

Sanjai Kohli and Steven Chen, winners in the "Non-European countries" category

Mobile navigation devices based on the Global Positioning System (GPS) are now a part of our everyday life. Originally, in the late seventies, GPS was developed exclusively for military applications. Thanks to Indian-American inventor Sanjai Kohli (of Indian descent) and Steven Chen, the technology subsequently made the move into the consumer market. In 1995, after completing his engineering training at the Indian Institute for Technology in Mumbai and at Washington University in St. Louis, Kohli founded SiRF Technologies, where he and Steven Chen developed powerful and inexpensive GPS chips. These were a thousand times more accurate than previous technologies, and since 2002 they have been used by all leading GPS manufacturers. The international market for GPS-capable devices now amounts to 300 million units per annum (2009).