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High resolution images available on request

British Invention Show Awards 2020 / 21

This year has been unlike any other and so it should come as no surprise that this December sees a very 2020 British Invention Show (BIS). Not one to let a little thing like a global pandemic stop him, BIS creator Kane Kramer and his team have moved the British Invention Show Awards online. Culminating in a socially distanced, but no less exciting, presentation event at London's famous Savoy Hotel on 18th December, the best of British and international inventions from 2020 will be showcased through online submissions and judged by a panel of esteemed inventors and industry professionals to decide the winners.

As well as awards for innovation and invention, new business and design ideas will also be honoured along with ideas that benefit the planet and/or the wider population. In addition there is a separate category for aspiring young inventors under 18.

The annual British Invention Show, now in its 20th year, is renowned for bringing a wide range of innovators from across the globe together to brainstorm, network and provide advice and support to ensure these powerful innovations can be translated into products that will benefit the wider public. Kane Kramer, President of the British Invention Society which partners the awards said "I have continued to love invention and innovation and have continued to grow that love year on year,

decade on decade. Invention and subsequent development into an innovation drives our economy and determines our cultural behaviour”.

There is no better illustration of this ethos than the journeys some of the previous winners of the prestigious BIS awards have undertaken. Read on to discover the stories behind the prizes.....

Steve Capon – Matey Measure (mateymeasure.com)



A builder for 30 years, Steve invented Matey Measure after suffering the frustration of inaccurate measurements resulting from the “curve” on a tape measure when forced into corners or tight spots. The margin may be small but, as anyone who has tried to fit anything from door strips to blinds can vouch for, the resulting gaps can look enormous. This simple yet effective metal tool, which easily fits over the tape measure, takes the guesswork out of measuring and ensures a perfect fit every time.

In its infancy the idea won Steve Gold, Double Gold and Platinum awards at BIS and he returned to scoop the Platinum (Best International Invention of the Year) award the following year. Matey Measure is now being sold internationally and was recently product-tested on the TV show “The

Customer is Always Right". The device has also appeared as a featured product in eBay's DIY section thanks to its strong sales and customer satisfaction.

Steve continues to support the BIS and will be back this year to offer guidance and advice to fellow inventors looking to commercialise their ideas.

Simon Colling – SecuriPlug (securiplug.co.uk)



SecuriPlug came into being when Simon needed something to control the power to his home fruit machines when he took in a lodger. With nothing on the market Simon invented this unique range of smart electronic devices which allow access to electrical appliances only to authorised users via a variety of means including fingerprint, smart card or key fob as well as offering remote access. It quickly became apparent that the concept had numerous applications across a whole range of sectors with its safety and security based approach and this was confirmed when various versions of SecuriPlug were granted UK patents in record time.

Simon went to BIS last year as a visitor with nothing more than a handful of business cards, a few flyers and a demonstration of his prototype on his iPad. His intention was to network and find out more about bringing his product to market. Having come to the attention of Kane Kramer and the judges he was asked to enter the awards and had just 90 minutes to kit himself out in full evening

dress in order to attend the awards ceremony at the Savoy Hotel. It was definitely worth it as SecuriPlug was awarded a Platinum award in the Best British Invention category and, to complete the fairy tale, he stepped up to claim the Diamond award for International Invention of the Year later that same evening.

Simon said “The team at BIS are fantastic for spotting great ideas and supporting the inventor to showcase them. To have the backing of such a creative, innovative and encouraging team is beyond my wildest dreams and means so much more than I can put into words”.

Pulathis Siriwardana - Handisure (handisure.com)



A lead surgeon at the Royal Free Hospital and an honorary lecturer at UCL, Mr Siriwardana came up with the idea for Handisure after his son nearly got his fingers stuck in a closing door. This patent pending design is truly toddler proof and will help to prevent the many thousands of crush injuries which little fingers suffer every year caused by closing doors.

Pulathis said “The BIS brings together a community of inventors and innovators with an entrepreneurial mindset who share the experiences of their challenging journey. I have benefited immensely from this network of like-minded individuals and has helped me develop a brilliantly simple and effective, self engaging child safety doorstep”

Alex Bushell – Solar Grow / CompactOR (solargrowsystems.co.uk)



Alex first came to the BIS with CompactOR, a solar powered “hospital in a box” which can be assembled in 10 minutes and can also be run on pedal power. Aimed at providing humanitarian aid in disaster zones and deprived hard to reach areas it can be flown in by helicopter. Alex said “Originally I'd spent a lot of time in Kenya and obviously in some of the small rural villages they have absolutely nothing at all - not even a simple defibrillator. On many occasions we found that there were emergencies that could have been quite easily dealt with just a defibrillator on its own - so that's where I really came up with the idea”

Alex returned to present Solar Grow, winner of the 2012/13 International Invention of the Year, which is now a global company providing sustainable seeding to harvesting technology particularly targeted at areas suffering from natural or man-made disasters. Their aim is to kick start food production using a range of techniques from micro crops ready to eat in 7 days to longer term planning to enable communities to rebuild their infrastructure.

To date Alex is the only double obelisk winner and the team at BIS can't wait to see what he comes up with next.



These stories illustrate the inspiring and supportive nature of the BIS community and the important inventions they bring to the fore. The sky really is the limit for the BIS Awards and we look forward to providing more information on the 2020/21 winners. We have no doubt that they will continue the rich and varied tradition of innovation that the BIS has come to epitomise.

As Kane Kramer said “Civilisation is a result of creativity and innovation. Without humankind’s staggeringly unique ability to imagine, where would humankind be today? Dream and change the world”.

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