

**Palexpo SA**

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**MR. JEAN-LUC VINCENT**  
FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF INVENTIONS OF GENEVA

**Biographical notes and history of the Exhibition**

Mr. Jean-Luc Vincent was born in Geneva in 1940. He is of Swiss nationality. His grandfather was the inventor of the prepayment electricity metre and also created other inventions which he developed and marketed.

He very much admired this man, working alone in his workshop. This is how he realised the practical and financial preoccupations encountered by inventors, concerning both the protection of their ideas and how to manufacture them and get them to the market.

He studied to become an engineer and obtained a diploma in nuclear physics. While very young, he learnt about the criteria necessary to lodge a patent and the many norms which guarantee the protection of inventions. For 3 years he worked in an Industrial property Advice office.

To increase his knowledge, he worked in industry, industrial design and the development of innovative projects.

At the age of 28, he decided to become independent and worked for several industrial property advice offices. He was in permanent contact with inventors lodging patents and realised that once they obtained them, they had immense difficulty in promoting their inventions.

In 1968, convinced that the best way to make an invention known is to present it at a specialised exhibition, Jean-Luc Vincent created his own company to represent inventors and innovative companies at exhibitions of inventions in Brussels, Nürnberg and London.

For 3 years, he presented 420 inventions at these events and acquired valuable experience in how to promote inventions. But the exhibitions in which he participated did not bring his clients the success they were expecting, which is why he decided to create his own exhibition in Geneva.

**Patronné par:**

La Confédération Suisse – L'Etat et la Ville de Genève  
L'Organisation Mondiale de la Propriété Intellectuelle – OMPI

**Under the patronage of:**

The Swiss Federal Government – The State and City of Geneva  
The World Intellectual Property Organization – WIPO

This is how the INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF INVENTIONS OF GENEVA was born, in 1972. From its first edition onwards, it became the world's most important event exclusively dedicated to inventions, and a unique marketplace for licenses for industrialists, distributors and financiers, always on the lookout for new products.

Very quickly, he obtained the highest patronages possible for an exhibition in Switzerland: that of the City of Geneva, of the State of Geneva and of the Swiss Confederation. In 2009, a wonderful reward, he obtained the patronage of WIPO – the World Intellectual Property Organization.

As time went by, the Exhibition grew thanks to the collaboration of many delegates and correspondents in 35 countries.

Every year, more than 800 exhibitors from 40 countries exhibit 1'000 inventions there and it is host to over 30'000 visitors.

In the 47 years he devoted to the organisation of exhibitions, Jean-Luc Vincent has received many tokens of recognition in the form of prizes and rewards given by different organisations and governments. Among others, from WIPO, World Intellectual Property Organisation, the Swiss Union of Press Officers, the Gagarine medal from Russia, the Polish Marie Curie medal, etc.

In 2015, he is awarded the title of Doctor *honoris causa* by the University of Business and International Studies.

Furthermore, he is mandated as an expert for several missions by the World Intellectual Property Organization, in Burkina Faso, Brasil, Libya and Senegal, where he organised the 1<sup>st</sup> African Exhibition of Inventions. He is also nominated counsellor for the organisation of competitions and exhibitions in Italy, Romania, Canada, China, Russia, South Korea and Kuwait.

He advises and works with many governments, associations of inventors and companies specialising in the promotion of inventions. He aids and assists those inventors who need advice in order to protect and promote their inventions.

Concerning all the mandates, missions and advice mentioned here, Jean-Luc Vincent has always worked free of charge.

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