

ARPA Institute : Invention Competition

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ARPA Institute

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The ARPA Institute completed its first, very successful, annual 'Invention Competition' in Armenia, in an award ceremony on October 1, 09, and handed out a \$2,000 first prize, a \$1,000 second prize, a \$600 third prize and two fourth place prizes of \$400 each. There were 16 participants with their advisors. Certificates of participation were given to every student participant and the awards were given to the winning students, in the presence of over 60 university students, professors, Government officials and representatives of the administrations from the State Engineering University of Armenia (formerly the Yerevan Polytechnic Institute) and the Yerevan State University. This contest amongst university students in Armenia is designed to encourage those active in science, engineering, mathematics, technology and creative invention, while enhancing their problem-solving abilities. This prestigious challenge also provides an opportunity to recognize the working relationship between students and their advisor, who are involved in the projects by guiding the potentially patentable inventions, and to stimulate excitement and interest in technology and economic leadership in Armenia. The Ministry of Education & Science of Armenia and the institutions of higher learning all have shown great interest in this competition and endorse it wholeheartedly.

The inventions are required to be a reduced-to-practice idea or workable model and must be the work of a student or team of maximum four students, or a team with their university advisor, who acts as a guide to the project. The invention could be a machine that is operable, a new chemical (complete with evidence of successful application), a new plant or a new or original ornamental design for an article of manufacture. It should be reproducible and should have potential in becoming a viable product. The entry must be the original idea and work/product of the student or student/advisor team, and may not have been (1) made available to the public as a commercial product or process or (2) been patented or published more than 1 year prior to the date of submission to the competition. The entries may be submitted in Armenian or English with detailed descriptions, drawings, plots and data showing the results of experimentation of a prototype to prove its viability, as well as data to show the new contribution the invention claims to be making in the field.

All participating students must be enrolled, or have been enrolled, full time in any university in Armenia, at least part of the twelve month period prior to the date the entry is submitted. In the case of a team, all students in the team must satisfy the full time student requirement. Judges, selected from universities in Armenia and from the ARPA Institute, study the projects to understand the presented work and evaluate its merits, compare them with other similar inventions and determine the winning entries.

Each entry includes a summary paragraph, with the title of the invention, a specific description of what it is and how or what it adds to the current technology of the field. A detailed description of the project follows, explaining how it works, what it does, and how it can become a commercially viable product, with discussions on its technical merits. Experimental data from tests on a prototype is provided that show the invention does what has been claimed in the proposal. Comparison with similar devices is also

presented that show the advantages of the invention over the existing ones. Photos, slides, disks, videotapes and even samples, are sometimes included in the entry to help the judges understand the invention and how it works. A literature and/or patent search is also an essential component for determining originality of the idea presented.

To participate, each student (or student/advisor team) must fill out and sign an application, which can be downloaded from the ARPA Institute website at <http://www.arpainstitute.org>. The entire should be uploaded to the ARPA Institute website, or e-mailed to info@arpainstitute.org, written in Microsoft Word and converted to PDF format. The number of pages of each entry should not exceed 15 pages. The deadline for submission for the 2009 competition is February 15, 09.

For more information please send an e-mail to the above mentioned e-mail address.

ARPA Institute Board of Directors, Los Angeles, CA, USA.