

60 years of Department of Telecommunications and Department of Telecommunications and Media Informatics

szabo@hit.bme.hu

A short summary based on the article by Profs. Géza Gordos and László Pap, published in Hungarian in the Special Issue of "Híradástechnika" devoted to the anniversary of the two departments.

In the 40's, Hungary was considered as one of the most developed countries in the world in the field of telecommunications and broadcasting. The telephone line density was one of the highest in Europe by the beginning of WW2. Radio broadcasting started already in 1923, based on the program structure and studio of the so-called telephone news service, invented by Tivadar Puskás in 1893. Our radio broadcasting industry produced one-third of the radio receivers in the middle of the 30's!

To meet the increasing need in electrical engineers specialized in these new areas, 60 years ago the Budapest University of Technology and Economics (then Technical University) decided to establish its Faculty (~School) of Electrical Engineering. It had a new branch called "weak current electrical engineering" in addition to the already existing – within the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering – specialization in "heavy current electrical engineering" (~electric power engineering).

This new branch of education started in the academic year of 1949/1950 and two new departments were founded the same time, the Dept. of Wireline Communications and the Dept. of Wireless Communications. In 1971, these two departments were combined in a single unit called Institute of Communication Electronics which existed for 20 years when in 1991 – as a result of a natural polarization – it was split again into two units: the Dept. of Telecommunications and the Dept. of Telecommunications and Telematics. The latter was re-named to Dept. of Telecommunications and Media Informatics in

2003. These days the two departments cooperate closely and their scopes mostly complement each other in several areas, and some healthy competition also exists between them.

The Dept. of Telecommunications was established and lead until 2008 by Prof. László Pap, Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and is currently lead by Prof. Sándor Imre. It consists of laboratories which address the key research areas of the department and are responsible for the educational activities in these areas:

- Data and network security
- Signal processing and networking algorithms
- Computing technologies
- Multimedia networks
- Acoustics
- Networking technologies and network modeling
- Network design
- Mobile communications and computing

The Dept. of Telecommunications and Telematics was established and lead until 2002 by Prof. Géza Gordos. Since then Prof. Gyula Sallai has been the Head of Department. The department focusing on the convergent information, communication and media technologies is organized in the following laboratories representing the key research and educational areas:

- Infocommunication Networks, Services and Applications
- Infocommunication Management, Strategy and Regulation
- Content Management and Multimedia Systems
- Speech and Multimodal Information Systems
- Speech Acoustics
- Intelligent and Cognitive Media Informatics

In addition, there are two educational laboratories and an accredited and notified Telecommunications Test Laboratory also operates within the department.

For detailed and up-to-date information about the two departments we suggest to visit their websites:

www.hit.bme.hu and www.tmit.bme.hu

