

First Annual MIT Technology Fair THINK Competition Announces High School Winners

Cambridge, MA, January, 25, 2008 - When high school students aren't busy with their homework or studying for their next test, you can bet that today's most ambitious high school students are busy inventing the next potential cutting-edge technologies. They are coming up with solutions for everything from innovative ballet pointe shoes to a wireless data transmission system through sound waves.

Launched by the MIT Technology Fair and sponsored by Thomson West in 2008, the MIT THINK Competition is an educational outreach program for high school students across the U.S. **THINK** stands for **T**echnology for **H**umanity guided by **I**nnovation, **N**etworking, and **K**nowledge. The mission of the competition is to recognize talented and motivated high school students who explore the innovation driving today's technological development, network and collaborate with experts in various technical fields for advice, and use their creativity and knowledge to address one of today's technological challenges for the benefit of humanity.

"We believe it's necessary to inspire those ordinary students with limited resources, telling them that extraordinary work can be accomplished with their personal initiative and hard work to create a learning adventure. And THINK is here to provide the incentive and to deliver this encouraging message," explained Di Ye, founder of the THINK Competition. "THINK can be more challenging than other competitions because it requires not only the technical skills but also the social networking skills to obtain resources from the society in order to carry out the student's own ideas."

The 2008 competition challenges students to design a technological solution to a social problem in a refreshing approach. Upon its first year's kick-off, the MIT THINK Competition 2008 welcomed the submission of projects or idea proposals in any discipline so long as the project met the mission of THINK.

"We were very impressed by their creativity and motivation to face today's technological challenges," said Jennifer Sim, one of the THINK Competition organizers. "We are constantly searching for new ideas and solutions, and it's wonderful that so many students have the passion to explore science and technology."

A prestigious panel of judges reviewed the submission materials. The first round of judges was comprised of current MIT students from a variety of backgrounds including editor in MIT research journals and past finalists in national and international high school competitions, such as the Intel Science Talent Search. During the second round, MIT professors and the representative from THINK's sponsor, Thompson West, reviewed the semi-finalist applications.

Professor Thomas Greytak, one of the judges who found applications enjoyable to read, commented, "I was impressed by the originality of the ideas and the care that went into the work and the write-ups." Another judge, Professor Craig Carter also shares an impression likewise, "The proposals were uniformly good with a large fraction excellent ideas and proposals. I am very impressed at the variety and articulation of the proposal ideas and methods. The new efficiency of information collection is certainly reflected in these proposals."

The 2008 applications encompass diverse proposals for a wide spectrum of problems and disciplines. The winners of the competition are:

1. **Steven Castellno** (High Technology High School, NJ)
– “Acupressure Induced Attention in Teenage Brain”
2. **Chun-Kai Kao** (George High School, PA)
– “Nanoparticle Enhancement of PEM Fuel Cell Power Output”
3. **Matthew Alpert** (Lawrence High School, NY)
– “Electron Transport Through Gold Alkanethiol Self-Assembled Monolayers:
The Observation of Coulomb Blockade at Room Temperature”

The 3 winners will each receive a \$500 scholarship, an all-expense paid week-long trip to MIT to attend the MIT TechWeek (2/4/08 ~ 2/9/08), networking opportunities with MIT professors and TechFair companies, as well as a laptop provided by THINK 2008 sponsor – Thomson West.

THINK is another major effort made to advance communication opportunities across various levels of academia and industry. Several students from other countries had requested to make THINK international. With its first year’s success, THINK holds a great prospect with much more to look forward to. Ye recalled with excitement, “The organizing process has been a vivid testimony of the wonderful collaborations with high school students and teachers, different MIT TechFair committees, MIT students and professors, MIT offices, and our sponsor Thomson West. On behalf of MIT TechFair and the THINK Team, we deeply appreciate everyone’s great support for this educational endeavor in its first year and all your valuable feedback regarding improvements for next year!”

MIT THINK Competition 2008
<http://mittechfair.org/think/>