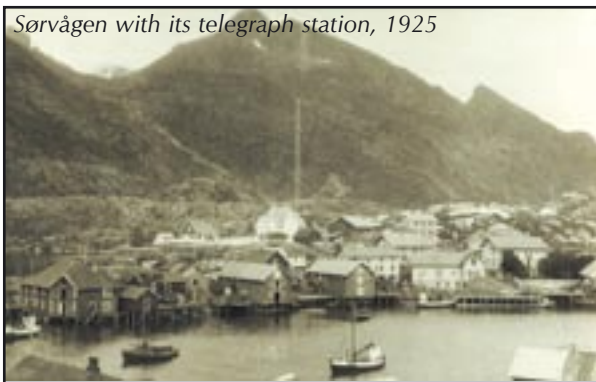


Sørvågen with its telegraph station, 1925



1946 Norway's first fixed service radio link

In 1941 German forces in the Lofoten Islands were attacked twice by the Allies who were searching for, amongst other things, the secret German Enigma codes. During the Boxing Day Lofoten Raid, the radio mast in Sørvågen was demolished. During the war, the Germans had developed "broadband" – a radio link (for the decimeter wavelength) that allowed fast and secure transmission. After the war, the Norwegian Telecom Authority took possession of some of the German Telefunken equipment (decimeter set) and in 1946 they established Norway's first civil radio link, between Sørvågen-Værøy and Sørvågen-Røst.

The telegraph office staff, 1947



The Museum's Main Theme: The technical, social and cultural development that occurred as a result of the establishment of telegraphy in the Lofoten Islands, with special emphasis on the role and significance of women.

Content: Exhibitions, photo gallery, culture trail and study room with archives in the old, renovated telegraph manager's apartment.



Decimeter radio set

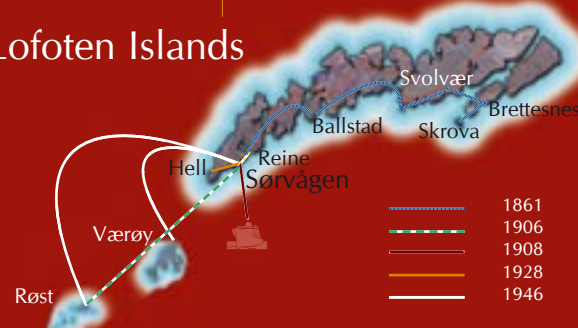
Welcome

5 memorable years in Norwegian telecom history:



- 1861 Norway's first fixed service fisheries telegraph (Lofotlinja)
- 1906 Northern Europe's first fixed service wireless telegraph
- 1908 Norway's first fixed service ships telegraph (radiotelegraphy)
- 1928 Norway's first fixed service wireless telephony link (radiotelephony)
- 1946 Norway's first fixed service decimeter radio link

Lofoten Islands



Sørvågen, 1860-70



The mast in Sørvågen, 1903

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NORWEGIAN TELECOM MUSEUM



Cod and Communications



ENGLISH

LOFOTEN



It is hard to imagine how our rocky, outstretched country on the edge of Europe can offer such first class telecom services. And many may ask why Sørvågen, in western Lofoten, on what is perhaps the wildest and most rugged coastline in Norway, was the venue for such extremely important chapters in Norwegian and European telecom history.

Or could this inaccessible landscape be precisely the reason why Norway is today among the leading nations in the field of telecommunications?

Sørvågen telegraph station and Sørvågen Radio have attracted considerable attention during our 150 year telecom history.

1861 Norway's first fisheries telegraphy service

In 1859 fisheries inspector Motzfeldt wrote in his account of the Lofoten Fishery that the yield would have been 25% greater if telegraph stations had been established in the fishing villages. Shortly afterwards, the Storting granted the funding of a telegraph line out to the Lofoten Islands. In 1861 the Lofoten line was completed and 170 km of sea and land cables now comprised what was, with the exception of the main telecom network, the country's first telegraph line. Nine fishing villages now had a telegraph link with each other during the fishing season: Skrova, Brettesnes, Svolvær, Ørsvåg (moved to Kabelvåg in 1862), Henningsvær, Steine, Ballstad, Reine and Sørvågen.

Fishermen on the seas of Lofoten, 1910



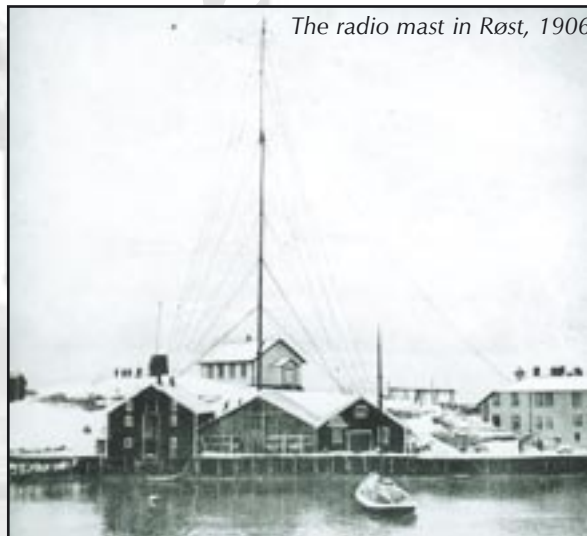
1906 Northern Europe's first wireless telegraph

It was the Italian Marconi who invented wireless telegraphy in 1895. In 1902, an engineer from the telecom authorities visited Sørvågen. He assessed conditions there, leaving with the knowledge that it would be possible to establish a wireless link from Værøy and Røst to Sørvågen,



i.e. to Lofoten and the rest of the country. The tests carried out in 1903 exceeded all expectations, and on May 1, 1906, a wireless link was opened between Sørvågen and Røst, using a Telefunken device: Northern Europe's first civilian radiotelegraph (spark telegraph) had been established. The Italians got theirs the year before, but at least Sørvågen was world number two.

The radio mast in Røst, 1906



1908 Noray's first ship's radio

In 1906 and 1907, the staff at Sørvågen telegraph station made every effort to offer Kaiser Wilhelm's ship, the "Hohenzollern" the best possible service, but alas in vain. Sørvågen could not make contact with the Kaiser. This brought shame upon the young nation of Norway.

However, on July 1 of 1908, they managed to make contact. We can thank the Kaiser for the fact that the telegraph in Sørvågen became the first of its kind in Norway to make contact with ships at sea.



1928 Norway's first wireless telephone

The Norwegian Telecom Authority acquired its first wireless telephones (radiotelephony) in 1919. The telephone lines now had now been given competition, as had the telegraph lines with the advent of the radiotelegraph (wireless telegraphy). Norway's first radiotelephony station was also established in conjunction with Sørvågen Radio. Lofotodden Radiotelephony Station in the hamlet of Hell corresponded with Sørvågen from 1928. A few years later, Værøy was given a similar link to Sørvågen.

