



## Engineer green spark

Tico participated in the invention and development of a device in the U.S. awarded. UU.

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Carlos Barrios says he is an ecologist, not recently. "Think globally and act locally. That's what we try to do." **Jorge Arce** EF

Hard to believe that a small child knows from where it will be great electrical engineer, but Carlos Barrios ase-gura he knew.

"He damaged our remote control and my dad, who is also an electrical engineer, he would say 'Bring to watch. Let us open to fix it'. This gave everything," he said, laughing.

He had good instincts. Today is the chief engineer of the newly formed micro Tenrehte, whose first invention was awarded the International Fair of electronic devices (CES, by its initials in English), held in Las Vegas, USA (USA.) in the category of green technology.

Barrios, 27 years old, not only participated in the design and product development, but represented the company participated in the event where some 10,000 technology companies.

"When we received the award, one side had to Motorola and the other to Panasonic, which are giant companies doing very marketable devices and e... we were among six people working in the basement of a house, with an unknown aircraft was ... a whole, an honor," he said.

The device is called Picowatt and is a device that allow a more efficient electricity consumption.

"We were going to make a device and sell to manufacturers of domestic appliances to integrate it into their products so that consumers could turned on and off remotely. Then I said why not do something that does not come inside the appliance but you can connect and that the person does not have to throw away what you already have?"

Neighborhoods not only provided the idea, but was in charge of making the circuits that measure the power and part of the program that runs on Linux and allows the devices on and off remotely.

\$ 100

(or less) will be the final price of each consumer Picowatt.

\$ 10

(or less) would be the price of chips Tenrehte wants to produce in the future.

"But I want to do this lifetime," he said. In fact, are seizing the attention they won with Picowatt to start marketing it and generate money to do what really interests them chips.

"We want to make a very cheap processor, with *software* that runs on Linux, it is easy to program and sell it to manufacturers of devices. That chip can come in gauges, for example. The patient then takes the pressure and the device sends data to the doctor via the Internet, without the patient having to do anything," he said.

### Passionate

It started with a remote control cart damaged and was not a summer love. Before entering college was on vacation to "fix composed" to Radiomessaggi, where his father now.

After graduating from Lincoln College in 2000, he entered the University of Costa Rica to advance some matters while the school year began at the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York, where he graduated as an electrical engineering master's degree in digital systems five years and a half later.

While studying, he never stopped working. He did internships at Alcatel (in EE. UU. And France), the Power Authority of New York at Vivace semiconductor company and was one of the initiators of the founding of Tenrehte.

"What I do in my spare time? Job," he said. "I like motorcycle riding and rock climbing. But



in winter I can not do either of those things, then work ... Okay, I admit, "he added after a pause," I am a perfectionist ... at a level that is harmful but it is almost that I love what I do and what I do well ".

Barrios is clear what follows. "I am satisfied academically. Now I learn more when studying, so I do not see myself studying more in the coming years. "

On the labor front is to remain head of a mouse, not a lion's tail. "I like working in small companies because they end up doing everything."

## Energy efficiency

The Picowatt allows efficient power consumption:

1

**Plug** the appliances Picowatt to measure their electricity consumption. These data are sent to a website.

2

**Monitor** and schedule from the website, the power consumption of devices connected to Picowatt.

3

**See**, since the website is cheaper when the cost of electricity and charge the devices at that time.

**Source** Carlos Barrios.

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