

# **Inventors' Network**

**25 Aug 03:**

of the Capital Area [INCA]

Website: [WWW.DCINVENTORS.ORG](http://WWW.DCINVENTORS.ORG)

Inventor's Network of the Capital Area (INCA)  
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Ray Gilbert, Editor 703 971 9216  
Raybik@aol.com

**PROGRAM for Aug 25:**

Speakers will be Mr Bert Kemp, Mr Wendell B. Leimbach and representatives of Maryland Thermoform Co.

Bert R. Kempe, consultant, spoke to us briefly earlier in the year. He has 25 yrs experience in consumer products industry. His firm, ABDS Inc works with start up and established companies to provide expertise in a following menu of services and support:

Purchasing                      Product Development                      Inventory Control                      Planning  
Outsourcing manufacturing                      Warehousing and Distributions

Wendell B. Leimbach is a consultant in Continuous Improvement practice (TBS Consulting) of American Express. His prior experience includes (1) Black and Decker Corp and (2) his own factory automation company, and (3) AME consultancy that specialized in manufacturing operations and product development. He directs work of TBS in:

Cost Containment and Waste Elimination                      Product Design                      Materials Management  
Continuous Improvement Through Process Innovation                      Profit Improvement Planning

At John's Hopkins University School of Continuing Studies, he has taught manufacturing practices and robotics at the graduate level.

Our INCA member, Missy Schoener represents Maryland Thermoform, and will share information and field questions about product packaging.

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**Subj:INCA Works! From:RLeshuk                      To:mauricedaniel@earthlink.net**

**Maurice:**                      Here is an email for your INCA Testimonials file. It is from Jeff Clark who drove up from Virginia Beach to attend our last meeting. He is working on an ocean wave power scheme.

Richard, Thank you for the prompt response and for your advice. ---

I would like to add that taking the time to attend the last INCA meeting turned out to be the single most productive meeting to date. From that one meeting, we retained a patent Attorney, established a working relationship with a design company and received 3d rendering of our project, received a introduction to a DOE contact that lead to an agreement to review our project, and of course your valued input and advice. I think INCA is a wonderful organization and I hope to share my experience with others. Thanks for your time.

Regards, Jeffrey A.Clark

**CURRENT RELEASES**

**Patents in the Knowledge-Based Economy (Wesley Cohen and Stephen Merrill, eds.)**

This publication assembles nine original research studies commissioned by the STEP Board to inform judgments about some of the institutional and policy changes in the US patent system over the last 25 years.

Included are papers assessing how the USPTO examination process affects the quality of issued patents, how the post-patent review system in the US ("patent re-examination") and Europe ("patent opposition") compare in operation, under what circumstances the benefits of an opposition system would outweigh the costs, what are the trends in patent litigation overall and in the semiconductor industry in particular, how and why the protection of software has shifted from copyrighting to patenting, what are the characteristics of Internet business method patents, and whether the proliferation of patents in biological research tools is inhibiting biomedical research. An introduction by the editors places this work in the context of other social science research on the patent system

**Patents in the 21st Century**

A CD-Rom containing transcripts, audio tracks, and slide presentations from three conferences organized to inform the STEP Board's Committee on Intellectual Property Rights in the Knowledge-Based Economy and the public about the operation and effects of the US patent system:

--"Intellectual Property Rights: How Far Should They Be Extended?" considered whether the extension and strengthening of patent rights has had a beneficial effect on innovation in a variety of technologies and industrial sectors

This item is currently a pre-publication, and can be read/purchased online at <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/10770.html>. Final copies will be available August 15th. "CD-Rom only" requests will be mailed as received.

--"Academic IP: Effects of University Patenting and Licensing on Commercialization and Research" examined the impact of the growth in university patenting on technology transfer and the conduct of basic research

--"The Operation of the Patent System: Insights from New Research" reviewed the preliminary results of the research commissioned by STEP (see above volume)

Contact Craig Schultz at [cschultz@nas.edu](mailto:cschultz@nas.edu) for information.

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Subj:[Inventors Council] "Millions from the Mind" back in print [geopierce@earthlink.net](mailto:geopierce@earthlink.net)

Inventor inspiration: "Millions from the Mind," an excellent book by Alan R. Tripp, is back in print. Its stories tell how everyday people with invention ideas went from idea to market success. Not all the paths were the same and the book discusses the differences and the lessons learned therefrom.

