

Business Computing: the Second 50 Years

A 2-day conference for business leaders



The LEO story: key dates

1947 (May)	Thompson and Standingford's visit to the US
1949 (May)	Lyons' board approves plan to build its own computer
1951 (November)	Bakeries' valuation job runs live, marking the world's first business application
1954 (February)	First large-scale production job producing pay cheques for bakeries' staff
1954 (July)	Lyons' board decision to proceed with LEO II and enter the business of computer manufacturing for sale and hire
1954 (December)	LEO Computers Limited formed
1956 (February)	First external order for LEO from WD & HO Wills
1958 (March/April)	Pinkerton and Caminer visit to the US followed by decision to move to an all-transistor design with LEO III
1961 (May)	Leo III available for trials
1962 (June)	First overseas LEO installation in South Africa in joint venture with Rand Mines
1963 (February)	Merger with English Electric in 50/50 venture forming English Electric Leo Computers
1964 (October)	Lyons sells its remaining interest in the computer company to English Electric and withdraws from the business. Marconi computer operations added to the company.

- 1965 (January)** Decision to base future product range on RCA Spectra machines
- First LEO installation in Europe for VLD Railway Labs in Prague
- 1965 (September)** System 4 range announced
- 1967 (March)** Takeover of Elliott Automation and formation of English Electric Computers, dropping LEO and Marconi from the company name
- Last installation of main run of LEO systems at Tower Hamlets
- 1968 (July)** Announcement of the merger with ICT to form International Computers Limited (ICL)
- 1981 (March)** Last of the LEO systems, the Post Office's LEO 326s, taken out of service

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