Connecting Those Who Need It Most

The Need

More than 2 billion people in the developing world live in rural and remote communities that lack basic access to information and communications technologies, such as computing, Internet access and telephony.

Access to these technologies, directly or via local organizations, can improve their lives in simple yet profound ways, through:

- **Healthcare -** improving rural health service delivery to prevent disease and save lives
- **Economic Development -** providing better economic opportunities to increase business sustainability
- **Education -** ensuring more informed, better educated students to enhance employment options
- **Relief -** building communication capacity for relief organizations to increase response efficiency
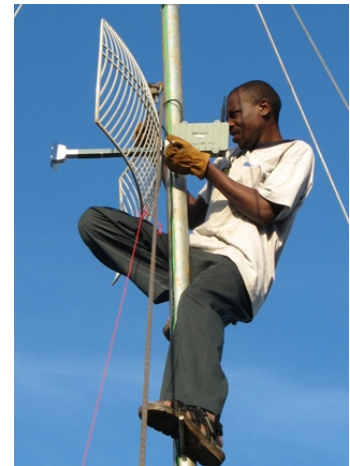
Our Mission

Inveneo is a non-profit social enterprise whose mission is to get the tools of ICT to the people and organizations that need them most in remote and underserved communities in the developing world. To do this, Inveneo focuses on delivering highly sustainable and affordable ICT solutions to organizations – governments, NGOs, and private enterprises – that operate in these communities.

We design and integrate ICT solutions, as well as create capacity-building programs specifically to overcome the challenges faced by organizations providing vital services such as education, healthcare, economic development, and relief in rural and remote parts of the world. These challenges include:

- Lack of dependable – or any – electricity
- Extremely high power costs
- Prevalence of heat, dust, and humidity – punishing conditions for ICTs
- Lack of affordable access to Internet
- Novice users and administrators
- Expensive, inappropriate or inaccessible solutions
- Lack of professional IT support

Today, Inveneo has a rapidly growing network of certified local IT professionals in country, who can implement and support projects in rural and remote communities affordably and effectively.

Our History

In 2004, after working on a volunteer project in a remote community, co-founders Mark Summer, Kristin Peterson, and Bob Marsh realized that the technology existed to deliver better communications to remote and rural communities. Applying a Silicon Valley business model, Inveneo was born as a social enterprise dedicated to delivering information and communications technologies to the hardest-to-reach places in ways that are sustainable, scalable, and easy to support by local entrepreneurs.
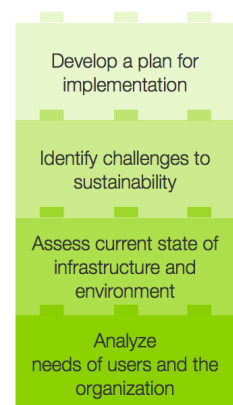
Based on our first trial in Uganda in 2005, Inveneo proceeded to launch our first hardware and software solution in 2006. In 2007 – with funding from AMD, Cisco Systems, and private donors – we launched the Inveneo Certified ICT Partner (ICIP) program. By 2008, and together with our 38 trained partners in 13 countries, we have deployed solutions for more than 268 projects, serving directly or indirectly more than 700,000 people in 21 countries. In 2009, we should exceed 1 million people reached with life-impacting ICTs.

Inveneo ICT Services

Inveneo provides expertise, design and integration, installation, and capacity building in order to deliver highly sustainable ICT solutions to those organizations – governments, NGOs, and private enterprises – that provide vital services, such as education, healthcare, economic development and relief in under-served areas.

1. Providing targeted ICT expertise

Inveneo can provide expert guidance for implementing sustainable ICT projects. Our needs-based approach focuses on the goals of the organization and its end-users. We assess the current environment including facilities, power, connectivity as well as other factors like security and user know-how. We identify approaches that address challenges such as undependable electricity, tight operating budgets, and lack of support resources. We also develop plans for implementation that are designed for and agreed upon by the organization.

Develop a plan for implementation

Identify challenges to sustainability

Assess current state of infrastructure and environment

Analyze needs of users and the organization

2. Design and integration of software and hardware solutions

Inveneo designs software and hardware infrastructure solutions to address the unmet needs for ICTs in low-resource environments in the developing world. We integrate existing software and hardware components to deliver repeatable and scalable solutions that range from ultra-low power computers and servers, to desktops configured for shared computing environments and running open source operating systems and custom hardware systems for specific applications. The result is a solution blueprint that can be implemented in a scalable and replicable way by Inveneo or others.

3. Implementation of ICT projects

Inveneo and its growing network of certified partners are available to provide highly skilled implementation of projects. We provide project management for the complete implementation: planning projects, shipping and clearing equipment, installation networks, training administrators and providing ongoing support.

Training | Ongoing local support
Project management | Logistics | Deployment

4. Building local ICT capacity

In addition to designing and integrating affordable and highly sustainable ICTs for rural and underserved communities, Inveneo develops and implements long-term capacity building programs such as the Inveneo Certified ICT Partner (ICIP) Program. The development of this program, along with the implementation of training programs, is a key component of our approach that form the basis for increasing the affordability and availability of ICTs in low-resource environments.

Inveneo Certified ICT Partner Program

The key to long-term sustainability and affordability resides in Inveneo's ability to build local capacity through the Inveneo Certified ICT Partner (ICIP) program. In each country where we work, Inveneo recruits, trains and certifies local Inveneo Certified ICT Partners (ICIPs). These in-country entrepreneurs generate their own revenue by providing installation and support, dramatically improving the affordability and level of local support. At the same time, these new ICIP revenue opportunities build the local ICT economy organically, providing increased opportunity for the people in each community.

Inveneo Integrated ICT Solutions

Inveneo has certified a line of affordable products (hardware and open source software) to serve these organizations that can be combined into turnkey solutions for computing centers, connecting field offices and much more. The hardware products feature ultra-low power draw, few moving parts and optional operation 12-Volt battery system with alternate energy sources (solar/wind/generator). The software combines high functionality with simplicity for ease of use by novice users and administrators. The products include:

- Ultra energy efficient computers and servers
- Long-distance wireless (WiFi) Local-Area Networking (LAN) gear
- VoIP telephony software and integrated hardware
- Free and Open source operating systems for servers and desktops

Inveneo's Social Impact

Inveneo strives to make a positive impact in the world by creating open, relevant, ICTs systems with scalable in-country support networks. For us, it's about results.

Since mid-2006, when Inveneo released its first product, Inveneo and our partners have supplied gear to or completed more than 268 projects in 21 countries across Sub-Sahara Africa, from Ghana to Kenya, to South Africa to Mali. These projects reach over 275 communities and more than 700,000 people directly or indirectly with life-changing ICTs.

Our three-year goal is to certify over 100 local ICIPs and jointly complete projects that provide a digital lifeline to thousands of communities, directly or indirectly reaching more than 3,000,000 people in poor, rural areas of the developing world.

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