



1862 Henry Lea becomes the first person to announce himself as a Consulting Mechanical Engineer.

1882 Henry Lea designs and supervises the installation of one of the world's first electrical lighting systems in a public building at Birmingham Town Hall using incandescent lamps.

1882 Henry Lea is appointed "Electrical Advisor and Inspector to the Council" by the Birmingham Corporation due to his involvement in many of the early electrical installations in the city.

1886 Henry Lea patents the design of glass globes for incandescent lamps to ensure a uniform illumination and to modify the distribution of light so not to 'distress the eyes of persons on whom it falls'.

1889 In addition to a rapid expansion in electrical design work, Henry Lea's projects remain diverse, including work on the design of a new heating chamber at St Philips Cathedral in Birmingham.

1897 Birmingham General Hospital opens. Working with the architect, William Henman, Henry Lea develops a mechanically ventilated plenum system. This was the first of its kind in England.



1904 Henry Lea patents his design for the counterpoise lamp, more commonly known as the anglepoise lamp, still in use throughout the world today.

1912 Frederick M Lea, Henry Lea's son and long-standing principal assistant, takes control of the practice following the death of Henry Lea.

1939 The practice is involved in the design and construction of factories and numerous airfields for the War Office, marking the start of many decades of Government work.

1941 During the war, Hoare Lea designs emergency housing for the homeless, at a time when the Partnership temporarily widens its scope to become a multi-discipline practice.

1945 During the post-war years, an increase in overseas work leads to an appointment to design a Rayon production facility in Travancore, India.

1954 Hoare Lea's Plymouth office opens.



1961 Hoare Lea opens an office in Poole.

1971 The Bristol Royal Infirmary's Haematology and Oncology Centre opens following Hoare Lea's involvement in the upgrade of the Infirmary's facilities.

1974 Hoare Lea is appointed to the development of new regional office accommodation for Mitel.

1976 The firm begins the engineering services for the Oasis Leisure Centre in Swindon.

1978 Hoare Lea is appointed to the design of a district heating system for the new Duffryn Housing Estate in Newport.

1980 Hoare Lea is appointed 'Lead Consultant' to the Department of Energy for the UK Geothermal Energy Utilisation Research & Development Programme.



1984 Work begins on the design of Hewlett Packard's European HQ in Bristol. The development represents HP's second-largest central research location.

1984 In another overseas appointment, Hoare Lea provides engineering design services for the Aberdeen Marina in Hong Kong.

1985 Hoare Lea oversees the installation of two combined heat and power units for the new Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend.

1985 Hoare Lea designs a range of complex mechanical and electrical engineering systems for the GlaxoSmithKline research building at Ware.

1987 Following Hoare Lea's involvement in the MEP design of Jaguar's Engineering Centre in Whitley, it opens its doors to staff.

1991 Hoare Lea designs the engineering services for the Plymouth Pavilions Centre.



1993 Hoare Lea opens an office in Leeds.

1994 Hoare Lea is appointed to Eland House in Westminster. The building incorporates many early sustainability features, including solar panels and a cogeneration plant.

1996 The design for the Greenwich Reach development is completed by Hoare Lea, opening up river frontages, as well as providing a vibrant public realm.

2000 The ExCeL Exhibition Centre opens, with Hoare Lea providing consulting engineering advice for this large London development.

2004 Hoare Lea is appointed to Cabot Circus in Bristol, one of the largest retail-led urban regeneration projects in the UK.

2006 Hoare Lea opens an office in Oxford to capitalise on local higher education and heritage work.



2008 Hoare Lea wins Large Consultancy of the Year at the Building Services Awards for the fifth time since the inaugural awards in 1998.

2008 Hoare Lea increases its international coverage by opening an office in Abu Dhabi.

2009 Hoare Lea finishes work on the striking Pan Peninsula, a residential riverside development next to Canary Wharf.

2011 Hoare Lea opens its 11th UK office in Cambridge, building on its existing strong links with the University, Colleges and wider East Anglian area.

2011 Hoare Lea continues to foster strong relationships with clients across the industry, with 78% of work coming from repeat business.

2012 Hoare Lea opens an office in Qatar.



1879 Henry Lea advises on boiler and steam engine design for the Cadbury Brothers' Bourneville factory, located on the south side of Birmingham.

