Nikola Tesla (1856–1943) was a Serbian-American inventor, engineer, and futurist who revolutionized the world with his contributions to electrical engineering. Best known for developing alternating current (AC) systems, Tesla's innovations laid the foundation for modern power distribution. His work on wireless communication, X-rays, and robotics was far ahead of his time.

Tesla's rivalry with Thomas Edison, known as the "War of Currents," saw AC triumph over direct current (DC) as the standard for electricity. He also invented the Tesla coil, a device still used in radios and televisions. Despite his brilliance, Tesla struggled with finances, often sacrificing wealth for scientific progress.

Tesla envisioned technologies like wireless energy transfer, self-driving cars, and global communication long before they became realities. Though he died nearly penniless in 1943, his ideas continue to inspire scientists and engineers. Today, Tesla is celebrated as a visionary whose work has shaped the modern technological landscape.