Highlights

1947 to 1960

47 The Danish Academy of Applied Science appoints a committee to follow the development of "modern electronic computers" in other countries.

52 The Academy appoints a working committee to plan the development of Denmark's first computer. Besides the Academy itself, the committee includes representatives from the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Education, and Federation of Danish Industries.

55 The Academy establishes Regnecentralen, the Danish Institute of Computing Machinery, as a private institution with the purpose of "acquiring or constructing and operating computing machinery". Dr. Richard Petersen, head of the Institute of Applied Mathematics at the Technical University of Denmark, is elected chairman of the first board of directors. The actual date of establishment was October 12, 1955.

Where it all started at Bjerregårdsvej.

56 Regnecentralen (now also known as "RC") begins to build a modified version of the first-generation Swedish computer Besk, in whose development RC has played a part. The construction of "Dask", as the new Danish computer is called, is financed by a grant of 900,000 kroner from Marshall Counterpart funds.

When Dask becomes operational, RC is to follow developments and conduct research in the computing machinery field, financed by the sale of data processing services.

RC holds its first public training course, in Dask coding.

57

Dask – which is to be the only computer in Denmark until 1960 – is completed, tested, and ready for operation at RC in Copenhagen.

RC publishes its first textbook, in Dask coding.

58

RC opens Denmark's first service bureau, conducts courses at the Technical University, and begins development of a second-generation computer, called "Gier", in collaboration with the Danish Geodetic Institute.

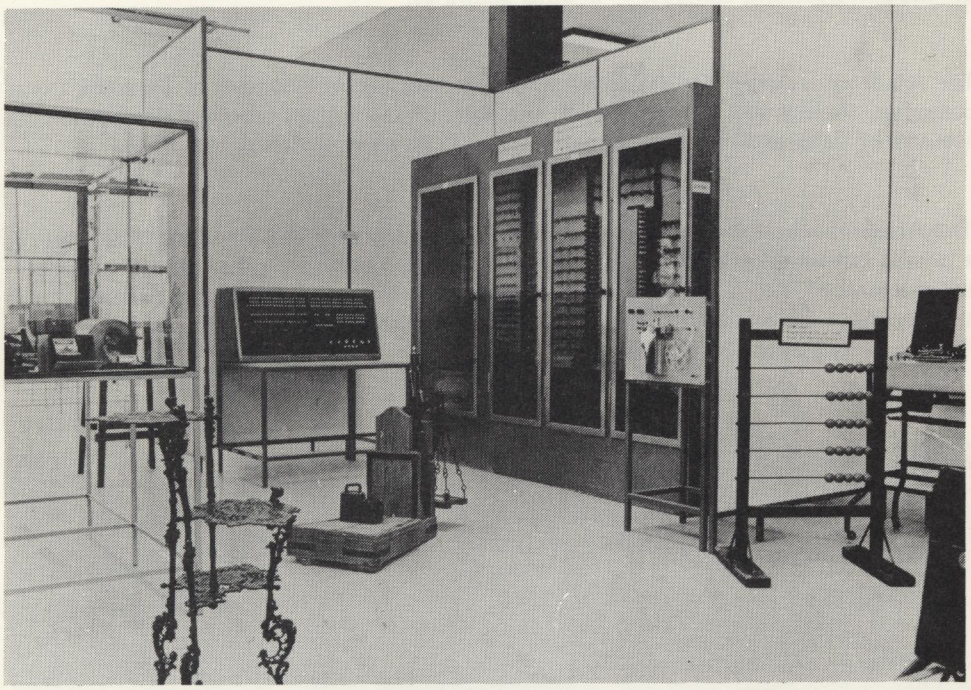
Niels Ivar Bech becomes managing director.

59

Dask is now fully engaged with scientific and engineering calculations for Danish industry, research institutions, universities, and the armed forces. Data transmission is demonstrated between Dask and terminal equipment at an international trade fair.

RC staff-members, including Dr. Peter Naur, now head of the Institute of Computing Science at the University of Copenhagen, represent RC at the first of a series of international Algol conferences.

RC establishes a public education and training program comprising lectures, study-circles, and courses.



The Dask vacuum tube computer, now at the Museum of Technology in Elsinore.

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The completed Gier prototype is demonstrated at NordSAM, the Scandinavian Symposium on Computing Machinery Applications. RC employs a computer (Dask) for the first time to analyze returns and forecast trends during general elections for the Danish Broadcasting Corporation.

IFIPS (International Federation of Information Processing Societies) is formed; Denmark and the Academy of Applied Science are represented by Niels Ivar Bech. Peter Naur becomes editor of "The Algol Bulletin".