
Omidyar Network

Frequently Asked Questions

About Omidyar Network

Q: What is Omidyar Network?

A: Omidyar Network is a philanthropic investment firm established by eBay founder Pierre Omidyar and his wife, Pam. We are dedicated to harnessing the power of markets to create opportunity for people to improve their lives. We invest in and help scale innovative organizations to catalyze economic, social, and political change.

Q: On what issues does Omidyar Network focus?

A: Our efforts are organized around two investment initiatives: Access to Capital and Media, Markets & Transparency. Through our Access to Capital initiative, we create economic opportunity for the base of the pyramid. Through our Media, Markets & Transparency initiative, we encourage individual participation in media, markets, and government. In either case, we focus on what we believe are the most significant drivers of overall well-being and quality of life.

Q: How do Omidyar Network's two investment initiatives relate to one another?

A: Our initiatives are united by the principles of individual access, connection, and ownership. We look for solutions that enable people to access credible information and resources, connect with others over shared interests, and take constructive action on the issues that matter to them. The ultimate outcome we strive for is individual participation that can catalyze economic, social, and political advancement on a global scale.

Q: When was Omidyar Network established?

A: Omidyar Network was established in 2004. Prior to this time, Pierre and Pam pursued their philanthropic efforts through the Omidyar Foundation, which was closed when Omidyar Network was created.

Q: Why did Pierre and Pam create Omidyar Network?

A: The formation of Omidyar Network was inspired by Pierre's experience at eBay, which he founded in 1995 based on his beliefs in the potential of individuals and the power of markets. Starting from the premise that people are basically good, Pierre created a platform that gave everyone equal access to information, opportunity, and tools; the ability to connect to others with shared interests; and incentives to engage constructively with trading partners.

After eBay became a public company in 1998, Pierre and Pam co-founded the Omidyar Foundation to support nonprofits. Simultaneously, eBay's vast scale and accelerating social impact were demonstrating that business could also be an effective tool for making the world a better place. In response, they broadened their scope to form Omidyar Network, which makes investments in for-profit companies as well as grants to nonprofit organizations. Like eBay, Omidyar Network harnesses the power of markets to enable people to tap their true potential.

Q: How is Omidyar Network structured?

A: Omidyar Network is structured to support the notion that philanthropy is more than a type of funding. In its truest sense, philanthropy is about improving the lives of others, independent of the



mechanism. Consequently, we work across the social and business sectors, operating both a Limited Liability Company (LLC) and a 501(c)(3) foundation.

We invest in for-profit entities through our LLC. We make grants and program-related investments through our 501(c)(3) entity.

Q: How much has Omidyar Network invested since it was established?

A: Since 2004, Omidyar Network has committed more than \$307 million in investments and grants. Of that, more than \$138 million has been invested in for-profit companies and more than \$169 million has been granted to nonprofit organizations.

Q: How much does Omidyar Network expect to invest in 2009?

A: Omidyar Network invested more than \$100 million in 2008. We expect a similar level of investment in 2009.

Q: How many employees does Omidyar Network have?

A: Omidyar Network's staff is made up of approximately 35 professionals from a variety of fields, including venture capital, investment banking, philanthropy, e-commerce, law, finance, and marketing and communications.

Q: How are Omidyar Network, Humanity United, and HopeLab connected?

A: Each created by Pierre and/or Pam Omidyar, Omidyar Network, Humanity United, and HopeLab are grounded in their belief in the innate potential of all people. Each organization creates opportunity for or removes barriers to tapping that potential.

Established in 2004, Omidyar Network is a philanthropic investment firm that creates opportunity for people to improve their lives by investing in market-based efforts that catalyze economic, social, and political change.

In 2005, Pam began work on Humanity United, a nonprofit organization dedicated to ending mass atrocities and modern-day slavery. By pursuing a creative combination of research, policy, and public pressure, Humanity United seeks to enable local and global solutions to end conflict and injustice and to help create a lasting global peace.

HopeLab is a nonprofit organization created by Pam in 2001 that is harnessing the power of technology to improve the health of young people. HopeLab's approach combines rigorous research, innovative solutions, and direct input from teens and young adults with chronic illnesses.

About Pierre & Pam Omidyar

Q: How did the Omidyars decide what topics to address at Omidyar Network?

A: Pierre and Pam evaluated their interests, experience, and where their dollars and efforts could have the greatest social impact. From this emerged an early focus on microfinance, social media, marketplaces, and government transparency. Over the years, Omidyar Network's scope has evolved to include additional areas like property rights and entrepreneurship.

Q: Are the Omidyars the only funders of Omidyar Network?

A: Yes. Pierre and Pam Omidyar are the sole funders of Omidyar Network.



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Q: What are Pierre's and Pam's roles within the organization?

A: Pam is Co-Founder of Omidyar Network and continues her work with the organization as a Member of the Board. Pierre is Co-Founder and Founding Partner and also continues to work with the organization as Chairman of the Board.