Press Release

15th June 2021

Digital Innovation in a Post-pandemic World with IoD Jersey

The past year has changed many things, but one of the most rapid has been the increased pace of digital adoption, globally. While the pandemic situation necessitated this move, it has also provided tremendous challenges, opportunities and benefits for local businesses.

IoD Jersey's Technology Sub-Committee is holding a breakfast event at the Royal Yacht, sponsored by JT, on Thursday 8th July, to showcase case studies and real-life examples and give business leaders insights and inspiration into their digital journeys.

A survey by McKinsey, '*How COVID-19 has pushed companies over the technology tipping point—and transformed business forever'*, found that the adoption of digital technologies has been accelerated by several years. The survey of global executives showed that companies accelerated the digitisation of their customer and supply-chain interactions and their internal operations by three to four years, but the share of digital or digitally enabled products in their portfolios, accelerated by seven years.

As consumers, we know that to be able to access services and products during pandemic lockdowns, necessitated going digital, and the businesses which didn't embrace this, suffered. Remote working forced companies to find new ways of managing their staff and workflows. Yet while this process was imposed on us by the situation, it also showed those who were reluctant to digitise, that the barriers they perceived in doing so were not there or at least were not insurmountable. In addition, it's allowed directors to innovate and improve their processes and ultimately bottom lines.

The IoD panel will be chaired by Ian Webb, Chair IoD Jersey Technology Sub-Committee, and features:
- Daragh McDermott, Managing Director, JT Channel Islands
- Becky Houze, Dairy Farmer and educational blogger
- Pam Aubert, Centre Manager, Macmillan Cancer Support Jersey
- Stuart Geddes, IT Director, Ocorian

Ian Webb, Chair IoD Jersey Technology Sub-Committee, said:

'We have seen tremendous change in the last eighteen months and our panel will share how digital amplified their thirst for innovation and that by embracing new technology, it has provided real business benefits in the process. The range of speakers on the panel, highlights that this is a cross-industry process. It's not just the remit of technology firms or finance, it can provide positive outcomes for all sectors. This event will give leaders of organisations, insights to guide our digital journeys in Jersey's business community.'

Daragh McDermott, Managing Director at JT Group Ltd, said:

"If there was doubt before, there isn't any more, digital adoption and transformation is necessary for business survival in today's connected world. During a crisis, everyone's focus is on adapting and reacting — ensuring your business can continue to function and meet the needs of your customers and employees, it's essential to maintain business continuity.

But innovation is about driving change, not reacting to it, if you're always living in today, you'll never be prepared for tomorrow or have the opportunity to shape the future. With pandemic recovery underway, now is the time to harness technology, innovation, and cooperation.

We're delighted to be sponsoring and taking part in this event and look forward to engaging local members and the business community in this discussion'.

Digital Innovation in a post-pandemic world takes place on Thursday July 8th. 07.45am-9.00am at the Royal Yacht Hotel & Spa. For further information and to book your place: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/digital-innovation-in-a-post-pandemic-world-tickets-155957299481

Tickets cost £18 for IoD members and £22 for non-members and include breakfast, tea/coffee and networking.

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NOTE TO EDITORS

Images of Ian Webb and Daragh McDermott, attached.

For interviews or further information:
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IoD Jersey was founded in 1966 and has over 600 members from all sectors of the business community, both private and public sectors. The local branch promotes the business sector and strives through lobbying to ensure that political decisions do not stifle local business and free enterprise.

The Institute of Directors (IoD) was founded in 1903 and obtained a Royal Charter in 1906. The IoD is a non-party political organisation with approximately 35,000 members in the United Kingdom and overseas. Membership includes directors from right across the business spectrum – from media to manufacturing, professional services to the public and voluntary sectors. Members include CEOs of large corporations as well as entrepreneurial directors of start-up companies.

About JT

From its origins in 1888, JT is owned, and headquartered in the Channel Islands and as the largest local operator, employs more than 600 people in 7 global locations.

- Our clear purpose is to connect our customers to their sustainable future. To do that, we form long-standing partnerships with leading communications businesses to deliver the products and services expected from a full-service, world-class communications provider.

- JT has completed a socially inclusive project to install a full-fibre broadband network in Jersey, making the island the first jurisdiction in the world to have 100% full-fibre connectivity to all premises, with the third fastest broadband speeds in the world. From January 2020, JT's minimum guaranteed broadband speeds doubled from 250 Mbit/s to 500 Mbit/s with plans to increase this to 1 Gbit/s.

- In Guernsey, we are partnering with Agilisys to support the digital transformation of government services.

- Our CI customers also enjoy an award-winning 4G mobile network, with 5G trials currently underway, making sure islanders benefit from advanced connectivity.

- Globally, our Internet of Things business provides cellular connectivity and remote management of devices worldwide, as well as fraud protection and bulk messaging services, with JT powering close to 10 million SIMS worldwide.

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