



Invention is everywhere.

The Lemelson Foundation believes that invention is critical to solving the world's most pressing problems.

Founded in 1993 by Jerome Lemelson and his wife, Dorothy, The Foundation has devoted the past two decades to fostering creativity and celebrating the inventive spirit. With over 600 patents to his name, Jerome Lemelson understood the importance of innovation to ensure a bright future. The Foundation has donated more than \$150 million to improve lives through invention in the U.S. and developing countries.

Our goal is to provide people worldwide with an environment conducive to invention, innovation and entrepreneurship. We play a catalytic role for inventors and innovators through our grant making in three programmatic areas—education and inspiration, inventor support and technology dissemination.

Whether supporting the distribution of treadle pumps in Africa, the development of baby warmers in India, or the creation of implantable drug delivery systems in the U.S., we work with inventors and entrepreneurs to help address critical problems.

The Foundation also funds experiential learning and courses designed to move inventors forward. We have established programs in the U.S. such as the National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance (NCIIA)—as well as Recognition and Mentoring Programs (RAMPs) in India, Indonesia and Peru—to spark ideas and cultivate the next generation of inventors.

Our inspiration programs, at the Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History and the Lemelson-MIT Program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, award and highlight inventors as role models for young people, like Dean Kamen, creator of the Segway, or Stephanie Kwolek, one of the inventors of Kevlar®.

Our grantees provide financial, advisory and technical assistance to inventors of all ages—especially early-stage inventors—in the U.S. and developing countries, who are designing solutions that positively impact society. Innovations we have supported include biodegradable packaging made from mushrooms and devices that enhance mobility.

The Foundation also directly invests in social enterprises such as SELCO India and Kickstart that provide income-generating opportunities and strengthen local economies through inventions that tackle real-world problems. And, because no two problems are the same, we utilize grants, loans and equity investments to ensure that socially beneficial technologies and solutions can move from the marketplace directly into the hands of individuals—especially the nearly three billion people living on less than two dollars a day.

The Lemelson Foundation believes that invention is the core driver of prosperity and strives—through its funded courses and programs—to provide inventors everywhere with the opportunity to make an impact.

THE LEMELSON FOUNDATION'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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A FEW ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED BY

the Lemelson foundation

improving lives through invention



EDUCATION AND INSPIRATION: Recognizing inventors and inspiring the next generation of innovators

▶ Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation www.invention.smithsonian.org at the Smithsonian

The Lemelson Center celebrates the role of invention and innovation in history, and strives to spark and nurture the inventive capacity in today's youth. The Lemelson Center:

- Receives one million visitors annually to its exhibits, *Invention at Play* and *Spark!Lab*
- Engages one million visitors on its website each year
- Has published eight books and held over a dozen symposia
- Celebrates National Inventors Month each August with special events and speakers

▶ The Lemelson-MIT Program web.mit.edu/invent

The Lemelson-MIT Program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology celebrates inventors who have turned their ideas into innovations and new products that transform lives. Since 1995, the Lemelson-MIT Program has:

- Disbursed \$8 million to recognize mid-career inventors through its annual \$500,000 Lemelson-MIT Prize
- Given \$1.6 million through its \$100,000 Lemelson-MIT Award for Sustainability and \$100,000 Lifetime Achievement Award
- Bestowed annual prizes of \$30,000 to student innovators
- Supported 300 high school students per year to develop prototypes that address social challenges

▶ National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance (NCIIA) www.nciia.org

The National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance (NCIIA) fosters invention and entrepreneurship in higher education to catalyze innovative, commercially viable and socially beneficial businesses. Since 1995, the NCIIA has:

- Funded the development of 325 collegiate experiential courses and programs in technological innovation and entrepreneurship
- Engaged more than 10,000 students through courses and invention projects
- Helped launch 77 new businesses; 400 new jobs; and 45 patents through support of student entrepreneurship teams
- Worked with the Office of Science and Technology Policy to support a White House initiative on increasing innovation in higher education, and partnered with Microsoft to bring venture development and business strategy training to the Boston area



INVENTOR SUPPORT: Enabling inventors in developing countries to tackle the world's most pressing problems

▶ The Ashoka-Lemelson Fellowship www.ashoka.org/lemelson

The Ashoka-Lemelson Fellowship was started in 2006 to celebrate and recognize the powerful ways that invention and social entrepreneurship can align to enable people to be Changemakers™ and problem-solvers. The partnership has:

- Identified and supported 106 social innovators in 30 countries
- Gathered over 250 leading social entrepreneurs from around the world to showcase their technologies and innovations
- Launched a series of podcasts with leading technology based social entrepreneurs from around the globe



► **Recognition and Mentoring Programs (RAMPs)**

www.lemelson.org

The Lemelson Foundation has established Recognition and Mentoring Programs (RAMPs) with local organizations in India, Indonesia and Peru to help inventors and entrepreneurs start technology based social enterprises. RAMPs have supported over 100 different innovations including:

- A hand-powered pump to draw water to remote places where limited access leads to food shortages for farming families
- A machine that separates the bones and meat of small by-catch fish, making it profitable for fishermen to sell the by-catch, rather than throw waste back into the sea
- A grinder for chiles and coriander, which will save time and money for those living in remote settings



TECHNOLOGY DISSEMINATION: Supporting the design, distribution and adoption of life changing technologies in developing countries

► **East Meets West Foundation**

www.eastmeetswest.org

With Lemelson Foundation support, East Meets West Foundation (EMW) provides targeted training to medical personnel and distribution of low-cost neonatal equipment to treat respiratory related problems in newborns in Southeast Asia. To date, EMW has:

- Treated 45,000 babies a year in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and East Timor with its “Breath of Life” neonatal technology and training
- Provided hospitals in Vietnam with 557 CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) machines
- Outfitted 200 hospitals in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and East Timor with its suite of products, including infant warmers, LED phototherapy and bilibeds
- Trained more than 300 doctors and nurses in advanced newborn care and its “Breath of Life” equipment



► **International Development Enterprises India**

www.ide-india.org

International Development Enterprises India (IDEI) provides micro-irrigation technologies to alleviate poverty throughout India. It designs, develops and delivers small-plot irrigation tools that are commercially viable and low-cost. IDE-India has:

- Helped one million families—five million people—gain access to its treadle pump or drip-irrigation technologies
- Increased the annual net household income by an average of \$100 USD
- Designed efficient drip-irrigation technologies that reduce water usage by 50 percent, decreasing labor and soil erosion

► **KickStart International**

www.kickstart.org

KickStart International is a non-profit organization developing agricultural technologies for very poor entrepreneurs in Kenya, Tanzania and Mali. To date, KickStart has:

- Distributed its money-making water pump technologies to 100,000 families, reaching 500,000 people
- Enabled farm families to generate \$98.6 million annually in new profits and wages

► **SELCO India**

www.selco-india.com

SELCO India is a social enterprise providing sustainable energy solutions and services to under-served households and businesses in India. Since 1995, SELCO has:

- Helped 120,000 families in India receive electricity
- Provided solar opportunities for poor people through innovative financing options
- Worked with SEWA (Self Employed Women's Association) to help over 100 women entrepreneurs launch businesses selling SELCO clean energy technologies

