The Computerworld Honors Program

Honoring those who use Information Technology to benefit society

Final Copy of Case Study

Status:
Laureate

Year:
2013

Organization Name:
Search Engine Incorporated

Organization URL:
www.TheStreetDevelopmentProject.org

Project Name:
The Street Development Project

Please select the category in which you are submitting your entry
Emerging Technology

Please provide an overview of the nominated project. Describe the problem it was intended to solve, the technology or approach used, how it was innovative and any technical or other challenges that had to be overcome for successful implementation and adoption. (In 300 words or less.)

Navigating through most parts of Ghana and evidently most other parts of Africa are more than just difficult, as it also proves impossible. The Town planning, the street naming, housing address, landmarks and every other navigation-related issue is complicated. This seems a perfect situation when the tax collectors can't find you. But what if the robbers find you or a fire breaks out or an old man is sick and needs the police, fire service or ambulance respectively? What then? Are you also behind the blue house? And which of the blue houses? The one with the brown gate or palm tree? TSDP, development of the people, for the people and by the people, is an initiative of Search Engine Incorporated and supported by some governmental and private bodies to increase organization on our streets by providing Directional Street Name Poles and Building Address Plates to all accessible areas in Ghana and a clear strategy to reach out to the inaccessible areas of the country. The major aim and objective of the project is to ensure that navigation through any part of the country becomes easy and in so doing assist the Security Services, Fire Services and Health Services in delivering support in

times of emergency and to assist individuals in their everyday navigation. The project has developed Special and Advanced GPS Gadgets and a Centralized System for the government, standard GPS gadgets for individuals and similar gadgets for vehicles and other purposes. One of many unique features of this project is it's funded by the very people who need the solution, which is apparently the whole nation: DEVELOPMENT OF THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE AND BY THE PEOPLE. This has made the project self-sustainable. We would have employed 1,000,000+ people by completion of project.

When was this project implemented or last updated? (Please specify month and year.) Has it incorporated new technologies and/or other innovations since its initial deployment? (In 300 words or less.)

The project was first implemented and introduced to the general public in November 2012, but before the main implementation, close to a year of planning and analyses took place. The project gets introduced to new technology and interests almost all the time; however, the team is keen on not changing without solid reason the main features and promises. We just change a couple of technologies in terms of security and easier delivery but without affecting the outcomes. For instance, from the beginning of the project we had planned to provide each building with GPS co-ordinates but a careful look at security has caused the team to cancel it out and rather plot it onto our centralized systems only and made accessible to the security, fire and other relevant bodies and agencies only.

Is implementation of the project complete? If no, please describe the project's phases and which phase the project is now in. (In 300 words or less.)

Implementation of the project has already begun in the Ga East District. Here we have employed over 20 personnel who are on the field everyday moving from house to house getting people to participate in the Building Address Plate System. Implementation process began in November 2012 and the team has as its aim to understand all the bits of challenges that come within the physical implementation and find a solution for it in preparation to the grand implementation scheduled at the end of the implementation process in this District.

Please provide at least one example of how the technology project has benefited a specific individual or organization. Feel free to include personal quotes from individuals who have directly benefited from the work. (In 300 words or less.)

Our current implementation area seems to be making the best of it as they can now give their house numbers to visitors and be traced out very easy. Advertising for businesses has become very easy too because a house number and street name is all anyone needs to find you. The Ghana Police Service, The Ghana Fire Service, The Ghana Ambulance Services, Google Ghana and many other organizations and individuals consider this project as just what the country needs to survive and have provided all the support we need. We are still in the process of negotiating further support and resources for making the project succeed as expected. Its not particular people, but everyone who enjoys this project.

Would this project be considered an innovation, a best practice or other notable advancement that could be adopted by or tailored for other organizations and uses? If yes, please describe that here. (In 300 words or less.)

Yes! The fact that most people always consider a solution to navigation as either virtual or physical (never both) and even the government, for the fact that implementation is difficult but we being able to find easier methods of implementation using advanced technologies to do both physical and virtual implementations makes us really stand out. This is ultimate and we have clear intentions of introducing the project to other neighboring and far-off countries who may be in need of such a solution.

If there are any other details that the judges should know about this project, please note them here. (In 300 words or less.)

Clearly note that this project is by a private company, Search Engine Incorporated, and supported by the Government. The project is both virtual and physical. So we are mounting physical Directional Street name Poles and Housing Address Plates and then making it virtual for digital navigation. Each pole has a compass on top to make map navigation easy. Please visit the project website for details http://thestreetdevelopmentproject.org. This project to any other person may seem ordinary, another project, impossible, or a lot of negative and not encouraging words of which we have heard many, but to us, the team, who are on the streets everyday for the sake of this project see success; we see a solution built by young Ghanaians who will not wait any further for the government to promise. To us, we are not looking at what our country can do for us but what we can do for our country because really, the country is not a living thing; it just contains living things and its living things that can make things happen. Please go through the FAQs on our project website: http://thestreetdevelopmentproject.org/index.php/frequently-asked-questions.