To undertake such new things is difficult and constitutes a distinct economic function, first, because they lie outside the routine tasks which everybody understands and secondly, because the environment resists in many ways...

This function does not essentially consist in either inventing anything or otherwise creating the conditions which the enterprise exploits. It consists in getting things done.

— Joseph Schumpeter
Watt’s Separate Condensor

1. Catching a wave with an EE play,
2. The network that made Watt and his idea great, and
3. The profound differences between small changes.
"1st. From Mr. Boulton's own character as an ingenious, honest, and rich man. 2dly. From the difficulty and expense there would be of procuring accurate and honest workmen and providing them with proper utensils, and getting a proper overseer or overseers... 3dly. The success of the engine is far from being verified. If Mr. Boulton takes his chance... it lessens your risk, and in a greater proportion than I think it will lessen your profits. 4thly. The assistance of Mr. Boulton's and Dr. Small's ingenuity (if the latter engage in it) in improving and perfecting the machine may be very considerable, and may enable us to get the better of the difficulties that might otherwise damn it. Lastly, consider my uncertain health, my irresolute and inactive disposition, my inability to bargain and struggle for my own with mankind: all of which disqualify me for any great undertaking.

— James Watt
4. The network is the innovation.
Netstorming

So what network would you need to get something done about your ideas?
Netstorming

1. List the incumbent actors in the field you want to change
2. Generate a set of potential outside actors who could come into the field
3. Define what each set of actors needs, and what they have to offer
4. Are there ways to create new networks and relationships and rewire old ones?
Corporate Sponsors (Chevron, Walmart, Agilent)
Venture Capital Funds
Foundations
Researchers (proto-entrepreneurs)
Entrepreneurs
Academic Centers
Research Sponsors (NSF, NIH, DOE)
Angel Investors
Entrepreneurship Academies

UC DAVIS
CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP
Driptech
Solar PRINT
Greenway Energy
GreenBox
Forest Eye
DualCool
Envirotech Cookstoves
MicroMidas
Generize
BIDS
W&K Environmental Solutions
Northwest Biosensors
SWEET Inc.
Firefly Stove
E4 Lighting
EVO Fuels
WicKool
Ferven
Ferntech
Covalent Solar
PhytoClean
HyProSys
Hydrotech
UCDavis Center for Entrepreneurship
4. “The future is already here, it’s just unevenly distributed”
—William Gibson