

Inventique®

The newsletter of Wessex Round Table of Inventors

August 2008

15-18 October THE BRITISH INVENTION SHOW www.britishinventionshow.com

Crowning glory



THE QUEEN'S AWARDS FOR ENTERPRISE 2009
SEEK APPLICATIONS BEFORE OCTOBER DEADLINE

DOES YOUR BUSINESS have a base in the UK and employ at least two full-time workers? Do you believe it is one of the best? And can you demonstrate commercial success?

If you can answer a definite 'yes' to these questions, you have until 31 October to apply for one of The Queen's Awards for Enterprise 2009. Winners will be announced on The Queen's birthday, 21 April 2009.

The Queen's Awards for Enterprise are the most prestigious awards for business performance in the UK. They recognise and reward outstanding achievement by UK companies and are presented in three separate categories:

- **Innovation Awards** recognise companies that have demonstrated commercial success through innovative products or services.
- **International Trade** recognises companies that have demonstrated growth in overseas earnings.
- **Sustainable Development** recognises companies that have integrated environmental, social, economic and management aspects of sustainable development into their businesses.

Applications for a Royal Award for individuals who develop and promote business enterprise can also be made. ■

- **To submit an online application:**
www.queensawards.org.uk
or Tel: 08705 134 486.

£250 WRTI/IMechE Awards

SOUTHAMPTON SOLENT University students Ben Feerick and Christina O'Hare won the David Nicholas Innovation Awards 2008, sponsored by IMechE, last month.

Christina, above, won the Product Design Award for her mobile catering facility. Designed to look like a permanent static structure, the MCF comprises a mobile box trailer whose hydraulic opening mechanism transforms it into a Pret A Manger-style café utilising folding floors, covered and heated seating inside and out, staff serving areas and 'invisible' wheels. It will be located in the UK's 4,000 business parks and at outdoor events, and costs £15,900 per unit

Ben Feerick won the Engineering Award for his one-handed container-opening device, for use by those with restricted posture, impairments of the wrist, hand, muscles or arms, and for the elderly and the infirm. ■

- www.imeche.org www.solent.ac.uk



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● **MICK CLEANS UP IN CHICAGO** WRTI member Mick Gordon won the WOW Innovation Award for his KlenzPod dispenser, left, at the 3-day World of Wipes Conference hosted by the Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry in June. The Conference focuses solely on wipes and their substrates, active ingredients, packaging, market metrics, industry challenges and market opportunities. The KlenzPod incorporates the NippleNozzle, which allows only one wipe to be pulled at a time, preventing moisture loss and eliminating waste.

- mick@klenzpod.com www.klenzpod.com www.inda.org



Next WRTI meeting **WEDNESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER** www.wrti.org.uk/events

Wessex Round Table of Inventors meet at 6.30pm on the second Wednesday of each month at Southampton Solent University SO14 0RP

COMMENT

IT IS OFTEN SUGGESTED that inventors, startup companies and SMEs team up with universities in order to progress their innovative ideas, and there's a seductive logic to this suggestion for ambitious innovators, particularly with regard to prototyping, R&D, IP protection and technology transfer.

But it's not that simple. Support for startups in the UK in general and from its universities in particular is assumed by many to target university spinout companies and the high-tech, bio-pharma or software sectors, or to simply provide advice or office space.

In the largest research study of its kind ever conducted in England (*Enterprise and Entrepreneurship in Higher Education*), the National Council for Graduate Entrepreneurship revealed that less than half of our universities currently display entrepreneurial characteristics.

"Universities could do more to unlock the entrepreneurial aspirations of students," states the report, and so say all of us. Even in the USA – that hotbed of creative entrepreneurial activity – only 1% of university technology disclosures are ever shipped (a figure that rises to 20% at Massachusetts Institute of Technology).

But that still doesn't answer how we – the existing inventors, startups, entrepreneurs and SMEs who want to generate wealth and develop economically-active businesses out of our ideas – get a foot in the door.

