Innovation timeline
At Barco, we don’t bring technology for the sake of technology. We use technology to transform the quality of life: from improving health outcomes to changing the way people work and creating compelling experiences.

*It’s innovation that pushes the world forward.* So browse through our history to see how our inventions have enabled bright outcomes over the years...
1934

It all starts in 1934 when a young and bold entrepreneur named Lucien De Puydt begins a Flemish technology company: the Belgian American Radio Corporation (BARCO).

His ambition is to produce and sell the most significant high-tech consumer product of that era, the radio, in Flanders and its surroundings.

In our first year, we assemble no less than 2,000 radios.
The radio market expands rapidly in the 1930s. Lucien De Puydt combines his technical knowhow with a creative import strategy that allows him to assemble radios at a low cost. During that time, radio ownership becomes a reality for more and more people who had only dreamed about it before. This is reflected in our first slogan: ‘Your family’s indispensable friend’.
Did you know?

Did you know Barco radios were so well-known and popular that they became a prop in one of Belgium’s most famous comic book strips?

In *Nero*, pub goers are following the Tour de France over the radio.

But not just any radio...
1949
We successfully make the change to TV technology and launch the first TV prototypes three years ahead of other Belgian manufacturers.

In 1949, a receiver mast is installed near the office, which makes it possible to test different types of transmission signals from London and Lille.

This makes Barco TVs the only TVs that can accurately transmit television programs from the RTF and the BBC.
1951

We start to diversify by producing our own jukeboxes. Within a few months, the inventiveness of Barco technicians leads to the creation of the Barcobox. By using a patented I-franc system, café owners are able to install a relatively low-priced jukebox.

The success is huge, and we have to cope with imitations on a major scale, so that the advertising material always states: ‘Do not be deceived by imitators: they will only cause you trouble.’
Did you know?

Music has always been part of our history. But did you know we also made HiFi racks? Especially for the Middle East, we made 40 units in a special ‘sand’ color.

However, the order was canceled and the futuristic, golden units were sold to Barco employees.

Who still has one?
1959

We present the first Belgian television with printed circuit boards and semi-modular chassis to the public at the 1959 Brussels TV exhibition, two years ahead of other Belgian television producers.

The Galaxy, with its 110° viewing angle tube and its thin, light cabinet, acts as a benchmark for all future generations of TVs.
1962

We start to produce multi-standard television sets. From now on, our TVs can receive no less than five different transmission standards, which propels TV setmaking to higher levels.

The most striking aspect, however, is the fact that we are the first producer of universal TV sets with a wireless ultrasonic remote control.
1964

We develop our own version of the bobbin sensor, which we sell to the blooming Kortrijk textile industry.

Our textile department then proceeds to develop its own electronic loom control, the Stop Control IEI20.

This device enables users to increase the output of the loom by 10%.

Automation equipment, including sensors, continues to represent the lion’s share of production.
1966

Meet ‘the Traveller’: the first portable multi-standard television. Its successor, the Mini Ranger, is a fully transistorized version and will turn out to be one of our greatest success stories.

It represents the three most important USPs of Barco at that time: multi-standard, transistorization, and a modular chassis.
1967

Making a successful move into the color television market, we take over the Belgian market by storm. Barco color televisions were the only ones to receive both PAL and SECAM systems. In other words, multi-standard remains our key focus. It allows us to compete with ‘monostandard’ giants such as Philips.
In conjunction with the BRT, the Belgian national radio and television broadcasting station, we develop the first professional CTVM I color studio monitor.

The product is unique at the time, given that the professional monitor market has not yet switched to color.

The technical perfection of these systems attracts customers from all over the world.
Thanks to our experience with computer technology, we are in a position to design a computer system that can interface with all textile machines. The Sycotex system continually monitors textile operations, which results in a considerable rise in output. In the years following, the Sycotex is known as the most complete system for quality, storage and planning control.
1979
We start to focus on video projection in airplanes. One videotape, as opposed to film rolls, can serve various projectors on board an aircraft. This means the video projector has to be able to connect to multiple standards, which is exactly our expertise.

In addition, our in-flight projectors are able to work with color, while the competition can only generate black and white, or green, images.
Our data projector is an answer to the growing demand for large-screen projectors that can project both sharp alphanumeric data as well as complex charts. We succeed in developing a projector that is able to generate a perfect image with virtually every connection.

