



## For Immediate Release

### **Innovators in Sustainable Development Honored by ASME**

*The Fourth Annual Impact.Engineered Awards Recognize the World's 'Pragmatic Optimists'  
Improving Life in Underserved Communities*

**NEW YORK (Dec. 9, 2020)** – The fourth annual [Impact.Engineered Awards](#) has named this year's "best of the best" winners in the following categories:

- Women Leading in Technology and Impact
- Connecting the Unconnected
- Industry Driving Social Impact
- Hardware Trailblazer
- Rising Star

The awards ceremony took place Dec. 4 at the fourth annual [Impact.Engineered](#) forum, held virtually. Hosted by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME)'s Engineering for Change, the event convenes leading engineers, impact investors, scholars, and social entrepreneurs to cultivate and accelerate engineering driving sustainable development. ASME Foundation Executive Director Kathleen Lobb and ASME Past President Madiha Kotb co-emceed the awards ceremony.

This year's Impact.Engineered Award winners are:

- For the *Women Leading in Technology and Impact* award:  
[Dyan Gibbens](#), founder and CEO, Turmbull Unmanned, a Forbes Top 25 veteran-founded company, focusing on autonomy and data in energy and government - A United States Air Force Academy graduate, Dyan leverages technical leadership in Department of Defense acquisitions and aerospace program management. In addition, she created a free drone camp with BP and Rice University, and partnered with Intel for Innovation Generation, a global STEM initiative. In 2018, Dyan founded [autonome.org](#) to support digital ethics, human-centered artificial intelligence (AI), and STEM empowerment for underserved youth, young girls, children of military families at Yale University, NASA JSC Space Center Houston, and Workshop Houston.

Jackie O'Brien, CEO of [Engineers Without Borders \(EWB\)-USA](#) presented the award to Gibbens.

- For the *Connecting the Unconnected* award:  
[Digiduka](#) – digital and financial services for small businesses in Africa, based in Kenya; The platform has excellent potential to scale and can be reproduced easily in other countries and regions. These financial solutions offer effective ways to invigorate small business and the economy. The company's social impact and potential is significant as it bridges a gap to compete with e-commerce giants and at the same time align with a global digital economy.

Phyllis Westerman, senior manager of [Red Hat](#)'s global services knowledge management organization presented the award to Roy Njoka, co-founder of Digiduka.

- For the *Industry Driving Social Impact* award:  
[Black & Veatch Corporation](#) – an employee-owned engineering, procurement, consulting and construction company with a 100-year legacy of innovations in sustainable infrastructure, for its potential to reduce CO2 emissions in its operations and manage water resources more effectively and efficiently. The company leverages its engineering expertise and unique value proposition by embedding impact into its client projects overall – its biggest impact opportunity.

Joe Speicher, executive director of [Autodesk](#) Foundation presented the award to Brian Sifton, sustainability program manager of Black & Veatch.

- For the *Hardware Trailblazer* award:  
[New Leaf Dynamic Technologies](#) – makers of GreenCHILL™ refrigeration systems powered by biomass or farm waste; The judges “were thoroughly impressed with their technology and the innovation involved...they have the potential to greatly impact society by providing technological solutions in the post-harvest management space and creating better market linkages for farmers.” New Leaf was a 2015 ASME ISHOW winner for its GreenCHILL™ prototype.

Shaun Stewart, CEO of [New Lab](#), presented the award to Anurag Agarwal, co-founder of New Leaf.

- For the *Rising Star* award:  
[Hydroquo+ founder Zahin Razeen](#) – “Razeen is a computational mathematician by training and a passionate deep-tech entrepreneur,” say his nominators at The Resolution Project, where he is currently a member of [Fellow Class 11](#). His company leverages AI and machine learning to clean and purify water in the urban and rural areas of Bangladesh. He is currently undertaking a double degree in mathematics and statistics at the University of Glasgow.

Heather Fleming, co-founder and executive director of [Change Labs](#) and past member of the ASME Engineering Global Development Committee, presented the award to Razeen.

The awards ceremony capped off a [two-day program](#) that included interactive workshops and presentations, a technology showcase, and networking opportunities focused on “partnerships advancing the decade of action,” in recognition of the 2030 agenda for achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and acknowledging that global challenges from climate change to COVID-19 and economic downturn require technical solutions, workforce development, resilient infrastructure, and public leadership to drive implementation.

Keynote speakers Asha Varghese, president of The Caterpillar Foundation, and Jenny Frankel-Reed, climate adaptation strategy lead for Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, opened and closed the event with their remarks. Varghese, a thought leader in workforce readiness, international business development, and sustainable infrastructure, and Frankel-Reed, an advocate of technology enabling climate resilience, shared their unique perspectives on engineering pathways to achieve the SDGs.

This year's cohort of [ASME Innovation Showcase \(ISHOW\)](#) companies from Canada, India, Kenya, Nigeria, and the United States, and two [Innovate for Impact: Siemens Design Challenge](#) winners were also honored and featured for their important contributions.

Impact.Engineered is made possible by sponsors [United Engineering Foundation](#), [Red Hat](#), and ASME's [Journal of Engineering for Sustainable Buildings and Cities](#), program partners including [Citypreneurs](#), [Engineering Change Lab USA](#), [Engineers Without Borders Australia](#), [Futureworks NYC Incubator](#),

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For more information, visit [impact-engineered.org](http://impact-engineered.org).

#### **About Engineering for Change (E4C)**

Now celebrating its tenth anniversary, [Engineering for Change \(E4C\)](#) is a knowledge organization dedicated to preparing, educating, and activating the international engineering workforce to improve the quality of life of underserved communities worldwide. E4C provides access to resources, talent and platforms that accelerate the development of impactful solutions and infuse engineering rigor into global development. Our diverse, global community of more than one million people comprises engineers, technologists, social entrepreneurs, and development practitioners.

Jointly founded by ASME and other leading engineering societies, E4C has attracted the support of a variety of [partners](#) and sponsors ranging from industry, academia, non-profits and multilateral organizations, and corporations including Siemens.

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#### **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. ASME recently formed the International Society of Interdisciplinary Engineers (ISIE) LLC, a new for-profit subsidiary to house business ventures that will bring new and innovative products, services, and technologies to the engineering community. For more information, visit [www.asme.org](http://www.asme.org).

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