



Kelvin Hughes CEO Russell Gould outside Enfield HQ and manufacturing facility

# 250 YEARS IN THE MAKING

## **KELVIN HUGHES HAS BEEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE DESIGN AND SUPPLY OF MARITIME NAVIGATION FOR OVER 250 YEARS.**

The company, which can be traced back to the 18th century with Thomas Hughes, a Master of the Clock-makers Company, and William Thomson 1st Baron Kelvin, one of Scotland's greatest scientists, today supplies advanced radar solutions for sea and land based applications to governments, navies and businesses around the globe.

Few companies can boast a history as varied and intriguing as Kelvin Hughes, and over the coming months, we will be bringing you a series of news stories that highlight just some of the most notable events in our timeline.



The original Kelvin Hughes Hainault site shown here in 1930 and early 2000

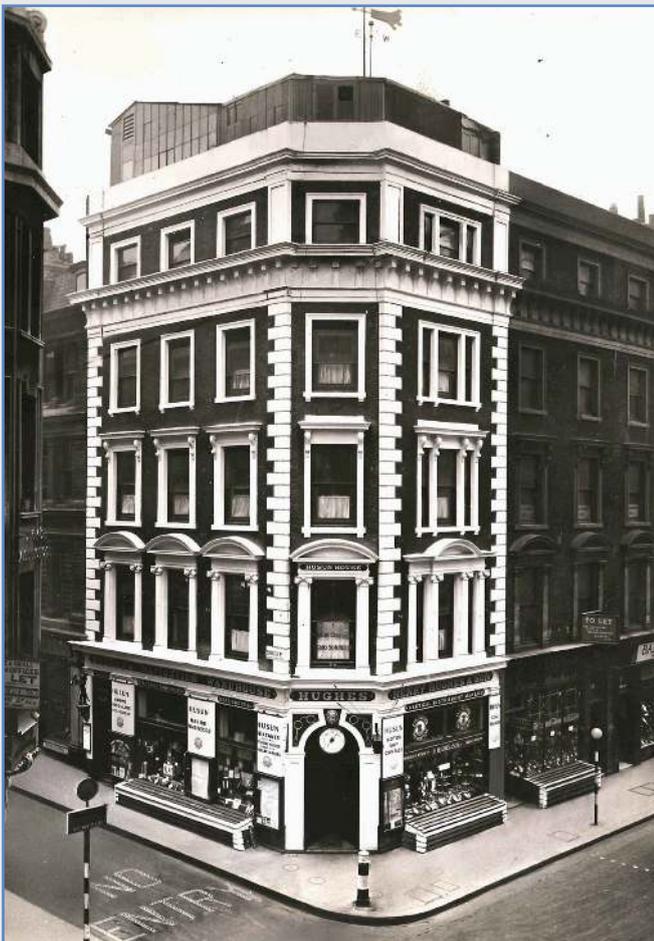




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## HOW IT ALL STARTED

Many would attribute the true origins of Kelvin Hughes to Master Clock Maker Thomas Hughes. Based in Bermondsey, London, Hughes came from a long line of clock and watchmakers, and was a highly respected creator of marine quadrants and compasses, even selling a chronometer to Captain Bligh of the HMS Bounty. Thomas Hughes' son, Henry, followed him into the clock and watchmaking trade, and in 1838 he set up Henry Hughes and Sons, eventually supplying the renowned explorers Shackleton, Evans and Sir Henry Stanley. Inspired by his father, Henry Hughes' son Arthur bought the Hughes family's first-ever manufacturing site in Hainault, Essex, and in 1923 the company produced the first recording echo (depth) sounder. 12 years later, S. Smith & Sons (now Smiths Group plc) bought a controlling interest in the company: a collaboration that initiated the development of marine and aircraft instrumentation, and set the course for the company's future.



