The Inventor's Pathway: How technological ideas turn into sustainable businesses that improve lives
What inventions did you use today?
Our Legacy

“Every new American inventor is a potential new American business.”
Jerome Lemelson

"All his life, Jerry wanted to celebrate American invention. He felt it was what made this country strong. Now it's time to turn to the rest of the world, to join with others to solve some of the most pressing problems of our global community."
Dorothy Lemelson
Our Focus

The Lemelson Foundation uses the power of invention to:

- Strengthen the U.S. economy
- Improve the lives of the world’s poorest populations
Invention strengthens the U.S. economy

- In the last 50 years, innovation caused more than 50% of U.S. GDP growth
- 500,000 new small companies launch each year and are responsible for 60-80% of new jobs
- Small businesses create 14X more patents per employee than big firms
- Innovation leads to new markets and industries, wealth creation and profits, and higher-paying jobs
Why Invention Matters in the Developing World

Invention is critical to making progress on the Millennium Development Goals

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Global partnership for development
Why Invention Matters in the Developing World

Invention improves the lives of the world’s poorest populations

- Progress on the Millennium Development Goals
  - Maternal deaths have dropped from 543,000 a year in 1990 to 287,000 in 2010
  - Child deaths have dropped from 12 million a year in 1990 to 7.6 million in 2010
- Future inventions will lead to solutions that improve millions of lives
Our Approach

The Invention Pathway

Inspiration  
Inspire

Invention  
Educate

Innovation  
Generate Ideas

Entrepreneurship  
Incubate

Market

Improve Lives

the Lemelson foundation
improving lives through invention
What makes an invention successful?

The Invention Enterprise Blueprint

- Problem well-defined from user context/needs
- Technological invention
- User-centered design
- Self-sustaining business proposition
Our Focus

What is necessary for inventing to occur?

The Inventor’s Toolkit

- Real-world problem identification
- Strong STEM knowledge base
- Ability to turn ideas to solutions
- Hands-on experience
Beyond Traditional Borders
How will your invention change the world?