

Celebrating the U.S. National Science Foundation

1990s



1992

2G brought a digital leap in phones, replacing analog calls and delivering the world's first text: Merry Christmas.



1994

Named after a Viking king, Bluetooth launched as a short-range radio link for devices to connect wirelessly.



1999

Powered by the faster new 802.11b standard, Wi-Fi left the lab and brought wireless internet home.

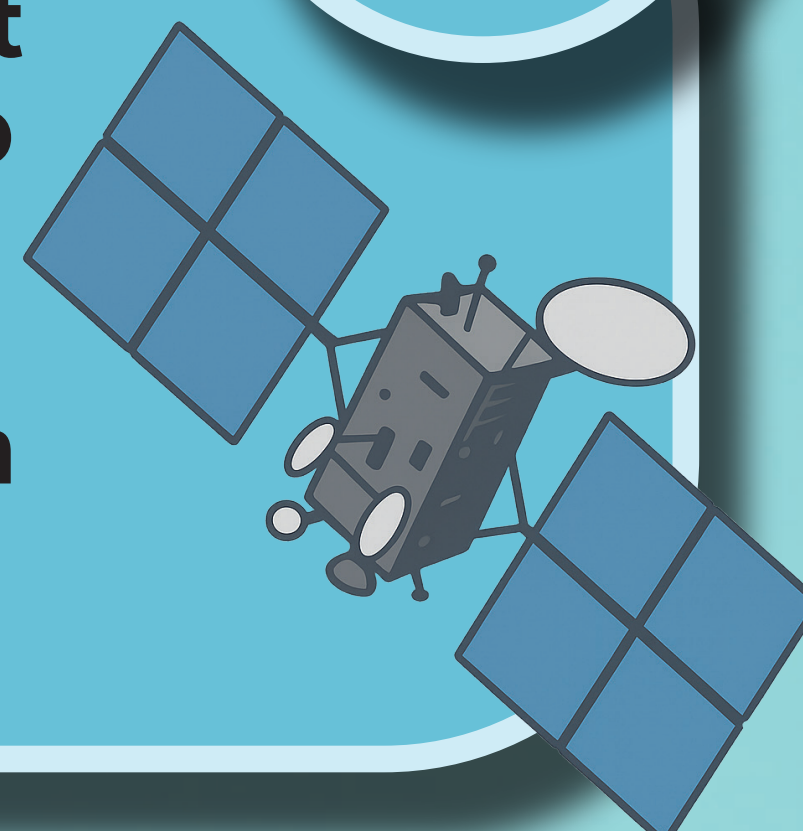


2000s



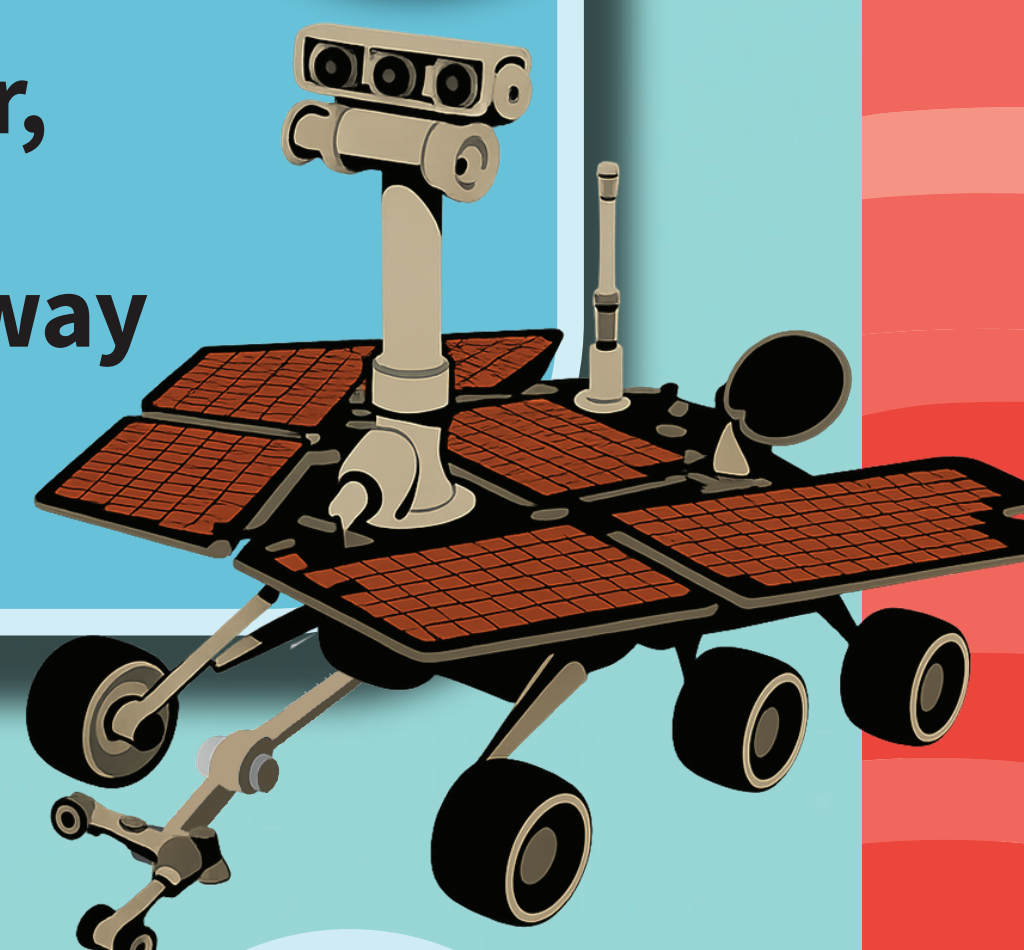
2001

XM and Sirius brought the first satellite radio to U.S. drivers, with real-time broadcasts from space.



2004

Spirit and Opportunity Mars rovers used relay radios to an orbiter, staying light and pioneering a new way to talk to Earth.



2007

Apple launched the iPhone and made Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, and cellular radios core to the user experience like no phone before it.



2010s



2010

4G LTE improved cellular radio speed, unlocking streaming, sharing, and real-time navigation.



2015

The Internet of Things took off as LoRa radio linked low-power sensors tracking air, water, weather, and movement.



2019

Apple introduced ultra-wideband radio to phones, pinpointing nearby connected objects more precisely than GPS.



2020s



2023

AI showed it could manage the radio spectrum, helping public and private users share the crowded airwaves.



2025

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