

Case Study



Jacob Johnson, Solar Desalination, Winner of 2015 New and Emerging Technologies Award

An architectural designer and engineer dedicated to projects surrounding sustainable engineering and building, Jacob Johnson entered the COINS Construction Industry Grand Challenge in 2015 with his idea on solar desalination.

His big idea, involving the purification of salt or fresh water without the grid while simultaneously providing a sustainable energy source, won the New and Emerging Technologies award.

Being awarded the top prize for the competition has helped Jacob's business attract attention from industry peers. He said: "Few people are recognised at an international level in the construction industry and so the Grand Challenge award has given my business a rare credential. I have been working on my desalination technology for the past three years and now I have an added value to my work that really helps when presenting to potential investors."

Entering the Grand Challenge also gave Jacob the opportunity to build relationships with others in the industry. He said: "The winners of the Grand Challenge were announced at an event where I met and established relationships with industry leaders from across the UK. In addition, I was also able to meet, and have kept in touch with, the other young entrepreneurs like myself, who made the final."

The prize for the New and Emerging Technologies category was a place on the Singularity Entrepreneurship course created by Google & NASA, taking place in Silicon Valley. Jacob added: "This is a great opportunity to learn more about establishing a strong business while generating contacts throughout the Valley, a fantastic prize. However, also extremely beneficial is having a large institution like COINS back my project. This is both rewarding and useful for making important relationships around the world."

For more information about the COINS Construction Industry Grand Challenge, visit www.coins-grandchallenge.com or contact COINS:

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