

# 10 Key Qualities of Exceptional Innovators

Innovation Practitioners: What Sets Apart Idea Generators, Builders, and Champions?



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"The Open Innovation professional is a rare breed – part entrepreneur, part deal maker, alliance manager and part project manager."

-A Guide to Open Innovation and Crowdsourcing: Advice from Leading Experts in the Field

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## Encourage Risk Taking

80% of model innovators tend to encourage employees to be curious, and 76% systematically encourage risk-taking.



2

## Teach Others

52% of innovators train their co-workers well in innovation best practices.



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## START SOMEWHERE

According to research, some of the best ideas come after you've thought of the worst idea. Some innovators start with their worst idea first!



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## Look for Patterns

Sometimes solutions come from unexpected industries. For example, a ski company addressed ski vibrations by adapting a metal grid concept from the music industry, specifically from violins, to improve control and performance.



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## Stay Positive

Good innovators don't lead with negative thoughts like "that will never work." As Albert Einstein said: "if you always do what you always did, you will always get what you always got."



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## Incentivize Innovation

60% of innovators built incentive systems that encourage employees to contribute to innovation efforts.



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## Are Team Players

Great innovators know that it takes a team to evaluate and build the best ideas: "even the best inventors are rarely (if ever) capable of accurately gauging the value of their own inventions from a patent standpoint."



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## Connect

"Less than 10 percent of innovation during the Renaissance is networked; two centuries later, a majority of breakthrough ideas emerge in collaborative environments."



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## Value Culture

Innovators know that an innovative culture is one of the most important factors in organizational innovation. A survey by Pricewaterhouse Coopers revealed that 57% of CEOs believe the most important factor for successful innovation is the right culture.



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## Value Innovation

Innovators believe that innovation is necessary to maintain a competitive edge.



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