Thanks to IBM orders, the Barco data projector becomes the de facto standard in the early 1980s.
We shift our emphasis to precision graphics and visual displays with the launch of the CDCT 5000. The 1250-line screen generates an exceptionally detailed image with stable colors. The CDCT 5000 and its successors arouse the interest of IBM and we become the market leader in the area of image processing and, from 1987, also in the area of medical diagnosis.
1985

We achieve a technological milestone when our new video monitor line, the Color Video Scope (CVS), is introduced.

It is recognized as the most versatile monitoring system for television studios and is crowned with an Emmy award in 1988.

The microprocessor is able to produce a uniform image via automatic calibration, a world first.
1986

Our medical displays are off to a flying start with the launch of a 10-inch monitor offering the sharpest image on the market.

It's how we become the market leader in the area of color monitors for echography and magnetic resonance.

In addition, we have an intervention-free calibration system, which make Barco displays technologically superior.
1987
At the end of 1985, we develop the Producer. Aimed at providing productivity in 3D animation, the Producer fits the needs of the modern image production environment.

Two years later, we expand the Producer system with Creator, a new high resolution paint system, offering the world of reproduction houses, photo retouchers, and graphic designers creative possibilities hitherto unseen.
Innovation timeline

Did you know?

Did you know we won two prestigious Emmy awards over the years?

One in 1988 for the best technical performance in television, and one in 2015 for the game-changing contribution of Barco Silex in the Video Services Forum.
1992

LCD technology, a high-quality substitute for CRT technology, is redefining the market.

We decide to apply ourselves to the production of very big and bright projectors.

With our LCD 5000 projector range, we set a new standard for brightness, conquering the rental business market for large conferences and major events.
Innovation timeline

1993
For reliable color reproduction in a prepress system a color accurate monitor is essential.

Our Reference Calibrator can easily communicate with the world’s most popular color management systems.

In the booming market for open systems, the Reference Calibrator is acknowledged to be the one and only reference for accurate color on the DTP work desk.
Flexography, a modern version of letter press which uses flexible relief plates, becomes extremely popular for printing labels and packaging.

Our Cyrel Digital Imager (CDI) is the first computer-to-plate device for direct imaging of digital flexoplates.

The platesetter family will win several awards as it enables shorter press setup times, more stable press runs, easier repeat orders, and near-offset quality.
1997
Our rear-projection boardroom solutions make sure all projection and audio-visual equipment is hidden behind the screen, so there are less constraints with regard to room design.

What’s more, the presenter can stand in front of the image without casting shadows or being blinded by projected light.

We offer the total package: screen, mechanics, projector, interfacing, and switching.
Did you know?

Did you know that in France, people still refer to meeting room gear as ‘Le Barco’?

They use it as a collective name for projectors, phones, video conferencing systems and more.

Even when they’re not really Barco products ;-)
Radiologists worldwide are overwhelmed by MeDis, our total imaging solution for softcopy diagnosis including displays, medical display systems and software.

More importantly, we are the first company to receive the 510(k) medical quality certificate from the American Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for our medical displays.
1998

At Infocomm in the United States, we are the first in the world to include a ‘digital input’ channel (SDI) on our projectors.

At the same time, the BarcoGraphics 6300 is warmly welcomed onto the market as our first LCD projector using polysilicon technology.
Together with the Dutch PTT Telecom, we develop a cable television network management system, named ROSA.

A headend makes it possible to transmit several television channels through a cable network.

From now on, terminals can be supplied with television signals from the broadcast studio and at the same time be remotely controlled by the ROSA system. Networking avant la lettre!
Did you know?

Did you know that over the years we developed true athletic skills in visualizing the Olympic Games? London, Athens, Rio or Shangai.

You name it, we did it!
We introduce the IntelliRoom concept. The IntelliRoom gives the user immediate access to internal and external information sources which are integrated in high resolution on one display wall.

Next to more user friendliness and flexibility, it also enables high-quality multi-site teleconferencing.
Orders for ISIS, the first true large screen LCD display for air traffic control, are booming.

As opposed to CRT displays, which are notorious for their low contrast, changing colors, and degrading image sharpness, the images represented on the ISIS display remain crisp and stable.

The special, square display will soon be used by over 20,000 air traffic controllers every day.
Innovation timeline

2002

The Baron projection table enables multiple users to simultaneously evaluate a 3D representation and make changes as a group. The modular design allows for easy setup and disassembly in less than 30 minutes. It can be angled to suit your preferred way of working.

