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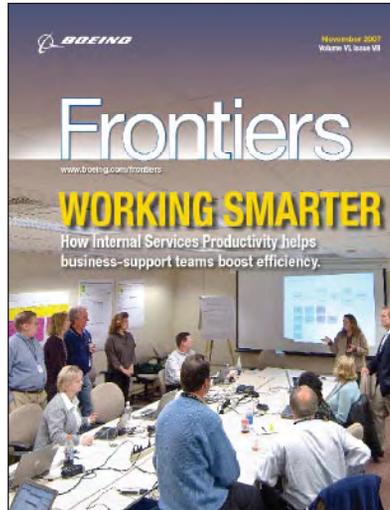
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“In this Nintendo, Xbox and Playstation generation, we have almost completely lost the roots of innovation.”

—Steve Dame, Everett, Wash.



RFID remembered

I was very interested in the September 2007 article on radio frequency identification and unique item identification technology. I recall a time in about 1969 when a Boeing employee thought up the basic idea.

A “new” microelectronics group at the Kent (Wash.) Space Center took the idea and built a prototype. It was about the size of a deck of cards and, in one concept, was used to obtain trailer identification as trucks drove by. The base unit would “shine” an RF beam on the passing trailer. The unpowered RFID unit would use the beam’s energy to produce electricity and then transmit a unique trailer ID number to the nearby base station.

The rest of the story is that the Boeing patent office decided that Boeing was not

interested in the idea and told the employee he could patent it on his own, if he wished. I don’t know if he ever pursued the patent.

—Tom Blakney
 Maple Valley, Wash.

Surplus benefits

I’m responding to the November letter from Bob Stevens about the closure of the Boeing surplus store. After reading Ken Botham’s response, I felt it did not address the essence of Stevens’ letter.

I got the impression that Boeing has rationalized its way into this closure by confusing the issue of Lean operations with the benefit of community service that the store provided. In this Nintendo, Xbox and Playstation generation, we have almost completely lost the roots of innovation—which is to provide the basic inspiring, wide-eyed response you get from kids and adults who stand in front of bins of tools and materials that the common household never gets to see, touch, feel or use.

The point Stevens was trying to make is that inspiration comes from the basic simple hands-on browsing that the store has provided. This is not something you can do on Google or Internet Explorer.

—Steve Dame
 Everett, Wash.

Letters guidelines

Boeing Frontiers provides its letters page for readers to state their opinions. The page is intended to encourage an exchange of ideas and information that stimulates dialogue on issues or events in the company or the aerospace industry.

The opinions may not necessarily reflect those of The Boeing Company. Letters must include name, organization and a telephone number for verification purposes. Letters may be edited for grammar, syntax and size.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan. 16–17:** 3rd Annual Indian Airline Engineering & Maintenance Conference. Mumbai, India. See www.aviationindustrygroup.com/index.cfm?pg=268
- Feb. 12–13:** Aviation Week Defense Technology and Requirements. Washington, D.C. See www.aviationweek.com/conferences/dtarmain.htm
- Feb. 16–19:** Defexpo India 2008. This marks the fifth version of this biennial defense exposition in India. New Delhi. See www.defexpoindia08.com
- Feb. 19–24:** Singapore Airshow. Singapore. See www.singaporeairshow.com.sg
- Feb. 25–28:** Satellite 2008. Washington, D.C. See www.satellitetoday.com/satellite2008
- March 9–11:** ISTAT (International Society of Transport Aircraft Trading) 25th Annual Conference. Orlando, Fla. See www.istat.org
- March 31–April 6:** FIDAE. This biennial Latin American aerospace exposition will convene for the 15th time. Santiago, Chile. See www.fidae.cl
- April 1–3:** Aircraft Interiors Expo. Hamburg, Germany. See www.aircraftinteriors-expo.com

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