

Northern Electric

An antitrust suit filed against AT&T/Western Electric in 1949 forces the company to sell its stake in Northern Electric in 1956 to Bell Canada, of which AT&T also has a stake in. Northern Electric no longer tied to Western Electric starts to develop its own line of phone products.



Northern Electric changes its name to Northern Telecom in 1976



Northern Telecom acquires Bay Networks in 1998, and changes the name of the combined company to Nortel Networks. BCE (Bell Canada Enterprises) is no longer a major shareholder, and in 2000, BCE spins-off Nortel to its shareholders.

Alcatel-Lucent acquired Nortel's UMTS radio access business in 2006.

2009, Nortel management filed for bankruptcy and begins to dismantle the company.

Nortel Enterprise Division is acquired by Avaya Inc., which re-unites the bulk of the original Western Electric and Northern Electric business units that were forced apart as a result of the 1949 antitrust suit.



In preparation for the divestiture of the Bell Operating Companies (BOC) in 1984, American Bell, Bell Labs and Western Electric were fully absorbed into AT&T, and the new entity becomes AT&T Technologies, Inc.

- * AT&T Bell Laboratories - R&D functions
- * AT&T Consumer Products - Consumer telephone equipment sales
- * AT&T International - International ventures
 - o AT&T Network Systems International
 - o Goldstar Semiconductor
 - o AT&T Taiwan
 - o AT&T Microelectronica de Espana
 - o Lycom
 - o AT&T Ricoh
 - o AT&T Network Systems Espana
- * AT&T Network Systems - Large Business/Corporate equipment
- * AT&T Technology Systems - Computer-focused R&D

Lucent Technologies
Bell Labs Innovations



With the forthcoming Telecommunications Act of 1996, which will allow any communications company to compete in each others market, AT&T management foresee that AT&T Technologies, Inc. will be regarded more of a competitor than a trusted supplier of communications equipment, so announces "Trivestiture", an initiative by AT&T Corporation to spin-off AT&T Global Information Solutions (NCR Corporation), AT&T Technologies, Inc. (Lucent Technologies, Inc.) with AT&T Corporation remaining a communications services company.

Lucent spun-off in 1996
NCR spun-off in 1997

Lucent Technologies
Bell Labs Innovations



Consumer Products Group is sold to VTECH Holdings in 2000



Business Communications and connectivity solutions unit becomes Avaya, Inc. Spun-off in 2000.

SYSTEMAX
SOLUTIONS

Connectivity Solutions unit sold to CommScope in 2004

agere systems

Microelectronics Group becomes Agere Systems, Inc. Spun-off in 2002



Alcatel-Lucent

Lucent Technologies merges with Alcatel in 2006, and the combined company is called Alcatel-Lucent.