

2024 MARCONI

AWARDS

GALA

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OCTOBER 26, 2024

Palazzo Re Enzo, Bologna - Italy

Hosted by
Comitato Nazionale Marconi.150
and
Fondazione Guglielmo Marconi
in partnership with
The Marconi Society

AWARDS DINNER
Honoring 2024 Marconi Prize Winner
Teresa H. Meng

and
Honoring
2024 Paul Baran Young Scholars

6:00 p.m. *Reception*
7.30 p.m. *Gala Dinner and Awards Program*

GALA AGENDA

- **WELCOME REMARKS**

Presented by our emcees:

John Janowiak,
President and CEO, Marconi Society

Giulia Fortunato,
President of Fondazione Guglielmo Marconi
and President of Italian National Committee Marconi.150

Observe a moment of silence to remember and honor Marconi
Fellows, Gabriele Falciasecca, and other honorees who have
passed away in 2023-24.

- **ITALIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE MARCONI.150 MARCONI
VIDEO PRESENTATION**

- **DINNER SERVICE**

- **PAUL BARAN YOUNG SCHOLAR AWARD PRESENTATION**

Presented by Dennis Roberson,
Chairman of the Marconi Society Board
We celebrate top young researchers: Duschia Bodet,
Tara Boroushaki, Javier Conde, and Nakul Garg

- **FONDAZIONE GUGLIELMO MARCONI
AWARD PRESENTATION**

Presented by Giulia Fortunato,
A special recognition of Marconi Fellow 2013, Martin Cooper

- **MARCONI PRIZE AWARD PRESENTATION**

Presented by Andrea Goldsmith
Chair of the Marconi Prize Committee
We honor the 2024 Marconi Fellow, Teresa H. Meng

- **CLOSING REMARKS**

Presented by Giulia Fortunato, John Janowiak, and special guests
Princess Elettra Marconi with her son Guglielmo Giovanelli Marconi,
Ilaria and Donata Paresce remembering their aunt Gioia Marconi Braga

- **CONCERT OF ARIAS BY GIACOMO PUCCINI**

Celebrating the friendship between Marconi and Puccini

- “Nessun dorma” (Turandot)
- “Vissi d’arte” (Tosca)
- “Un bel di vedremo” (Madama Butterfly)
- “E lucevan le stelle” (Tosca)

Chiara Polese, soprano

Davide Battiniello, tenor

Antonio Vicentini, piano



WELCOME

LUCIA BORGONZONI

Undersecretary of State for Culture

Since my time as a city councilor in Bologna, my political activity has been driven by the firm belief that the story of Guglielmo Marconi was too little known and deserved to be told. Courage in one's ideas, entrepreneurial skills, determination, foresight were the hallmarks of his life as a man and inventor, qualities permeating the legacy that the Bolognese genius left to future generations.

I have always fought to ensure that his figure received the recognition it deserves. Last December, as we approached an unmissable anniversary like the one celebrated this year, a decisive step was taken in this direction: the establishment, by decree of the Ministry of Culture, of the National Committee for the Celebrations of the 150th Anniversary of Marconi's Birth, launched with the ambitious goal of fostering the narrative of his work and groundbreaking discoveries, drawing the attention of a wide audience, with a special focus on young people.

In all these months, the Committee's commitment has been truly significant, and the highly anticipated event of the Marconi Prize 2024 represents a key milestone for the authority and prestige of the event, as well as the spirit of international collaboration driving it forward. The support given by the Committee to this edition of the award has been crucial. The award, hosted once again in the inventor's birthplace, is the result of an agreement between the Committee, the Guglielmo Marconi Foundation, and the Marconi Society, which was founded 50 years ago by Gioia Marconi. The Prize celebrates Marconi's scientific adventure, emphasizing his forward-looking vision - an adventure that it is now the duty of the Marconi Fellows to continue.

The work to celebrate Guglielmo Marconi does not stop here: a major exhibition dedicated to him is expected to open in November at the VIVE - Vittoriano and Palazzo Venezia in Rome.

WELCOME

DENNIS ROBERSON

Chairman of the Marconi Society

I am pleased to welcome you to the 2024 Marconi Awards Gala & Executive Forum here in Bologna, the birthplace of Guglielmo Marconi and through him our wireless world. As a global organization, the Marconi Society celebrates innovators worldwide, and returning to Bologna for this occasion in this special year is very exciting. As you likely know already, this year marks the 150th anniversary of Guglielmo Marconi's birth and the 50th anniversary of the Marconi Society.

