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**FabLab makes Moscow Fabulous!**

SEED recently launched an exciting project in Moscow. Lyceum 1502 MPEI, a secondary school affiliated with the Moscow Power Energy Institute, is host to SEED’s first Fabrication Laboratory. The “FabLab,” funded by former Schlumberger Chairman D. Euan Baird, in partnership with SEED, Schlumberger, Stanford University, and MIT‘s Center for Bits and Atoms, is a groundbreaking educational project that provides students with the opportunity to learn science, mathematics, and engineering by using cutting-edge fabrication and prototyping equipment, robotics, scientific instrumentation, and computer modeling. This is “learning while doing” (LWD) in a high-tech environment.

SEED (Schlumberger Excellence in Educational Development) is a volunteer-based, nonprofit education program focused on communities where Schlumberger people live and work.

Stanford University Professor Paulo Blikstein has applied the concept to the field of education, giving students access to similar tools. SEED’s version, known as FabLab@School, is a place where teenagers can create ideas for useful devices and then build and test them.

Students and teachers at Lyceum 1502 MPEI first experienced the FabLab in April 2011, when Professor Blikstein and graduate students from Stanford, with assistance by SEED volunteers, led the lab’s first workshop. Students designed, built, and tested their own projects. Participants learned how to solder, use a modela machine, router, and laser cutter, and write programs for a GoGo board (a robotics tool that SEED uses in workshops around the world).

This first Russian FabLab has attracted interest from universities and other educational institutions that would like to provide students with a similar experience. SEED hopes to spread the FabLab concept to other locations in Russia and to other countries.