Our universities house superb, under-utilised technical facilities and employ personnel with world-class specialist knowledge, but few appear willing or able to construct a clear-cut commercial framework of provision, support and funding for small businesses; indeed, most face similar funding pressures.

Until that changes, the idea that universities can share vigorous – and profitable – commercial relationships with anything other than a tiny minority of innovators, entrepreneurs and SMEs appears fatally flawed. ■

● Sources: ncge.com, autm.net, planeteureka.com

editor@wrti.co.uk

INVENTORATOR Sir James Dyson

The business of engineering

EDUCATION AND FAILURE ARE KEYS TO SUCCESS

Continued from last month...

SO WHAT should be done? How can engineering, a business that has changed the world (and will continue to do so), change its own fate? Of course, government tax breaks for research and development are welcome, but we have to get to the root of the problem.

The starting point has to be education: we have to stem the gravitation of our young people towards philosophy, sociology and media studies. As interesting as these subjects may be, they're not going to provide us with a workforce which can create practical solutions to this century's challenges of energy, housing and an ageing population. Engineering can.

School of Design Innovation

This is why I've been working for some years on plans for a school of design innovation which will open in Bath. It's a new kind of school, supported by the government, which will encourage Britain's next generation of engineers, designers and inventors.

How? Well, it will bring the exciting, risky, *real* world of engineering into the classroom. Apart from that, we won't have classrooms! Instead there will be flexible workshops, surrounding an

atrium where prototypes of engineering icons – successful or failed – will provide inspiration for young people.

While classrooms aren't on the cards, teachers are: sixty expert and enthusiastic staff will be backed up with input from industry. The likes of Williams Formula 1, Rolls-Royce, Airbus, Rotork and the Science Museum – they're all getting involved by donating pieces of inspiration.

A school that greets you with a wrecked Formula 1 car and prototype aircraft wings is just a bit different; a school that exposes children to risk and failure even more so – but failure is what makes us succeed (it's a great paradox, but one that all engineers learn to embrace).

I learnt to relish failure in the five years, 5,127 prototypes, failure after failure, that it took me to engineer my vacuum cleaner. ■

© Sir James Dyson 2008

Concluded next month...

● This is an edited extract of a podcast first broadcast in January 2008, reprinted with permission.

Sir James Dyson is best known as the inventor of the Dual Cyclone™ bagless vacuum cleaner. With his research team he has developed products that have achieved global sales of over £3bn. dyson.co.uk

● **MILTON PARK INNOVATION CENTRE MEPC** Milton Park, based in Abingdon, Oxfordshire, is increasing its support for entrepreneurial technology start-ups by opening a new, purpose-built Innovation Centre this autumn. Providing high quality offices and business support for up to 60 small and growing companies, the centre is part of a longer-term strategy to attract more high-growth companies to the park, particularly in the science and technology industries. Milton Park currently houses 6,500 employees, working in companies ranging from startups to major multi-nationals.

● Philip Campbell, Asset Manager
MEPC Milton Park Tel: 01235 865 555
pcampbell@mepc.com



The biomimetic wheel

RARELY DOES ONE come across a business where the phrase ‘reinventing the wheel’ is an operating principle, but Resilient Technologies and University of Wisconsin-Madison researchers have faced that very challenge while developing a non-pneumatic polymer tyre and customised wheel unit to withstand the extreme punishment meted out in a combat zone.

The concept arose from seeing otherwise heavily-armoured military vehicles disabled simply because their tyres had been damaged. After creating hundreds of prototypes for a Pentagon contract, the researchers have developed a device that takes its inspiration from nature.

“The goal was to create a tyre

that transmits loads uniformly, and for this we took inspiration from a honeycomb,” said Tim Osswald, professor of mechanical engineering at Wisconsin-Madison. “We wanted to create more of a matrix of cells within the tyre, and it seemed kind of natural to go with the honeycomb’s hexagon shape. We tried other shapes, such as diamonds, and they didn’t perform as well.”

The patent-pending Resilient design relies on a precise arrangement of six-sided polymer cells to mimic the ride feel of pneumatic tyres. The honeycomb geometry also reduces noise levels and heat generation, problems found in earlier prototypes.

