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ABUNDANCE

The Future is Better Than You Think

PETER H. DIAMANDIS and STEVEN KOTLER

PETER DIAMANDIS is chairman and CEO of the X Prize Foundation, a nonprofit which offers large incentive prizes for radical technology breakthroughs. The Foundation is best known for the \$10 million prize it offered for private spaceflight and the \$10 million prize offered for cars which achieve 100 miles-per-gallon fuel efficiency. Dr. Diamandis is co-founder and chairman of the Singularity University and is also a consultant to many of the world's largest enterprises. He is a graduate of MIT and Harvard Medical School.

STEVEN KOTLER is a best-selling author and an award-winning journalist. His articles have appeared in 60 publications including *Wired*, *Popular Science*, *National Geographic* and the *New York Times Magazine*. He is the co-founder and director of research at the Flow Genome project. He is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin and the John Hopkins University.

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MAIN IDEA

When you examine all the hard facts, the science and engineering which are now in the pipeline, the only feasible conclusion one can reach is the world is on the cusp of major marketplace changes. Exponential increases in technology mean within the next two decades, the world (both developed and developing nations) will have the capacity to meet and exceed the basic needs of every man, woman and child on the planet. Abundance for all is literally within our grasp and a rising global living standard will result.

While this may run contrary to the gloom and doom which fills the daily news cycle, the undeniable fact is exponential gains are now being made in a wide and growing number of fields – artificial intelligence, robotics, computing, broadband networks, digital manufacturing, nanomaterials and synthetic biology to name just a few. As these and other technologies mature and get applied, it is inevitable society’s most unsolvable problems will be addressed, especially when all of these advances amplify and build on each other.

“For the first time in history, our capabilities have begun to catch up to our ambitions. Humanity is now entering a period of radical transformation in which technology has the potential to significantly raise the basic standards of living for every man, woman, and child on the planet. Within a generation, we will be able to provide goods and services, once reserved for the wealthy few, to any and all who need them. Or desire them. Abundance for all is actually within our grasp.”

– Peter Diamandis and Steven Kotler

1. How do you define abundance? Page 2

Abundance is best described as a three-tiered pyramid where first basic needs are met, then the person has access to the tools of growth and finally they live healthy and free lives where they can contribute to society. Abundance will be realized when everyone on the planet has unfettered access to all three tiers.

2. Exponential technologies now coming into play Page 3

It’s hard for the human mind to comprehend the power of exponential technologies. The underlying driver of growth, however, is the fact at the present time, a number of technologies are enjoying exponential growth for a variety of reasons. All of that growth has the potential to change the world, especially when the cumulative impact of those advances are considered.

3. Building the base of the pyramid Pages 4 - 5

To build the bottom layer of the pyramid and bring food, water and shelter to all, those exponential technologies are going to need a bit of help. Fortunately, there are already forces already at play which will accelerate the impact of those exponentials. In the next two- to three-decades, these three forces will combine and collaborate to speed up progress on building the base of the abundance pyramid:

- 1. The do-it-yourself innovators
- 2. The arrival of a new breed of technophilanthropists
- 3. The combined power of the one billion emerging consumers

4. The peak of the pyramid Pages 6 - 7

Once everyone has enough water, food and shelter, then further progress is defined and driven by their access to energy, education and healthcare. Abundance has to be all-inclusive to be sustainable. Once people have those resources, they then start working on increasing their personal freedoms. Freedom is the direct beneficiary of progress.

5. Steering towards a faster course of action Pages 7 - 8

One of the best ways to move progress towards abundance forward faster is to run some incentive competitions which will reward those who get there first. This is a device which has worked to stimulate mankind’s progress in the past and incentives have a solid track record. To bring about abundance, society needs to set more bold targets and then reward those who get there first with the solutions that will be required.

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