

Technology Pioneers

Annual Meeting 2015
Davos, 20-24 January



COMMITTED TO
IMPROVING THE STATE
OF THE WORLD

Technology Pioneers at the Annual Meeting 2015



Michael Altendorf, Adtelligence (Germany) – Tech Pioneer 2014

Adtelligence provides e-commerce personalization technology and customer intelligence solutions that use the available data on the Web and increase the shop and site effectiveness through machine learning, leading to improved conversion rates and increased revenue.



David Schenkein, Agios Pharmaceuticals (USA) – Tech Pioneer 2014

Agios Pharmaceuticals is leading the way in the fight against cancer and rare metabolic genetic diseases by developing programmes that target the specific changes that occur in cellular metabolism - called “dysregulation” – and reversing them.



Nathan Blecharczyk, Airbnb (USA) – Tech Pioneer 2014

Airbnb is a trusted community marketplace for people to list, discover and book unique accommodation around the world, online or from a mobile phone. Whether an apartment for a night, a castle for a week, or a villa for a month, it connects people to unique travel experiences at any price point, in more than 34,000 cities and 192 countries.



Matthew Scullin, Alphabet Energy (USA) – Tech Pioneer 2014

Alphabet Energy is commercializing a breakthrough in inexpensive waste heat recovery technology initially developed at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Its evolutionary all-silicon thermoelectric approach is the only one of its kind that lends itself to massive scale, low cost, and high sustainability.



Brian O'Kelley, Appnexus (USA) – Tech Pioneer 2014

AppNexus has revolutionised the online advertising industry by providing the first real-time bidding impression, inventing the first app marketplace for digital advertising and is the first ad tech company to take a hard-line stance against piracy.



Yobie Benjamin, Avegant Corporation (USA) – Tech Pioneer 2015

Avegant produces the Avegant Glyph, a smart headphone integrating premium audio with virtual retinal display (VRD) technologies and physiological sensors. VRD mimics the way humans naturally see light, and projecting images directly onto the user's retina makes them more lifelike and vivid. Future possible applications include accessibility features for the functionally blind.



Nick Leschly, bluebird bio (USA) – Tech Pioneer 2014

bluebird bio is leading the way in designing new gene therapies that have the potential to change the way patients with severe genetic and orphan diseases are treated.

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Matthew Silver, Cambrian Innovation (USA) – Tech Pioneer 2015

Cambrian Innovation uses bioelectric technology to cost-effectively clean wastewater and generate significant clean energy. The company's flagship product is deployed at industrial facilities to reduce biological oxygen demand while generating the facilities' electricity needs. Treated water can later be reused on site, reducing freshwater requirements and enabling water-intensive businesses to grow.



Matthew Prince, CloudFlare (USA) – Tech Pioneer 2012

Based in San Francisco, California, CloudFlare makes sites twice as fast, protects them from attacks, ensures they are always online, and makes it simple to add Web apps with a single click. Its technology supercharges websites regardless of size or platform, with no need to add hardware, install software, or change a line of code. The community gets stronger as it grows; every new site makes the network smarter.



Zach Sims, Codecademy (USA) – Tech Pioneer 2014

Codecademy is the easiest way to learn to code. In less than two years, it has educated Millions of people around the world with skills that help them make things and find jobs. It has students in every country, all of whom participate in a community where they can teach others and learn from them as well.



Bob Wiederhold, Couchbase (USA) – Tech Pioneer 2015

The Couchbase open-source project is a community of developers and users of Couchbase document-oriented database technology. The company provides a complete, scalable and performing general-purpose NoSQL database including a shared nothing architecture, a single node-type, a built-in caching layer, true auto-sharding and the world's first NoSQL mobile offering.



Jorge Soto, Data4 (Mexico) – Tech Pioneer 2014

Data4 empowers citizens, community leaders and government officials to turn citizen reports into actionable information. Transparency, accountability and open data are key to creating stronger links within communities and to enhancing the delivery of crucial government services.



Eben Bayer, Ecovative Design (USA) – Tech Pioneer 2011

Ecovative is a biomaterials company growing alternatives to conventional plastics. It uses a self-assembling organism to change agricultural by-products into a strong chitinous polymer. It launched Mushroom Packaging in 2009 and it is being used by Dell, Crate & Barrel and many others. In 2012, SealedAir licensed the technology for protective packaging. The company is developing products for building construction, structural cores and anywhere else where disposable plastics are used.



Mattias Åström, Eta Devices (USA) – Tech Pioneer 2015

Eta Devices' technology allows the mobile communications industry to reduce its power consumption. In base stations, the company's technology leads to reduced power and space requirements, and allows the use of renewable energy to provide telecommunication services in off-grid regions. For handsets, battery life is considerably increased and multiband communications can be enabled at a fraction of the cost and footprint. As a consequence, consumers get smartphones with a considerably longer battery life.

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Michael Pellini, Foundation Medicine (USA) – Tech Pioneer 2014

Foundation Medicine is a molecular information company dedicated to a transformation in cancer care in which treatment is informed by a deep understanding of genomic changes. The company's initial clinical assay, FoundationOne™, is a fully informative genomic profile to identify a patient's individual molecular alterations and match them with relevant targeted therapies and clinical trials.



Christophe Schilling, Genomatica (USA) – Tech Pioneer 2015

Genomatica develops manufacturing processes that enable firms to produce the world's most widely used chemicals in a "better" way with better economics and greater sustainability than petroleum-based processes. The company's processes are designed to convert a range of alternative feedstocks into numerous target chemicals that meet industry specifications. Chemicals produced can be used the exact same way to make downstream materials and products such as petro-chemicals, simplifying and accelerating adoption.