“It’s amazing to think that we have gone from literally sketching



designs on a piece of paper in June 2006 to having actual vehicles riding around on prototype tyres in April 2008,” says Newman. ■

Sources: University of Wisconsin-Madison, Mumbai Mirror, Engineeringtalk

● Resilient Technologies LLC

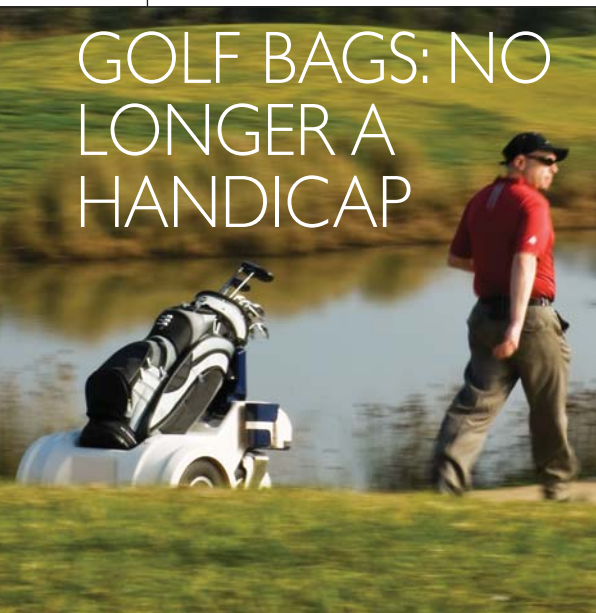
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GOLF BAGS: NO LONGER A HANDICAP



MARK TWAIN once memorably described golf as “a good walk spoiled”, so he would presumably have been less than thrilled at the thought of lugging a bag-full of golf clubs around a course single-handedly – an effort even modern trollies and buggies don’t completely eliminate. Now golf has been dragged into the 21st century with the Shadow Caddy, a hands-free robotic caddy which follows a golfer’s every move; players only have to operate a stop/start button when making a shot. At variable speeds up to 5mph – fast enough even for vigorous walkers – it will climb up hills and through thick grass, and an infra-red collision avoidance system means it won’t run down other golfers and will dodge hazards like bunkers, trees or lakes.

The brainchild of Australian Hubert Novak, the first steps in realising his vision came with the foundation of Your Shadow Technologies in 2005, with investment from more than 70 shareholders on five continents. An experienced management team with a strong background in product development, finance, logistics and marketing worked closely with leading Australian electronics, industrial design, branding and software specialists to turn the dream into reality – in only three years, including thousands of hours of research and development in custom-built test facilities.

The model pictured on the left is targeted at golf’s hire-at-the-course market, but a lightweight version for individuals owners will soon be heading down the fairway. Fore! ■

● Shadow Caddy (Europe) Ltd, Cardinal Point, Park Road, Rickmansworth, Herts WD3 1RE
Tel: +44 (0)1923 432 659 info@shadowcaddy.com www.shadowcaddy.com

● **POWER-ASSISTED LUGGAGE** When tiny wheels and collapsible handles were first fitted to luggage in the eighties, we all thought them a great innovation. But they were limited – until now. Live Luggage have come up with the world’s first power-assisted suitcases because, as they say, “the world is not flat”. Targeting the ABCI demographic market, Live Luggage even carries loads up or down gradients and steps.

Incorporating flat pan motor technology, force sensors, lightweight rechargeable batteries, tilt switches and a patented anti-gravity handle with triangular wishbones to produce a smooth, stress-free ride feel, Europe’s only hard case manufacturer appears to have created a major new opportunity in the travel market. ■

● Live Luggage Ltd, PO Box 4757, Henley-on-Thames RG9 2AR Tel: +44 (0)8458 696171 info@liveluggage.com www.liveluggage.com



FIAT launches £50,000 'Smiles Per Hour' design competition



FIAT GROUP Automobiles UK has launched a nationwide competition to find the inventor of a new transporter, gadget or gizmo that will make travelling both fun and more enjoyable in the future.

