

COMMUNITECH

News Release

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Digital Media Initiatives Take Step Forward with Signing of Lease for The Communitech Hub: Digital Media and Mobile Accelerator

Waterloo Region, ON (March 2, 2010) – Digital Media companies are a step closer to having a place to collaborate and share resources with the official signing of the lease for The Communitech Hub: Digital Media and Mobile Accelerator at The Tannery in downtown Kitchener. The Hub will be a centre for innovation in digital media and is expected to drive creation of new companies and jobs in Waterloo Region and across Ontario.

“This is an exciting juncture for digital media in Waterloo Region, underscoring the momentum driving digital media initiatives across the province and throughout Canada,” said Kevin Tuer, Communitech’s VP Digital Media and Managing Director of the Canadian Digital Media Network (CDMN).

With the official signing of the lease, Communitech will begin confirming office space for both established companies and start-ups wanting to get in at the ‘ground floor’ of The Hub. The intent is that companies with the ability to provide expertise and equipment, such as Christie Digital Systems Canada Inc., will support emerging companies intent on designing the next big thing in digital media. The Hub will have R&D and capital support from RIM, Open Text Corporation, Christie, Agfa HealthCare, and Desire2Learn.

“We have a number of key partner companies who, in the Waterloo Region tradition, are willing to help other smaller companies gain a foothold and advance their ideas,” said Tuer. “In addition to private sector support, we also recognize the City of Kitchener, the Province, and the Government of Canada for investing in these digital media efforts.”

The Tannery building in downtown Kitchener is going through a major facelift preparing for leasing to clients, and The Hub will be among the first to locate in the building with occupancy expected by this summer. With the history of a manufacturing enterprise as the backdrop, The Hub hopes its new endeavors will be equally historic.

“We’re looking forward to helping Canada create more multi-national companies that are banner success stories, which is what this is all about,” said Iain Klugman, President and CEO of Communitech. ““What was once the largest tannery in the Commonwealth will now house the largest cluster of digital media expertise in the country. The Hub will take advantage of the spirit of collaboration that underpins the tech community in Waterloo Region and will be the perfect foundation for digital media innovation here and across the Province.”

And what’s next at The Hub? The excitement has just begun, with the following planned for the new space:

- 30,000 square foot open innovation hub bringing together knowledge, activities, tools and expertise;
- 5,700 square feet dedicated to enabling entrepreneurs to 'incubate' ideas in close proximity to tools and services they need to succeed;
- 3,000 square feet allocated to partner lab space with platforms and tools provided by established partner companies including RIM, Open Text, Agfa HealthCare, and Christie Digital Systems;
- A versatile immersive environment with reconfigurable projection and display systems;
- Executive Briefing Centre and full video-conferencing capability;
- A suite of expert resources including entrepreneurs-in-residence, project manager support, marketing and branding expertise.

About Communitech

Communitech www.communitech.ca is the regional hub for the commercialization of innovation in Waterloo Region, creating economic prosperity by removing barriers to the creation and growth of tech companies.

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Media Contact

Shelley Grandy, Communitech Sr. PR Advisor, 905-866-2656, or shelley@communitech.ca