

COMDIAL®

Part of a Great American Institution

More than a Century of Commitment to the Telecommunications Industry

The story of Comdial began when two employees of **Chicago Bell Telephone** formed a partnership in **1894**. The business strategy of **Alfred Stromberg and Androv Carlson** was simple: they wanted to manufacture a better telephone. With the expiration of the patents on Alexander Graham Bell's telephone, about 30 independent companies sought to capture a piece of that market. Stromberg and Carlson created one such company.

The Early Years

By the turn of the century, Stromberg-Carlson emerged as a leader among the independent telephone manufacturers. This was due to their reputation for stable prices & uncompromising quality. During **WWI**, Stromberg-Carlson produced portable telephones and camp switchboards vital to the Signal Corps in Europe, and in **WWII** they supplied advanced sound-powered systems to the U.S. Navy. After the war the company expanded into the electronics industry. **General Dynamics**, a major defense supplier, became interested in the scientific abilities of Stromberg-Carlson, and in **1955, the two companies merged, providing a wide range of products.**

1960's – 1980's

During the 1960s, Stromberg-Carlson decided to concentrate on their traditional market: the U.S. independent telephone industry. They acquired the **United States Instrument Corporation** in Charlottesville, Virginia - a major manufacturer of telephone components. In 1982 **Comdial Corporation**, a company at the forefront of research in telecommunications, purchased the Charlottesville facility and inherited the legacy.

The Sunshine State

In 1996, Comdial purchased **Key Voice Technologies (KVT)**, an acknowledged leader in the voice processing industry. Comdial corporate headquarters re-located to Florida to merge with Key Voice. That was where they finally matured as an industry leader in traditional & converged VoIP Technologies, winning many prestigious awards for their FXII and MP5000 platforms. (see awards)

Vertical Communications

In the late 1990's **Vertical Communications** developed an enterprise network of phone systems that were controlled centrally from a nation wide hub. In 2004 Vertical purchased **ArtiSoft's Tele-Vantage System**, one of the original IP Telephony pioneers. In 2005 Vertical also purchased **Comdial**, and is currently combining the strengths of all three systems, built from the Comdial FXII / MP5000 Platform. Finally in 2007 Vertical acquired **Vodavi Systems** which completed the full spectrum of product offerings needed to become one of the four top manufacturers of SMB Telecommunication Systems in North America. This alliance, when fully mature, will incorporate all the best features of **Vertical, ArtiSoft, Vodavi, and Comdial.**

Over a Century has passed since this journey began, and it keeps getting better.