The Georgia Center of Innovation for Manufacturing
Helps Bring Safe, Hygienic Toilets to the World

OVERVIEW

Wish for WASH is an Atlanta-based social impact organization that seeks to bring innovation to sanitation through culturally-specific research, design, and education.

A global issue, 2.5 billion people in the world don’t have access to basic sanitation and as a result, many third-world countries and refugee camps experience high rates of WASH-related diseases due to fecal-oral contamination. In fact, 3.4 million people die each year as a result of water, sanitation, and hygiene-related diseases in the developing world. The economic impact of these diseases is $260 billion, but there’s a higher cost, as over 1 million children’s lives are cut short each year due to WASH related diseases.

CHALLENGE

As a senior at Georgia Tech, Jasmine Burton and her senior design team created the SafiChoo toilet concept – an inexpensive mobile toiled intended to reduce oral-fecal contamination in places where there is no access to adequate sanitation. The concept quickly went on to win First Place as well as the People’s Choice at the Georgia Tech InVenture Prize competition – the largest undergraduate invention competition in the United States.

After capturing the attention of the startup community, Wish for Wash needed to find a way to develop prototypes of their mobile toilet in order to get the best possible product to market quickly. For this, Jasmine Burton and the Wish for Wash team turned to the Georgia Center of Innovation for Manufacturing.

The significant connections include:

- Introductions and connections to contract manufacturers for rapid prototyping of product.
- Arranged meetings with Georgia Tech Professorts and manufacturing partners for overall project guidance.

Economic Impact for Georgia:

- Company has since hired seven additional employees
- Product developed in partnership with the Center allowed the company to achieve $26,000 in their latest round of fundraising.

What the Center of Innovation for Manufacturing offers businesses within the Industry:

- Technical industry expertise, collaborative research and partnerships.
- Collaboration of leaders from academia, business and government to assist in the commercialization of new products, processes and business models.
CASE STUDY
Generation Orbit

SOLUTION
Through the Center of Innovation for Manufacturing’s student startup program, the Center provided Wish for Wash a grant to prototype their low cost portable toilet, eventually resulting in test installations in a refugee camp in Zambia. The Center also arranged meetings with key professors at Georgia Tech that could provide guidance on the project, as well as connecting Jasmine and the team with several manufacturers who were able to provide key manufacturing insight on the project.

RESULTS
As a result of the involvement of the Center of Innovation for Manufacturing, Wish for Wash was able to complete the prototyping of their low-cost portable toilet, and implement them in a refugee camp in Zambia. Interest in their product has allowed them to hire an additional seven recent graduates, as well as be able to complete their first crowdfunding project, which netted Wish for Wash over $26,000 which can be used to complete a proof of concept for presentation to the several large NGOs who have expressed interest in working with Wish for Wash.