MARCONI
FONDATION MARCONI SALVAN

26 september 2008

SALVAN, «TELECOMMUNICATION HERITAGE»

SALVAN, «PATRIMOINE DES TÉLÉCOMMUNICATIONS»

UNION INTERNATIONALE DES TELECOMMUNICATIONS

On 26 September 2008, for the first time in its history, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU /UIT) will recognize a site for its inestimable contribution in the

TELECOMMUNICATION HERITAGE.

This honor will be granted to the township of Salvan, in Valais, Switzerland where, in 1895, Guglielmo Marconi carried some of his first experiments in wireless telegraphy.
The Salvan Marconi Foundation, in association with the ITU, has the great pleasure of inviting you to a series of lectures and to the official ceremony that will mark this worldwide first.

The plate that the ITU will install on the site of the Salvan (VS) township to commemorate the first wireless transmissions beyond 1.5 kilometer carried out by Guglielmo Marconi in 1895.

Additional information can be obtained from the Marconi Foundation (Switzerland), p.a. Yves Fournier, Av. Fusion 40, CH-1920 Martigny.
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ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE FÉDÉRALE DE LAUSANNE

COMMUNE DE SALVAN

26 september 2008

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SCHEDULE OF THE HAPPENING ON 26 SEPTEMBER 2008

15h30 Series of lectures (in French), José Giovanni Hall, Salvan

- Yves Fournier, historian, President of Marconi Foundation
  "Marconi à Salvan ou les aléas de l'histoire orale"
- Prof. Dr. Juan Mosig, LEMA-EPFL and Marconi Foundation
  "Ondes électromagnétiques et Antennes: quels progrès depuis Marconi? "
- Prof. Dr. Fred Gardiol, Prof. Hon. EPFL and Marconi Foundation
  "Les antennes — sont-elles dangereuses pour la santé?"
- Dr. Pierre Zweiacker, LRE-EPFL
  "Nathan B. Stubblefield – Un plaidoyer pour l'anecdote"
- Fabio Silva Leite, Dir. adj. ITU Radiocommunications
  "Le Règlement des radiocommunications, enjeu du XXIe siècle"

18h00 Inauguration of the ITU plate, reception, cocktail, Pierre Bergère place, Salvan

Welcome by M. Roland Voeffray, President of the township of Salvan
Allocutions :
M. Yves Fournier, President of Marconi Foundation
SE M. Giuseppe Deodata, Ambassador of Italy
M. CE Claude Roch, State Counselor VS
Princess Elettra Marconi Giovanelli
M. Dr H. Touré : General Secretary ITU
M. CF Pascal Couchepin, President of the Swiss Confederation
The elected members of the general secretariat of the ITU and representatives of the scientific, cultural and political world will also attend the event.

HISTORICAL SEQUENCE

Salvan, summer 1895 :
Guglielmo Marconi carries out his first long range (1.5 km) wireless communications between Salvan and les Marécottes in the Alps of Valais.
Salvan, 22 July 1968 :
The "Radio Suisse Romande" broadcasts an interview of Maurice Gay-Balmaz, who tells how he carried Marconi's equipment and signaled successes during the Salvan experiments.
Salvan, 26 September 2003 :
A "Historical Milestone in Electrical Engineering" is granted by the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers).
Salvan, 26 September 2008 :
For the first time in its history, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU /UIT) will recognize a site for its "inestimable contribution in the Telecommunication Heritage".

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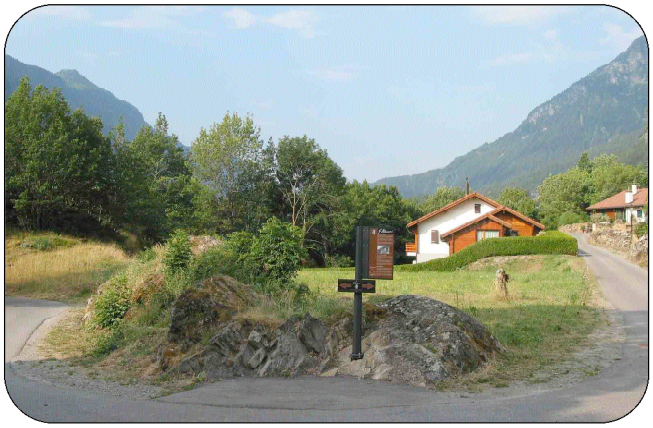
SALVAN ON MARCONI'S FOOTSTEPS

by Yves Fournier, historian

Since a very early age, Guglielmo Marconi had a passion for sciences and in 1894 he became obsessed after reading an article describing Hertz's experiments on electromagnetic waves.
Marconi was then vacationing at Andorno near Santuario di Oropa in the Italian Alps and he immediately started to develop a system, using these waves, to communicate without wires.
In the following summer, in 1895, after experimenting in the attic of the family's house, the Villa Griffone in Pontecchio, near Bologna, Marconi came to the health resort of Salvan, already famous beyond our borders. With the help of a ten year-old boy from Salvan, Maurice Gay-Balmaz, Marconi worked for more than a month and a half within the surrounding areas and successfully sent a message further than 1,5 kilometre away. Wireless was born.
The fashionable resort of Salvan had unconsciously lent its idyllic scenery to one of the greatest accomplishments of our time.



Along the Marconi path in Salvan.

To dig deeper: F. Gardiol and Y. Fournier, "Salvan, Cradle of Wireless", *Microwave Journal*, vol. 49, N° 2, February 2006, pp. 124–136.

B. Valotti. "A letter to Prof. Fred Gardiol concerning the supposed experiments of Guglielmo Marconi at Salvan," *IEEE Antennas and Propagation Magazine*, vol. 49, No. 1, February 2007, pp. 241-244.