

A sepia-toned illustration of the Early Bird satellite in orbit above the Earth. The satellite is a cylindrical structure with a central antenna pointing towards the Earth. The Earth's surface, showing clouds and landmasses, is visible in the background.

Today in History

May 2, 1965

▲ **Early Bird, the first commercial communications satellite, began operation with a special television transmission to countries in North America and Western Europe**

1660: Pietro Scarlatti, Italian composer of operas and religious works, was born

1775: Benjamin Franklin completed the first study of the Gulf Stream

1980: Pink Floyd's hit single Another Brick in the Wall was banned in South Africa after it was adopted as an anthem by black schoolchildren

2000: A computer worm disguised as an email message with the subject ILOVEYOU caused havoc as it spread through systems worldwide