Marconi was a man of remarkable vision, whose dedication to research and constant innovation in wireless technology continues to inspire us today. His entrepreneurial spirit set a course for the future and his focus on the future is a lesson for all of us seeking to continuously push the limits of what's possible.

This event highlights the Marconi Society's long-standing partnership with the Fondazione Guglielmo Marconi. We are particularly grateful for the recent collaborations with the Fondazione and the Italian National Committee Marconi.150 leading up to this event. Many thanks to these two organizations and to our supporters, donors, and partners who made this evening possible and to those who organized not only this Gala but also the Executive Forum and local academic events.

As a focus of our celebration, we are proud of our growing community of amazing Marconi Fellows and Young Scholars and of the Italian heritage of a number of our honorees. Italy has been central to the development of global communications and information technology, with icons like Federico Faggin, Andrew Viterbi, and Francesco Carassa making lasting contributions. Meanwhile, rising stars like Marco Papaleo, Salvatore Campione, and Stefania Bartoletti represent the emerging leadership in this important technology space.

Thank you for joining us to celebrate this extraordinary occasion. Let us honor Guglielmo Marconi's vision and build on his legacy to create an ever more connected and prosperous environment for all of the citizens of the world through technology and business innovation.

JOHN JANOWIAK

President and CEO of the Marconi Society

150 years ago, one of the most important innovators in history was born right here in Bologna. Twenty-one years later, Guglielmo Marconi changed the world forever by transmitting the first wireless signal from the attic of Villa Griffone across Celestini Hill. Today, we cannot imagine life without Marconi's creativity, tenacity, technical expertise, and entrepreneurship.

When Gioia Braga Marconi created the Marconi Society 50 years ago to commemorate and perpetually honor her father's legacy, she began the tradition of honoring the most influential information and communications technology inventors in the world through the Marconi Prize. The recipients of this Prize, the Marconi Fellows, have collectively given us the connected world that is now a key enabler of opportunity everywhere, as well as a fundamental human right. A decade ago, we complemented the Marconi Prize with the Paul Baran Young Scholar Award and have so far welcomed over 50 diverse, high-potential young thought leaders to the Marconi family with career-changing recognition and connections.

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Marconi Society, we look ahead with enthusiasm to the next 50 years and the expansion of our vision for a connected, equitable, and sustainable future. We are deeply grateful to our partners for naming us the North American ambassador for the Fondazione and the Italian National Committee Marconi.150. In the decades to come, we will continue to honor Marconi's legacy and advance educational initiatives worldwide, fostering the next generation of leaders through the Young Scholars Award, academic conferences, and future scholarships. These initiatives are designed to inspire and equip young innovators to shape the future of technology.

It is our honor to recognize our 2024 Marconi Fellow, Teresa H. Meng, along with our outstanding Paul Baran Young Scholars, Duschia Bodet, Tara Boroushaki, Javier Conde, and Nakul Garg, as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of Guglielmo Marconi's life-changing contributions with our friends and partners here in Bologna.

GIULIA FORTUNATO

President of Fondazione Guglielmo Marconi
and President of Italian National Committee Marconi.150

It is with great pleasure that we host this special edition of the Marconi Prize, organized annually by the Marconi Society, returning to Bologna as part of the celebrations of the 150th anniversary of Guglielmo Marconi's birth. This edition, made possible thanks to the Ministry of Culture, through the efforts of the Undersecretary of State, Senator Lucia Borgonzoni, our sponsors and partners, features a particularly rich program, culminating in a unique evening of innovation, science, and culture.

Today, we celebrate the genius, vision, and boldness of distinguished scientists like Teresa H. Meng and of young innovators. With their new technology aimed at the progress of humanity, they follow Marconi's path and the wishes of Gioia Marconi Braga, who 50 years ago established the Prize in memory of her father.

This is the progress Guglielmo Marconi pursued for peace and to save lives, particularly of those at sea. His daughter, Elettra, with her tireless energy, always reminds us of her father's words: "My inventions are for saving humanity, not for destroying it."

Let us reflect on these words, in this fragile historical moment, in which telecommunications play a strategic role and where the relationship between man and machine is becoming increasingly complex and ethically challenging.

I am proud that, for the first time in the many editions of the Marconi Prize held in Bologna, we have offered a moment of learning and engagement for high school students, adults of tomorrow. This results from the collaboration with our American friends and the University of Bologna, which also organized a multidisciplinary conference for its doctoral candidates to explore the legacy of the Lord of Wireless.

A heartfelt thanks goes to all those who have actively contributed to this initiative, celebrating Guglielmo Marconi, his legacy, and the relationships between our institutions in a renewed perspective of future growth and active collaboration.



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SIDE EVENTS

BACK TO THE FUTURE

CONFERENCE FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

OCTOBER 25 // 9.30 - 11.30 a.m.

Cinema Modernissimo - Bologna

For the first time in the history of the Marconi Society events held in Bologna, a moment was dedicated to high school students - the leaders of tomorrow. The event, conceived and promoted by the Guglielmo Marconi Foundation along with the National Committee Marconi.150, the Marconi Society, and the University of Bologna, offered young people a unique opportunity to connect the past - represented by the extraordinary legacy of Guglielmo Marconi, inventor, entrepreneur, and global citizen - with the present and future of technology. Through reflections and discussions that embrace the latest scientific innovations, students heard firsthand accounts from those who, like the young Marconi, have impacted people's daily lives with their inventions.

After engaging with iconic figures such as Martin Cooper, inventor of the first mobile phone, and Arlene Harris, President and co-founder of DYNA LLC, they delved into the world of cutting-edge research through interactions with PhD students from the Department of Electrical, Electronic, and Information Engineering "Guglielmo Marconi" (DEI), fostering a passionate dialogue between the younger generations of innovators.

Lastly, Father Paolo Benanti, President of the Commission on Artificial Intelligence for Information and AI consultant to Pope Francis, offered students an ethical reflection, encouraging them to look to the future with confidence, while always keeping humanity and its core values at the heart of technological development. To further inspire the discussion, the event was enriched by a video produced by Rai in which Guglielmo Marconi, through AI-generated interventions, introduced himself and the technological legacy that stemmed from his groundbreaking innovations.

MARCONI FELLOWS

MEET UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA

CONFERENCE FOR PHD STUDENTS

OCTOBER 25 // 3.30 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.

Aula dell'VIII centenario, Via Zamboni 33 - Bologna

The meeting aimed to inspire PhD students at the University of Bologna, building on the legacy of Guglielmo Marconi, an iconic innovator and entrepreneur. Marconi Fellows shared their insights into the future of technology and entrepreneurship, while professors from the University of Bologna interpreted these perspectives within the national context, with a specific focus on how these developments can be applied and fostered at UniBo.

Vint Cerf offered a forward-looking vision of the next fifty years, focusing on social and technological trends that will shape the world and Siavash Alamouti provided a perspective on the path to cultivating an entrepreneurial mindset, encouraging students to explore business opportunities within the technological landscape.

The interview between Andrea Goldsmith, the first woman to receive the Marconi Prize in 2020, and Teresa Meng, the 2024 laureate, focused on women in leadership technology.

Finally, Father Paolo Benanti, AI advisor to the Pope, reflected on the ethical challenges that artificial intelligence presents to humanity, encouraging students to consider the broader societal implications of these technologies.

These unique exchanges of ideas intend to bridge global innovations with local academic and technological advancements, helping to prepare the next generation of innovators.

BOARDS MEETING

OCTOBER 26 // 9.00 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.,

Fondazione Guglielmo Marconi, Villa Griffone, Pontecchio Marconi (Bo)

Marconi Society and Fondazione Guglielmo Marconi's boards meeting.



2024 MARCONI AWARDS GALA

THE AWARDS

PAUL BARAN YOUNG SCHOLAR AWARD

Through the Young Scholar Award the Marconi Society propels the careers of promising young scientists and engineers by connecting them with the greatest minds in ICT and providing global recognition for their work. Nominated by academic faculty and mentors, Young Scholars hail from all over the world and each one has the potential to be the next Guglielmo Marconi. The Young Scholars Award includes a \$5,000 stipend and the opportunity to network with industry legends.

THE MARCONI PRIZE

For 46 years, the Marconi Society has presented the leading innovators in information and communications technology with the greatest honor the field has to offer, the Marconi Prize. Awarded annually, the Prize celebrates leaving scientists whose achievements in communications and information technology have advanced the social, economic, and cultural development of all humanity. Each awardee has made a significant and impactful scientific discovery or innovation that changed millions of lives.



