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VERN RABURN

President and CEO
of Eclipse Aviation,
Albuquerque

INNOVATION

Democratizing private-jet
travel

BACKSTORY In the nineties, frustrated that new iterations of light jets were becoming more expensive, Raburn developed his own. The Eclipse 500 is what he calls a VLJ (very light jet): a highly efficient six-seat, twin-engine aircraft. At press time, Raburn had sold more than 2,350 of the planes, which are scheduled to receive Federal Aviation Administration certification this year. His primary customers are "taxi in the sky" services like DayJet, which will sell seats for only a fraction more than domestic fares on legacy carriers—allowing business travelers who want to fly nonstop between regional airports a way to do so affordably. www.eclipseaviation.com



RICK HEMMERLING

President, ExOfficio,
Tukwila, Washington

INNOVATION Smart clothes for travelers
BACKSTORY After designing the first climate-control vented shirt, in 1987, Hemmerling moved on to create fabrics with moisture wicking and sun protection. But his latest developments—a new line that repels insects, revolutionary knit constructions such as superfine-mesh underwear, and "smart" clothes with electronic filaments woven through the fabric to keep you cool—are what will really revolutionize travel wardrobes. "We're working on fabrics that have a life of their own." www.exofficio.com

BLAKE KRIKORIAN

Cofounder and CEO of
Sling Media, San Mateo,
California

INNOVATION Technology that lets travelers see their favorite TV shows, no matter where they are

BACKSTORY Krikorian and his brother Jason invented a system that allows people to "place shift" their home television programming via the Internet. Slingbox, which debuted last summer, redirects TV streams from a cable box, satellite receiver, or DVD player via the Internet to a PC anywhere in the world—even one that's on a Wi-Fi-equipped airplane. Next, the company will roll out SlingPlayer Mobile, software that will do the same thing via smart phone or PDA. www.slingmedia.com



SHANKAR PEERTHY

Cofounder and executive
director, Africa Digital
Bridges Networks, Dubai
and Mauritius

INNOVATION

The wireless nation
BACKSTORY Next year, when Peerthy's project to cloak Mauritius in one wireless "hot zone" is finished, the Indian Ocean island will become the second country in the world with complete Wi-Fi coverage. Unlike Macedonia (the first), Mauritius is using the newer WiMAX standard, which has overlapping coverage areas. Though the service is not free—hotels will sell pre-paid cards—travelers will be able to connect from every inch of the island, even the beach. Next, Peerthy hopes to create WiMAX "canopies" in two African nations. www.networkplus.mu

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