Their 'Smiles Per Hour' Design Competition wants inventors to design interesting and amusing ways to journey from A to B. The winner of the competition will also end up smiling – s/he'll be handed a £50,000 prize from Fiat.

The winning design can be

based on traditional travel methods – a bike, trike, skates, a pogo stick, dinghy, or even moving stairs – but it must make travelling more fun.

Fiat Group Automobiles UK Marketing Director Elena Bernardelli says: "We want entries from inventors of all ages from all over the country. We can't wait to see some great prototypes that go on to become marketable products in their own right."

● **Send your working drawings, a brief development plan and potted bio to:** www.fiat.co.uk/smiles



Right: Fiat, famous for its iconic Fiat 500, has signed TV presenter Suzi Perry from *The Gadget Show* to support the competition.

ANGEL NEWS CALL FOR CASE STUDIES

MODWENNA REES-MOGG of AngelNews is writing a book entitled *Dragons or Angels?* which examines how BBC *Dragons' Den* compares to the real world of angel investing.

Modwenna would really appreciate your help in making the book more than just 'good'. To achieve this she needs case studies about real angel deals and where they have gone right and wrong.

If you have a story that you think makes a good point about angel investing, good or bad, please send it to her via the link below. She will send a free copy of the book to anyone who sends a case study in, so please identify yourself when you complete the survey.

AngelNews is a free commercial news service for the investment market, especially for business angels, venture capitalists and the companies they back.

● [Click here to open the survey.](http://www.angelnews.co.uk)
www.angelnews.co.uk

£60,000 Commercialisation Fund

FINANCE SOUTH EAST has launched a Commercialisation Fund to facilitate the progress to market of business ideas, products or services with clear potential for high growth.

The funding should allow new business ideas or innovations to develop to market entry or market traction stage, including first revenues or contracts, market-validation and putting operational processes in place.

The Commercialisation Fund operates in two phases, with up to £30,000 available for each. An application may be made for either one of the phases or – for funding that involves activities across both phases – an application for a maximum of £60,000 applies.

Isle of Wight-based marine company Hybrid-Marine Ltd was recently awarded funding through the programme.

"The great thing about the Commercialisation Fund is that it is a fast-track process" commented managing director Graeme Hawksley. "The funding we won has enabled us to finish the product

Sally Goodsell: Prowess Award Winner 2008

FINANCE SOUTH EAST's chief executive has been recognised for her work in tackling the under-funding of women's businesses. Sally was awarded *Outstanding Contribution to Women's Enterprise Development* at the Prowess awards in June. Her work has included creating new sources of private investment and raising the awareness of women entrepreneurs to existing funds.

● www.prowess.org.uk

development and go into production."

"It can be quite frustrating applying for funding streams from different organisations," he said. "We initially contacted Finance South East 18 months ago, and went through an investment-readiness programme which included lots of useful actions and pointers on developing our business plan."

Source: Marine South East

● **To find out more about the Commercialisation Fund and other funding streams, click here:** www.financesoutheast.co.uk

LEGAL DUE DILIGENCE...

COMPANIES NOW HAVE TO ADOPT THEIR OWN RISK ASSESSMENT MEASURES

DUE DILIGENCE was typically carried out by investors wishing to assess their risk before making an investment in target companies, writes *Dr Rosanna Cooper*.

However, with the advent of the Business Protection from Misleading Marketing regulations, which came into effect in May, companies have to carry out their own due diligence on aspects of their businesses as part of their risk management measures.

Due Diligence checklist

Below is a checklist of the key aspects of a legal due diligence.

- Acquisition, partnership or joint venture agreements
- Corporate documents
- Employees & related parties
- Environmental matters
- Financial information
- Governmental regulations
- Insurance and liability
- Intellectual property
- Litigation
- Misleading advertising
- Money laundering
- Products and equipment
- Property
- Securities
- Taxation

The target company would generally be expected to disclose key documents, such as employment contracts; Board minutes, resolutions and minutes of shareholders meetings; signed confidentiality agreements; licensing agreements and assignments (including any agreements with employees); articles of association and memorandum of association; terms of business; litigation-related documents; and patents, copyrights, trade marks and other intellectual property-related documents.