DUSCHIA
BODET

Inspired by Guglielmo Marconi's vision of a globally connected world

"I envision my work being part of the global wireless communications infrastructure. I think of myself as working on a subset of what will ideally be used to help close the digital divide and provide a truly globally connected world."

Much like Guglielmo Marconi, who transformed communication by harnessing new technologies, Duschia is exploring ways to best utilize signals in a frequency band that has not typically been used for high-speed wireless communications. Duschia's research has the potential to enable much faster data rates to create global connectivity. Duschia's research focuses on wireless communications at the physical layer, enabling Terabit per second (Tbps) links using the Terahertz band.

Driven by a passion for solving engineering challenges that can positively impact society, Duschia envisions her work becoming an integral part of global wireless infrastructure. Her ultimate goal is to help close the digital divide, creating a world where seamless, high-speed connectivity is accessible to all—a vision that resonates deeply with Marconi's legacy of creating a more connected world.



TARA
BOROUSHAKI

Inspired by Guglielmo Marconi's vision of advancing technology for societal benefit

"This award brings recognition to my research and wireless sensing in general. I look forward to seeing more people do innovative research in this area and pushing the boundaries of our perception."

By developing next-generation mobile systems that fuse computer vision with radio frequency (RF) signals, Tara's research will enable tasks in robotics and augmented reality that were previously not feasible, such as new and more efficient robotic tasks across warehouses, manufacturing plants, and smart homes. Tara's research focuses on sensing and mobile technologies with applications in wireless networking, cyber-physical systems (including robotics), and human-computer interaction (HCI).

Looking to the future, they aim to advance computational sensing by leveraging cutting-edge technologies such as mmWave and THz radars. Her vision is to integrate these innovations into everyday life, making advanced sensing as ubiquitous as WiFi and smart devices, improving how we live and work.



JAVIER
CONDE

Inspired by Guglielmo Marconi's legacy of technological breakthroughs

"As the first Spanish Young Scholar, I am confident that this acknowledgment will serve as an inspiration to other researchers and engineers in Spain and the Spanish-speaking community."

Javier Conde is making digital twins more secure and more flexible to allow for long-term scalability and cross-industry collaboration needed for applications such as improving processes in airports and saving energy in low-emission zones. Javier's research focuses on ensuring scalability, interoperability, and information security for digital twin systems.

Driven by the complexity and transformative potential of digital twins, Javier envisions a future where these systems are seamlessly integrated with emerging technologies like generative AI. Ensuring that such advancements are safely and responsibly implemented, with the goal of enabling breakthroughs that are difficult to imagine today - continuing Marconi's vision of using innovation to improve society on a global scale.



NAKUL
GARG

Inspired by Guglielmo Marconi's vision of practical innovation

"This recognition amplifies my voice within the scientific community, while validating the risk-taking required to pursue challenging problems. I'm excited about the platform it provides to inspire students, showing them that with passion and perseverance, they too can contribute to groundbreaking research at any stage of their journey."

Nakul's research to enable sustainable ambient intelligence, the seamless integration of sensing, computing, and communication into everyday environments, is used to tackle challenges in agriculture and environmental monitoring. Growing up in Delhi, they witnessed the contrast between technological advancements and environmental crises, fueling their passion for merging technology with ecological responsibility. Their journey began developing air pollution sensors at IIT Delhi, sparking a commitment to solutions that benefit both people and planet. Like Marconi, they envision global transformation through the creation of intelligent devices that revolutionize industries while directly impacting lives, driving innovation through industry collaborations and startups.



TERESA H. MENG

Professor of Electrical Engineering, Stanford University
Founder of Atheros Communications

Teresa H. Meng is being recognized for her fundamental technical contributions to and commercial leadership in all-CMOS Wi-Fi technology, leading to its widespread use in practice. Meng's groundbreaking research, engineering, and entrepreneurial vision have made Wi-Fi technology faster, more energy-efficient, and cost-effective so that it can be a critical part of everyday life.

Meng is best known for founding Atheros Communications, acquired by Qualcomm in 2011. She led the development of CMOS integration, making wireless networks more robust, efficient, and affordable. Despite early skepticism, Meng assembled a world-class team and achieved milestones in record time.

Her later work at Stanford included brain-computer interfaces, where her team developed wireless power transfer mechanisms and implantable systems to control prosthetic devices, launching a new field of low-power neural interfaces.

Beyond technology, Meng is passionate about social justice, serving as a director at the Alliance Cultural Foundation International (ACFI), advancing education, arts, and social welfare across Asia, and advocating for women in tech.