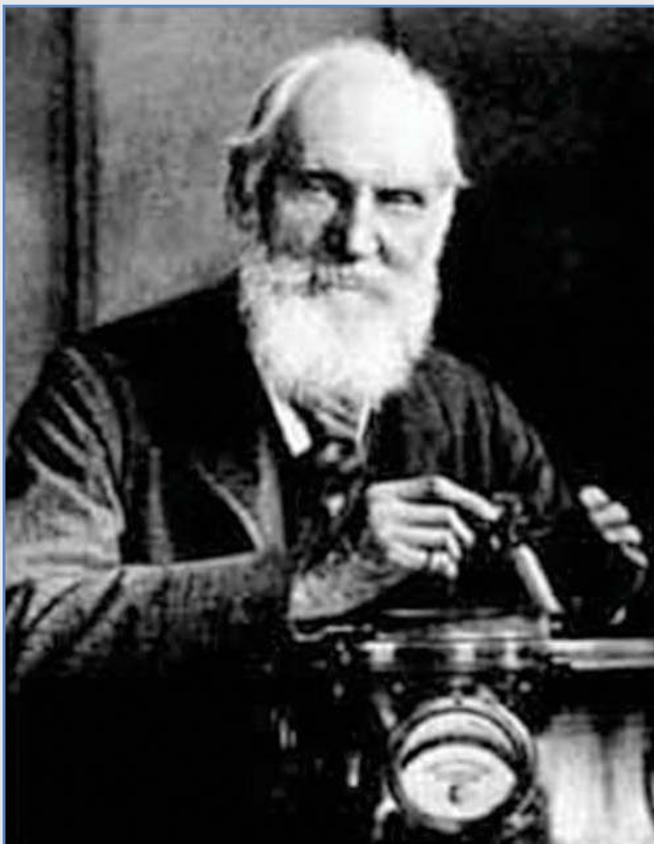
Henry Hughes



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## THE KELVIN CONNECTION

Henry Hughes & Sons' rivals-turned-partners originally started as a company called Kelvin and James White Ltd formed by William Thomson 1st Baron Kelvin and his business partner James White. Together they manufactured compasses, sounding equipment that Thomson used in the laying of the 1st transatlantic cable along with more traditional equipment such as telescopes, microscopes and surveying equipment. In 1913 the company name changed to Kelvin Bottomley & Baird, and went on to provide aviation and industrial instrumentation throughout the war years.



William Thomson 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Kelvin of Largs





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## A MEETING OF MINDS

Kelvin and Hughes Ltd. was officially formed in 1946, a year after the end of the Second World War. Henry Hughes & Sons had thrived throughout the inter-war years, expanding into aviation and industrial instrumentation. For years, Henry Hughes & Sons had rivalled with Kelvin Bottomley & Baird, a company that developed and produced similar products. The head offices of both companies were destroyed in the 1941 Blitz, and subsequent discussions resulted in an agreement to forge a joint venture.

## POST-MERGER, AND BEYOND

Three years after the two companies merged, the newly formed Kelvin and Hughes Ltd had developed and sold the first Type Approved Maritime Radar System from the UK Ministry of Transport. Their success was to continue; in the following decade, Kelvin and Hughes developed increasingly versatile and advanced radar systems, with many 'Firsts', including colour and raster scan displays. In 1961, its name was abbreviated to 'Kelvin Hughes' and the organisation became the marine division of Smiths Industries Limited which is now a FTSE 100 public listed company named Smiths Group PLC. The Company remained in Smiths' ownership until in 2007 it was acquired by the UK based private equity group ECI Partners.

Today, Kelvin Hughes is a world leader in the development and manufacture of navigation, surveillance and security radar systems. Its products are in use in a wide range of commercial and naval vessels and cruise liners, including the Queen Mary 2 and The UK Navy Royal Fleet Auxiliary Tide Class fast fleet tanker. Its land based radar products are providing surveillance and security to coastlines, ports, borders and critical infrastructure around the world. They are also in service with over 30 different navies, including fittings on every United Kingdom Royal Navy warship. With an armful of accolades – including the first commercial radar in 1948, the first paper chart tracing service in 1971, the first commercially available solid state radar in 2006 and recently, the SharpEye™ SCV: the world's first small watercraft situational awareness radar - there can be no doubt as to Kelvin Hughes' status as an intellectual and manufacturing powerhouse. However bright its future, Kelvin Hughes always makes a point of maintaining the standards set all those years ago by Thomas Hughes and Lord Kelvin – the founders of one of the greatest ever companies in radar systems.

*Watch out for our news series celebrating over 250 years of Kelvin Hughes: a rich history that is incredible to read, and even better to be a part of...*