Source: RT Coopers

ROSANNA COOPER CLARIFIES THE LEGAL POSITION FOR INVENTORS AND ENTREPRENEURS

The Investor

Investors carry out a due diligence investigation to help them identify the areas of risk in a target business and observe the risk management measures the company has in place, prior to deciding whether to proceed with an investment or withdraw.

Investors usually concentrate on two types of due diligence: business and legal. Others include financial, commercial, technical and management due diligence.

A professional advisor usually undertakes due diligence on behalf of an investor by gathering all possible information about the target company or its assets. The advisor then prepares a report with recommendations on whether to invest in the business, on what terms and at what valuation, the validity of the information provided (including past performance and the directors' credentials), the risks involved and the potential represented by the company's business plan.

RT Coopers conduct legal due diligence in a range of industry sectors and have set out key aspects in the checklist on the left.

Internal due diligence

There is now an obligation on companies to carry out due diligence in relation to any proposed or current advertising, and a prohibition on misleading advertising (where it is likely to deceive businesses, potentially affecting

their economic behaviour – see www.rtcoopers.com/misleading.php).

The Regulations focus on comparative advertising, where one business deliberately features a competing business or its product in its advertisement. If a business elects to use comparative advertising, a number of conditions must be met, including:

- The business must not compare products or materials which are not designed for a very similar purpose;
- There must be no confusion as to the advertiser of the product in question and the competitor;
- Presenting imitations or replicas of products bearing a protected trade mark/trade name is prohibited;
- The business cannot take unfair advantage of the reputation of a competing company's trade marks, trade names, distinguishing marks, or information relating to that company's country of origin.

Companies should increase their risk management measures by conducting due diligence of their own businesses.

Companies should also adopt risk management measures to ensure compliance with the law in such areas as data protection, employment law, intellectual property protection and intellectual property insurance. ■

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● *Dr Rosanna Cooper is a partner at RT Coopers, a commercial law firm focusing on inventors and business start-ups.*

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Free CAD training!

THE PRODUCT Development Centre is presenting a fantastic opportunity to innovators, entrepreneurs, startups and SMEs in southern England by running a series of CAD training workshops at its Hastings base – free of charge.

For individual designers, engineers, groups and companies requiring an initial introduction to computer-aided design for their businesses (or simply because they wish to design their own products), three-hour ‘taster’ sessions introduce CAD and its role in product design and the drafting of technical and engineering drawings.

These are followed by hands-on training sessions covering new product development, best design

practice, 3D design for manufacture and assembly, rapid prototyping, CAD/CAM software, and a range of electrical/electronics training.

And the PDC staff, who also provide consultancy services, can even demonstrate how rapid prototyping could be of benefit to you or your business by making something from your own .stl file.

The Centre was opened last year and is funded by the European Union, Sea Space, SEEDA and the University of Brighton. ■

● **The Product Development Centre**
Highfield Drive, St Leonards-on-Sea
East Sussex TN38 9UH
Tel: 01424 858 237
info@pdchastings.co.uk
www.pdchastings.co.uk

NEW POCKET GUIDE FOR CMM SENSOR SYSTEMS



SUITABLE FOR both experienced users and those new to CMM sensor technologies, Renishaw’s new pocket-sized guide to sensing technologies for co-ordinate measuring machines includes options ranging from manually-operated probes through to fully automated five-axis scanning systems.

A useful reference source for companies specifying new machines or considering upgrades or retrofits.

● www.renishaw.com



FREE MEASUREMENT, CONTROL AND AUTOMATION HANDBOOK

Produced specifically for the UK, Omega Engineering’s new free hard-cover handbook contains over 1000 pages of products and technical reference material.

Complete Measurement, Control and Automation Handbook and Encyclopedia is a single source for all instrumentation and sensor requirements for the industrial process measurement, control and automation industries, as well as scientific and laboratory applications.

