

Inventors' Network

Volume 7

of the Capital Area [INCA] Issue 9

Our meeting (on the 3rd Monday) is 20 Sept 99: 5:30 Networking, 6:30 Presentation 7:15 Bsns

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[Volunteer to be a director and get your name and phone listed here, starting next month]

Fontelle Said:

The preferred personal strengths of inventors seem to be self-recognized when the inventors review "Type-characteristics" options. Most of August attendees figured out, or already knew that their type preferred introverted action patterns. Even though most prefer that mode, most are capable of effective presentations and valuable conversations. We all tend to value "knowing ourselves" and appreciating our own type characteristics. However, the overall quality of our decision-making may be strengthened from drawing on the preferred strengths of others, interactively.

Approximately 1/4 of our male population prefers an intuitive source for creative thought. It may be revealed in a dramatic "AHA". The rest of the population prefer to harness their 5 senses toward new ways. Creating and managing all the necessary steps to achieve a marketable product usually emphasizes a demand on our sensing capabilities. Preference of both intuitive and sensing may be necessary for productive output from an invention team.

The preferred basis for an individual's decision-making tends to be either thinking or feeling. Ideal team work will iterate issues between (1) thinking-preference "head" persons and (2) feeling-preference "heart" persons. Since most important decisions include a conflict between "head" and "heart" the Myers Briggs type matrix offers a sequence of decision-making that combines the strongest merit of both:

A first step asks the preferred thinking-type to define the issue(s). That is their speciality!

A second step asks the preferred feeling-type to identify who would be involved and influenced by each issue. This elevates consideration of human values that would be reinforced or challenged.

A third cycle step considers how these value issues can be made rational to all parties, and

A fourth cycle step asks for confirmation as to whether the treated value is likely to be satisfied, by the refined decision structure. This style of interaction between thinking and feeling is particularly important where a customer's reaction is particularly important.

Fontelle helped many of us appreciate the second word to the INCA expression: **Network**.

An invention's market-place strength can be initially enhanced by network ing with other inventors.

An invention-manager's decision-making structure must also reach into the entrepreneurial culture. Thus, a team of complementary preferred strengths leads inventive projects to prosper.

A new website, www.pl-x.com, is a patent and License Exchange of Pasadena Cal. It now cites questions that are important to inventors and manufacturers. It is showing some infrastructure that appears important to the business of Intellectual Property Exchange. 626 405 -690

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM:

Sept 20: Dr. Arthur Molella heads the Smithsonian's Lemelson center and is our Guest speaker at 6:30 PM. He is

likely to discuss how Mr Lemelson, the inventor, became a philanthropist. Dr Molella is keenly aware of the vitally-productive role of inventors in our present world. The Lemelson foundation carries displays across America to encourage young people to see themselves as inventors and innovators.

Other priorities of the Lemelson foundation is to focus on Invention, Innovation and Creativity at a University level for undergraduate students, professorships, student prizes and doctoral fellowships.

Economist Lester Thurow was chartered to name the first Lemelson-MIT prize holder: Mr. William Bolander, an engineer at General Motors was awarded that prize: \$500,000 for his invented improvements in engine-control software.

Dr Molella is a special supporter of current attention to science, mathematics and engineering, and may want to share with INCA membership some of Mr Lemelson's favorite patent policy issues.

Dr Molella has been invited to introduce Lemelson Center themes for about 20 minutes. He has shown a special interest in the range and diversity of the education and inventing approach of INCA membership. Therefore, we have allocated a generous block of "question and answer time" for our short questions and his depth-of-knowledge answers.

Dr Molella starts the fall E D U C A T I O N season with INCA membership and guests as his students of history and inventive implications.

Oct 18 PROGRAM features Dr. Richard Rozek, Vice President of National Economic Research Associates (NERA). His professional background includes teaching both macro economics and micro economics. He recently visited Argentina to discuss macro-economics of a new patent system for them. Dr Rozek's firm, NERA, specializes in helping courts determine the current value of patent properties. His stories about valuation may be particularly responsive to the inventor-business-person's on-going need-to-know about worth and processes for determining it.

Nov 15 Program brings a return of Dennis Van Dusen's inventor's workshop.

These workshops tighten the coupling between an Inventor's output of a "wonderful what" and the MIT Enterprise forum's business-orientation of a powerful "how".

-EXCURSION-

[Laurie Rackus of WETA visited INCA in May when Dennis' workshop was starting its tests.

Soon after, Laurie invited **Phill Shaw, George Jones, Terrance Winston and Elena Boisvert** to a WETA filming of these, our inventors.

Now Laurie is preparing for a one-hour pilot project and is seeking videos of inventors, their prototypes and their brief stories. Ideally, the pilot will grow into a traveling road show about new inventions, and their business aspects.] *The initial VanDusen Inventor Workshop seems to have been the originating moment for Laurie's program of inventor visibility.*

*See "WASHINGTON INVENTORS Wanted ---" next page.

For the November program, Dennis will be looking for invention-presenters, and will be tailoring panels from engineering, finance, market and organization. A presenter is not limited to patented products or prototypes, but may focus on current challenges regarding product development, market analysis or any aspect of business plans.

Dec 20 Program: We expect to host Frederick Schmidt, USPTO administrator for Search and Information Resources. 1999 has seen immense changes in the capability for search and information recovery at the USPTO and on your home computer. Last week the USPTO conducted an open house at which Mr Schmidt revealed new kinds of search capabilities. His "EAST" and "WEST" searching will link international art and non-patent art for use by examiners and by the public who visit the Crystal City Search rooms.

He will be ready to discuss also how to get the patent disclosure, including drawings onto your own computer. The inventory of patents available through internet is growing rapidly, and trademark visibility now includes all applications and issued trademarks. Fred updates material from our June 12 seminar.

*** Washington DC Area Inventors Wanted!**

WETA is in the process of creating a pilot for an INVENTOR show and is looking for:

1) Independent inventors in the Washington, DC area who have a product that is at least patent pending with a good looking prototype that is suitable for TV. Both the invention and the inventor will be featured on the show (so don't be shy). Programming accepts a wide range of inventions, from consumer items to high tech items.

2) A successful inventor who has brought a product (or products) to market. It should be someone whose product is recognizable, and someone who has a good story to tell and can tell it well.

If you fit one of these categories, contact Laurie Rackas, WETA National Programming Development Executive, at (703) 998-2619 or email her at lrackas@weta.com

If the show goes beyond the pilot stage, they will be searching for inventors around the U.S. for 26 more one hour shows! Be prepared and- good luck! Joanne Hayes-Rines, Inventors' Digest

Yankee Invention Expo in Waterbury, CT, October 15 -16, is an offering through Inventors Digest. "<http://www.yankeeinventionexpo.org>"

Inventors are welcome to bring their assets for showing on rented tables.

The expo also includes instructional workshops covering stages of product development.

The workshop environment provide opportunity: to learn from the experts in the business, and to network with other inventors.

ISSUE: Are there INCA members who would like to share a \$250 table for display of their prototypes and patents? Who intends to go (with or without displays)?

VERVE Some of us have received an offering that suggests they will pay a maintenance fee and keep some portion of future gains in exchange for assignment of the property. Has anyone gotten a more definitive offer?

Prototype Offer: Jeff Drake (703) 339 7232 introduced his shop, ACTION MACHINING at our August meeting. Jeff volunteered that he liked to work with inventors, and that he was willing either to do as they say, or to collaborate in how a product might be built.

Educational EVENT: Sept 22-23 SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

George Mason University, Patriot Center, Fairfax Va. Dr. K.C.Das (804) 371 2795

These two-day events describe Federal "Small Business Innovation Research" SBIR (& STTR). Federal Agencies will distribute \$1.2B this year to these high-tech grant-programs. Proposals usually request

funding of up to \$100,000 for 6-month SBIR feasibility research. Winners of the feasibility awards then compete for a phase II 2-year investment of up to \$750,000 for SBIR. [HTTP://www..SOTECH.STATE.VA.US/OIT](http://www..SOTECH.STATE.VA.US/OIT)

Pull before 9/15: Are you an inventor of toys?

Don't miss The Great American Toy Hunt!!!! This is one of those rare opportunities for toy inventors. Joanne Hayes-Rines, Editor, Inventors' Digest says, This is a reputable company, and they could be opening the door you've been looking for! With the Great American Toy Hunt and Haystack Toys, it is possible to retain the genuine nature of your toy concept and bring it to market successfully.

The Great American Toy Hunt seeks to discover the “needles in the haystack” toys.

These are to be so ingenious, so involving and so well made that they can become “cherished for generations.”

“Inventors with a great toy idea” are invited to play. call toll-free 1-877-I-INVENT or visit "<http://www.haystacktoys.com>">www.haystacktoys.com — and apply before 9/15.

MITEF of DC's 1999-2000 season has lined up intriguing start-ups: Digital interWorks 9/28

For \$45 membership, you get free admission to 8 or 9 monthly case studies with networking, conversation, and tantalizing hors d'oeuvres. You also get a chance to present your own start-up at our "Going Up!" open-mike.

Map at <http://mitef.org/ForumLocation.htm>

**National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Conference Center,
4301 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA**

[Free NRECA Underground Parking: Enter on N. Taylor Street near Metro Orange Line to Ballston & one block west of the National Science Foundation]

Send a \$45 check payable to MIT Enterprise Forum [plus your email and/or Postal address] to:

Laura Bilodeau
MITEF Membership Director
1039 Sterling Road, Suite 201
Herndon, VA 20170

To be even more helpful, add the rest of this page, filled out, with your check.

SURVEY QUESTIONS

1. Would you, or someone you know, like to present a case study to the Forum? Yes/No
2. Would you, or someone you know, like to be a panelist? Yes/No
If so, please specify area of expertise.
3. Would you, or someone you know, like to be a sponsor? Yes/No
4. May we read your name at a future Forum event along with other new members?
5. Suggestions/Comments:

PATENT CORNER

Allen Woods will be making a networking presentation at a 6:00 - 6:15 period during our networking and Pizza-eating period. **His discussions will be located at the left, far corner (rear) of the conference room. [This location provide a target for those who enter and immediately find a place to sit.** This room arrangement leaves sufficient pacing room for extroverts to mingle, and most probably join in the conversations which ensue during and after Allen's introduction of the case.]

Allen is one of our members who is also a practicing patent attorney. He has offered to share a set of views about **claims** that would seem to be applicable “prior to most ‘prior art’”.

--We are experimenting with a slightly more-structured networking practice with this kind of announcement and networking time-slot. This special networking is one regarding patents.

Should these networking conversations exceed the estimated 15 minute time block by as much as 10 minutes, Ray or someone will invite participants to postpone the remaining conversations until after our speaker, our regularly scheduled meeting and a corporate Board meeting.

INVITATION TO LEARN A GAME

Nguyen Van-Thang has volunteered an interest in teaching a Viet game "KIANO" to INCA members and guests. Mr Van-Thang has some of the right qualifications for teaching this game, for he is its inventor, and founding president of its Academy. If he were to find support for this activity, he and his "learners" would probably be scheduled as an option after our regular program in Oct or Dec. Please leave Ray a call or message at (703) 971 9216 if you want to vote for a post meeting night for his instruction.

BOARD MEETING for SEPTEMBER 20. 8:30 pm.

Officers, Directors and interested members are invited to stay into the evening for one of our corporate board meetings. Agenda issues are expected to include:

1. Status of Funds

- Income, expenses and membership growth from June 12 Saturday Seminar 1999
- Membership Dues Amounts / year and /meeting.
- Short term and long term trends regarding treasury amounts
- Publication expenses and trends

2. Program Structure

- Characterization of basic program within 1999
 - Continuation of prior themes, including:
 - major website sophistication; internal communication with e-mail
 - trial organization redefinition for stronger infrastructure
 - interaction with MIT Enterprise Forum talent
 - some interaction with Georgetown Grad. Sch. Bsns workshops
 - Expansion of interaction with USPTO
 - Initial inventor visibility through TV

Limited achievement of Organizational objectives: A board of 8 Directors is not yet personed!

Corporate board meeting agenda, Continued:

3. Vision of program into 2000

- Cooperative marketing efforts for individually owned intellectual properties
 - Formalization of policy regarding cooperative efforts
 - Implement demonstration processes for Independent Inventor Foundation.

- Origination of new intellectual properties to meet market interests
 - Introduction and mastery of Creative Problem Solving tools
 - Host conferences that summarize recognized needs of major customer groups
 - Host workshops to tailor hi-merit properties for

Economic research

- Studies to support changing fees within patent law for small entity

Basic principles from which to teach “project economics for inventions”

Economic models generated and proofed from which to estimate development & promotion costs for inventions suitable: for licensing

for manufacturing

for distribution

Expansion of INCA committed resources to broaden inventor-group activity

Augment USPTO independent inventor program growth (Don Kelly)

Cooperate in starting new Inventor Associations

- for youth (Implement Lemelson Objectives)

- for out-lying communities (Implement Saturday Seminar findings: Too few public arenas for inventors)

Recognition agency to identify inventor teams whose properties provide:

major humanity enhancements

important, timely social enhancement

economically-significant communication value

essential material-conservation merit

business initiation, growth and health

4. Resources to amplify Inventor Initiatives

INCA might demonstrate processes through which independent inventors thrive

feed intellectual property benefits to customers through licenses

integrate tasks with corporate producers and marketers.

