

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, November 29, 2016

**WINDSOR-ESSEX ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PRESENTS
HOW INNOVATION AND THE INTERNET OF THINGS IS CHANGING
THE WORLD AND HOW THAT COULD IMPACT THE REGION**

Sponsored by:    

Windsor-Essex County, Ontario, - Tuesday, November 29, 2016 –Today over 300 people attended the **Emerging Technologies in Automation Conference and Trade Show** held at Caesars Windsor and presented by the WindsorEssex Economic Development Corporation. In partnership with NRC-IRAP, WEtech Alliance and the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce, the participants included local company representatives and exhibitors as well as delegates from outside the region. The audience was enlightened by keynote speaker **Ian Khan, Technology Futurist, TEDx Speaker and Author** who spoke about *Unlocking the Internet of Things (IoT) to the Maximum Potential*.

Stephen MacKenzie, CEO of the WindsorEssex Economic Development Corporation said, “In Windsor-Essex there are over 300 companies across many sectors involved in the engineering, designing and production of cutting-edge industrial manufacturing systems and many are here presenting and exhibiting today. We are pleased to be able to provide our local companies with this opportunity to showcase their latest developments in this industry that we know is changing the face of manufacturing around the world.”

Lee McGrath, Director of Business Retention and Expansion with WindsorEssex Economic Development Corporation added, “The feedback has been very positive about today’s Emerging Technologies Conference and Trade Show. We recognize that in order to keep up with the rapid pace at which innovative technology is developing and to support our region as an international hub for automation, this conference and trade show will now be an annual event for the corporation. As well, our launch today of the Connect Innovate Develop web application that is new to our buywindsor-essex.com database will help keep our companies at the forefront of innovation. This application will enable companies to present their latest developments to a global business ecosystem across all sectors and help them to grow by being a provider of innovative business solutions.”

Ian Khan TEDx Speaker & Technology Author: “By the year 2020 over 50 Billion Devices are predicted to be connected to the internet, performing various tasks, collecting critical information and helping serve key needs that provide value to us in many ways. This includes areas such as manufacturing, automation, agriculture, healthcare and more, making the current times one of the most exciting times for innovation and transformation. Each one of us should take it upon ourselves to understand how this massive revolution will affect us and how we can be part of using technology to shape a better today and an even more amazing tomorrow. Simplifying the complexity of technology into what all of us can understand and relate to, is going to be my goal at the automation conference. We need to realize that behind every complex technology is a simple need that drives it.”

Attached: Bio - Ian Khan

Media Interviews contact- Lana Drouillard, Ec.Dev. Dir. Mktg./Comm. 519 259-9600

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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Yes Texting Cows are Real!

Thursday, December 1, 2016

Ian Khan - E-Blast

I was honoured to be the keynote speaker at the [Windsor Essex Development Corporation Automation & IoT Conference](#) just a couple of days ago and I spoke about Texting Cows ! - No seriously I did.

The Internet of Things will have tremendous impact on everything we do. Imagine when the radio was invented and how big of a disruption it caused. A bigger disruption happened when the Television was invented. A much bigger disruption happened in the early 80's when the internet came to life and now with the Internet of Things(IoT) at the cusp of expanding tremendously, my prediction is that IoT is going to be by far the biggest technological revolution to hit mankind. If you look at it from a "Value Unlocking" perspective it will help us in creating a much better quality of life for everyone on the planet.

More on Texting Cows

On texting cows, Smart farms will use (and have already started) IoT technology to track livestock & better manage their movement, study patterns and monitor the health of each individual member of the herd. Cows (or any farm animal enabled with IoT) will be able to send critical information back to the farmer about disease, abnormal weigh gains or losses and so on, through either cellular networks or wifi connectivity. Want me to speak about this at your next event ? [Just ask!](#)

CBC television, Canada's National TV Network covered the WindsorEssex event. . [Click HERE](#) to watch a short clip from the event.

Here is some Press coverage from the conference.

[The Windsor Star](#)
[iHeartRadio](#)

Another TEDx

You may also know that I recently spoke at [TEDxChathamKent](#), one of Canada's coolest TEDx events. It was one of the most wonderful experiences for me as I spoke about music & human potential. Get some popcorn, sit back and get ready to be inspired ! [Click HERE](#) to watch.

2017 is Exciting !

2017 is looking like a very exciting & busy year. "Meaningful Conversations", my upcoming book on Technology, Communications and Value Creation is set for launch by Spring 2017 and I am super excited. In addition my speaking engagements are lining up with some big shows for next year :-)

Please reach out if you need my help in value creation for 2017 !

<http://www.iankhan.com/#home>



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WINDSOR ESSEX ECDEV LAUNCHES SOLUTIONS SHARING WEBSITE



(/Author/Author/Peter Langille)
PETER LANGILLE
Tuesday, November 29th 2016 - 3:56 pm



Photo: CEO of the Windsor-Essex Economic Development Corporation Stephen MacKenzie (Photo by AM800's Zander Broeckel)



A new sharing website tool is being launched by the Windsor-Essex Economic Development Corporation.

