

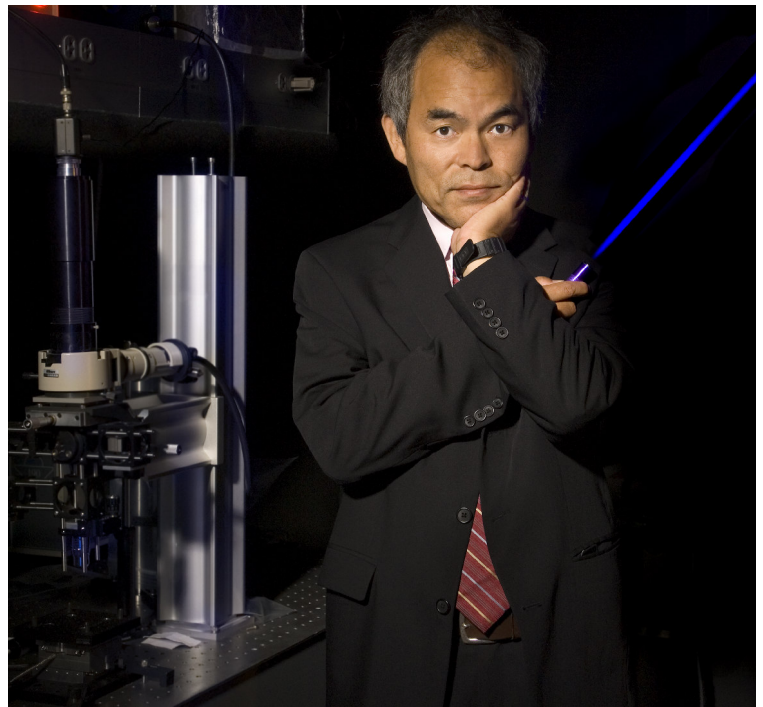
# Millennium Technology Prize to lighting sector for the development of LED light sources

## Millennium Technology Prize 2006 to inventor of new light sources

The 2006 Millennium Technology Prize has been awarded to Japanese professor Shuji Nakamura. Professor Nakamura has developed new, revolutionary light sources – bright blue, green and white light emitting diodes (LEDs), and blue laser diodes. These technologies can be used in several applications which improve the quality of everyday human life, such as producing light in a energy-efficient and environment-friendly way. LED technology is also well-suited to operation with solar power systems, which makes LEDs ideal light sources for the remote villages of developing countries. Ultraviolet LED technology provides a method to purify drinking water cheaply and efficiently.

Professor Nakamura made his breakthrough in 1993, when he stunned the optoelectronic community with the announcement of very bright blue gallium nitride (GaN) based LEDs. Soon afterwards he presented also green GaN-based LEDs, blue laser diodes and white LEDs.

According to the chairman of the International Award Selection Committee of the Pekka Tarjanne, professor Nakamura's achievement can be compared with Thomas Edison's invention of the incandescent lamp.



Professor Nakamura (Photo: Randy Lamb, UCSB)

*The University of California has a motto; the English translation is 'Let there be light.' This is a very good motto for our university. It also could serve as a motto for my own research. I hope that, as a result of my work, someday there will be lighting in parts of the world where today there is not even electricity.*

*Shuji Nakamura*

## The Millennium Prize is the world's largest technology prize

The one million Euro Millennium Prize celebrates innovations that have a favourable impact on quality of life and sustainable development. It has been awarded two times:

The 2004 Millennium Technology Prize was awarded to **Tim Berners-Lee**, the inventor of the World Wide Web.

The 2006 Millennium Technology Prize was awarded to **Shuji Nakamura**, the inventor of LED light sources.



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