



**For Immediate Release**

## **Social Impact Hardware Innovators from Around the World Invited to Apply for Annual ASME Innovation Showcase by Mar. 9 Deadline**

*Finalists Have Opportunity to Accelerate Time-to-Market for their Innovations for Sustainable Development with \$200,000 in Seed Grants and Technical Support*

**NEW YORK (Feb. 8, 2021)** – The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) is currently accepting applications from social entrepreneurs focusing on hardware innovations for the 2021 ASME Innovation Showcase ([ISHOW](#)).

The prestigious global hardware accelerator is open to individuals and organizations taking physical products to market that will have a positive social and/or environmental impact and that improve the quality of life around the world. To date, ISHOW has enabled over 160 startups from more than 28 countries to solve critical quality-of-life challenges for people in underserved communities worldwide. ISHOW alumni have developed affordable devices to address issues including clean combustion, crop threshing, fetal health, food waste prevention, grain moisture meters, health diagnostics, safe drinking water, and many more that address the United Nations' Sustainable Development [Goals](#).

Applicants should have an existing prototype and interest in receiving financial/technical support and access to expert networks that can assist in taking their product to market. The deadline for applications is March 9. More information and resources for interested applicants are available at [www.asmeishow.org](http://www.asmeishow.org).

“We are proud to offer a forum for engineering problem-solving that truly improves lives,” said ASME Executive Director/CEO Tom Costabile. “We are continually impressed by the creative talent of ASME ISHOW participants and their passion for helping underserved communities around the world.”

Finalists receive product exposure, advice, technical insights through ISHOW's rigorous review methodology, and compete for a share of \$200,000 in seed grants, in-kind support, design services, and marketing and business development assets. Eight finalists are chosen for each of three regional events from hundreds of applications received each year. 2021 finalists will participate in regional events held virtually on April 29 for India/Asia Pacific (ISHOW India), June 3 for the Middle East and Africa (ISHOW Kenya), and July 15 for the Americas (ISHOW USA). Three companies at each event will join the ISHOW 2021 cohort.

“Social enterprises, now more than ever, need the support of the global impact community,” says Iana Aranda, director of ASME's Engineering Global Development

sector that houses ISHOW. “Social entrepreneurs across the world, including many ISHOW ventures, are on the frontlines of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and advancement of the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals. We are fiercely focused on providing these innovators with accessible platforms for capacity building, expert engagement and co-design of scaling strategies suited for the new normal. Ensuring their success through this global crisis is of paramount importance.”

The 2021 cohort will be invited to the annual ISHOW Bootcamp in the fall to receive an extensive and customized design and engineering review by experts recruited to guide them as they scale to market. They will also have a chance to earn a second round of seed grants from ASME. They become part of the ISHOW alumni network, an international community of hardware innovators and stakeholders with exclusive access to experts and resources. In addition, ISHOW startups/companies are invited to showcase their innovations in the Tech Gallery at ASME’s annual [Impact.Engineered](#) forum and gain exposure amongst the global social impact community and funders.

ASME ISHOW annually matches up to 30 carefully selected innovators with appropriate engineering experts to ensure that the proposed hardware solutions are technologically, environmentally, culturally, and financially sustainable. ASME’s panel of judges and experts includes successful entrepreneurs, academics, engineers, designers, investors, and industry representatives from leading organizations in India, Kenya, and the United States. These subject-area experts provide technical and strategic guidance based on ISHOW’s four key pillars: customer/user knowledge, hardware validation, manufacturing optimization, and implementation strategy.

ASME is grateful to [The Lemelson Foundation](#) for its continued support of the ISHOW with a three-year strategic investment and to ISHOW implementation [partners](#) around the globe. Learn more about ISHOW’s global impact in this [dynamic dashboard](#).

Follow the journeys of ISHOW alumni including [PayGo Energy](#), [PlenOptika](#), [Himalayan Rocket Stove](#), [SAYeTECH](#) and others [here](#).

 @ASMEISHOW #ISHOW21 #ThisIsHardware

#### **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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#### **About the ASME Foundation**

*The ASME Foundation is the fundraising arm of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. The Foundation supports an arc of programs addressing every stage of the engineer’s professional journey, from early inspiration and learning to career engagement and nurturing world-changing innovation. For more information, visit [www.asmefoundation.org](http://www.asmefoundation.org).*



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