

Innovation Awards: Our annual prizes recognise successful innovators in eight categories. Here are this year's winners

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THIS newspaper was established in 1843 to take part in “a severe contest between intelligence, which presses forward, and an unworthy, timid ignorance obstructing our progress.” One of the chief ways in which intelligence presses forward is through innovation, which is now recognised as one of the most important contributors to economic growth. Innovation, in turn, depends on the creative individuals who dream up new ideas and turn them into reality.

The Economist recognises these talented people through its annual Innovation Awards, presented in eight fields: bioscience, computing and telecommunications, energy and the environment, social and economic innovation, business-process innovation, consumer products, a flexible “no boundaries” category, and the corporate use of innovation. This year we also asked our readers to vote on which of seven emerging technologies has the greatest promise in the coming decade. The awards were presented by John Micklethwait,

editor-in-chief of *The Economist*, at a ceremony in London on October 21st. And the winners were:



Dr. Biddle, Founder and President of MBA Polymers, accepting award from John Micklethwait (left) and Tom Standage (right)

- Bioscience: **Harald zur Hausen** of the German Cancer Research Centre in Heidelberg for his demonstration that **human papilloma viruses** (HPV) cause cervical cancer. His work led to the development of vaccines that now protect tens of millions of young women.
- Business process: **Peter Thiel and Max Levchin**, co-founders of the firm that went on to become PayPal, for promoting the widespread adoption of **secure online payments**. This helped catalyse a wider embrace of online commerce.

- Computing and telecommunications: **John Cioffi** of ASSIA for his pioneering work in the development of **asymmetric digital subscriber line** (ADSL) technology, now the most widespread form of fixed broadband.
- Consumer products: **Steve Jobs** of Apple for his ability to produce industry-transforming consumer devices that are elegant and easy to use, including the **iPod**, the **iPhone** and the **iPad**.
- Energy and the environment: **Michael Biddle** of MBA Polymers for the development of **mixed-plastics recycling technology**, which means that material that might otherwise end up in landfill can be more easily recycled.
- No boundaries: **Peter Diamandis**, founder of the X Prize Foundation, for reinvigorating the idea of **using prizes to spur innovation** in space flight, electric vehicles, genomics and other fields.
- Social and economic innovation: **Nick Hughes** and **Susie Lonie**, co-architects of M-PESA, Kenya's pioneering **mobile money-transfer service**, which has spurred the creation of many similar schemes in other developing countries.
- Corporate use of innovation: **Huawei Technologies**, China's largest maker of telecoms equipment. Once seen solely as a low-cost vendor, it is now respected by telecoms operators around the world for the quality of its products, challenging the notion that Chinese firms are merely imitators rather than innovators.
- Readers' award: **Fourth-generation (4G) networking** was chosen by our readers as the innovation with the greatest potential to change society in the coming decade. 4G networks, the first of which are now being switched on, promise to bring broadband to the developing world and make it ubiquitous in the rich world.

And thank you...

We extend our congratulations to the winners and our thanks to the judges: Robin Bew, editorial director, Economist Intelligence Unit; Matthew Bishop, American business editor, *The Economist*; Sir Andrew Cahn, chief executive, UK Trade & Investment; Marvin Caruthers, professor of chemistry and biochemistry, University of Colorado; Hermes Chan, president and chief executive, MedMira; Martin Cooper, chairman and chief executive, ArrayComm; George Craford, chief technology officer, Philips Lumileds; Hernando de Soto, chairman, Institute for Liberty and Democracy; Rodney Ferguson, managing director, Panorama Capital; Nancy Floyd, founder and managing director, Nth Power; Mikkel Vestergaard Frandsen, chief executive, Vestergaard Frandsen; Janus Friis, co-founder, Atomico; François Grey, visiting professor of physics, Tsinghua University; Robert Guest, business editor, *The Economist*; Vic Hayes, former chair, IEEE 802.11 working group; Mo Ibrahim, founder, Celtel; Matti Makkonen, co-developer, short message service (SMS); Yoichiro Matsumoto, professor and dean of engineering, University of Tokyo; Julie Meyer, founder and chief executive, Ariadne Capital; Andrew Odlyzko, professor of mathematics, University of Minnesota; Andrea Pfeifer, chief executive, AC Immune; Sam Pitroda, chairman, National Knowledge Commission, India; Navi Radjou, executive director, Centre for India & Global Business, Judge Business School; Rinaldo Rinaldi, executive vice-president, Fiat Research; Lesa Roe, director, Langley Research Centre, NASA; Paul Saffo, technology forecaster; Syl Saller, global innovation director, Diageo; Jerry Simmons, director, energy frontier research, Sandia National Laboratories; Tom Standage, digital editor and *Technology Quarterly* editor, *The Economist* (chairman); Vijay Vaitheeswaran, bioscience correspondent, *The Economist*; Jeff Weedman, vice-president of external business development, Procter & Gamble; Huanming Yuang, director, Beijing Genomics Institute. The judging process was run by John Eckhouse of Modern Media.