

## Fostering innovation in firearms safety

### OUR APPROACH

Personalized gun safety technologies are a way to address preventable gun deaths and accidents without legislation and restrictions, allowing the marketplace to bypass political gridlock and maintain the Second Amendment right to bear arms. Smart Tech Challenges Foundation raises public awareness to build support and demand for these promising new technologies that can make the use and storage of guns safer.

### WHY PERSONALIZED GUN SAFETY TECHNOLOGIES?

Personalized gun safety technologies allow guns to only fire when activated by an authorized user. These technologies include gun safes, trigger locks, and smart guns equipped with user authentication technologies and other safety features that can prevent misuse, accidental shootings, gun thefts, use of the weapon against the owner, and self-harm. These innovations are both new firearms and add-on devices that have the potential to make the 300 million guns in circulation safer.

### INNOVATION TO SAVE LIVES

While technological breakthroughs in other industries have helped save lives across America, from artificial hearts to anti-lock brakes, we have seen little innovation in firearms safety. In 2016, there were 27.5 million FBI-monitored gun sales, the highest number on record. Yet even as the firearms industry has enjoyed historical success, it has not to date supported technological advances that can make firearms safer for gun owners, their families, and communities. Smart Tech Challenges Foundation incentivizes innovation to make firearms safer and more secure. By providing grants to innovators working on projects that incorporate a range of technologies from biometrics (e.g., fingerprint access) to Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) into firearms, trigger locks, and gun safes, we hope to give consumers the choice to purchase a personalized gun or gun safety device. Our grantees will help build an ecosystem of innovation to show that personalized guns and safety devices can have a measurable impact on preventing suicides and unintentional injuries and deaths.

### SMART TECH FOR FIREARMS



Launched in January 2014, our Firearms Challenge received more than 200 applications from innovators around the globe. An expert panel of judges selected 15 grantees across three levels of technological readiness, awarding a total of \$1 million to innovators. The 15 winning grantees hail from 12 different states and two foreign countries. Their technologies span from RFID and biometric access smart guns to biometric-access trigger locks, pistol holsters, and gun barrel locks. We believe that once these technologies reach the consumer market, they will make our communities safer and more secure.



## Gun Safety Technologies Can Help Prevent Tragedies

In 2015 there were nearly **120,000** gun-related injuries and more than **35,000** fatalities of which over **22,000** were suicides.

More than **350,000** guns are stolen in the U.S. each year, **80%** of which are never recovered.

Almost **60%** of Americans and **43%** of gun owners would consider buying a smart gun if available on the market.



Unintentional shootings involving children are reported in the press on average every **24 hours**.



Gun suicides among children 17 years old or younger have increased **60%** since 2007.



**Nearly half** of gun owners with children under 18 living at home say the guns in their home are unlocked.

To learn more go to [SmartTechFoundation.org](http://SmartTechFoundation.org)

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