

Pitney Bowes Firsts - 100 Years of Constant Innovation

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From pioneering the postage meter to pushing the boundaries of global ecommerce, Pitney Bowes continues to advance technology that reshapes how commerce happens. Take a look at some of our most important firsts along the way.

- 1920 The **first postage meter**, the Model M, creates the “metered mail” market and a new industry is born. In September of the same year, the USPS formally approves the use of the postage machine for First Class mail.
- 1929 The **first postage meter** for both letters and parcels is created.
- 1939 Pitney Bowes unveils the “Mailomat” – the first coin-operated postage meter and letter box.
- 1942 Innovating to support WWII efforts, Pitney Bowes develops the **API device**, which provided continuous latitude and longitude readings for the **first time in the history of navigation**.
- 1946 One year before Connecticut passes the Fair Employment Practices Act, **Pitney Bowes employs the first African American female** clerical worker, Gladys E. Robinson.
- 1949 The **first desktop mail station** propels Pitney Bowes to new levels of success. The first desk model postage meter brought the advantages of metered mail within reach of the smallest businesses.
- 1950 Pitney Bowes becomes **the first mailing company** to sell stock in New York. PBI is listed on the New York Stock Exchange.
- 1951 Robert C. Pitney – son of founder Arthur Pitney, issues the first patent for a remotely resettable meter.
- 1957 The **first automatic mail sorter** is invented for the USPS. Automation was urgently needed in the fields of facing, cancelling and sorting mail. The automatic machine sorted 60,000 letters an hour into 300 separate “destination” boxes.
- 1961 The book "The Story of Pitney-Bowes" written by William Cahn is published.
- 1965 Pitney Bowes is the first company to offer **courtesy mailing counters** at drug, food, stationary and other stores.
- 1968 Pitney Bowes produces **the first bar code** equipment for retail use.
- 1971 The Pitney Bowes Credit Services Corporation is established to provide Pitney Bowes equipment leasing to clients.
- 1977 Julia M. Walsh of Washington, DC, becomes **the first woman elected** to the Pitney Bowes Board of Directors.

- 1977 Pitney Bowes forms the Pitney Bowes Credit Corporation to offer financial services for our products.
- 1979 Pitney Bowes introduces Postage by Phone® to help clients reduce trips to the post office by resetting their postage meter via the telephone line.
- 1981 Pitney Bowes unveils the Model 6500 electric meter, advancing from mechanical to electronic and proving our commitment to updating offerings with the latest technology.
- 1996 Pitney Bowes introduces Purchase Power® – to enable clients to “**mail now and pay later**” with a credit line of postage.
- 2004 For the first time Pitney Bowes enables domestic eBay shippers to print Postal Service labels from their accounts.
- 2005 Pitney Bowes forms the Pitney Bowes Foundation
- 2012 The Global Shipping Program enables US marketplace sellers to provide products to buyers outside of the country.
- 2016 Pitney Bowes launches the SendPro 300, the **first multi-carrier office shipping solution** in the US, based on Cloud technology.
- 2016 The Pitney Bowes Commerce Cloud is introduced. A commerce enabler, it provides access to solutions, analytics and APIs across the full commerce continuum.
- 2018 Pitney Bowes is named to the **first Forbes Magazine List of America's Best Employers for Women**
- 2019 On Cyber Monday, our Global Carrier Services platform prints more than 1 million labels in a single day.
- 2019 Wheeler Financial, a subsidiary of the Pitney Bowes Bank, begins to provide equipment financing to small and medium businesses.
- 2020 Forbes names Pitney Bowes, a Best Employer for Diversity.