PROFILE

Corporate EVP for Innovation
LG Electronics
Head of LG NOVA
LG Electronics' North American Innovation Center

CITATION

Exceptional leadership in global innovation, IoT, smart cities, and new business creation, advancing technology ecosystems that improve quality of life and societal impact.

SOKWOO RHEE

AAEOY Executive of the Year Award

Dr. Sokwoo Rhee is Corporate Executive Vice President for Innovation at LG Electronics and Head of LG NOVA, LG Electronics' Silicon Valley-based North American Innovation Center. He leads LG Electronics' global innovation projects, new business creation, strategic partnerships, and ecosystem development. LG NOVA's vision is to create a brighter future and a better way of living for all, made possible with new experiences powered by technology. Through Dr. Rhee's leadership, the LG NOVA collaborates with the broader ecosystem to create transformational, market-changing new businesses with the goal of building a brighter future for people and the planet.

Before joining LG, Dr. Rhee served as Associate Director for Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) Innovation at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, U.S. Department of Commerce, covering innovation programs for the Internet of Things (IoT) and Smart Cities. He managed the Global City Teams Challenge (GCTC), a U.S. federal government program to develop a global ecosystem of major business and technology stakeholders to create replicable and scalable IoT/smart city projects. Dr. Rhee previously served as a Presidential Innovation Fellow on CPS, a program by the White House. During his tenure, he co-led the SmartAmerica Challenge, which brought together IoT technologies and organizations across the nation to demonstrate how they can collaborate to create technology-based projects with a focus on socio-economic benefits.

Prior to joining the U.S. government, Dr. Rhee was a co-founder and CTO of Millennial Net, Inc., one of the first organizations to successfully commercialize low-power wireless mesh/sensor networks and IoT technologies from academia. He also worked on wireless medical sensors as a research associate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His work and achievements have been widely recognized, and he has received numerous awards, including the MIT Technology Review's "Top Innovators under 35."

Recognizing Dr. Rhee's leadership in launching and shepherding NIST's Global City Teams Challenge, citing the program as "the most influential organization in the United States Smart City movement in placing our companies in line for well paying jobs, improving the efficiency of our cities, and boosting their economic output.

Dr. Rhee received his M.S. and Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.