



Fact Sheet

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Company Backgrounder

Califone® International, Inc., has been a leader in the design, development and manufacturing of audiovisual and supplemental curriculum products for use in academic and presentation settings since its founding in 1947. Since then, *Califone* has maintained a reputation for premier quality and innovation.

Company Timeline

- 1950 *Califone* introduces mechanical language laboratories and phonographs.
- 1972 *Califone* introduces self-contained institutional tape recorders – setting the pace for product design in the education market with end-user acceptance and integration.
- 1978 *Califone* begins manufacturing its own headphones and cassette recorder product lines.
- 1977 *Califone* receives U.S. patent for an audiovisual teaching device that utilizes cards with magnetic strips for reading and language instruction, the precursor to the current CardReader™ offering.
- 1985 *Califone* moves to larger offices in Chatsworth, Calif.
- 1990 Company cassette recorders and players continue strong growth. *Califone* introduces new headphone products.
- 1997 *Califone* receives U.S. patent for comfort sling headband for headphones. The new invention eliminates loose electrical cabling between ear pieces, which can become tangled or pried out and pose a safety risk.
- 2001 *Califone* introduces the first of the wireless and AC/DC powered speakers product line.
- 2003 *Califone* releases a full line of wired/wireless microphones and computer peripheral products.
- 2004 *Califone* expands wireless offering to embrace the full spectrum of wireless multimedia learning to include listening centers, transmitters, receivers, and portable sound systems.
- 2004 *Califone* introduces the first USB headset, specifically designed for school use.
- 2005 *Califone* debuts the PowerPro™ PA-916, the first portable presentation system to offer wireless transmission, up to 300 feet, to any number of wireless companion speakers, providing instant set-up, flexibility and expandability.

- 2005 Roscoe Anthony is named President of *Califone*. The company moves to its current location in San Fernando, Calif. for more office and distribution center space.
- 2006 Expanding its headphones and headsets product line, *Califone* releases the Wireless USB Headphone™ and the Listening First™ Headphones, which are made to fit young learners.
- 2006 *Califone* introduces its Classroom Infrared Audio System, offering easy install and enhanced sound distribution for greater coverage.
- 2006 Providing even sound distribution for the classroom, *Califone* debuts its line of Array speakers, including a wireless whiteboard speaker to enhance classroom acoustics
- 2006 *Califone* introduces child-friendly peripherals, including a keyboard and mouse suitable for beginning users.
- 2006 Continuing to support learning center functionality and helping students to build language skills, *Califone* offers USB Jackbox™, which (for the first time) allows up to six students to listen and practice at the same time.
- 2007 *Califone* upgrades the PowerPro™ to integrate USB technology, becoming the first portable PA to offer on-board memory with an SD card slot.
- 2007 *Califone* introduces the first boombox on the market to integrate USB technology, becoming the first multimedia player to offer on-board memory with an SD card slot.
- 2007 Promoting safe listening practices among students, *Califone* collaborates with the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).
- 2007 *Califone* introduces first MP3 player designed specifically for students and educators. The MP3 Player has built-in technology to help educators control volume to ensure student safety.
- 2007 *Califone* offers safe, durable technology for classroom use in engaging designs with its Listening First™ line of animal-themed headphones and mice.
- 2008 Helping students to learn lifelong safe listening practices, *Califone* introduces Sound Alert™ Monaural Headphone and Jackbox. Built-in technology warns educators and students when volume exceeds appropriate sound levels, as recommended by ASHA.
- 2008 *Califone* announces that Read Right Systems, Inc., an organization that developed and implements an innovative methodology for improving reading skills, has selected the *Califone* MP3 Player to be used in the company's Read Right® program.
- 2008 Boosting student attentiveness and empowering interactivity in the classroom, *Califone* released Got It!, an intuitive wireless interactive student response system.
- 2009 The *Califone* MP3 Player gets noteworthy upgrade with preloaded children's songs through a strategic partnership with Twin Sisters Productions.
- 2009 *Califone* introduces the Diggiditto™ Smart Document Camera, the first of its kind to include image recognition.