

PAUL G. ALLEN, CO-FOUNDER

Four decades after co-founding Microsoft, entrepreneur and philanthropist Paul G. Allen is still exploring the frontiers of technology and human knowledge, and working to change the future.

Through his company Vulcan Inc. and the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, Mr. Allen is working to save endangered species, improve ocean health, tackle epidemics, research how the human brain works and build sustainable communities. In all his endeavors, Mr. Allen constantly asks “What if...?” and pushes people to challenge conventional thinking, collaborate across disciplines and reimagine what’s possible.

Aptly, Mr. Allen named his company for Vulcan, the Roman god of fire. According to myth, Vulcan was tossed from the heavens as a child, raised by a sea nymph, and grew up as a strong-willed, freethinking outsider. That spirit of independence fueled Vulcan’s approach as a blacksmith, and helped him forge works that no one else – not even the gods – thought were possible. As a company, the modern Vulcan’s mission is to discover and develop smart solutions for some of the world’s toughest challenges.

As the idea man and original technologist behind Microsoft, Mr. Allen was a pioneer of the PC software industry in the late 1970s and early 1980s – a development that ultimately enabled billions of people to use computers and unlocked incalculable human and economic potential. In the years since, Mr. Allen has used his wealth to tackle a wide range of challenges, and to expand the horizons of human possibility.

For example, since 2003, Mr. Allen has invested more than \$350 million in brain research, primarily through the Allen Institute for Brain Science. The Allen Institute has developed a detailed, digital atlas of the human brain and spinal cord – growing public resources that are accelerating advances in neuroscience and could ultimately lead to revolutionary treatments for traumatic brain injuries, dementia, paralysis and other problems. Recently, he also launched the Allen Institute for Cell Science; its inaugural project, the Allen Cell Observatory, will accelerate disease research by creating predictive cell models. Mr. Allen also founded the Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence, which is exploring critical questions in AI.

As he explores these new frontiers in science, Mr. Allen is also pushing to improve space exploration. For example, Mr. Allen funded *SpaceShipOne*, the first private spacecraft to carry a civilian into suborbital space and safely home again, an historic triumph that in 2004 captured the Ansari X-Prize. More recently, Mr. Allen formed Vulcan Aerospace to oversee his pioneering space investments and build the Stratolaunch System, an orbital launch model that will dramatically change the economics of space launches.

Equally committed to earthly challenges, Mr. Allen gave \$100 million to fight the West African Ebola epidemic. Announced in 2014, his gift was the world’s largest donation focused entirely on this deadly plague, and it served as a catalyst to spur greater involvement from governments and other donors around the world.

Mr. Allen’s philanthropy also encompasses history and the arts. An avid guitarist, his love for the music of Jimi Hendrix inspired him to found the EMP Museum, which displays exhibits that communicate the ideas and risks fueling pop culture. Mr. Allen is also the founder of the Flying Heritage Collection – a collection of rare WWII aircraft and artifacts restored to working condition – and of the Living Computer Museum, a collection of restored vintage timesharing computer equipment. He is also the Chair of Vulcan Productions, an award-winning media company that helps audiences understand and respond to challenges facing the world around them.

Mr. Allen is the proud owner of the National Basketball Association’s Portland Trailblazers and the National Football Association’s Seattle Seahawks. He is also part of the primary ownership group for the Seattle

Sounders FC, Seattle's Major League Soccer team. It is Mr. Allen's firm belief that with the right team anything is possible, no matter what the endeavor may be.

All told, Mr. Allen's philanthropic contributions exceed \$2 billion. Even before becoming a member of the Giving Pledge, Mr. Allen committed to giving away the majority of his fortune, an endeavor that continues every day.