

You're Invited – Media Preview

8:30am-10:00am, Thursday, 25 May, 2017

Ten Inventors Gather in Nairobi 25 May to Compete in First Global Competition for Hardware with a Social Purpose

Four Kenyans Among 2017 ASME ISHOW Finalists Who'll Present Their Design Prototypes Before an Expert Panel of Judges for \$500K+ in Prizes

WHAT:

Ten social-minded inventors from Kenya and the region will gather in Nairobi on Thursday, 25 May to compete in the first global competition to recognize hardware with a social purpose. Four Kenyans are among 28 finalists of more than 150 who submitted designs to the 2017 ASME's Innovation Showcase (ISHOW), to be held in Kenya (May 25), Washington, DC (June 22), and most recently in Bangalore, India (April 27). Three Grand Prize-winners per region will receive a share of more than \$US500,000 in awards.

ASME has organized a media preview the morning of Thursday, 25 May when local finalists will be given five minutes apiece to demo/showcase their innovative prototypes. Winners will be announced at a reception that evening. Here's a link to the ten finalists and images of the designs competing on **Thursday, 25 May at the Golden Tulip Westlands Nairobi Hotel, 65 Muthithi Street, Nairobi:**

<https://thisishardware.org/competition/2017/kenya>

WHO:

- **Ten finalists** (four from Kenya, four from Uganda, and one each from Ghana and Tanzania):
 - **Emmanuel Kamuhire** (Uganda) – Locating a patient's vein is difficult and requires complex skill. **Vein Locator** offers a low cost solution for first needle success.
 - **Roy Allela** (Kenya) – **Sign-io** is a sign language to speech translation glove developed to address language barriers between sign language users and the general public.
 - **Victor Shikoli** (Kenya) – **HydroIQ's** GPS and internet-enabled device plugs into traditional water supply systems to automatically monitor water use, quality, and leakages, effectively creating a smart water grid.
 - **Adriana Garties** (Tanzania) – Farmers spend days or even weeks threshing their grains through laborious manual methods. **Multi-Crop Thresher** is a portable, locally manufactured machine that threshes up to 90x faster.
 - **Brian Gitta** (Uganda) – **Matibabu** is a noninvasive device used to test for Malaria. It uses custom-made hardware connected to a smartphone to aid easy diagnosis within households.

- **Charles Antipem** (Ghana) – **Science Set** is an affordable, portable, practical and highly scalable science lab that can fit in the bag and on the desk of students.
- **Esther Mwangi** (Kenya) – **Social Inclusion Project** is a social enterprise that increases access of sanitary items like pads, diapers, and condoms through locally produced vending machines in Kenya.
- **George Chege** (Kenya) – **Smart Brooder** supplies chicks with supplemental heat while monitoring and controlling the brooding space for optimal growth, using SMS to convey data.
- **Kathy Ku** (Uganda) – The **Purifaaya** filter requires no energy, eliminating greenhouse gas emissions from boiling water.
- **Angeline Awiti Muga** (Uganda) – **BabyScope** is a mobile phone-based fetal heart monitor that provides maternal health caregivers comprehensive, accurate, and reliable fetal health data effectively and economically.
- **Judging panel:**
 - **Heather Fleming**, CEO, Catapult Design
 - **Dr. Kamau Gachigi**, Executive Director, Gearbox
 - **Prof. Mbutia Jackson**, Dean of Engineering, University of Nairobi
 - **Dr. Robert Karanja**, CEO, Villgro Kenya
 - **Thomas G. Loughlin**, Executive Director, ASME
- **Paul Scott**, Director, ASME ISHOW

**WHEN &
WHERE:**

Golden Tulip Westlands Nairobi Hotel, 65 Muthithi Street, Nairobi, 00600, Kenya

Thursday, April 27, 2017

8:30am - 9:00am – Continental Breakfast and opportunity to meet with finalists and get a close-up view of their prototypes

9:00am - 10:30am – Media Preview: Ten five-minute presentations followed by Q&A

10:00am - 4:30pm – Judged Competition

6:00 - 9:00pm – Reception where regional ISHOW Grand Prize-winners will be announced

WHY:

ASME originally created [ISHOW](#) three years ago after its research showed a tremendous lack of support for hardware innovators seeking to enter global markets and make a societal impact, according to K. Keith Roe, president of ASME. With this year's entries among the most promising ASME has seen since ISHOW first launched, the global organization of mechanical engineers is confident they all have the potential to address some of the most challenging issues faced by mankind.

CONTACTS:

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