When I decided to go into publishing information for inventors I tracked the author down and asked if he'd be interested in doing an update. We now have a thoroughly updated and augmented new edition: 8.5 x 11" with 320 packed pages. \$29.95 To order see: <http://booksforinventors.com/privacy.html>

Subj:NASVF Net            From:Rolf.Butters@EE.DOE.GOV

The Inventions and Innovation (I&I) program provides financial assistance at two levels: up to \$40,000 (Category 1) or up to \$250,000 (Category 2) - for conducting early development and establishing technical performance of innovative energy saving ideas and inventions.

The Category 2 portion will fund up to \$250,000 for more well-developed inventions moving towards prototype development or commercialization. At a minimum, engineering analysis and/or a benchscale model must be complete for an invention to be considered a Category 2 application.

Rolf F. Butters, Inventions Portfolio Manager  
Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy            U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave SW            Washington DC 20585-0121            202-586-0984  
202-586-9234 fax            <http://www.eere.energy.gov/weatherization.html>  
click Inventions and Innovation

[George Lipper/SVC@nasvf.org](mailto:George.Lipper/SVC@nasvf.org) operates NASVF NetNews, the electronic newsletter of the National Association of Seed and Venture Funds

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Subj:SBIR-ALERT - July 25, 2003    CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS    Re SBIR & STTR

National Fall SBIR Conference, Cleveland, Ohio, October 27-30, 2003. For more information contact Sharon DelaBarre at 360-683-5742 or [sbir@dbamlg.com](mailto:sbir@dbamlg.com), or visit [www.SBIRworld.com](http://www.SBIRworld.com).

Virginia's 9th Annual Small Business Innovation Research and Development Workshop, Williamsburg, VA, September 15-16, 2003. This conference is designed to help Virginia's small businesses to increase their chances of winning SBIR award funding to develop and commercialize their technologies in collaboration with universities, federal research and development centers and non-profit institutions. A description of what's new in the SBIR program, the fundamentals of applying for SBIR and STTR awards and an opportunity to talk face-to-face with SBIR Program Managers will be available. For more information, contact: Julie Light at [jlight@cit.org](mailto:jlight@cit.org) or 703-689-3020.

Competing in the SBIR/STTR Programs (Phase I), Blacksburg, VA, October 02, 2003.  
For more information, contact Robert Brooke at [rbrooke@cit.org](mailto:rbrooke@cit.org) or 703-689-3080.

REGIONAL    For more information regarding Virginia conferences, contact: K.C. Das, Ph.D., P.E. at [KCDAS@msn.com](mailto:KCDAS@msn.com), or 804-897-0454.

SBIR Resource Center            <http://www.win-sbir.com/>  
Innovation Partnership            <http://www.innovationpartnership.net/>  
SBIR Internet Catalog Site            <http://beagle.foresnt.com/>  
SBIR-Alerting Service            <http://lyris.pnl.gov/cgi-bin/?enter=sbir-alert>

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SCIENCE BUFFS: See Close Encounter with Mars Aug 27

CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH MARS One of your editor's scientist friends relayed this article:

This month and next, Earth is catching up with Mars, an encounter that will culminate in the closest approach between the two planets in recorded history. The next time Mars may come this close is in 2287.

The encounter will culminate on August 27th when Mars comes to within 34,649,589 miles and will be (next to the moon) the brightest object in the night sky. It will attain a magnitude of -2.9 and will appear 25.11 arc seconds wide. At a modest 75-power magnification Mars will look as large as the full moon to the naked eye.

Mars will be easy to spot. At the beginning of August, Mars will rise in the east at 10 p.m. and reach its azimuth at about 3 a.m. But by the end of August when the two planets are closest, Mars will rise at nightfall and reach its highest point in the sky at 12:30 a.m.

Share with your children and grandchildren. No one alive today will ever see this again.

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Subj: Invitation from the United Inventors Assoc.: **Running an Inventor's Group**

This year's annual Yankee Invention Exposition OCTOBER

The United Inventors Association is hosting an informal meeting for inventor group leaders and representatives on Saturday, October 18, 2003 from Noon to 1:00PM. Come by the UIA booth (#53) that morning to find out in which room we'll be meeting.

Come to an informal roundtable gathering of inventor group leaders at the annual Yankee Invention Exposition this fall in Waterbury, Connecticut. This is your chance to spend an hour communing with other group leaders from around the country who want to network and share their experiences, both good and bad. We all need to feel understood, supported and appreciated, and what better place for that than a group of group leaders?

