

The NOVA logo is displayed in a stylized, metallic blue font. The letters are three-dimensional and set against a dark blue background featuring a glowing planet and a starry space scene.

Produced for PBS by the
WGBH Science Unit



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MAKING STUFF: COLDER, FASTER, SAFER, WILDER ***With Host David Pogue***

PANELISTS' BIOGRAPHIES

PAULA S. APSELL

Senior Executive Producer, NOVA; Director of the WGBH Science Unit

As Director of the WGBH Science Unit and Senior Executive Producer of the PBS science series NOVA, now in its 40th season, Paula S. Apsell has overseen the production of hundreds of acclaimed science documentaries, including such distinguished miniseries as "The Fabric of the Cosmos" with Brian Greene, "Making Stuff Stronger, Smaller, Cleaner, Smarter," hosted by New York Times technology reporter David Pogue, "Origins," and "Evolution." In 2005, Apsell introduced a spinoff in NOVA scienceNOW, a critically acclaimed science magazine series. Today, NOVA is the most-watched primetime science series on American television and has won every major broadcasting award, including the Emmy, the Peabody, and the duPont-Columbia Gold Baton. Apsell has been recognized with numerous individual awards, including the New York Hall of Science's Distinguished Service Award for Public Understanding of Science and the Carl Sagan Award, given by the Council of Scientific Society Presidents. She has served on several boards, including that of the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History and Brandeis University's Science Advisory Council. She is also a trustee of the International Documentary Association.

MICHAEL BICKS

Writer, Director, Producer of "Making Stuff Colder and Faster"

Michael Bicks is the Director of Little Bay Pictures in Durham, New Hampshire. Over the past twenty years he has created and produced over thirty hours for Network, Cable and PBS. From 1999 through 2010 he was an Executive Producer and Producer for the documentary unit at ABC News. In that capacity he created numerous series and specials including In the Jury Room, Nascar in Primetime and the two-hour animated special Earth 2100.

In 2009, he founded Little Bay Pictures, which has quickly earned a reputation for producing compelling and timely work on topics ranging from the Search for Amelia Earhart to animal intelligence. Recently they produced "Smartest Machine on Earth," the story of Watson the IBM computer that competed on Jeopardy!, which aired on PBS's NOVA. He has received dozens of awards including an Emmy for investigative reporting, an Alfred I. DuPont Award and most recently the National Academy of Science's Keck Award for "Smartest Machine on Earth."

DR J. CHRISTIAN GERDES

Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering Design Group, Aeronautics and Astronautics, Stanford University

Chris Gerdes is an Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering and, by courtesy, of Aeronautics and Astronautics at Stanford University. He directs the Center for Automotive Research at Stanford (CARS) and serves as a Senior Fellow at the Precourt Institute for Energy. His research interests revolve around designing cars that will not crash, using feedback control systems to design driver assistance systems and automated vehicles. Prof. Gerdes' team has developed a number of research vehicles and designed the algorithms that enabled Shelley, an autonomous Audi TT-S, to climb Pikes Peak without a driver in 2010. Work with Shelley continues with the goal of pushing automated vehicle performance to the levels of the very best human drivers. In addition to research, Prof. Gerdes teaches courses on machine design, vehicle dynamics and electric vehicle design at Stanford.

Prof. Gerdes earned a PhD in Mechanical Engineering at the University of California at Berkeley, working with the California PATH program on vehicle automation. Prior to teaching at Stanford, Prof. Gerdes was the project leader for vehicle dynamics at the Vehicle Systems Technology Center of Daimler-Benz Research and Technology North America. His work at Daimler focused on safety analysis for heavy trucks.

DIRK KRAMERS

Design Executive – General Design, Structures

A veteran of the America's Cup community since 1977, when aluminum was the space-age material being used to build 12-Meters, Dirk has nearly seen it all and done it all.

A proponent of multihulls, Dirk joined ORACLE TEAM USA in mid-2010 and is in charge of overall engineering of the catamaran. But his experience with multihulls in the America's Cup dates back to 1988 when he was a designer for Team Dennis Conner and its wingsail catamaran *Stars & Stripes 88*.

Dirk's freehand played a role in the creation of the AC45 catamaran. He was primarily responsible for overall engineering of the design including the hull structures.

Before joining ORACLE TEAM USA Dirk had previously been a member of the Alinghi design team. One of the principal creators of the *Alinghi 5* catamaran, he found the process of designing to an open sheet of paper a rewarding experience.

"We finally got to play with aspects of boat design that we'd never been able to play with, because we were restrained by so many rules," says Dirk. "Rather than trying to fit a design to a strict rule, the open rule gave us a much bigger palette to paint on. It was scarier because it gave us much greater scope to go wrong, but it was also more rewarding."

Dirk enjoys working with the best people in the business and doing things that have not been done before. "Having been part of a winning team five times and staying married in the process is my crowning achievement," says Dirk.

DAVID POGUE

Host of "Making Stuff" and New York Times Technology Columnist

David Pogue writes the tech column for the New York Times every week, and in Scientific American every month. He's the host of "NOVA ScienceNow" and other science shows on PBS, and he's been a correspondent for "CBS Sunday Morning" since 2002.

With over 3 million books in print, David is one of the world's bestselling how-to authors. He wrote or co-wrote seven books in the "for Dummies" series (including Macs, Magic, Opera, and Classical Music); in 1999, he launched his own series of complete, funny computer books called the Missing Manual series, which now includes 120 titles.

David graduated summa cum laude from Yale in 1985, with distinction in Music, and he spent ten years conducting and arranging Broadway musicals in New York. He's won an Emmy, a Loeb award for journalism, and an honorary doctorate in music. He's been profiled on "48 Hours" and "60 Minutes." He lives in Connecticut with his three children. His web site is davidpogue.com.

DR. PETER WEYAND

Associate Professor of Applied Physiology and Biomechanics, SMU University

One of the world's foremost experts on human performance, Peter G. Weyand, Ph.D., is a frequent source for journalists worldwide on the topic of performance limits such as how fast humans can run.

A physiologist and biomechanist, Weyand was a lead investigator on the scientific team that performed experimental work to appeal the Olympic/IAAF ban of double amputee, South African sprinter Oscar Pistorius.

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