1882 Henry Lea patents the design for a 'safe and secure' light fitting for incandescent lamps.

1884 Henry Lea advises on the Chelsea Electric Lighting Provisional Order for presentation to Parliament to light an area in the Parish of Chelsea, one of the first examples of district lighting in the UK.

1886 Henry Lea works on the lighting design for the Theatre Royal, New Street, another example of public space he illuminated prior to a public electrical supply.

1890 As part of his advisory role to Birmingham Council, Henry Lea supervises the design and construction of one of the earliest examples of an electric tramway in the UK.

1902 Henry Lea designs one of the earliest forms of air conditioning at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast. Using moistened screens to clean the air, staff were able to control humidity, heating and ventilation.



1911 Henry Lea patents the integration of an indicating dial to the anemometer, used to measure air speed.

1938 Frederick Lea brings his son, Donald Lea, into the firm.

1939 Following the death of Frederick Lea, Donald Lea merges the practice with the rival firm of Edwin Hoare, based in Bristol. This formed Hoare Lea and Partners, with Edwin Hoare becoming senior partner.

1945 Hoare Lea opens an office in central London.

1952 Hoare Lea opens an office in central Manchester.

1955 Throughout the 1950s, Hoare Lea opens offices in the Middle East, North Africa and Nigeria.



1968 Heathrow Airport's cargo terminal and tunnel open following Hoare Lea's design work on the project.

1971 Birmingham's Repertory Theatre is officially opened. Hoare Lea designs the engineering services for the new 901 seat theatre.

1974 Hoare Lea is appointed to design the air conditioning and electrical services for Poole's Centre for the Arts.

1978 As part of Hoare Lea's continued international expansion, the firm is appointed to the Al Ain Hospital development in Abu Dhabi, comprising a district general hospital and Out Patient facilities.

1980 Hoare Lea opens an office in Hong Kong and provides consulting engineering services for the Mass Transit Railway (MTR), a large-scale, rapid transit railway system in Hong Kong.

1983 Hoare Lea works on the Link Centre in Swindon, a sport and leisure development with an ice rink, swimming pool, and climbing facility.

1984 Following the terrorist attack on the Grand Hotel in Brighton that narrowly missed killing the Prime Minister, Hoare Lea designs the engineering services for the reconstruction of the badly damaged building.

1984 The practice designs the engineering services for the Bath Spa Hotel including the extensive refurbishment of listed Georgian buildings to create a luxury 5 star hotel.

1985 Hoare Lea undertakes a major feasibility study for the construction of a new research facility for Boots.

1987 Hoare Lea opens an office in Cardiff.

1989 Hoare Lea is appointed to the design of the Performing Arts and Technology School (now known as the BRIT school) in Croydon. Notable alumni of the school include Adele and Amy Winehouse.

1992 Hoare Lea provides MEP design services for MOD Abbey Wood. This large-scale development went on to win the 1997 Best Office in Europe Award at MIPIM.



1994 Hoare Lea provides MEP design services to the Cribbs Causeway Regional Shopping Centre in Bristol, one of the largest retail centres in the South West.

1994 Hoare Lea opens an office on the Isle of Man.

1997 Hoare Lea is appointed to Cardiff's Millennium Stadium, located in the heart of the City.

2003 Terry Wyatt becomes president of the Chartered Institute of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE), combining the role with his post as Partner of Hoare Lea.

2005 Work starts on the design of The Cube, a mixed-use development in Birmingham, which goes on to achieve a BREEAM "Excellent" rating.

2006 Hoare Lea is appointed to the development of a new Earth Sciences Building for Oxford University, a multi-million pound project providing state of the art laboratories to both researchers and students.



2008 Hoare Lea is at the forefront of Building Information Modelling (BIM) development and chairs the CIBSE BIM panel.

2008 Hoare Lea is appointed to the Lancaster Institute for the Contemporary Arts (LICA), the first BREEAM "Outstanding" higher education building.

2010 One New Change, a large-scale Hoare Lea project, is awarded both the Overall Winner and Mixed-Use Award at MIPIM 2010.

2011 Hoare Lea is awarded a total of 20 industry awards throughout the year and ranked in Building Magazine's Good Employer Guide.

2011 For the third time, Hoare Lea is voted among the top building services engineers to work with, by Building Design Magazine's World Architecture 100.

2012 Hoare Lea celebrates its 150th Anniversary.



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CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE

