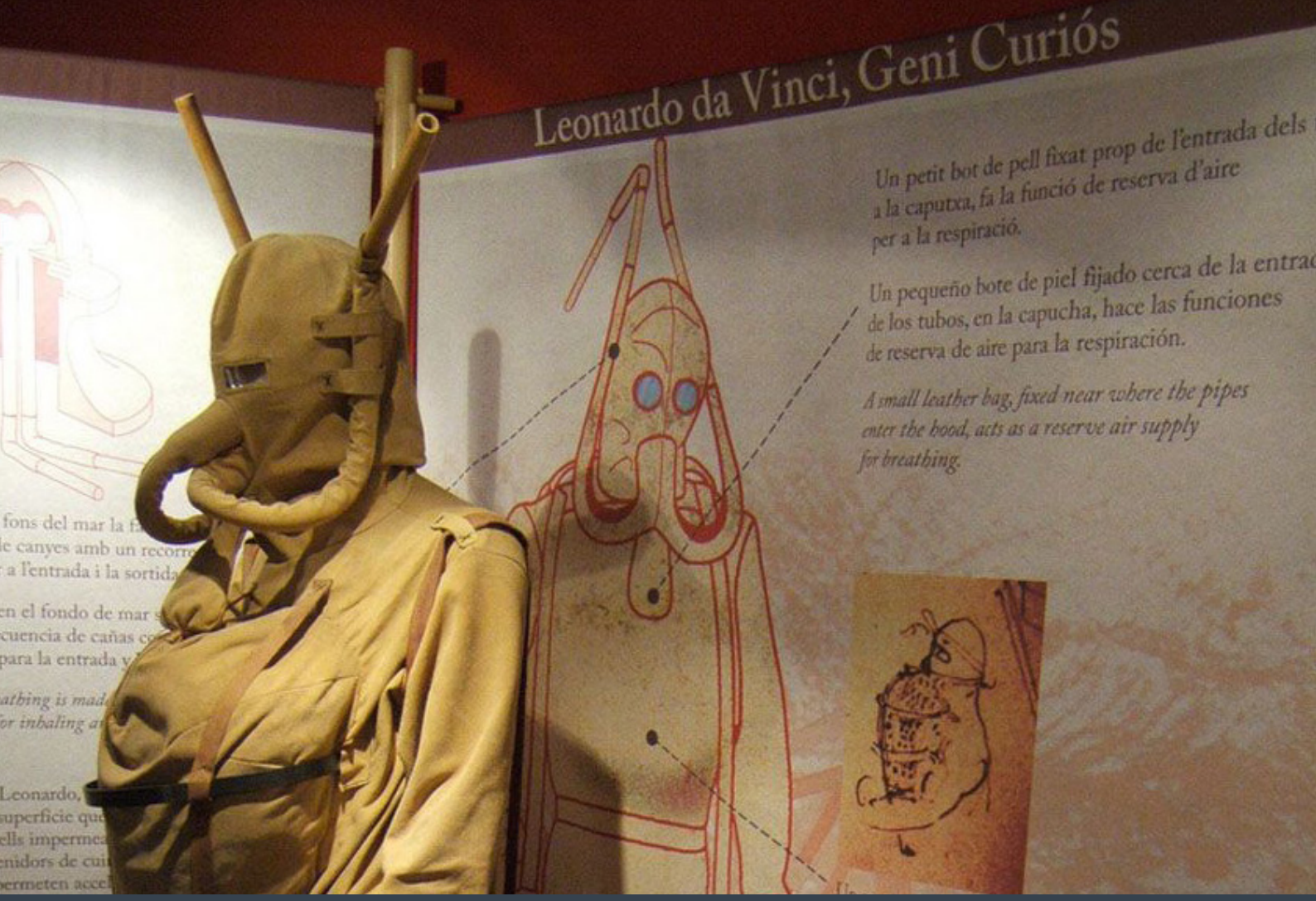
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ON FOCUS

CELEBRATING EUROPEAN INVENTORS AND THEIR LEGACY

EUROPEAN HISTORY IS CHARACTERISED BY INNOVATION, INVENTION, AND PROGRESSION

Producing some of the most celebrated and game changing breakthroughs the world has seen, Europe has pioneered advancements across a whole host of different fields and sectors. These range from new ways to see and view the world, to art and design, politics, law, and philosophy - and inventions we never before thought possible in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The birthplace of the Renaissance, the Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment, Europe pushed forward not only intellectual curiosity, but also entrepreneurial and commercial innovation.

