

# Special session RFID Technology

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At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Lord Kelvin, one of the world's greatest physicists and president of The Royal Society, was asked if machines might fly. No, he replied, only balloons could fly. "Heavier-than-air flying machines are impossible", he said. Yet several years later, the Wright brothers flew. Today we all do!

We must never take Physics for an answer. History shows that lots of things people say are impossible can be achieved. This will be the same for RFID.

The moral of this story: We know the laws of physics but not the limits of innovation. Whatever the dire predictions of scientists, someone, somewhere, will find a way to do "the impossible". The discipline that best predicts the future is history. And history gives us hope: Technology has always improved. Inventors have always found a way. There's no reason to think RFID will be any different.

People who say the laws of physics are the reason something can't be done are saying only that they don't know how to do it. In fact, there's already evidence that RFID is just as susceptible to surprising performance leaps through innovation as every other major technology has been.

It's true that the laws of physics don't change. But it's just as true that the laws of physics do not predict what technology can achieve. The special session RFID will prove this point and shows the required and essential scientific approach for future RFID developments.

Today, most of RFID meetings are commercial exhibitions. sOc-EUSAI/RFID will be the first edition of a real scientific workshop on RFID in France.

*(Inspired from Kevin Ashton's paper).*