Manchester's 'Baby': the first electronic computer

Video transcript: clip from BBC News, first broadcast in 1948

NARRATOR (NEWSREADER):

Manchester University, where anyone who urgently wishes to know whether two to the power of 127 minus one is a prime number or not, can be given the answer by an electronic brain in 25 minutes instead of by a human brain in six months.

Setting the machine for this kind of problem takes a week. Then the brain is switched on and impulses passing to the computer make the actual calculation.

The computer itself contains 1500 valves. The brain at present is only in the experimental stage, the answer being read form a cathode ray tube. Later, an automatic keyboard will type the answer.