From the multiple inventions key to the Industrial Revolution, to blockbuster inventions like the jet engine, the computer, the World Wide Web, the television, and even the printing press, Europe has truly been at the forefront of global innovation



Source: pinterest.com

throughout its history. This history of ingenuity has created household names like Isaac Newton, Alan Turing, Johann Gutenberg, Leonardo da Vinci, Marie Curie, Nikola Tesla, Sir Tim Berners-Lee – the list goes on.

AND EUROPE'S STRONG HERITAGE OF INVENTIVENESS CONTINUES TO THIS DAY!

Today, Europeans working in a variety of fields, from connectivity to medicine, from energy to robotics, are using their passion and creativity to improve our daily lives and drive our society forward. While we benefit from their creations every day, whether it's Bluetooth or contact lenses, we often do not consider how these inventions came to be – or the brilliant individuals who brought them to life.

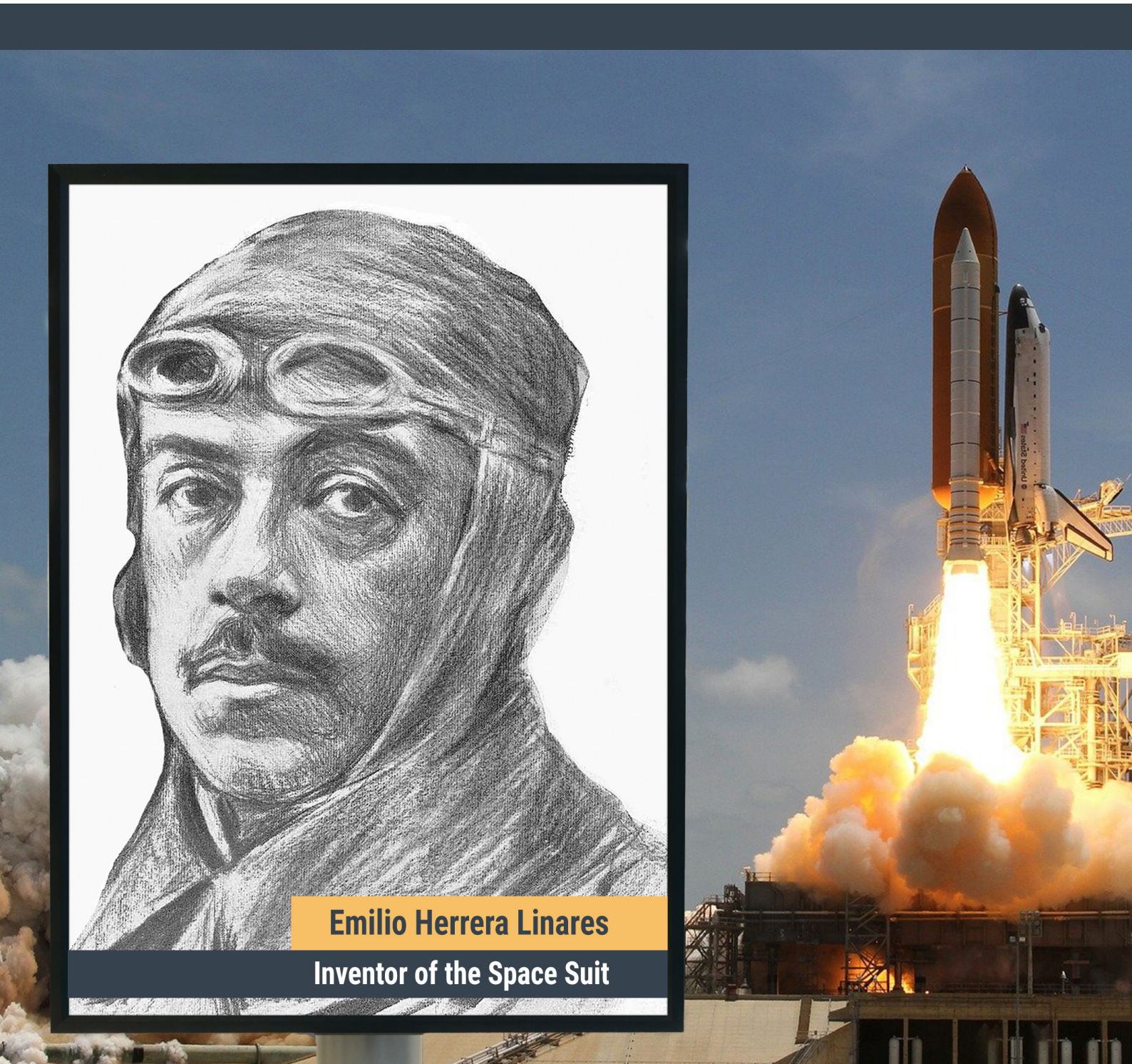
EUROPEAN HIDDEN INVENTORS

In a campaign launched by Brussels-based NGO ThinkYoung, in partnership with Ericsson, European inventors are revealed to the wider public. Did you know for example that the inventors of Bluetooth, the Minox mini camera or the space suit were Europeans?

Here are some stories:

