



Home • The Administration • Champions of Change

Search WhiteHouse.gov Search

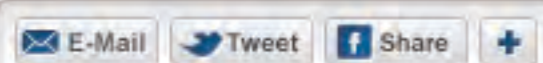
Champions of Change

WINNING the FUTURE ACROSS AMERICA

Home | Blog | Nominate a Champion | Previous Champions

Entrepreneur Advances Technology and Job Creation Across America

Posted by Ari Matusiak on July 07, 2011 at 03:16 PM EST



Before launching his own company in 1996, Kevin Didden was responsible for technology management at the United Technologies Corporation. Some of his core projects involved fiber optic sensors in helicopters, designed to provide real-time performance feedback. Mr. Didden saw an opportunity to scale this technology for work in the world's oil fields- specifically within the wells, themselves. As a result, he raised \$152 million in venture capital and started CIDRA in Wallingford, Connecticut, which specialized in the installation of sensors to report the pressure, temperature, and flow rate of active oil wells. The outcome was an innovative company, started in the United States, creating jobs for highly skilled engineers.



Mark Fernald, VP of Engineering, installing a CiDRA SONARtrac system in the oilsands of Alberta, Canada.

Mr. Didden continued to grow his business by opening offices in Texas and Norway- creating even more jobs, while expanding his operations in Connecticut. He then sold the oil and gas portion of the company, convincing the new owners to maintain its corporate location in Wallingford and to increase existing job levels. Since then, Mr. Didden has started and grown three more successful companies (he is in his third year of at least 50% growth) in a variety of technical fields, ranging from the improvement of the quality of concrete, to the mining of oil sands in Canada.

Mr. Didden has excelled in understanding existing technologies and identifying new, innovative applications for them. This vision and follow-through has enabled him to form and lead a host of successful business, providing jobs and stability to his community, while directly exemplifying the qualities of America's own story of recovery and resurgence.

Ari Matusiak is Executive Director of the White House Business Council

GIVE FEEDBACK ABOUT THIS PAGE

YOUR FEDERAL TAXPAYER RECEIPT



Launch the Receipt

WHITE HOUSE BLOGS

- The White House Blog
- Middle Class Task Force
- Council of Economic Advisers
- Council on Environmental Quality
- Council on Women and Girls
- Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
- Office of Management and Budget
- Office of Public Engagement
- Office of Science & Tech Policy
- Office of Urban Affairs
- Open Government
- Faith and Neighborhood Partnerships
- Social Innovation and Civic Participation
- US Trade Representative
- Office National Drug Control Policy

CATEGORIES

- Blueprint for an American Built to Last
- Civil Rights
- Defense
- Disabilities
- Economy