

THE HISTORY

OF MAGNETIC CONTACT SENSORS



1930's

The **REED SWITCH** was invented by Bell Telephone Laboratories for telecommunications applications. This switch would later become adopted for use in physical perimeter security systems to detect unauthorized access through doors and windows.

1970's

The **balanced magnetic REED SWITCH contact (BMS)** was invented to overcome the single REED SWITCH magnetic contact security vulnerabilities. Unlike single REED SWITCH magnetic contacts, BMS contacts were designed to be resistant to external magnetic defeat attempts which enabled an intruder to evade detection. As a result, the BMS contact has since become the common device used to detect breeches in high security facilities.

1991

Underwriters Laboratories UL-634 safety standard for connectors and switches used with burglar alarm systems is approved by the Department of Defense. One key specification states – magnetic contact switches shall have a magnetic field with a high probability of alarm if an external magnet is introduced in defeat attempts.

2002

The **MAGNASPHERE high security switch is introduced** at the ISC East Expo. A single MAGNASPHERE switch offers the same external magnetic defeat resistant capabilities found in the multiple REED SWITCH BMS magnetic contacts – but at a fraction of the cost and size.

- The MAGNASPHERE switch is awarded **“Best of Show”** in the Security Industry Association's (SIA) acclaimed **New Product Showcase**.
- MAGNASPHERE is also awarded the **Best New Intrusion Detection Device** of 2002.
- MAGNASPHERE picks up a **Gold Award** at the **Best of Sensors Expo** recognizing new products that will significantly impact the use of sensing in designs and applications.

2006

HARCO Security Devices introduces the MAGNASPHERE HSD – which aims to set new industry standards for high security sensor performance. The MAGNASPHERE HSD is believed to be the only high security sensor that is resistant to EXTERNAL and INTERNAL magnetic defeat attempts.

2007

Underwriters Laboratories creates a UL-634 LEVEL 2 standard to help SCIF's and other high security installations identify sensors that provide the absolute highest level of intrusion detection. More stringent requirements for this new standard include EXTERNAL and INTERNAL resistance to magnetic defeat tampering. Magnetic contacts that do not meet these new requirements will remain as UL-634 LEVEL 1 standard devices.

ABOUT MAGNASPHERE | MAGNASPHERE Corp. is a privately held company founded in 2002, with the purpose of providing superior performing magnetic contact sensor technology to the residential, commercial, and federal government security markets. MAGNASPHERE's patented, award-winning technology establishes new industry standards for high security sensor performance while providing an affordable and more effective alternative to reed switch based security contacts.

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