

# THE LEMELSON FOUNDATION

*improving lives through invention*

## **Recently Approved Projects**

“Design for the Other 90%” at the Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum, Smithsonian Institution, New York. With lead funding from The Lemelson Foundation, this exhibition, being held May 4-September 23, 2007, focuses public attention on the significance of affordable and socially responsible innovations created for the vast majority of the world's population – 90 percent – not traditionally served by professional designers. The Foundation is also providing support for the 2007 teachers’ Summer Design Institute at Cooper-Hewitt, which includes classroom lessons on technology design appropriate to poor people and emergency relief needs. Links:

[www.lemelson.org/programs/cooperhewitt.php](http://www.lemelson.org/programs/cooperhewitt.php) and [www.cooperhewitt.org/EXHIBITIONS/other/](http://www.cooperhewitt.org/EXHIBITIONS/other/).

Fundação para o Estudo e Tratamento das Deformidades Crânio-Faciais (FUNCRAF) is working on a project to design, manufacture and distribute low-cost, digital, behind-the-ear hearing aids and solar rechargeable batteries in Brazil. This project involves transferring a low-cost behind-the-ear hearing aid designed by Botswana-based Godisa, making design changes to adapt it to the local market, and establishing a local production facility. Links:

[www.lemelson.org/programs2/detail.php?id=778](http://www.lemelson.org/programs2/detail.php?id=778) and [www.funcraf.org.br/](http://www.funcraf.org.br/).

Instituto para o Desenvolvimento de Energias Alternativas e da Auto Sustentabilidade (IDEAAS) is testing the feasibility of solar energy distribution in three communities in the Rio

Tapajós area of the lower Amazon basin. The organization's solar kits – which households lease rather than purchase – are tailored to household needs and expectations, and the monthly charges are linked to the present household expenses for lighting. Links:

[www.lemelson.org/programs2/detail.php?id=779](http://www.lemelson.org/programs2/detail.php?id=779) and [www.ideas.org](http://www.ideas.org).

KickStart International, Inc. has received funding to support the establishment of a technology development center and to create three new or redesigned manual water pump products. The new center will provide a home for KickStart's product development, host visiting engineers, and provide training support to young East African engineers interested in designing for affordability. The pumps will be available to even poorer farmers than those who can currently afford KickStart's existing pumps. The Lemelson Foundation leveraged its investment 5x through co-funding from the Gates Foundation. Links:

[www.lemelson.org/programs2/detail.php?id=664](http://www.lemelson.org/programs2/detail.php?id=664) and [www.kickstart.org](http://www.kickstart.org).

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology International Development Initiative (IDI) mentors MIT students to cultivate invention, innovation, and entrepreneurship in service of communities lacking access to products and services that meet basic human needs. Since 2003, more than 390 students have participated in IDI programs, and its projects have benefited thousands of people in developing regions. Foundation funding will help IDI sustain its current programs and undertake new efforts, including creating partnerships with TLF's RAMPs and technology dissemination projects to drive the design and testing of new technologies. Links:

[www.lemelson.org/programs/mit\\_idi.php](http://www.lemelson.org/programs/mit_idi.php) and <http://web.mit.edu/idi/>.

National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance (NCIIA) will continue implementing experiential learning programs that promote invention, innovation and entrepreneurship in higher education while also embarking on new programs to increase the potential for commercialization of student innovations and to involve more students, particularly underserved minorities and women, in NCIIA programs. The five-year project will also solidify NCIIA's increasing focus on support for technologies that address sustainable development needs in the U.S. and developing countries.

Links: [www.lemelson.org/programs/nciia.php](http://www.lemelson.org/programs/nciia.php) and [www.nciia.org](http://www.nciia.org).

Norbulingka Institute is working on a project to modernize and revive the economy of Tibetan nomads by developing and introducing improved livestock management practices to increase the value of the traditional herds of yak. These improvements include the development and production of a yak wool insulation product, and improved yak milk gathering and processing for a high-value dairy product.

[www.norbulingka.org](http://www.norbulingka.org)

Program for Appropriate Technologies in Health (PATH) is continuing work on a project to design and disseminate an improved women's condom to be marketed in developing countries as well as in the U.S. The product will aid women in protecting themselves from unwanted pregnancy and the risk of HIV and other infections. Links:

[www.lemelson.org/programs2/detail.php?id=689](http://www.lemelson.org/programs2/detail.php?id=689) and [www.path.org](http://www.path.org).

Solar Electric Light Company - India (SELCO) is installing two-lamp solar kits in 40 poor rural households that cannot afford to purchase the technology. The Lemelson Foundation's funding for this is intended to offset 200 tons of carbon emissions produced as a result of Foundation activities in 2006, primarily from flights for site visits, meetings, and funded-partner and consultant participation in TLF convenings. [www.selco-india.com](http://www.selco-india.com)