

Business

DWTC, Avaya announce strategic video collaboration partnership



Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC) has announced a strategic video collaboration partnership with Avaya, under which DWTC will use the Avaya Spaces workstream collaboration platform to create blended conference experiences at Gitex Technology Week 2020.

Gitex is the only major technology event in the world to go live in 2020, with its conference schedule set to gather government experts, tech innovators and game-changing start-ups, hosting over 350 technology experts from 30 countries speaking live on stage.

Visitors will be able to access more than 280 hours of content across industries and sectors including Artificial Intelligence, Smart Cities & 5G, Government, Future Mobility, Fintech, Digital Marketing, Energy, Healthcare and Education.

International speakers who are unable to travel into Dubai will dial into conference sessions virtually via Avaya Spaces.

Avaya Spaces is an all-in-one workstream collaboration platform for the digital workplace that changes the way work gets done. Avaya Spaces meets that requirement, delivering innovation for workstream collaboration that not only remote-enables teams and workers, but helps them collaborate in ways that were previously unimaginable. With this partnership, we will deliver a conference experience like no other," said Fadi Hani, Vice President - Middle East, Africa & Turkey, Avaya.

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message, meet, share content, manage tasks and collaborate in the cloud.

Despite Avaya Spaces having only launched earlier this year, Avaya is already a Niche Player in the 2020 Gartner Magic Quadrant for Meeting Solutions. Gartner defines 'Meeting Solutions' as offerings that "blend communications, collaboration and content sharing to enable virtual meeting scenarios to satisfy a variety of use cases."

"Dubai World Trade Centre is one of the region's technology pioneers, and is blazing new trails with its blended approach to conferences and exhibitions. Being at the forefront of the industry requires game-changing solutions that are changing the way work gets done. Avaya Spaces meets that requirement, delivering innovation for workstream collaboration that not only remote-enables teams and workers, but helps them collaborate in ways that were previously unimaginable. With this partnership, we will deliver a conference experience like no other," said Fadi Hani, Vice President - Middle East, Africa & Turkey, Avaya.

DUBAI

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"After a year of missed opportunities, GITEX, in its 40th edition, is finally giving the technology industry a platform to reconnect and do business again through in-person networking and conferences. We are pleased to welcome Avaya to this landmark edition of GITEX and are thankful for their strategic support and commitment to digital transformation in the region," said Trixie LohMirmand, Executive Vice President, Events Management, Dubai World Trade Centre.

Gitex Technology Week will serve as an umbrella event for the region's leading technology shows, including GITEX Future Stars, the region's largest tech startup event; GISEC, the region's largest cybersecurity conference and exhibition; Future Blockchain Summit, the leading Blockchain festival, as well as the inaugural edition of Marketing Mania, the new tech platform dedicated to brand marketers.

Gitex will also welcome over 1,200 participating companies who are flying into Dubai from over 60 countries.

Avaya's presence at Gitex Technology Week will be supplemented with a large footprint on Gitex Plus, a digital platform that enables remote visitors to experience the event from the comfort of their homes and offices. At GITEX,

Avaya will demonstrate solutions that address post-pandemic business challenges and prepare organisations for the new world of work.

With a vision to make Dubai the world's leading destination for all major exhibitions, conferences and events, DWTC has evolved from being the regional forerunner of the fast-growing MICE industry into a multi-dimensional business catalyst, focusing on Venues, Events and Real Estate Management. Complementary to the primary service offerings are a range of value-added services from media/advertising, engineering and technical consultation and wedding planning, security services and an award-winning hospitality portfolio.

Meanwhile, UAE's innovative F&B tech startup, Opaala, announced its partnership with Dubai World Trade Center (DWTC) to seamlessly facilitate the dining experience for visitors and restaurants alike during the largest tech event of the year, Gitex, taking place from the 6th until the 9th of December. The year's most anticipated tech event will host a multitude of leading tech companies at DWTC, where Opaala will power seven different restaurants to make ordering food and beverages simpler, faster, and safer with the COVID-19 pandemic in place.

Business Bureau, Gulf Today

Firm ushers in a new era of blockchain

DUBAI: Khurram Shroff, the Dubai-based Chairman of the IBC Group and a known Bitcoin whale, today congratulated the crypto community on coming together for the Ethereum 2.0 deposit contract which has exceeded its deposit threshold manifold. The Genesis launch went live on December 1st 2020, thanks to the intense mobilization and interest in Ethereum 2.0 driven by Khurram Shroff.