The Baron is extremely popular in scientific research and molecular modeling, as well as prototype designing.
Radiologists need versatile displays capable of showing both grayscale and color-augmented modalities on a single monitor.

Our Coronis Fusion 6MP is the world’s first diagnostic display system that enables this.

The Fusion offers imaging possibilities in color which were previously only possible on special grayscale LCDs.
Pioneers in ultra-high resolution, we introduce the world’s first three-chip DLP projectors with a native WUXGA resolution, which is a step up from the common Full HD format. Over the years, we’ll develop a host of Galaxy projector models. They are the ideal solution for markets that require exact 3D data display, virtual prototyping and collaborative videoconferencing.
Innovation timeline

2009

The RHDM-2301 for film and post production is the world’s first grade-1 reference display with LCD technology. It features LED backlighting and embedded calibration and stabilization technology. All these features ensure a color performance and image quality level that is unseen in broadcast and post-production environments.
2010

The RP-360, a 360° immersive dome for flight simulation, is the most realistic dome for flight training on the market. It is the only system to offer full 360° immersion with rear-projection.

Before, dome setups were front projected (from behind the pilot) because rear projection (from the outside) would require too many projectors to achieve the same screen resolution. With the RP-360, this limitation is no more.
Innovation timeline

Did you know?
Did you know our simulation products were also used for leisure instead of business?
Fancy a round of golf? No sweat!
A new technology called digital breast tomosynthesis significantly improves breast cancer screening by recreating a 3D image of the breast.

Our Mammo Tomosynthesis 5MP is the first and only display system to be cleared by the FDA for viewing breast tomosynthesis images.

It also introduces groundbreaking innovations that further increase breast cancer detection.
Innovation timeline

2012

At CinemaCon, the world’s largest event for movie theater owners, we demonstrate ultra-bright 4K laser projection and premiere a never-before-seen exhibition of high frame rate movie footage at 120 frames per second per eye for a spectacular movie experience.
Innovation timeline

Did you know?

Did you know we achieved an official Guinness World Record?

Our DP2K-32B digital cinema projector can officially claim the title of ‘brightest projector in the world’. 
Innovation timeline

2012
ClickShare is our answer to some very recognizable issues commonly experienced in meeting rooms.

This revolutionary presentation and collaboration system allows presenters and participants to simultaneously connect to the meeting room AV equipment and share their laptop content on the large screen with just a single click.
To expand the applicability of tiled LCD video walls, we develop the OBLX free-standing structure.

From now on, LCD video walls can be mounted anywhere, in control rooms, meeting rooms, lobbies or emergency centers, without the need for wall support. And there is no limit to the horizontal extension!
Coronis Uniti is the first diagnostic display explicitly designed for both PACS and breast imaging. With this solution, Barco accomplishes something that hasn’t been possible before: showing every type of medical image on one screen. But most importantly, Coronis Uniti has proven to increase breast cancer detection probability by up to 30%!
Innovation timeline

Did you know?

Did you know that in 2015, we enabled Belgium’s first liver laparoscopy in 4K?

Using an endoscopy camera and our 4K surgical screens to visualize the liver with a resolution 4 times that of HD!

“As good as open surgery,” says Dr. Mathieu Dhondt.
We are the first manufacturer to introduce an 18,000-lumen laser phosphor projector for cinema, which is three times the brightness of any other laser phosphor projector in the market.

Our projectors also provide considerable cost-savings, as their lifetime equals that of 30 Xenon lamps while lowering the electricity bill by up to 50%.
Did you know?

Did you know that the third installment of The Hobbit, “The Battle of the Five Armies”, premiered with Barco laser projectors?

For a precious precious precious precious precious precious viewing experience!
Collaborative visualization in its many forms is fast becoming the engine of the 24/7 control room.

With our new RGB Laser, we enable operators to view all the details on the video wall, day or night.

At the same time, OpSpace enables operators to access many sources and applications on one single workspace, for even better decision-making.
Innovation timeline

2017
We reinvent the LCD video wall with the launch of Barco UniSee.

By completely rethinking and optimizing every aspect of tiled LCD video walls, UniSee introduces a single uniform view ensuring faster installation, easier servicing, and higher reliability.

This makes it the perfect platform for control rooms, experience centers, high-end meeting rooms, and more.
Innovation timeline

Did you know?
Our passion for technology and innovation is captured in about 400 granted patents.
This is the equivalent of about 5 extraordinary inventions per year!