

# RS Components

RS Components



<b><u>Type</u></b>	<u>Subsidiary</u>
<b>Industry</b>	<u>Electronic components</u>
<b>Founded</b>	1937
<b>Headquarters</b>	<u>Corby, United Kingdom</u>
<b>Area served</b>	<u>UK, Europe, Asia, Americas</u>
<b><u>Parent</u></b>	<u>Electrocomponents</u>
<b>Website</b>	<u><a href="http://www.rs-components.com">www.rs-components.com</a></u>

**RS Components** is a global trading brand of Electrocomponents plc. The company supplies electronic components; electrical, automation and control, and test and measurement equipment; and engineering tools, and consumables via e-commerce, catalogues, and trade counters.<sup>[1]</sup>



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## History

## Key Dates<sup>[2]</sup>

- 1937 Founded as **Radiospares**
- 1954 Re-focused on industrial sector
- 1971 Re-branded as "RS Components"
- 1984 Corby distribution centre opened
- 1995 CD-ROM catalogue introduced
- 1995 Nuneaton distribution centre opened
- 1998 [E-commerce](#) web site launched<sup>[3]</sup>

J.H. Waring and P.M. Sebestyen founded the business in 1937 in [London](#) under the name *Radiospares*, supplying [radio](#) repair shops with [spare parts](#) – replacement [electronic components](#) and mechanical components for [radio receivers](#) and [transmitters](#).<sup>[2]</sup> When [television sets](#) became popular, Radiospares' added television parts to their product list. By the end of [World War II](#), the company had evolved into a large national distribution company. In 1954, the founders of Radiospares expanded the company's focus from shops and home users to the industrial sector and began selling [electronic components](#) to manufacturers. The company rebranded as RS Components in 1971. RS now has operating companies in countries worldwide, including France, Italy, and Germany, and as far afield as New Zealand and China.<sup>[4]</sup>

## Operations



RS Trade Counter in [Leeds](#).

RS Components is part of the [Electrocomponents](#) group, and has historically traded in Europe and Asia. In April 2019, RS Components launched into North America with a focus on electronic components. Electrocomponents also has an industrially focused business in the Americas - [Allied Electronics](#). The group distributes more than 500,000 products, including electronics, automation and control components, engineering tools and consumables, to over one million customers.<sup>[5]</sup>

Electrocomponents has operations in 32 countries. The company uses a variety of channels to market including selling via [e-commerce](#), catalogues, and trade counters.<sup>[6]</sup> The group has distribution centres around the world.<sup>[7]</sup>

In 2003, RS Components was awarded 'E-Business Strategy of the Year' by the UK National Business Awards.<sup>[8]</sup> In 2011, the company was named 'Distributor of the Year' and 'Company of the Year' at the 2011 Elektra European Electronics Industry awards.<sup>[9]</sup>

In 2012, both RS and Allied became two of the main manufacturers and distributors for the [Raspberry Pi](#).<sup>[10][11][12]</sup> The company provides free-to-use [PCB](#) layout software, [DesignSpark PCB](#).<sup>[13]</sup>