

Communitech expands support for new ventures with three new Executives-in-Residence

Waterloo, ON, May 11, 2009 – Start-ups in Canada’s tech capital can draw on the experience of a team of former tech company leaders, thanks to the expansion of Communitech’s Executives-in-Residence program. In response to rising demand for its services, Communitech has hired three new EIRs as part of its commitment to support entrepreneurs and start-up companies in Waterloo Region and across the Province.

“Our EIRs coach entrepreneurs free of charge in every aspect of starting a business,” says Iain Klugman, CEO of Communitech, “whether you need help with business plan evaluation, market assessment, connections to market research, connections to capital, or performing due diligence, this is a team of experts who’ve ‘been there and done that.’”

Communitech’s new recruits are:

- Chris Howlett – who has held several executive positions over the last 15 years, including Vice President of Geosign, CTO at Maplesoft, and CEO of Freedom Intelligence/Aruna. Howlett holds a PhD in Mathematics from McMaster and an MBA designation from York University.
- Brandon Nussey – former CFO with Descartes Systems Group Inc and Insciber Technologies. Before joining Insciber, Nussey worked at KPMG LLP, while he obtained his CA and CPA designations.
- David Strucke – former CEO of Navtech, a global leader in airline flight operations automation software. Before joining Navtech, Strucke focused on mergers and acquisitions as a financial analyst for an automotive capital equipment manufacturer and performed financial and accounting consulting work for manufacturing companies. Strucke holds an MBA from Wilfrid Laurier University and an engineering degree from the University of Waterloo.

The new Executives-in-Residence join Kevin Tuer, co-founder and former CTO of Handshake VR Inc., and Dan Mathers, President & CEO of eSight Corporation, who heads up Communitech’s Venture Services Group. The EIR team provided one-on-one coaching to more than 150 start-ups and entrepreneurs over the last year, played key roles in nearly all of the seven-figure deals closed by start-ups, and saw its first two EIRs jump in to lead local ventures. “The program is designed to keep leadership talent in the province, and share the benefit of the EIRs’ experience with others,” says Klugman, “It’s part of what makes this the best place in Canada to start a tech company.”

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Communitech is the Waterloo Region hub for the commercialization of innovation, creating economic prosperity by removing barriers to the creation and growth of technology companies. Its goal is to create more successful global businesses for Ontario and for Canada.

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