

Dr. Daniel E. Noble, Motorola's chief engineer and visionary, pioneered developments in FM two-way radio and semiconductors during his 30-year career.

Dr. Daniel E. Noble, visionary, engineer and businessman, began his distinguished three-decade career at Motorola by using his expertise in frequency modulation (FM) to transform the company's product line.

Noble was born in 1901 in Connecticut, USA. A radio enthusiast, Noble studied engineering at Connecticut State College and taught there from 1924 to 1940. He designed, built and operated the college's radio station and became an expert in the budding science of FM. As a consultant to the Connecticut State Police, Noble developed the world's first two-way FM mobile radio communications system.

Paul Galvin, Motorola's founder, recruited Noble as director of research in 1940 to design commercial FM two-way radio products. His "walkie-talkie," the first two-way FM portable radio, revolutionized battlefield communications during World War II, and he guided the company into commercial and industrial two-way radio, microwave technology and military research.

One of Dan Noble's most significant contributions to Motorola was his recognition of the transistor's potential shortly after its invention in the late 1940s. "Transistors are in your future," Noble declared, referring to the first tiny semiconductor chips destined to replace bulky, fragile vacuum tubes. In 1949, Noble established a Motorola research facility in Phoenix, Arizona, USA, to investigate discoveries in solid-state electronics and their applicability to Motorola's products. The effort eventually led to Motorola's preeminence in the semiconductor business, transforming the company from a manufacturer of electronic products to a designer and mass producer of electronic components.

Noble received nine patents and many awards, and served on numerous professional boards and committees. He held the office of vice chairman of the board at the time he retired in 1970, then served as chairman of Motorola's Science Advisory Board.

Robert W. Galvin, former Motorola CEO, described him as an engineer, forecaster, manager, writer, philosopher, critic, humorist and "one of the nation's most active technological innovators." Dr. Daniel Noble died in 1980.



Daniel E. Noble, circa 1970.

Dan Noble was "one of the nation's most active technological innovators." Robert W. Galvin



Daniel E. Noble in front of Motorola facility, 8201 East McDowell Road (Hayden Road), Scottsdale, Arizona, USA, 1960.