 1961.
- OU Analytics has the recorded positions of your current and previous volunteers.

Good luck!

Thank you!