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Editor's take

Peter H. Diamandis and Ray Kurzweil founded Singularity University in 2008 to tackle the world's toughest challenges. Over the years they've challenged each student to build a company that positively impacts the lives of 1 billion people within 10 years. They call these 10^9+ companies. While most of today's entrepreneurs and venture capitalists are thinking about the next great app, too few are working on solving humanity's grand challenges. SU has enlisted the world's brightest in their cause. In 2008, at SU's founding conference, Larry Page, made an impassioned speech that SU must focus on addressing the world's biggest problems: *"I now have a very simple metric I use: are you working on something that can change the world? Yes or no?"* It's about time we all started to think at this scale.

Some Great SU 10^9+ Companies

- 1. Made In Space:** This company has just launched the first zero-g 3D printer to the Space Station. Their hardware is able to manufacture materials and complex structures in weightlessness.
- 2. mirOculus:** Cancer detection using microRNA biomarkers leading to the routine cancer screening will allow for early stage detection and prevention of millions of cancer deaths.
- 3. TriDom:** A novel way to "print" full-sized homes and buildings by attaching a 3D printer to existing cranes. The kit would transform today's crane into a fully

Featured Book



In **Abundance**, the authors argue that despite the problems that our technology has recently created, a population explosion that threatens to confound, we needn't discard our techno-optimism after all. According to Diamandis, the world is on the verge of another explosion in technology that will soon bring refuge from many of our current problems, and abundance to our doorstep. Diamandis defines abundance as "a world of nine billion people with clean water, nutritious food, affordable housing, personalized education, top-tier medical care, and non-polluting, ubiquitous energy", and, to top it all off, the freedom to pursue their goals

functional, unconstrained printer, and allow builders to cheaply/quickly build houses.

4. Mitera: A device that allows early cancer and disease detection from a single drop of saliva. The device uses carbon nanotubes and biomarkers to detect hostile cells. When used on a weekly basis, the device can monitor changes in the patient over time and develop personalized medical treatments based on the data.

and aspirations unhindered by political repression. With regards to the timeline, Diamandis claims that it "should be achievable within twenty-five years, with noticeable change possible within the next decade"

- A. D. Thibeault

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