

The Switch Is On. And On. And On. And On. And On.

Honeywell



1930

1940

1950

1960

1970

1980

1990

2000

1932

Dr. Charles F. Burgess forms United Electric Controls, and contracts to manufacture 10,000 chicken brooders. Burgess and mechanic Peter K. McGall then develop the first precision snap-action basic switch for these close-tolerance demands.

1934

McGall finishes switch refinement and is granted a patent.

1935

For construction of the latest sensation – automatic phonographs – Rock-Ola® Manufacturing Corporation places an impressive MICRO SWITCH order.

1937

After working 30 years for Burgess, Walter B. Schulte buys the electronics division and becomes president of the MICRO SWITCH Corporation. It has a sales force of two.



1941

The MICRO SWITCH Corporation receives two patents, as well as one interesting letter. Francis Botsford claims to be the first person using MICRO SWITCHES in a timer mechanism. In an understatement he writes, "Congratulations, you have a fine product," as he had not seen a single failure since 1932.



1942

An employee of Curtiss-Wright Corporation assembles a MICRO SWITCH, a clock and a lamp, mounting it on his car so he can find his vehicle in a block-wide parking lot after dark.

1945

To safeguard paper records, files and archives packed in a vault, the Wrought Washer Company Mfg., Inc. uses leaf-type MICRO SWITCHES to activate gentle fans.



1947

The subminiature switch is introduced.

1951

The military uses Honeywell MICRO SWITCHES in planes, ships, tanks, guns, radar and rockets – with over 275 in bomber aircraft alone. What's more, R. Hoe & Company installs Honeywell components in high-speed newspaper presses, enabling full-speed paper roll changes.

1952

A proprietary panel of splash-proof, corrosion-resistant lights informs USS Silversides sailors when hatches are closed and the submarine can dive. These 'never-fail' switches are one-fifteenth the weight of a standard MICRO SWITCH.



1953

A molding machine manufacturer uses Honeywell MICRO SWITCHES to make twelve timing, limiting and safety operations transpire in 33 seconds – an automation speed never before achieved.

1954

The new EH series switch – featuring a hermetically sealed, split-contact switching unit in an aluminum housing – allows mounting near fuel tanks without danger of gas or liquid ignition.

1956

Four Honeywell MICRO SWITCHES in The Laxloop Continuous Washer – made by Riggs and Lombard – prevent accidents with critical safety shut-offs. Also, a new three-lever switch and accumulator allows customers to play multiple jukebox tunes instead of paying each time.

1957

At sixteen stories tall and 5.5 million pounds, The Mountaineer is the world's largest shovel. And the manufacturer, Marion Power Shovel Company, uses eight Honeywell MICRO SWITCHES in the leveling controls.

1958

As the USS Nautilus submarine makes a historic transpolar crossing – traveling 1,830 miles under the ice from Point Barrow, Alaska, to the North Pole – Honeywell MICRO SWITCHES control many highly specialized functions.

1959

From six basic Honeywell MICRO SWITCHES come 7,577 different switch and assembly combinations, driving most every product in the "modern electrical world."

1960

Aerial photographs at 1,000 MPH are made possible by Chicago Aerial Industries equipment. And withstanding 15 G and temperatures nearing 120 degrees Fahrenheit are 23 subminiature Honeywell MICRO SWITCHES.

1962

An orbiting solar observatory, built for NASA by Ball Brothers Research Corporation, sends back a broad range of solar radiation data. Two subminiature Honeywell MICRO SWITCHES in three control arms indicate the crucial release and lock position status.

1967

New keyboard pushbutton switches let customers purchase components and construct their own units, or purchase assembled keyboards from MICRO SWITCH. This approach, featured at the Wescon show, landed an award for 'innovative product design.'

1969

HDLS is the first switch to meet the rigid and severe electrical and mechanical test requirements of the Ford Motor Company, with extremely unique, modular and reliable design features.

1972

A 1942 WWII Hurricane bomber is recovered from a Canadian swamp, revealing a cockpit Honeywell MICRO SWITCH intact – still sealed and still functioning after 30 years submerged.



1973

ES models of current sensors, LED light emitting diodes and SD low profile modules are unveiled.

1975

After the 505,000,000-mile journey aboard the Viking Lander, a Honeywell MICRO SWITCH HM on the retractable surface sampler scoops up Martian soil and delivers it to the biological laboratory.

1977

To help move massive water traffic, Suez Canal guidance systems use 25 Honeywell MICRO SWITCH pushbuttons in each tower.



1981

On a lighter note, to commemorate the MICRO SWITCH's 50th anniversary, 165 "frozen" hours go into creating a snow sculpture. The art weighs 30 1/2 tons and measures nine feet high, 17 1/2 feet long and seven feet wide. It also contains several bottles of blue food coloring, lemonade (for yellow tint) and black spray paint.

1983

Performing through salt spray, wind and corrosion, LS2 stainless steel Honeywell MICRO SWITCHES are found throughout Skagit Division high sea drilling rigs. Back on dry land, you might find as many as 35 Honeywell MICRO SWITCHES on one vending machine, helping turn the spiral helix to drop your favorite snack.

1987

Technology incorporating a microscopic bridge etched into a sensing chip allows the introduction of an airflow sensor sensitive enough to detect breathing in a person at rest.

1990

Freepoint facility employees celebrate "Boeing Days," as the airplane company manufactures a new 747 every three days – with 300 Honeywell MICRO SWITCH products per plane.

1992

The Customer Response Center speeds up the design process, solves control needs and increases productivity – to meet, and then exceed, customers' expectations.

1993

All Honeywell MICRO SWITCH sites achieve ISO 9001 and ISO 9002 certification, acknowledging what the world already knows: A quality product is in place, with documented systems, processes and procedures ensuring excellence along the way.

1999

Honeywell MICRO SWITCH becomes Honeywell Sensing and Control to reflect the broader product offerings – from switches and sensors to control products.

2007

The MICRO SWITCH celebrates three-quarters of a century of service, durability, efficiency and creativity. And while materials for fabrication may have been modified, the fundamental design remains unchanged – with Honeywell now manufacturing 80 million per year.

And beyond ...

Simple, superior, durable, and irreplaceable even by 21st century standards and sufficiency, the MICRO SWITCH cycles on. And on. And on.



Sensing & Control Celebrates the MICRO SWITCH 75th ANNIVERSARY