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One of the most important technologies of the 20th century is the Global Positioning System (GPS). With its deep roots in the United States Department of Defense programs during the 1960s, GPS has evolved into a modern-day navigational technology that touches all of our lives.

With over 200 key patents in GPS technology, Magellan is proud to be an industry pioneer. Magellan adopted early military GPS technology to create numerous consumer devices that help people navigate while they travel, work, and explore their world.

This transformation started in 1986 when a small team of creative, determined engineers, under the leadership of Ed Tuck, founded the original Magellan Systems Corporation. The mission was to bridge the gap between military and commercial GPS markets.

The initial result from Magellan's research and development was a custom-designed electronics breadboard that used mixed signal radio frequency (RF). Magellan's experimental breadboard paved the way to continued innovation in consumer GPS technology. In 1989, Magellan launched the world's first hand-held consumer GPS receiver, the Magellan NAV 1000.

These path-breaking innovations were donated by Magellan to the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum and are part of its new exhibit, "Time and Navigation: The Untold Story of Getting From Here to There."

Magellan is excited about the Smithsonian's "Time and Navigation" exhibit because it recognizes the journey of technological changes that have transformed how we see time and navigation. Magellan is honored to be a part of this continued journey.