If there’s a parameter you to need measure, the chances are you will find the appropriate sensors and instrumentation in this book.

● [Click here to be sent your Omega handbook free of charge: www.omega.co.uk](http://www.omega.co.uk) or Freephone 0800 488 488

● NEW MOOG WHITE PAPER

In a White Paper entitled ‘Achieving high performance: a collaborative approach for motion control solutions’, Moog’s product marketing manager Robert Luong discusses the challenges high-performance machine designs pose for engineers responsible for motion control.

The paper reviews the trends that are making high performance motion control ever more challenging and complex for design engineers. It also analyses the trends among engineers, from defining motion control in terms of

individual products and specific technologies to a more solutions-based approach.

Moog is a worldwide designer, manufacturer and integrator of precision control components and systems. Moog’s high-performance systems control military and commercial aircraft, satellites and space vehicles, launch vehicles, missiles, automated industrial machinery, marine applications and medical equipment.

● [Click here to download the white paper: www.moog.co.uk](http://www.moog.co.uk)
 Or email: rgunn@moog.com

● MECHANICAL DRIVE COMPONENTS CATALOGUE

RINO INDUSTRIES has added ceramic and self-lubricating linear bearings to its 848-page mechanical drive components catalogue. Both closed and open bearings are available in ceramic and self-lubricating versions, with 5 to 80mm bores.

Ceramic-coated aluminium bearings require lubrication and are available with or without seals. Self-lubricating bearings are manufactured from a Teflon composite liner bonded to an aluminium shell.

● www.rino.co.uk

Wanted – a Patent Court to protect inventors' ideas across EU borders, says Joshua Rozenburg

THERE IS STILL NO European Patent Court, Lord Hoffmann, a senior judge, complained in July. The EU's failure to set up a simple scheme for protecting inventions across Europe is bad news for British inventors – especially those who do not have the backing of large companies. Since a court ruling in one country has no effect in others, it can cost millions to protect an invention across Europe.

Ruling in March on a banknote security patent that had been successfully challenged in some European countries but upheld in others, Lord Justice Jacob said the appeal “illustrates once again the need for a one-stop patent shop”.

‘It took three English court hearings, costing hundreds of thousands of pounds, to arrive at a decision already reached by a Dutch court’

The invention at the heart of last week's appeal to the House of Lords was a modified stent – a tiny wire-mesh tube used to hold blood vessels open in patients with heart disease.

When these tubes were first developed, there were sometimes problems: the stent could encourage the growth of new tissue, closing up the arteries again. Then a young Canadian medical student discovered that a well-known anti-cancer drug called taxol would stop the new tissue growing. He had the idea of coating the stent with it.

GETTING TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER

The fact that this case has been upheld in some countries and challenged in others shows “the need for a one-stop patent shop” – Lord Justice Jacob, March 2008

In so far as possible “there should be uniformity in the way the national courts and the European Patent Office interpret law” – Lord Hoffman, July 2008

The taxol stent, patented by Angiotech Pharmaceuticals in 1997, became a great commercial success. But the patent was challenged by a US competitor – which claimed it was obvious to coat the stent with something and that taxol had always been “worth a try”. A device cannot be patented if it obvious.

Angiotech replied that it was not obvious to coat the stent with taxol. That was what was inventive. The US competitor, Conor, was successful in the High Court and the Court of Appeal. But Conor's request for revocation of Angiotech's patent was dismissed by a district court in The Hague and also last week by the Law Lords. Lord Hoffmann decided that coating the stent with taxol was what was being patented – and that was far from obvious.

The different rulings from courts in the Netherlands and England came as no surprise to patent attorneys – agents who register inventions for clients. “It has taken three English court hearings, costing hundreds of thousands of pounds, to arrive at a decision that had already been made in a Dutch court,” said Rob Jackson, a spokesman for the Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys.

There is already a European Patent Office in Munich that examines inventions and grants “European” patents. But Jackson, a patent attorney litigator himself, explains that these are no more than a bundle of national patents – “any one of which can be challenged in the courts of the

country to which it applies”.