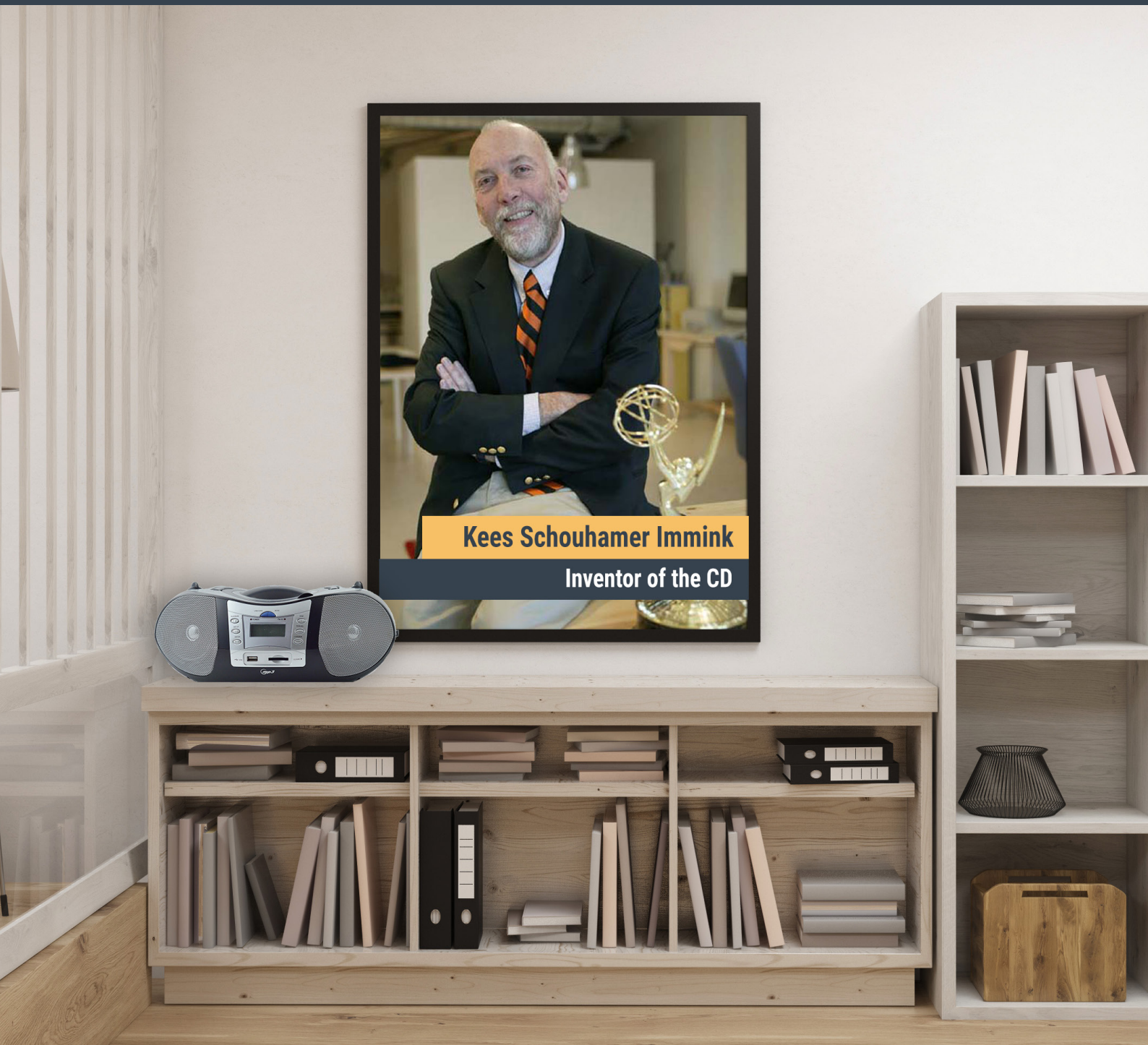
EMILIO HERRERA LINARES
INVENTOR OF THE SPACE SUIT

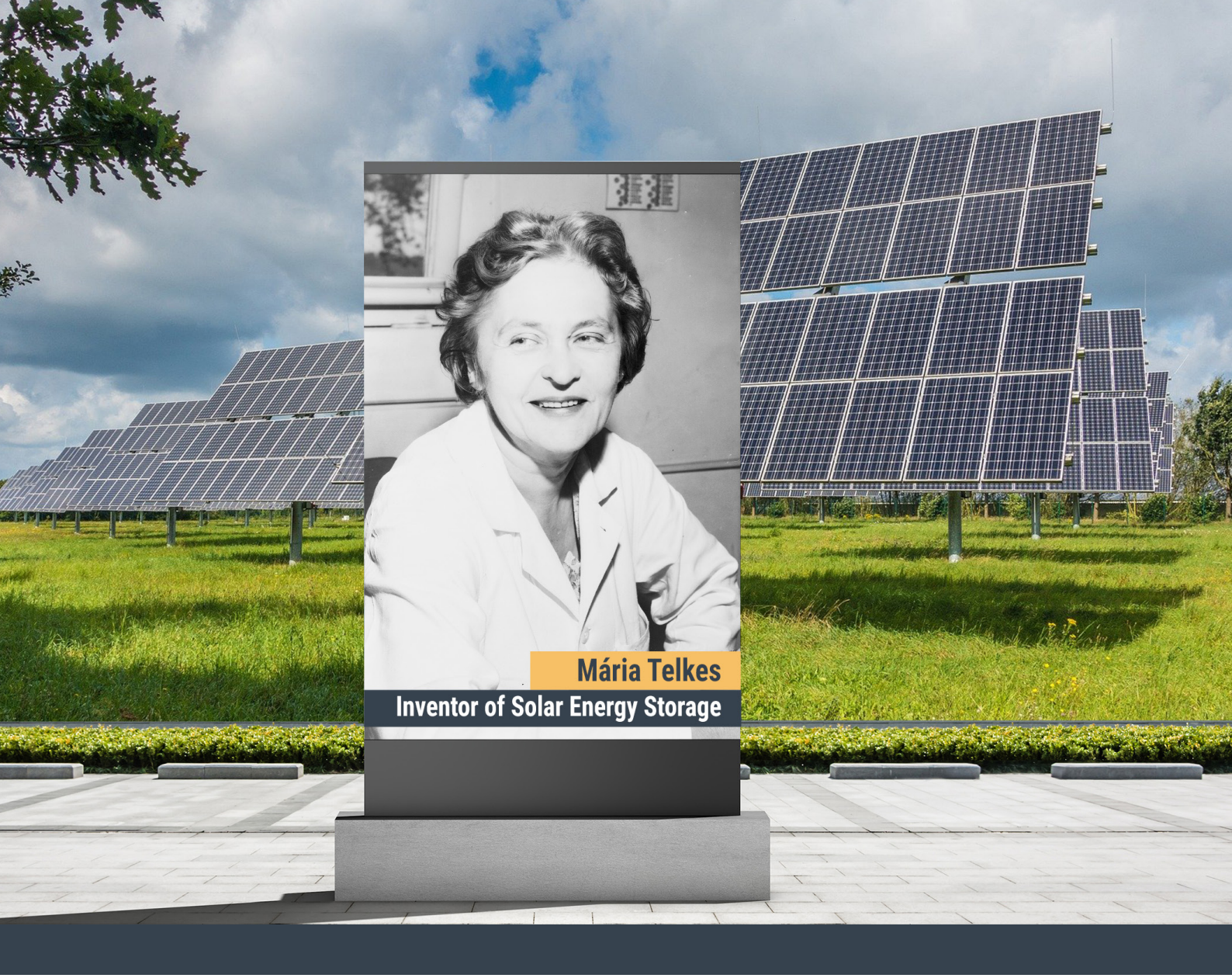
Emilio Herrera Linares was born in Granada, Spain in 1879, into a family of the enlightened bourgeoisie. From his childhood he was fascinated by aviation and aerostatics. Linares designed the stratonautical space suit in 1935 to be used during a flight to the stratosphere – about 20 kilometres above sea level. Emilio's invention, an unprecedented feat at its time, would go on to inspire NASA to create the space suits of its astronauts over 30 years later, including those that would be worn by the crew of the Apollo 11 mission to the Moon in 1969.