She is the Reid Weaver Dennis Professor of Electrical Engineering, Emerita, at Stanford, where she made significant contributions to low-power circuits, video signal processing, and biomedical devices. Meng is the first woman to receive the IEEE Alexander Graham Bell Medal and continues to advise Atmosic Technologies.

2024	Teresa H. Meng	2008	Sir David N. Payne	1992	James Flanagan
2023	Hari Balakrishnan	2007	Ronald L. Rivest	1991	Paul Baran
2022	Siavash Alamouti	2006	John Cioffi	1990	Andrew J. Viterbi
2020	Andrea Goldsmith	2005	Claude Berrou	1989	Robert N. Hall
2019	Paul Kocher	2004	Lawrence Page	1988	Federico Faggin
2019	Taher Elgamal	2004	Sergey Brin	1987	Robert W. Lucky
2018	Tom Leighton	2003	Robert M. Metcalfe	1986	Leonard Kleinrock
2017	Arun Netravali	2003	Robert G. Gallager	1985	Sir Charles Kuen Kao
2016	Bradford Parkinson	2002	Sir Tim Berners-Lee	1984	Sir Eric Ash
2015	Peter Kirstein	2001	Allan Snyder	1983	Izuo Hayashi
2014	Arogyaswami Paulraj	2001	Herwig Kogelnik	1983	Francesco Carassa
2013	Martin Cooper	2000	Martin E. Hellman	1982	Sir Arthur C. Clarke
2012	Henry Samueli	2000	Whitfield Diffie	1981	Seymour Papert
2011	Jack Keil Wolf	1999	James L. Massey	1980	Yash Pal
2011	Irwin Mark Jacobs	1998	Vinton G. Cerf	1979	John R. Pierce
2010	John E. Warnock	1997	David Forney Jr	1978	E. Collin Cherry
2010	Charles Geschke	1996	Gottfried Ungerboeck	1977	Arthur L. Schawlow
2009	Robert Tkach	1995	Jacob Ziv	1976	Hiroshi Inose
2009	Andrew Chraplyvy	1994	Robert Kahn	1975	James R. Killian

The Marconi Society

The Marconi Society was established in 1974 by Gioia Marconi Braga, daughter of Guglielmo Marconi, to honor his legacy by recognizing innovators in the field of information and communications technology (ICT) with the prestigious Marconi Prize. Often referred to as the “Nobel Prize for telecommunications,” the Marconi Prize is awarded annually to ICT innovators whose work exemplifies Marconi’s visionary spirit and contributes to enhancing digital inclusivity.

At the Marconi Society, we have a big vision: a connected world where information and communications technologies allow everyone to reach their full potential. Through prestigious awards, industry education, events, and programs, the Marconi Society encourages and celebrates innovators who are pushing technical, creative, and entrepreneurial boundaries for the benefit of humanity.

This year’s Marconi Awards Gala highlights the Marconi Society’s inaugural Executive Forum, a new initiative that brings together global thought leaders to tackle the most pressing challenges and opportunities in emerging technologies. The Executive Forum will serve as a platform for exchanging ideas, sharing best practices, and shaping the strategic direction of the industry.

The Marconi Awards Gala & Executive Forum also includes academic programs, created in partnership with the Fondazione Guglielmo Marconi and the Italian National Committee Marconi.150. These programs for high school and university students will feature distinguished Italian innovators, as well as a number of our legendary Marconi Fellows. These lectures and programs are designed to inspire the next generation of innovators through interactions and insights with leaders in the field.

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Fondazione Guglielmo Marconi

The foundation dedicated to Guglielmo Marconi (1874-1937) was established on April 11, 1938, following the family's donation of Villa Griffone to the Italian State after Marconi's death. It is directed by a board, appointed by the Ministry of Culture, and supported by a high-profile scientific committee.

Villa Griffone was the Marconi family's countryside residence, located on the hills near Bologna, where, in 1895, young Guglielmo transmitted the first wireless signal, overcoming the Celestini Hill, which still defines the landscape today and captivates those who look out from the window in the inventor's attic laboratory.

This is where Guglielmo Marconi's technological and entrepreneurial adventure began, establishing him as a world-renowned technological innovator and entrepreneur, winner of the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1909.

Villa Griffone, along with the mausoleum designed by Marcello Piacentini, is a National Monument. Each year, it attracts visitors of all ages, from Italy and abroad, who pass the hull of the famous yacht *Elettra*, his floating laboratory, located in the park, and tour the exhibition rooms leading up to the attic where scientific and interactive exhibits are displayed. The archive and library are available to scholars and researchers.

The goal of the Foundation is to "promote and encourage studies and research on wireless communications and all initiatives that perpetuate the memory and knowledge of the great scientist." It develops historical-exhibitory activities and research in collaboration with universities, foundations, and institutions in Italy and abroad.

The Foundation is now engaged in a rich calendar of activities, culminating in the annual Marconi Day on April 25. Ongoing efforts include the reorganization of archives and, thanks to the Ministry of Culture, the restoration of Villa Griffone following the work already carried out on the mausoleum.

Appointed by decree of Ministry of Culture of the Italian Government 04 January 2024

Giulia Fortunato

President

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Representing the Patrons of the Fondazione: The “Cavalieri del Lavoro” - Gruppo Emiliano-Romagnolo



**National Committee for the 150th Anniversary
of Guglielmo Marconi's Birth**

Born in Bologna on April 25, 1874, Guglielmo Marconi made history with his groundbreaking innovations. He is credited not only with inventing wireless telegraphy using radio waves - an achievement that earned him the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1909 - but also with the birth of wireless communication, radio, and borderless communication. To mark the 150th anniversary of his birth, the Ministry of Culture has established a National Committee to promote events in Italy and abroad aimed at honoring his legacy.

The National Committee sponsors and supports initiatives to promote the knowledge and appreciation of Guglielmo Marconi's life and inventions, such as conferences and lecture series, exhibitions, editorial and audiovisual projects, and scientific outreach initiatives involving highly competent, non-commercial entities. Additionally, it directly organizes its own events through collaborations with organizations and institutions such as Cinecittà and Istituto Luce, the National Research Council (CNR), the Fondazione Guglielmo Marconi, the Italian Navy, and RAI.

It is in this context, that the National Committee sponsors and supports the organization of the Bologna-based initiatives connected to the awarding of the 2024 Marconi Prize.



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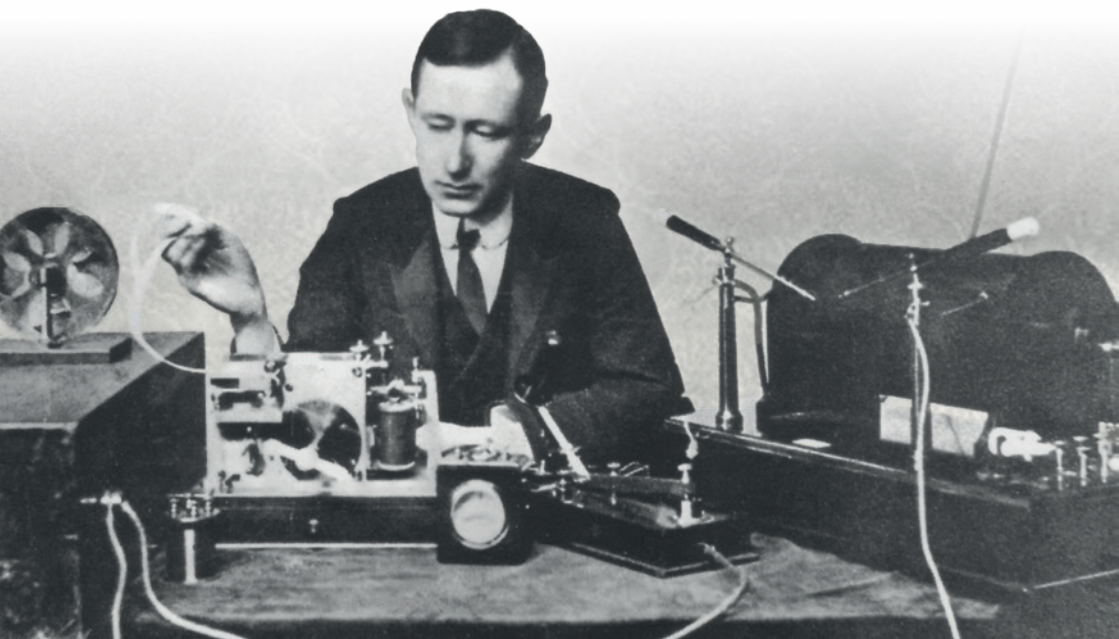
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