There must be a better way, say the patent attorneys. Clearly, we need a patent that can be granted centrally and will then be binding in all European countries through a unified system of litigation.

The problem is that there are now 27 EU states using 23 official languages, if you include Irish. Specialist translation into all these languages would be prohibitively expensive – and yet a developer might reasonably expect to read a patent in his own language if he is to be penalised for infringing it.

But Jackson has high hopes that France will regard the creation of an enforceable Community patent as a priority during its current six-month presidency of the EU.

One solution is to use relatively cheap computerised translation systems. These are now good enough to give potential patent infringers an idea of what the invention is about, even if the printout does not read like great literature.

So will the French deliver a patent based on machine translation? The alternative is to have all patents written in the single language that every European patent attorney can cope with – the one you are reading now. That is a prospect to which the French response can only be “non”. ■

● *Joshua Rozenberg is The Daily Telegraph's legal editor and was the BBC's legal correspondent for 15 years. This article first appeared in the London Evening Standard on Tuesday 15 July 2008.*

To read the original article, click here: www.thisislondon.co.uk

www.wrti.org.uk

THE INVENTORS WEBSITE

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE  invention
intelligence

People power...

SUCCESS STRATEGIES FOR INVENTORS LIKE YOU

TODAY'S INNOVATORS live in golden times, because the Web is making it easier than ever for people to develop and sell their own ideas and inventions.

But it's a tricky path to actual commercial success, with myriad decisions to make and unexpected problems to solve, and there are some basics you need to know right from the outset – the first of which is that you don't need to go it alone.

Most innovative individuals worry because they are looking for definitive answers about their ideas. But they find few experts – even among seasoned business mentors or other inventors – in a position to take the overall view and make helpful definitive judgments.

Cally Robson, a specialist in helping creative ideas people evolve their concepts for the marketplace, founded Inventors Intelligence with

Deb Leary OBE, an award-winning inventor and entrepreneur: they believe *you're* the only one who can make the savvy decisions for your invention or product innovation.

Defining intelligence

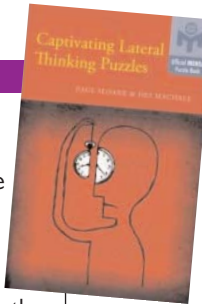
Whatever stage your idea, you can make an immediate start by signing up on the website to receive free Invention Intelligence Checklists or free Tips by Telephone – members' phone-ins, focusing on topics such as licensing deals, taking the first steps with your idea, the secret way to talk freely *and* protect your concept, what an idea is worth and not patenting too soon. ■

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Cornbury Park, Charlbury
Oxfordshire OX7 3EH
Tel: +44 (0)1608 811 227
contact@inventionintelligence.com
www.inventionintelligence.com

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Captivating Lateral Thinking Puzzles

by Paul Sloane & Des MacHale
Sterling Publishing
96 pages £4.99
ISBN 1402732767



If you are good at thinking outside the box and love a challenge, this new collection of lateral thinking puzzles is for you. Here are two examples: Why did one member of a band insist on being paid in single dollar bills only? In 1925 there were 200 million of them; in 2005 there were 21,000 of them; in 2006 there were none. What are they?

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

www.inventors.about.com

Your guide at About.com is Mary Bellis, credited by Forbes magazine's 'Best of the Web' as creating the number one online destination for information about inventors and inventions in the USA. For over a decade Mary has written about the relationship between inventors and the market value of inventions, supporting this with a plethora of realistic e-courses, newsletters and links to advice – from how to start to how to protect and make money from your invention

BUSINESS LINK INNOVATION CLINICS

Are you thinking about developing a new product, process or service? Have you invented something and don't know what to do next? Through its series of free Innovation Clinics, Business Link provides confidential and impartial guidance on such subjects as investigating an innovative idea, product development, working with universities, R&D funding sources, protecting intellectual property rights and licensing. Innovation Clinics are held throughout the SEEDA region.

● Advice Hotline: 0845 600 9 006 innovation@businesslinksoutheast.co.uk www.businesslink.gov.uk/southeast

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