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Jennipher Adkins is back, finally. Formerly our West Coast editor-at-large, Jennipher's now our Greater Chicago Area editor-at-large. She's previously regaled us with stories about the short-lived *Prototype This* television show, the rent-a-workshop, Kinko's for tinkers operation called TechShop, and the irrepressible innovator Vanna Bonta, inventor of a sex space suit. Jennipher returns with a look at an independent inventor who's landed a deal with defense contractor Lockheed Martin. Visit www.jennycapp.com



Alexey Burdin graduated from the G.V. Plekhanov Saint Petersburg State Mining Institute and Technical University in 2000. The school is Russia's oldest higher education institute devoted to engineering. In fact, it's one of the oldest in Europe. The 33-year-old spent three years working in Dublin, Ireland, but has since returned to Mother Russia. He's developed an amphibious, all-terrain screw propulsion system he's dubbed TESH-Drive, and shares insights on his invention in this month's edition of *First Person*. Visit www.tesh-lab.com



Ivan Cacic is a 1978 mechanical engineering graduate of the University of Zagreb, Croatia. He's resided in Canada since 1983. He has worked mostly in the aerospace industry as a mechanical and tool designer and as a manufacturing engineer. Since 1997, he has worked as a freelance contractor, mainly as a tool and mechanical designer in various industries using CATIA V5 and SolidWorks. Ivan makes a case for adding courses on inventing and product commercialization to the national college curricula. Contact him at ivancacic53@gmail.com.



Eric Huber is a passionate inventor living in picturesque Dana Point, Calif. He's also one of our experiments. We asked Eric to deliver us his take on our sister business, Edison Nation. Give us the good, the bad, warts and all, we asked of him. We were pleasantly, if not totally, surprised with his uplifting take on our crowdsourcing innovation platform in a piece we've playfully titled *Confessions of Modern MacGyver*.



CONFESSIONS OF A MODERN MACGYVER

One Inventor's
Love Affair with
Edison Nation

By Eric Huber

Editor's note: We asked independent inventor Eric Huber to write a from-the-gut, honest assessment of what he thought about Edison Nation. Here's what he had to say:

I'm too old for Legos, Lincoln Logs, wood blocks and Erector sets, but I like building things so that's what I do – make things for everyday life.

I found I could make almost anything with four basic ingredients: duct tape, foam core, glue and paper mâché. I've recently added another: my wife's sewing machine. It's kind of a MacGyver thing with me, except I'm not saving the world and there are no novel uses of dental floss and bubble gum.

For years my ideas went from my head to my journal, to my workshop to a file cabinet and there they sat, never leaving my home. That is, until the summer of 2009.

Through watching the PBS television series *Everyday Edisons* and meeting the co-creator Louis Foreman at a tradeshow, I was introduced to Edison Nation (often referred to as just "EN" by members) and that changed everything.

Suddenly, I had a "partner" that would do the hard part of finding a home for my babies asleep in their file folders. I immediately began submitting my ideas to EN's Live Product Searches and quickly found success.

It was a perfect fit. I could focus on what I do best – observe needs in our everyday lives and design simple products to fulfill them – while EN would evaluate my products' potential and, if worthy, present them to really big companies.

This is every inventor's dream: to have their ideas

(some of which may only be hand-drawn on a piece a paper) professionally pitched to large manufacturers and retailers, and developed into a full-fledged products earning royalties.

I am amazed at the number and variety of companies that partner with EN. Their Web-based platform is outstanding.

As an inventor there is nothing more frustrating than submitting to a company and never seeing or hearing anything. With EN you can log on any time and see what stage your idea has reached in the evaluation process.

I carry my iPad everywhere and I have found that when I come up with an idea I can immediately enter it into my "Your Ideas" database where I can access it at any time to continue (or not) developing it.

I joined the EN "Insiders" membership program, where for the cost of a couple Starbucks Frappuccinos a month I have access to valuable information, a vibrant online community, many submission services and *Inventors Digest* delivered to my home each month.

The priority handling through the evaluation process and the opportunity to submit my products over and over are also great benefits.

And now I have the opportunity to audition for Season Four of *Everyday Edisons*.

What I would change at EN? I would say the ability to not only be an Edison Nation Insider, but to be a MEGA-UBER Insider.