

Tec entrepreneurs among the most innovative in LATAM, according to MIT



Two Tec entrepreneurs are among the 8 Mexicans recognized by the magazine MIT Technology Review among the 35 most innovative young people from Latin America. 19/01/2020

*“Their **projects** may be about to **change the world**,”* which is the reason why **MIT Technology Review** named **two Tec entrepreneurs** among the **35 most innovative young people from Latin America**.

Alan Aguirre, a Chemical Engineering **Graduate**, was included for his project on **the use of sunlight in chemical industry processes**, which could **benefit the environment**.

Also recognized was **Francisco Valencia**, a Mechatronic Engineering **student**, for developing **3D printed orthoses** to help **children with cerebral palsy**.

**Alan Aguirre (México), 34**

Tecnológico de Monterrey

**Francisco Valencia (México), 28**

Prothesia

Both are on the list as part of the **Entrepreneurs** category.

MIT Technology Review, the magazine of the **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)**, released the list on January 15. In addition to the entrepreneurs from the [Tec de Monterrey](#), it includes **six more Mexicans**.

A total of **50 experts from throughout Latin America** made up the assessment committee to evaluate the **two thousand candidates**.

FOR A MORE SUSTAINABLE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

Alan Aguirre is creating **polymers** through chemical reactions **using sunlight instead of substances** that consume high quantities of **energy** and create **pollution**.

This process can be used in the **chemical industry** to develop products such as **medication** or polymers for multiple applications.

It could even be used to **create polymers** capable of **cleaning pollutants from the air and water**.



The **traditional process** uses **molecules** that slowly **degrade** which, on occasion, are **very expensive**. Alan, on the other hand, **was able to make them more durable using sunlight**.

*"Each day we waste **an enormous amount of energy from the sun**. My idea is to **use this energy for chemical processes**,"* Alan points out.

He is currently in the process of **developing prototypes** in order to **market** and use them in **industry**.

His **research** started while he was undertaking his **post doctorate** at the **Massachusetts Institute of Technology** and he is now continuing his work at **Tec de Monterrey**.

MOBILITY INDEPENDENCE FOR CHILDREN WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

Francisco Valencia was honored for his project called **Prothesia**, the company he also **cofounded**.

The **Mechatronic** student at the Tec prints **low-cost orthoses in 3D**.

*"The **orthoses**, which are aimed primarily at **children with spastic cerebral palsy**, help them to correct their posture so that they can start to take their first steps," explained Francisco.*

Despite being **made to measure**, they are more **affordable** than the traditional ones, which **makes treating children easier**.



Prothesia has helped **15 patients with 30 orthoses** and a **financing system** whereby any person or organization can **subsidize** an orthosis in **whole or part**.

*“We had access to 3D printers, we knew how to design, we had experience in other startups. **So, we started to test and validate the idea, which, thank God, actually worked,**”* said Francisco to **CONECTA**.

LATAM INNOVATORS UNDER 35

This award is given to **35 young Latin Americans under the age of 35** who have a **noteworthy project**.

For the **2019 awards, 9 women and 26 men** between the ages of **24 and 36** from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Peru and Mexico won prizes.

The **5 categories** are: ***Entrepreneurs***, which recognizes **businesses** built on **innovative ideas**; ***Inventors***, which recognizes **technologies** that rethink the **processes** of things.

Humanitarians recognizes **solving** the problems of **poverty, war or disability**; ***Visionaries*** who find **new uses for technology** and ***Pioneers***, which recognizes the **promotion of scientific knowledge**.

[#Innovadores35Latam](#) | Ya están aquí los Innovadores menores de 35 de Latinoamérica 2019 que quieren cambiar el mundo con sus novedosas tecnologías <https://t.co/FzAmNHPKky>
[pic.twitter.com/LU36VxUNtd](https://t.co/FzAmNHPKky)

— MIT Tech Review ES (@techreview_es) [January 15, 2020](#)

MORE MEXICANS ON THE LIST

The **Mexicans** included **Carlos Monroy Sampieri**, who was awarded for his project **Biomitech, which uses algae to filter pollutants from the air**.

This startup was the winner of the **Heineken Green Challenge during the 2018 INC Monterrey entrepreneurship festival**, organized by **Tec de Monterrey**.

The **Mexican projects** also included **Marcela Torres** with an **education and employment project for migrants**; **Adán Ramírez** whose **panels for filtering oxygen** could help **colonize Mars in the future**.

Mariel Pérez was recognized, along with her company **Innus Technologies**, for projects to help agriculture, as were **Sara Landa**, creator of **Simbiotica Labs**, and **Irving Rivera**, founder of **Solena**.

Past **award winners** at **the global level** include **Mark Zuckerberg**, founder of **Facebook**, and **Sergey Brin**, founder of **Google**.

AWARDS AND NETWORKING PLATFORM

This year's award ceremony will be held on January 30 at **Parques BBVA** in **Mexico City**, at an event open to the public.

One of the **main reasons** behind this award is to provide the winners with **exposure** and **connect them with companies, organizations and people** who can help them **transform** their **ideas** into **reality**.

YOU'LL ALSO WANT TO READ: