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HUMANS WHO CHANGE THE WORLD

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The article presents a brief biography of a person who should stand alongside such distinguished people as Stephen Hocking, Albert Einstein and other brilliant scientists.

У статті представлена коротка біографія людини, яка повинна бути нарівні з такими видатними особистостями як Стівен Хокінг, Альберт Ейнштейн та іншими блискучими вченими.

«I want to be a part of what changes the world»

E. Musk

There are people, who just wait for the future, but there are those, who shape the future. In our opinion, Elon Musk is one of them. He is not one of those people, who think how to change the world, he simply changes it. He advanced technologies further than most of the world's largest united companies.

Elon was born in 1971, 28th June in South Africa, in the family of a Canadian engineer and a model. At an early age, he was fond of science and technologies. At the age of 12, he created his first video game, which he sold for \$500. With this money he moved to Canada, at the age of 17, to get a higher education.

In 1995, in partnership with his brother Kimball and business coach Greg Kauri, Elon established his first company - the Zip2, which specialized in the development of maps and catalogs for online publications. The starting capital, \$28 000, was offered to him by his father, but Elon refused to take it. He worked from early morning till late at night and lived in a rented office to save money on rental housing and to invest all saves in the company.



Pic. 1. Elon Musk before he became famous



Pic. 2. 1999: young Elon Musk became a millionaire

His perseverance and commitment to success paid off handsomely. The Internet was going through a boom period then, and in 1999, the brothers sold their start-up for \$ 307 million in cash (and \$ 34 million in securities) to the search engine AltaVista, acquired later by Compaq. Elon, who owned only 7% of the company at that time, earned \$ 22 million in sales. 2 million of this amount, Musk invested in online banking X.com, believing that the electronic payment systems are the future. In 2001, X merged with the competitive company Confinity.

A new company was named PayPal. As the owner of the majority of shares (and taking advantage of the conflict in the Board of Directors after the merger), Elon Musk took up the position of PayPal's chief executive director.

In 2002, contrary to the advice of Musk, the Board of Directors approved the sale of PayPal to the eBay trading giant for \$ 1.5 billion. After deduction of taxes, Musk received \$ 180 million. Now he had enough money to deal with his plans for solar energy and space. The main goal of Elon's life

was to make humanity a multi-planetary species. In 2002, he founded a rocket-building company SpaceX.

Then no one expected that a private company could compete with the most famous space agencies from around the world. In 2006, NASA signed a 1.6-billion contract with SpaceX to ship 12 consignments of cargo to the ISS. In September 2008, for the first time in history the launch vehicle, the development and creation of which was financed from private sources, successfully delivered the cargo to Earth's orbit. It was Falcon-1. Elon risked it all - if the launch was unsuccessful, the company would not exist. June 4, 2010, was the successful launch of Falcon-9. In 2017, the cost of launching a rocket decreased more than 3 times, which opened the possibility for a new era of a conquest of space.



Pic. 3. Falcon-9

The creation of modern missiles and vehicles will allow mankind to colonize other planets in the next decade. The dream of Elon Musk is to colonize Mars by 2024.

In July 2003, Musk invested in the company Tesla Motors, just founded by inventors Martin Eberhard and Marc Tarpenning and was positioned as a pioneer among the manufacturers of serial electric cars. Musk personally took part in the development of the sports electric car Tesla Roadster based on the English Lotus Elise. At the initiative of the inventor, the weight of the model was substantially minimized, the battery compartment was improved, new design elements were introduced into the design of the headlights. For this work, Elon received an award in the field of ecology Global Green-2006 and found investors who invested \$ 100 million in Tesla. The success of Tesla spurred the "electric segment" of the automotive market: every self-respecting automotive company began developing its own electric car, or at least a hybrid. In 2010, Tesla became the first American automobile company to enter the IPO in more than 50 years (before this in 1956 it was done by Ford).



Pic. 4. Tesla Roadster

Electric vehicles, renewable energy sources, the introduction of innovative technologies in space, the development of artificial intelligence, this is what the companies are doing today. What the science fiction writers have always dreamed of, thanks to Elon, is becoming a reality today. Some people consider him a charlatan, others are irresponsible and too ambitious, but we believe he is an example of how one person can change the history of mankind.



Pic. 5. Elon Musk

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