You can respond by contacting either Carol Oldenburg at the UIA Administrative Office (Phone: (585) 359-9310 or Email: [UIAUSA@aol.com](mailto:UIAUSA@aol.com)) or contact Karyl Lynch at Pelham West Associates (Phone: (413) 259-2006 or Email: [karyl@pelhamwest.com](mailto:karyl@pelhamwest.com))

In past years, several inventor groups have taken the opportunity to have a booth at the Expo and exhibit some of their members' work. We expect that there will be at least two groups with booths at the Expo this year. Drop by and visit with them, and consider getting a booth for your group.

If you have some ideas in advance for what you'd like to talk about, please let us know. If you can bring samples of your own group's literature (newsletter, brochure, meeting flyers, etc.), we'd love to see them.

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Dremel Idea Hunt Deadline is Aug 22 03 From: [geopierce@earthlink.net](mailto:geopierce@earthlink.net)

The Dremel Idea Hunt is still open for how to expand the applications for their high-speed rotary tool. Some participants in this hunt will receive a Dremel MultiPro Variable Speed Tool Kit. Best ideas will be presented to Dremel for possible licensing agreements. Deadline for

entries is August 22, 2003.

Entries can be mailed or faxed. Remember to submit a signed Entry Agreement with your ideas (one form will cover all your submissions). For more details, email [InfoBig@BigIdeaGroup.net](mailto:InfoBig@BigIdeaGroup.net) and request a Dremel Idea Hunt kit. Provide your residential mailing address, so we can mail you a packet.

Big Idea Group 814 Elm St., Ste. 300 Manchester, NH 03101 Fax: 603-641-5995

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**Subj:New Product Hunt From:IAGBOB**

In celebration of National Inventors Month, the UIA, Inventors' Digest, Academy of Applied Science and our major sponsor, the **Procter & Gamble** Company have kicked off "The Hunt For The Next New Hot Consumer Product." There are loads of prizes for the top finishers. Your new product will be reviewed by new product scouts. The entry fee is free and it is a win/win situation for all.

To enter, you must be a serious inventor. Your new product idea must be developed into a new product. It must be properly protected and you must have a finished product or prototype. For complete details see <http://uiausa.com/HuntEntryForm.htm>

If this hunt is successful, there may be many more in the offering. This could be the start of a new way that Corporate America does business.

Thank you, Bob Lougher Executive Director UIA  
United Inventors Association  
Sponsored by the Academy of Applied Science  
Website: <http://www.uiausa.org>

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**Free web class for Inventors**

**From:geopierce@earthlink.net**

From: "Invention University" <[lisa@inventionuniversity.com](mailto:lisa@inventionuniversity.com)>

FREE Web Class called "Invention Highlights" is being presented by Invention University. Lisa Lloyd will explain the 5 most common mistakes most first time inventors make and how to avoid those pitfalls.

For details please go to: [ttp://www.inventionuniversity.com/templates/highlights\\_enrollment.htm](http://www.inventionuniversity.com/templates/highlights_enrollment.htm)

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**InventionShowcase.com**

**From:geopierce@earthlink.net**

Press release <http://inventionshowcase.com/pr080603.htm> was distributed to over 7,500 media outlets. It featured inventions from our newest participants on InventionShowcase.com.

Inventors are invited to enter their consumer invention in the 2003 National New Products Search. details <http://uiausa.com/HuntEntryForm.htm>

if you have a great consumer product that is at least patent pending and a great prototype, you may enter a 10-winner contest It is sponsored by the United Inventors Association, the Academy of Applied Science, Inventors' Digest and Procter and Gamble. Aug 31 deadline.

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Getting inventions to market      From:geopierce@earthlink.net

website [www.starrproducts.com](http://www.starrproducts.com) refers to products that Starr products reports they have helped get to market on behalf of inventors. "We sell to Home Depot, ACE, NAPA, Snap-on, Stanley Tools, etc. If we like your product, you start getting paid UPFRONT."

Patrick Starr Starr Products, Inc.      1602 Carolina Street D-12      Bellingham, WA. 98229  
ph: 888 378 2777      fax: 360 647 8792      [www.starrproducts.com](http://www.starrproducts.com)      [www.findafactory.com](http://www.findafactory.com)

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Subj: New Resource for Inventors      From:lriordan@riordanco.com

Ray found this message in his e-mail. It has not been researched yet, but if an INCA member would like to determine its merit, we can add that report as it becomes available.

Riordan writes:

I thought your group (INCA) might like to know that you are now listed as a "helpful linkz" on the "inventor organizations" page of the new site just launched by Riordanco.com. We hope it will help bring attention and new members to your organization .