KORNELIS ('KEES') A. SCHOUHAMER IMMINK
INVENTOR OF THE CD

Born in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, Kees graduated with a degree from Rotterdam Polytechnic in 1967. Immink came up with an ingenious coding system called Eight-to-Fourteen Modulation (EFM). By breaking down binary code into shorter blocks, they could be read more easily. CDs and their successors (DVDs, CD-ROMs, Blu-ray) consist of plastic discs that are read by small lasers. The invention of the CD led to the subsequent development of CD-ROMs, DVDs, and Blu-ray. They revolutionised the computer, music, and entertainment industries – with CDs alone selling billions of copies since 1989!





MÁRIA TELKES
INVENTOR OF SOLAR ENERGY STORAGE

Born in Budapest in what was then Austria-Hungary, Mária studied physical chemistry at the University of Budapest. It was at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) that Mária began her prolific research on the potential of solar energy. She worked on thermoelectric devices powered by the sun as part of the Solar Energy Conversion Project, searching for new and innovative ways of capturing and deploying solar energy. Teaming up with architect Eleanor Raymond and sponsored by Amelia Peabody, Telkes was tasked with designing a solar heating system for the Dover Sun House. Quoted as saying "*sunlight will be used as a source of energy sooner or later. Why wait?*", Mária's groundbreaking research on solar energy has led to her nicknames of '*sun queen*' and the '*mother of the solar home*'. Despite solar power taking a while to gain popularity, her work laid the foundations of what we know as solar power today.

This article is part of a collaboration between
the **#HiddenInventors** and **"IP: Why Should I be Bothered?"** campaigns.

ThinkYoung and **Ericsson** have joined together to showcase Europe's Hidden Inventors. The #HiddenInventors campaign aims to celebrate European inventors - past, present and future—putting the spotlight on inventors few of us have heard of, but whose inventions we all know and use.

Partner

ThinkYoung ERICSSON

Find out more about the #HiddenInventors campaign at
https://www.thinkyoung.eu/inventors

PROTECT

http://ipwhy.europe.bg

The **"IP: Why Should I be Bothered?" campaign** promotes the value of intellectual property. IP is a right that protects creation. This campaign seeks to include young audiences in the efforts to respect creators' rights and thus support creation.

The campaign is supported by European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) and Ideas Powered.

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