Called Connect-Innovate-Develop, the site is aimed at sharing barriers and solutions among companies.

The site is found at buywindsorsex.com.

EcDev CEO Stephen MacKenzie says this is a first in the economic development field and has been adapted from one being used in the pharmaceutical sector.

He says the goal is to share solutions among companies:"a company that's dealing with a challenge or doing R-and-D and trying to advance their technology might run into a problem or might not have the expertise in house instead of having to hire that or do expensive studies they post their need and chances are there'll be a company working in that field that might already have the solution"

MacKenzie says once the 2 firms connect, there are a variety of options including forming a joint venture, doing licensing, a fee for service or consulting.

He says the corporation will monitor and control activity on the site so they can track its effectiveness.

The launch was part of a trade show and conference on Emerging Technologies in Automation.



Menu <http://www.iheartradio.ca>



until 12:00 PM Lynn Martin Show You might also like The Morning Rush With Bill The Tom McConnell Show

Windsor becoming automation technology hub



DOUG SCHMIDT, WINDSOR STAR

[More from Doug Schmidt, Windsor Star](http://WINDSORSTAR.COM/AUTHOR/DOUG-SCHMIDT-WINDSOR-STAR) (HTTP://WINDSORSTAR.COM/AUTHOR/DOUG-SCHMIDT-WINDSOR-STAR)

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Local folks — much less the rest of the world — have little understanding that Windsor-Essex has morphed into an automation technology hub, and some say it's time for the region to shed its modesty.

“What’s going on here is remarkable, and that message is not getting out,” said Stephen MacKenzie, CEO of the WindsorEssex Economic Development Corporation.

More than 300 local companies are now engaged in engineering, designing and manufacturing cutting-edge automated industrial manufacturing systems for clients stretching the globe.

“That’s a staggering figure — this is where innovation is happening,” said Brent McPhail, president of Windsor-based Brave Control Solutions. His company, which for the third straight year has been listed as one of Canada’s fastest-growing companies in the PROFIT 500 report compiled by Canadian Business and PROFITguide.com, uses software developed for video games to help manufacturers develop new industrial technology.

“We have this high-tech hub — let’s promote it and use it to drive the local economy,” said MacKenzie, who only took over the WEEDC helm a few months ago. Such tech-driven jobs, he added, typically have a five-fold multiplier effect in creating other jobs.

To help get the word out to others, WEEDC, in partnership with government, business, WEtech Alliance and the local chamber of commerce, held its first Emerging Technologies in Automation Conference and Trade Show at Caesars Windsor on Tuesday. MacKenzie said about a third of the almost 300 delegates were on the receiving end of information about what’s going on locally, including engineers for the Detroit Three and Honda and Toyota vehicle manufacturers.

In a keynote presentation on the Internet of Things, author and technology futurist Ian Khan told the conference that innovation technology in the age of iPads and instant global connectivity has “barely scratched the surface ... (and is) now taking off.”

He told the Star that cities and regions that want to get ahead are investing in startup incubators, with even municipal governments providing subsidies to help those with ideas get products launched and businesses established.

“The only way forward is to get involved — there is no going back on technology development,” said Toronto-based Khan.

Pointing to the local area’s important agricultural sector, Khan spoke of the farms of the future, with “survey drones” providing instant operational feedback to plugged-in farmers; crops being tended with autonomous “agribots” that can save 99 per cent on fertilizer costs by applying precise

amounts; and “connected cows” in which livestock are equipped with sensors to monitor and collect production data.

“What would you like to solve? I guarantee you you’ll find the resources in technology to help you,” said Khan. He said it’s hard for people to grasp the speed at which technology is progressing and that companies are pouring resources into continuous research, “afraid of being left behind.”

McPhail said he used to find it “incredibly difficult” just to explain to his family what his company does. Brave Control applies software developed for gaming to the manufacturing sector.

“Instead of auto racing games, we’re programming the software (to design and develop) new machines,” said McPhail.

He said the particular skill set needed attracts younger people to his company. Getting Windsor to become better-known as an emerging technologies hub would assist in getting more tech-savvy workers to locate here, he said, adding many local companies have to “build” their talent in-house.

McPhail said he’d like to see the CEOs of the Windsor-Essex tech community band together to assist in luring skilled automation workers and more business to the region.

“Talent begets more talent,” said MacKenzie.

Silicon Valley is “great at solving problems,” McPhail said, but its automation developers don’t set foot in the manufacturing facilities they’re helping. A big local advantage, he said, is that automotive and other tech-hungry clients are located “a stone’s throw away.”

WEEDC used Tuesday’s conference to launch its new “Connect.Innovate.Develop” online web application (<http://www.buywindsorsex.com/>) linking innovators, products and partners at [buywindsorsex.com](http://www.buywindsorsex.com) (<http://www.buywindsorsex.com>).

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