



Gearbox



For Immediate Release

Nine Innovators Show Off Hardware Solutions For All 7 Billion Of Us

ASME, The American Society of Mechanical Engineers, brings ISHOW to Nairobi on May 26, 2016

NEW YORK, May 20, 2016 – Nine teams of hardware innovators and budding entrepreneurs from across Africa have been named finalists in the 2016 ASME ISHOW, a competition to be held May 26 at The Golden Tulip in Nairobi.

https://youtu.be/Nlbb4_i4Cn0

The nine teams of socially-minded tech innovators have been selected from a pool of applicants to demonstrate products that offer the potential to remedy environmental, economic, and social problems afflicting the globe. Three winners will share \$50,000 in prize money from The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), which held the 2016 ISHOW event in India on April 28 and scheduled the final event in Washington, D.C. for June 15th (USA). www.thisishardware.org

“ASME launched ISHOW because research shows the lack of support for hardware innovators seeking entry into global markets,” said Julio C. Guerrero, president of ASME. “The products in the competition all demonstrate the potential for making a social and environmental impact, while showcasing the creativity and ingenuity of tomorrow’s engineering problem-solvers and business leaders.”

In the competition, the contestants showed prototypes and pitched their ideas to a panel of judges that included successful entrepreneurs, angel investors, business mentors, industry representatives, product designers and engineers. They outlined designs, market research, user testing, manufacturing plans and business models.

<https://twitter.com/asmeishow>

The nine finalists are:

- *Flowbyte, developed by Chuma Asuzu, logs automobile fuel use and routes the data to an online platform, enabling regular monitoring and cost savings for car owners.*

- ***Kukua**, designed by Tom Vanneste, is a low-cost solar-powered weather station that provides temperature, wind and humidity data to online platforms, providing real-time information to farmers.*
- *Built by Grace Njoora, **Kokoboda** is a four wheeled cart powered by an ordinary motorcycle, which can be detached from the cart for regular over-the-road use.*
- *The **Banza** is designer Patrick Kiruki's sanitary toilet that utilizes disposable, biodegradable bags to contain waste material.*
- ***Kamata**, developed by Edmand Aijuka, is a remote-controlled device that cuts off electricity to a household in events of theft, vandalism, or unlawful tampering of electric meters.*
- *The **Green Rock Drill**, designed by Lawrence Ojok, is an inexpensive mining tool powered by an electric motor, driven by a bicycle wheel.*
- ***Smart Mobile Farming** is Taita Ngetich's high tech greenhouse equipped with sensors that monitor temperature, humidity, soil moisture, and water supply. It also has the capability to regulate water, open vents, and perform other automated tasks to aid farm communities.*
- *Joel Kariuki's mechanical **Sisal Decorticator** removes the cortex of the sisal leaf while leaving intact the precious fiber which serves as a valuable product for many small farmers in Kenya and other parts of Africa.*
- *Grit Systems' **Grit Meter** is a web-based smart meter that delivers data on electric usage from multiple sources, allowing consumers and businesses to make informed energy choices. The meter also help communities in Africa make the transition to solar and auxiliary power in the most cost effective way possible.*

“ASME congratulates all nine finalists,” noted Guerrero. “They are making a difference in a world increasingly reaching out for new ideas and innovations to solve problems and improve the lives of all people.”

About ASME

ASME helps the global engineering community develop solutions to real world challenges. Founded in 1880 as the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, ASME is a not-for-profit professional organization that enables collaboration, knowledge sharing and skill development across all engineering disciplines, while promoting the vital role of the engineer in society. ASME codes and standards, publications, conferences, continuing education and professional development programs provide a foundation for advancing technical knowledge and a safer world. For more information, visit www.asme.org.

About ASME Innovation Showcase (ISHOW)

The ASME ISHOW is a global competition for hardware led social innovation. Applicants must have a prototype and be taking a physical product to market that will have a social or

environmental impact. Finalists are invited to an ASME Innovation Showcases in India, Kenya or the USA and receive advice from industry experts and investors. Three winners are selected at each location to share \$50,000 in cash and a design and engineering reviews delivered by industry experts. The ASME ISHOW is sponsored by The Lemelson Foundation and the ASME Foundation. www.thisishardware.org

###

Contact: Paul Scott
Director, Engineering for Global Development
The American Society of Mechanical Engineers
917.634.7031
scottp@asme.org