Helmy Eltoukhy, Guardant Health, USA – Tech Pioneer 2015

Guardant Health is a diagnostics company focused on changing the way cancer is managed. The company's proprietary technology enables comprehensive real-time monitoring of cancer through a simple blood test. Current treatment often requires biopsies, which are risky and costly and consequently cannot be used to capture genetic changes that typically lead to treatment failure. Guardant Health's technology enables physicians to see these genetic changes in real time and treat them with the appropriate therapies.



Bill Gross, Idealab, USA – Tech Pioneer 2010

Founded in 1996, Idealab creates and operates pioneering technology companies. The company has founded or advanced the development of more than 75 other companies, including Overture Services, eSolar, Energy Innovations, UberMedia, CitySearch, Picasa and Internet Brands. Current operating companies are providing innovative technology solutions in industries such as software, search, robotics, Internet media and services, and alternative energy.



Adam Ghatti, Ionic Security, USA – Tech Pioneer 2015

Ionic Security brings trust to distributed computing by providing individuals and organizations with native control over the circulation of their personal data in contextually relevant ways. With an approach that is agnostic to the device, network connection or application, Ionic Security aims to solve the data security problems at the intersection of cloud, mobility and analytics. In the cloud, in an organization's data centre or on mobile devices, Ionic provides a common and independent control plane of data in the wild.



Nathan Eagle, Jana, USA – Tech Pioneer 2014

Jana is a mobile technology platform that connects emerging market consumers with global brands using mobile airtime. With Jana Marketplace, the advertising arm of Jana's mobile platform, individuals in emerging markets build relationships directly with brands through the company's mutual data exchange through the company's opt-in consumer facing platform, mCent. Through its integrations with 237 mobile operators, Jana can redirect a share of the hundreds of billions of dollars spent on traditional advertising into the pockets of emerging market consumers.

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Anthony Goldbloom, Kaggle (USA) – Tech Pioneer 2014

Kaggle helps companies make high-stakes decisions using big data and machine learning. In just three years, it has worked with 15 Fortune 500 companies, ranging from GE to Pfizer. It has made a significant impact in industries such as oil and gas, on problems such as where to lease and where to drill.



Alexis Ringwald, LearnUp (USA) – Tech Pioneer 2015

LearnUp is addressing the skills gap by empowering entry-level jobseekers to learn the skills needed to get hired. The company develops online training in partnership with employers that enables jobseekers to practice real-life situations of a particular job. By completing the training before they interview, jobseekers are prepared for the job and increase their chances of getting hired. LearnUp is building the education-to-employment pathway for those looking for work, while helping employers hire qualified talent.



Jim Matheson, Oasys Water (USA) – Tech Pioneer 2014

Oasys Water reduces critical global freshwater shortages while significantly improving the environment by converting challenging, industrial wastewater streams into clean, freshwater. It has commercialized a water treatment platform using forward osmosis technology, which uses less energy than any other solutions while enabling the use of renewable energy sources to produce freshwater from the wastewater from a variety of rapidly growing industrial sectors.



Eric David, Organovo (USA) – Tech Pioneer 2015

Organovo's 3D bioprinting technology is changing medical research and practice by creating novel therapeutic tissues and providing better drug development models. Many diseases lack effective treatments, and over 70% of drugs fail late in clinical trials due to toxicity or efficacy. Organovo's 3D bioprinter provides a way to design and create functional human tissues that more accurately reproduce native biology to create novel therapies and enable safer, more effective drugs.



Rodney Brooks, Rethink Robotics (USA) – Tech Pioneer 2014

Rethink Robotics is changing the way robots can be used in production and research environments. Its two armed humanoid robots require no safety cages, complex programming or costly integration.



Theresa Jester, Silicor Materials (USA) – Tech Pioneer 2015

Silicor Materials has developed a new, more environmentally friendly method of manufacturing solar silicon for photovoltaic cell and module producers. It costs roughly half of what traditional electronic-grade silicon costs to produce, requires up to two-thirds less energy than competing methods, uses no hazardous chemicals and achieves comparable efficiencies.

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Gerald Loeb, SynTouch (USA) – Tech Pioneer 2014

SynTouch is the world leader in Machine Touch™ - technology and services for tactile sensing, haptic properties of materials and products, and tactile feedback for robotic and prosthetic hands and limbs.



Amir Peleg, TaKaDu (Israel) – Tech Pioneer 2015

TaKaDu is the global leader in water network monitoring, providing a comprehensive platform for water utilities looking to increase efficiency and reduce costs. Its Web-based solution gives the utility real-time control over network events, using state-of-the-art statistical and mathematical algorithms. Its patented technology is easy to deploy, requiring no network changes, no additional devices and no capital expenditure. TaKaDu saves time, money, water and energy in water utilities across the globe. It serves utilities through a global network of partners and resellers.



Hank C.K. Wuh, TruTag Technologies – Tech Pioneer 2014

TruTag Technologies is the innovator of an edible security platform to address the trillion dollar global counterfeiting challenge. TruTags® microtags are inert and edible and can integrate into the fabric of a product without packaging or labels for the authentication of food, drugs, electronics, consumer products and industrial components. The TruTag® security platform will help to provide brand protection, enhance the safety and traceability of food and medicine, improve tracking and logistics, assure product quality and enable the Internet of Things.



Mark Kendall, Vaxxas (Australia) – Tech Pioneer 2015

Vaxxas's vaccine delivery system enhances the performance of existing and next-generation vaccines. It has a number of advantages over needle injections: application to the skin is pain-free and has been shown in preclinical studies to result in a protective immunogenic response, using as little as one-hundredth of the dose required by conventional needle and syringe.