

Media release: 13 December 2016

Leadership, gender diversity and STEM skills to be debated at CeBIT Australia

Taking on business technology's biggest issues, CeBIT Australia will host six strategic panels, facilitating a dynamic conversation between Australia's brightest business minds, 23 – 25 May 2017 at ICC Sydney.

A CEO panel will offer advice on how to lead high performance organisations, moderated by **Tim Reed, Chairman, Innovation Task Force, Business Council of Australia** the panel will include **Pip Marlow, Managing Director, Microsoft**; **Kate Burleigh, Managing Director, Intel Australia New Zealand**; **Ray Pittman, President & CEO - Australia & New Zealand, CBRE** and **Geoff Culbert, President & CEO, GE Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea**, plus more.

The Women in Technology panel will discuss how to improve accessibility, participation and leadership with **Kerri Lee Sinclair, Innovation Expert & Board Member, Springboard Enterprises Australia**; **Jo Burston, CEO & Founder, Job Capital and Inspiring Rare Birds** and **Julie Canepa, Head of IT Australia & New Zealand, Cisco**, plus more.

Chaired by **Amy Mullins, Executive Director, Women's Leadership Institute Australia**, the panel will outline how companies can better support women to achieve their technology career aspirations, how to attract and retain a greater proportion of female technology professionals and the importance of fostering female talent.

Panellist and CEO of Job Capital and Inspiring Rare Birds, Jo Burston is passionate about the diversity issues which continue to challenge the technology industry, and commented on the issue ahead of her appearance on the panel next May.

"We are constantly reminded that many areas of ICT are facing a skills shortage, yet the percentage of women in technology is disproportionately low at all levels. There needs to be a shake-up and we want to look at how the industry can help facilitate this change," said Burston.

Key to the future success of the Australian technology industry is the aspiration and engagement of the next generation with STEM skills, which will be addressed at The Next Generation Technologists panel, chaired by **Kylie Walker, Co-Chair, National Research and Innovation Alliance and CEO, Science & Technology Australia**. Panellists **Alan Noble, Head of Engineering, Google Australia and New Zealand**; **Kelly Tagalan, General Manager, Code Club Australia** and **Solange Cunin, Founder & CEO, Cuberider** will talk about how to support foundation STEM skills to reduce future industry skill shortages and outline lessons from technology start-ups on how to recognise and attract the best and brightest future leaders.

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Moderator and CEO of Science & Technology Australia, Kylie Walker, recognises the development of STEM skills at the grass roots of the Australian education system is key to unlocking future innovative thinking.

“Developing and fostering STEM skills in the next generation of Australians is vital if we are to continue to grow our technology and innovation industries. CeBIT Australia will provide a forum for our STEM sector leaders to frankly examine the reality of the skills shortage, and share insights into how we can build a bright future for Australian science and technology,” said Ms Walker.

The SME Business Growth panel will discuss how to streamline and grow business with the aid of technology. Providing helpful tips on how to pick your way through the technology minefield while also assessing the risks and benefits involved, the panellists will cover a variety of topics including how to best spend your digital dollar, how to acquire customers and which tools to consider, to help run an effective business and mitigate cyber risk. Panellists will include **Nicola Mills, Group Managing Director, Pacific Retail Management; Vasko Ckorovski, Chief Technology Officer, Temple & Webster** and **Tim Fung, Co-founder and CEO, Airtasker**.

The CIO panel will feature **Paul Russell, CIO/CTO, Yahoo7, Angela Donohoe, CIO, Bpay** and **Angela Coble, Director Business Technology (CIO) Medical Devices, Johnson & Johnson** who will debate how CIOs accelerate business growth and innovation to reshape agile and sustainable digital organisations. The Innovators panel with **Brett Adam, MD & VP Engineering, Zendesk** and **Mark Cripsey, Chief Digital and Data Officer, Myer** who hold innovation as a core principle, and will outline how technology driven innovation will deliver significant value.

The Strategic Panels are free to attend and will feature 45 of Australasia’s leading business and technology leaders sharing insights on the primary challenges and opportunities that the sector faces, at CeBIT Australia, 23 – 25 May 2017 at the International Convention Centre Sydney, Darling Harbour.

More information: <http://www.cebit.com.au/program/strategic-panels>

Registration: <http://www.cebit.com.au/register/>

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Images

1. Jo Burston, CEO & Founder, Job Capital and Inspiring Rare Birds will participate in the Women in Technology Strategy Panel at CeBIT Australia in May 2017 ([download](#))



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2. **Kylie Walker, Co-Chair, National Research and Innovation Alliance and CEO, Science & Technology Australia** will moderate The Next Generation Technologists Strategic Panel at CeBIT Australia in May 2017 ([download](#))



3. Images from CeBIT Australia 2016 ([download](#))



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Interviews available with:

- Harvey Stockbridge, Managing Director, Hannover Fairs Australia
- All strategic panel and conference speakers

About CeBIT Australia:

23 – 25 May 2017, International Convention Centre Sydney

CeBIT Australia – shaping the business technology landscape. www.cebbit.com.au

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Shaping the Business Technology Landscape

23-25 MAY 2017
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CeBIT Australia is the Asia Pacific's largest and longest running business technology event. It is a forward-looking connected community. CeBIT Australia offers an independent network of business technology solutions that transform the way Australians do business. CeBIT Australia is the one-stop-shop for all the latest business technology solutions. Offering a diverse variety of exhibitors, regardless of business problem, there will be a solution at CeBIT.

CeBIT Australia showcases the innovation of NSW. Business leaders, innovators, entrepreneurs and the leading technology companies of the world gather in NSW to immerse themselves in the possibilities of the future of business.

CeBIT Australia helps showcase NSW's dominant ICT industry and the State's highly fertile business environment. NSW is Australia's international ICT capital, accounting for 43% of Australia's total ICT businesses and 50% of the nation's telecommunication, computer and information services exports. NSW is also home to two-thirds of Australia's technology start-up companies and has the largest expenditure on research and development of any Australian State.

The NSW Government is proud to be the Official Partner of CeBIT Australia 2017.

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