

Bourns, Inc.

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Satellite office in [Santa Clara, California](#)

Type	Privately held company
Industry	Electronics
Founded	1947; 73 years ago in Altadena, California
Founders	Marlan Bourns Rosemary Bourns Riverside, California
Headquarters	, United States
Area served	Worldwide
Key people	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Gordon Bourns (Chairman and CEO)
Number of employees	7,000
Website	bourns.com



The "TRIMIT" potentiometer, one of the company's early innovations

Bourns, Inc. is an American [electronics](#) company that develops, manufactures and supplies [electronic components](#) for a variety of industries including [automotive](#), [industrial](#), [instrumentation](#), [medical](#) electronics, [consumer](#) equipment and [portable electronics](#).^[1]

Established in [Altadena, California](#) in 1947 by Marlan and Rosemary Bourns, graduates of the [University of Michigan](#), the company was founded to develop and sell [electronic components](#) and [sensors](#) to the aerospace industry.^[2]

Bourns has 15 manufacturing facilities around the world and has continued growing through the development of new products and technologies as well as through acquisitions. The company has approximately 7000 employees worldwide.^[3]

Its current Chairman of the Board and CEO is Gordon Bourns^[4], the son of the co-founders^[5].



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History

Marlan and Rosemary Bourns started the company in their 384-square-foot (35.7 m²) garage in [Altadena, California](#) in 1947. Their invention of linear motion and vane position potentiometers provided a method of accurately determining an aircraft's [pitch](#), and helped to grow their business into a global corporation.

Headquartered in [Riverside, California](#), Bourns makes and provides a broad range of electronic components and circuit protection devices including automotive [sensors](#), circuit protection solutions, magnetic and inductor products, specialty engineering and manufacturing services, precision [potentiometers](#), panel controls, encoders and resistive products.

Technology innovations

In 1952, Bourns patented the [trimming potentiometer](#), trademarked "Trimpot".^[6] In 1995, Bourns acquired VRN's Trimmer assets and introduced the first 4 mm surface-mount sealed tact [switch](#). In 2008, Bourns acquired the Transient Blocking Unit (TBU) assets of Fultec Semiconductor, Inc.

Acquisitions

- 2015: Murata Manufacturing Co., Ltd.'s trimming potentiometer business
- 2014: Komatsulite Mfg. Co., Ltd
- 2012: Assets from Jensen Devices AB, Stockholm, Sweden
- 2009: Central Office Surge Protection Products assets from Corning Cable Systems LLC
- 2008: the Protection Products assets of Emerson Network Power Energy Systems
- 2008: the Transient Blocking Unit (TBU) assets of Fultec Semiconductor, Inc.^[7]
- 2006: Polymer PTC division of Therm-O-Disc, Inc.
- 2006: the Automotive Controls Division assets of SSI Technologies
- 2006: J.W. Miller Magnetics Business
- 2005: Tyco/Meggitt's Fuel Card Product assets
- 2004: RUF Automotive Group
- 2004: MMC's Switch Power Products assets
- 2003: Microelectronic Modules Corporation assets
- 2003: Telecom Protection assets from Texas Instruments Sensors & Controls Division
- 2001: Joslyn GDT Division assets^[8]