

A Timeline of Pitney Bowes History

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Since Arthur Pitney and Walter Bowes first met to put their ideas together, we have had a living legacy of always innovating, adapting and striving to do better. One thing, however, has never changed. Pitney Bowes will always be a company driven by values. From the beginning — founded on innovation and powering commerce from day one — we have sought to do the right thing the right way for our customers, our people, and the world around us. Browse the timeline for notable milestones in our 100 years of innovation and doing the right thing the right way.

1920s

March 15 The US House of Representatives passes a bill authorizing mechanical stamps on first-class mail.

April 23 The Pitney Bowes Postage Meter Company was founded. Arthur Pitney was the inventor and Walter Bowes the promoter.

September 1 The Post Office formally approved the Pitney Bowes postage meter for use throughout the United States Postal System. By 1922, both England and Canada followed suit and approved the use of the Pitney Bowes postage meter.

1929 - 1939

1929 The introduction of a multi-denomination postage meter that allows metered mail service to apply to different weights and sizes of mail.

1933 Pitney Bowes creates a machine that can print various postage rates on both letters and parcels, an upgrade from previous version that only worked with letters.

1939 Pitney Bowes unveils the “Mailomat” – a coin-operated postage meter and letter box.

1940s – 1950s

1942 One year after WWII began, Pitney Bowes developed a device known as API, which gave continuous latitude and longitude readings for the first time in the history of navigation. Women were nearly 40% of the workforce in the Stamford, CT plant. By the end of 1946, nearly half of the men employed at Pitney Bowes were World War II veterans.

1949 The company launches the first mass-market desktop mail station. Postage paid on metered mail reaches an all-time high of \$500M, or 36% of all USPS postal revenues.

1950 Pitney Bowes is listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

1950s Pitney Bowes introduces the automatic mail-sorting machine.

1960s – 1970s

1961 A new mail inserter helps clients boost productivity, drive precision and decrease costs in large-volume mailing.

1968 Pitney Bowes produces the first bar code equipment for retail use.

1970s Pitney Bowes enters the fax machine market and by the 1980s, the company owns 45% of the market incorporate fax machines.

1971 The Pitney Bowes Credit Services Corporation is established to provide leasing of Pitney Bowes equipment to clients.

1978 The introduction of “Postage by Phone,” allows companies to order postage via telephone and have their meters reset electronically.

1980s – 1990s

1981 Pitney Bowes unveils the Model 6500 electric meter, a commitment to updating offerings with the latest technology.

1992 A new age of integrated mail processing begins with the launch of the Paragon® system which automatically calculates and affixes postage based on weight and size.

1996 A line of credit for postage allows clients to “mail now and pay later”– helping to improve their cash flow.

1998 The company branches into digital document delivery with the launch of its D3 software that enables message management via hard copy, web, email and fax.

2000s – 2010s

2002 Pitney Bowes completes the acquisition of PSI to become the largest presort mail company in the US.

2004 eBay selects Pitney Bowes for its shipping label printing service.

2005 The Pitney Bowes Foundation focuses on literacy and education and deepens the community involvement of Pitney Bowes employees through volunteer grants and matching gifts.

2007 Pitney Bowes acquires MapInfo to build its software offerings of data quality, communications & location intelligence.

2012 The Global Shipping Program enables US marketplace sellers to provide products to buyers outside of the country.

2015 Borderfree acquisition expands the company’s commerce business with cross-border ecommerce solutions that help clients grow internationally.

2016 The Pitney Bowes Commerce Cloud, a commerce enabler, provides access to solutions, analytics and APIs across the full commerce continuum.

Pitney Bowes launches the SendPro 300, the first multi-carrier office shipping solution in the US, based on Cloud technology.

2017 Pitney Bowes acquires Newgistics, building its ecommerce fulfillment, delivery and return capabilities in the US.

2019 Wheeler Financial, a subsidiary of the Pitney Bowes Bank, begins to provide equipment financing to Small and Medium Businesses.