When Khurram Shroff backed CanETH - a Canada based institutional-grade staking service for holders of Ether - entered staking, total stakes stood at 80,000 Ether, with real concerns that the threshold deposit might not be reached. Within ten days, CanETH, along with Bitcoin Suisse, has emerged as one of the largest known stakers on Ethereum 2.0. CanETH is managing infrastructure for 20,000 validators, valued at \$300 million, and has influenced the Ethereum community to not only achieve the beacon chain threshold deposit, but surpass 800K Ether staked at press time.

"Vitalik Buterin, the co-founder of Ethereum, as well as the entire Ethereum community deserve congratulations for the successful Ethereum 2.0 Genesis launch", said Khurram Shroff. "The new proof of stake concept, which is central to version 2.0, has the potential to transform Blockchain, making it faster, scalable, far less energy intensive and more lucrative for investors".

In addition to investing a stake of about 20,000 ETH (valued at \$10 million), Khurram Shroff backed a DeFi project, through CanETH, to support of the Initial Staking community of 16,384 Validators of ETH2.

Business Bureau, Gulf Today

Indian firm to tap Dubai tech market



↑ Abhishek Rungta speaks at an event.

DUBAI: The Indian-based firm Indus Net Technologies (INT) is keen to expand its operations across the Gulf region.

We have been serving clients in the Middle East for over a decade.

However, we will now look for a stronger presence in this market from 2021 onwards. We are looking to set up our presence in Dubai and serve the Middle East and African market through this base. We are exploring various partnership propositions at this point.

This was stated by Abhishek Rungta, Founder and CEO of Indus Net Technologies, during

an exclusive interview with Gulf Today, adding that his company is also interested for a partnership deal with other firms after starting operations in Dubai.

Answering to a question about the impact of the UAE recently launched 100% ownership rules for investors, he noted that it was a great change and a game-changer, adding that he appreciates the vision of the government of Dubai, and he thinks this would go a long way to establish Dubai as a destination of choice among companies who want to land and expand in the MENA region.

"We are not participating in any Expo for the next year due to the pandemic situation. We can afford to do so, as our services and products are delivered online, and hence a remote connect

and collaborate model works for us. However, we will like to virtually participate in the expo, if there is an option.

I think Expo 2020 will boost the overall ecosystem in Dubai, and we are looking forward to the opportunity."

"We are already growing at a CAGR of 15%. We expect to grow at a CAGR of 30% over the next five years. Our projections are based on the wider digital adoption, geographical expansion, and growth in our existing accounts globally."

"We are seeing consistent growth in our existing markets i.e. the India, USA, UK, and EU. We are also opening up new markets in the Middle East and Africa." Abhishek concluded.

Inayat-ur-Rahman, Gulf Today

Italy's startups double their presence at Gitex

DUBAI: Italian Trade Agency (ITA) has selected 20 innovative SMEs from Italy's booming startup sector to showcase their unique solutions at GITEX Future Stars 2020. As a nation with a history of innovation and creativity led by masters such as Leonardo Da Vinci, Italians have a unique sense to match innovation with solutions that make life better, and this sensibility has extended into the technology sector, making Italy a fast growing technology hub in Europe. Participating for the third time at GITEX Future Stars, this year the Italian pavilion has almost doubled in size and the number of participants now stand at 20, compared to 10 companies that participated last year.

Technology highlights at the Italian pavilion include blockchain solutions to solve the issues of counterfeit products, use of Artificial Intelligence to complement personal services in the HORECA sector, Semantic Web and Sentiment Analysis digital solutions, platform to expedite "Digital Transformation" in healthcare applications, solutions for vertical gardens, Smart Farming solutions and contact-tracing and social-distancing systems; and more.

Nicola Lener, Ambassador of Italy to the United Arab Emirates, says: "Thanks also to a very advanced regulatory framework to promote the establishment and growth of new innovative enterprises with a high technological value, the number of Italian start-up companies has boomed over the years, with 11,500 start-ups registered in Italy as of July 2020."

Business Bureau, Gulf Today