Also, your members can now get a free initial idea evaluation using Jim Riordan's proven 36 point system on the website at [www.riordanco.com](http://www.riordanco.com). Riordanco has been inventing for a living and helping inventors take products to market for over 25 years and is NOT one of the hated scam artists. In fact, Jim worked with Norm Parrish, past president of the National Congress of Inventor Organizations and California's Attorney General's office to develop the language in the disclosures that the scammers must now use in their contracts. Riordanco's site is full of interesting products, projects and testimonials from inventors Jim has helped.

There is no obligation whatsoever to take the free evaluation. The inventor can remain anonymous and need not reveal his or her idea to anyone. We believe everyone who uses it will come away learning whether they have an idea with potential, an idea which should not be pursued or an idea that needs more research. I think you will agree that inventors will find it to be a valuable tool. We hope that if you like our site, you will add a reciprocal link to our site from your site as well. Please let us know what you think.

Best regards, Lynn Riordan Vice President The James F. Riordan Company, Inc  
email: [lriordan@riordanco.com](mailto:lriordan@riordanco.com) [www.riordanco.com](http://www.riordanco.com) Ph: (530) 676-4729  
FAX: (530) 676-0810

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Subj:NASA Tech Briefs INSIDER 08/07/03  
sponsored by ALGOR & Dataforth Corp.:

Electronic Translation Device for American Sign Language

[tp://link.abpi.net/l.php?20030807A1](http://link.abpi.net/l.php?20030807A1)

#### **TECHNOLOGY NEWS**

**Between 500,000 to two million people in the United States use American Sign Language (ASL). Communications between the ASL-fluent and those unfamiliar with ASL are a constant dilemma, one that The George Washington University doctoral candidate Jose Hernandez-Rebollar has devoted three years of his life to solving.**

**His answer: a device that translates the complex movements of ASL into written and spoken form.**

**Called the AcceleGlove, the device is placed on the hand and strapped to the arm. Accelerometers on the glove act as sensors that generate signals from the movement, orientation, and positioning of the hand and the fingers in relation to the body. A microcontroller analyzes the signals to locate the position of the fingers and hand trajectory.**

**Next, the position of the fingers and the trajectory of the hand are run through algorithms to detect the gesture and classify it in a certain category, thereby finding the correct word associated with the hand movement.**

**The entire process takes milliseconds from the time the sign is made, to recognition of the sign, to the computerized voice saying the corresponding word.**

**The AcceleGlove is not designed exclusively for the deaf. The ability to communicate through hand gestures also could be used to teach ASL, along with being modified for use in virtual reality, military settings, and in different forms of sign language.**

**Visit <http://link.abpi.net/l.php?20030807A5> for the complete story.**

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**Subj:SurfIP Newsletter, August 2003      From:IPOS\_Surfip@ipos.gov.sg**  
**SurfIP is proud to share our periodic newsletter.**

**Focus of the Month:      Lessons from the Sea: Mimicking Marine Structures**

**Nature makes materials with a precision that surpasses any present human-engineering capability? this synthesis occurs under very mild conditions compatible with living systems - low temperature, ambient pressure, near neutral-pH - in large contrast to the harsh and sometimes violent artificial manufacturing conditions.**

**[http://www.surfip.gov.sg/sip/site/focus/surfip\\_focus\\_\\_200371317107.htm](http://www.surfip.gov.sg/sip/site/focus/surfip_focus__200371317107.htm)**

**Singapore: Aspiring to be a Global Intellectual Property Hub**

**Intellectual property ("IP"), as an asset, is increasingly recognised as a "key value driver" for business growth and the creation of wealth across every industry. As Singapore surges ahead to embrace a knowledge driven economy, it has become crucial? ?**

**[http://www.surfip.gov.sg/sip/site/spotl/surfip\\_spotlight\\_\\_2003530184739.htm](http://www.surfip.gov.sg/sip/site/spotl/surfip_spotlight__2003530184739.htm)**

**Know Your Rights! - A Seminar on Copyright for the Media Industry**

**An event organised by Media Development Authority (MDA) and supported by Intellectual Property Office**

of Singapore (IPOS).

**Do you know your rights in your created works? Who owns what rights in the final product? Are your ideas for a production protected by law? What are the critical terms and conditions you should have in a contract to safeguard your interests? This half-day seminar will provide an overview of the copyright regime in Singapore and address these questions and other issues that arise in the creation and exploitation of intellectual property rights in media-related works. If you work in, or are going to enter, the media industry, then this seminar is for you**

**[Is such a seminar of special interest to INCA persons?]**

**The SurfIP Team Website: <http://www.surfip.gov.sg> Email: [IPOS\\_SurfIP@ipos.gov.sg](mailto:IPOS_SurfIP@ipos.gov.sg)**

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