INCA and cooperative industries might demonstrate **employed inventors** processes

help corporations thrive from intellectual property benefits to customers

assure high quality properties through equity in licensing from employed inventors to other corporate producers and marketers.

INCA, Universities and small entity corporations might broaden sound inventor policy. refine a modern Intellectual Property policy for Universities and Corporations regarding individual inventor equity-rights.

[Consider Duke University Policy as model. Ref: Inventions, Patents and Technology Transfer of July 1 1996, Nine pages]

INCA STARTING Series: What do inventors need to know about patenting their ideas?

Other Guest-writer contributions are invited too.

A first contributor writes: The Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) instructs a patent examiner to counsel an inventor in the expected sequence of an application’s parts; Chapter 600, parts 608.01 (a-k) July 1998 edition:

(a) Title, (b-d) Reference Statements, (e) Background, including field and related art,

(f) Summary of the Invention, (g) Description of the Drawings, (h) Detailed description of the Invention, (i)

Claim(s) (j) Abstract, (k) Drawings

If an inventor’s effort is to provide a strong patent, he, she or they should appreciate how the contents of the patent, like the contents of a good report, will interact and mutually strengthen one another.

If an inventor is to get the best value for his investment from efforts of a patent attorney or agent, the

inventor must learn to focus on “What this invention is”.

The inventor(s) need to show and tell a problem (of importance) that has not yet been solved effectively. Then, using the words of the problem, the inventor(s) describe how this invention solves the problem. The problem and its succinct solution becomes a: (f) Brief Summary of the Invention.

Since an inventor team is dependent on a patent examiner to recognize the invention’s merit, the team will need to define the parts and features of the invention, and explain “how they work” together to solve the problem. Like a well-trained engineer, inventor(s) within the team initially will sketch parts and features with numbers (k) Drawings for each. Like a good report writer, some member of the team will reveal interaction of systems and parts to name* (g) Brief Description of the Several Views of the Drawings and to write (h) Detail description of the invention.

*** One specification used in Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) international applications is to name each numbered arrow as it applied the first time in drawing figures. This listing of part names is particularly useful to assure word consistency throughout the application.**

The examiner will expect to see an initial set of claims, for these are the actual property to be sought by the inventor. Each claim will define components and “how those components work together” to solve the problem. (Flow charts and system diagrams are very useful drawings to reveal interactions intended within initial or later claims.) Claim language is limited to items initially described in the (k) drawings and defined as to their interactions in (h) detail description of the invention.

An application’s claims may be written (1) by a patent professional, with assistance of the inventor; or (2) by the inventor, with or without advice from others. Note, if requested, the USPTO examiner will assist “pro se” inventor applicants by writing possible claim or claims.**

Regardless of who writes a claim, each of its terms must easily be found in the drawings and in the (h) Detailed description of the Invention.

****Some pro-se applicants get their claims “checked out” by the best patent attorney they can find. The ordered sequence of the application is usually a different sequence than a schedule of work for writing a patent or similar report.**

The “first contributor” author to this INCA series composes his initial patent applications, with simultaneous view of 3 computer screens. On one screen is a drawing software suitable for generating (k) the drawings. A second screen is dedicated to (h) detail description of the invention, and a third screen hosts (i) claims. (Sometimes a fourth screen is opened to hold notes regarding a newly-expressed feature or start of a related application.)

Keep Watch on <http://www.uspto.gov>:

Don Kelley (703) 308 0975 invites INCA members and friends to read **Independent Inventor Resource and tell him how well those 20 pages meet their inventor business needs. The USPTO, & BIO conducted their second “Annual Open House in August. It delivered valuable insights including DESIGN patents.**

Mac Woodward’s (804) 973 3708 **Independent Inventors Foundation (IIF) is ready to receive grants. IIF is intended to provide Corporations a safe, business-ground for *pulling* needed products from independent inventors.**

IIF is looking for philanthropists who want inventors to thrive.