

Essay

From Research to Innovations

Knowledge and insights develop through intensive reflection, analysis and rumination. With other words, it is a process that takes time to dream and to think without distraction. Phantasies from an ideal world, a smart solution or happy users are a great starting point. Combine these dreams with clear analytical thinking based on mathematical calculations, material considerations and technology assessments. It is combined with continuous note taking, re-reading and adding. Dreams and ideas flow for example shortly after getting up or while walking in the nature. Have always pen and paper next to you.

Any envisaged invention needs feedback from the business world along the process of creation. Learn how to talk to business people that could invest in your idea as shareholder or utilize created patents. Let business people become mentors that consistently provide encouragement and critical feedback. They help to shape the practical aspects, user experiences, and distribution channels. Business people translate the dreams of the researcher into business models and expectation and the researcher inspires the business person to see new technical opportunities and markets.

Researcher should tell stories and some sort of illusions to demonstrate the capabilities of the invention. It is important to work together with business mentors to merge the invention with the needs of a specific industry or other end-users. Continuously disseminate the research outcomes through patents, research papers, demonstrations, fares or social media channels. Users, decision makers and politicians need to learn the advantages of the new technologies and further think toward specific exploitation opportunities.

Inventions need a proper positioning between very plausible and impossible otherwise there are doubt on originality and the value. The current state of the art and the zeitgeist are very important. Learn about the things that excite people, topics that are emerging, the needs and dreams of people and couple those things with the invention. Think about the expectations of the target industry and how they relate to the invention.

Great inventors see an obvious potential of their technologies to fundamentally change the world or at least specific aspects of an industry. They have a clear ideal picture of a process, a technology or a product and they link it with the needs and dreams of the society or an industry.

How big is YOUR dream?

Interesting book:

"Tesla: Inventor of the Electrical Age" by W. Bernhard Carlson, Princeton University Press, ISBN-13: 978-0691165615