

VivaTech 2017: Startups to Showcase New AI-based Solutions Built with IBM Watson

Nine startups will demonstrate the value of cognitive technologies embedded in their Watson-based applications to innovate and help reshape the way industries work

PARIS, June 15, 2017 /[PRNewswire](#)/ -- IBM (NYSE: [IBM](#)) is introducing several innovative partner startups at VivaTech 2017, the international tech event dedicated to developing collaboration between startups and global businesses, taking place in Paris on June 15-17. During the event, nine startups will showcase the solutions they have built with IBM Watson to deliver value in various industries.

France is one of the most dynamic countries in the international market, with a 30 percent increase in the number of startups created between 2012 and 2015*, and the second largest startup funding in Europe in 2016, amounting up to EUR2.2 billion**, boosted by the French Tech initiative.

IBM has introduced several initiatives in France to help business partners enable their technologies and capture business opportunities with Watson services:

- Since 2016, the IBM Bluemix Garage, established in the European Business Innovation Center of Nice Metropole, has helped dozens of clients, startups and enterprises each month accelerate the development and design of next-generation apps using the IBM Cloud, like Advansolar, a green tech startup, who quickly introduced a new electric bicycle rental service to his customers leveraging Watson IoT services and others from the Bluemix catalog.

- More recently, at the beginning of 2017, IBM announced the creation of Scale Zone, a dedicated area at IBM France headquarters near Paris where IBM experts work with startups to help them industrialize and deploy their most innovative projects. Eleven startups are currently participating in the first wave of Scale Zone, focused on Internet of Things (IoT) projects.

"IBM is leading in the cognitive era, empowering industries and businesses to achieve long-term value outcomes, and we are working with a strong ecosystem of startups and developers who are critical for driving the next era of innovation. The startups present at VivaTech will showcase Watson-based solutions that improve the lives of citizens and professionals globally, seizing the power of Watson and Cloud technologies to improve the way the world works," said David Kenny, SVP, IBM Watson & Cloud Platform, who will be hosting a fireside chat on the impact of AI on the future of business at VivaTech 2017.

Among IBM partners, the following startups will showcase their Watson-based applications:

- Skiplly specializes in real-time client satisfaction measurement through buttons, SMS and web interfaces. Skiplly's "Smilio" connected sensors gather real-time customers feedback on their user experience: when they are using points of sale, when they leave a restaurant, when they are on the bus or in parking lots. The data is then analyzed in real-time with visualization tool such as Watson Analytics, and with Watson APIs such as Language Translator, Natural Language Classifier and Natural Language Understanding. Skiplly gives its customers clear and real-time feedback on quality of service, and triggers appropriate actions when necessary. Skiplly, created in 2015, designs and assembles its products in France. Skiplly has customers in various industries such as banking, retail, restaurants, airports and facility management.
- Myxyty is a 10-year old French startup engaged in developing smart home connected solutions. IBM and Myxyty have created MyxyPod and Myxy Voice, two smart home voice assistants which use Watson's Natural Language Processing abilities, as well as the Speech to Text, Natural Language Understanding and Conversation APIs, combined with the highest data security levels.
- Pop&link, a startup based in France and in the USA, has developed a worldwide patented technology that enables users to connect background physical objects to create new digital spaces and services. It provides the right information at the right place and the right time seamlessly for the end-users through a simple tap of their smartphone. Pop&link solutions offer a new experience between the physical and the digital world to help create more engagement and new revenue sources. This technology is based on Watson Conversation, Language Translator, Natural Language Understanding and Personality Insights.
- Hoomano, a pioneer in social robotics, develops software that enables real-world interaction between robots and humans. With activities in France and Japan, Hoomano enhances social robots with artificial intelligence so that public and robots can interact instinctively arousing emotion.
- Natural Talk, based in the Paris area and founded in 2016, specializes in artificial intelligence solutions based on cognitive matching. Used in client relationship centers, Natural Talk enables better

understanding of customers' personalities and emotions, allowing businesses to find the agent that will best fit the customers' disposition and the engagement situation. Natural Talk's solutions are based on various Watson APIs such as Personality Insights, Natural Language Understanding, Tone Analyzer, Document conversion, Twitter Insight, and Natural Language Classifier.

- Victor and Charles has developed an artificial intelligence technology for hotel employees that provides real-time customer insights based on public data that can be used to personalize their clients' experiences. Victor and Charles technology is based on a number of Watson APIs such as Personality Insights, Natural Language Understanding, Tone Analyzer, Document Conversion, Natural Language Classifier and IBM Insights for Twitter. The company was established in 2014 and is based in Paris.
- Intesens, located near Toulouse, deploys connected maintenance solutions for industrial applications. Their solutions are based on a cloud solution reporting the states and events of the physical industrial assets, using a connected and autonomous sensor and a wireless connection with an IoT network.
- MediaWen designs secure and modular on-line solutions for multilingual video and audio content processing. Mediawen technology includes Watson APIs such as Speech To Text, Language Translator, Text To Speech and Conversation to allow captioning, subtitling, dubbing in synthesized voice and broadcast through web, mobile and television. Based in Paris, the company was founded in 2014.
- Umanlife, established in 2012, has developed an app dedicated to health and wellness improvement. Part of their technology are built with Watson Conversation, Speech to Text and Weather integration APIs. It aims to influence healthy behaviors by tailoring the user's personal and relevant recommendations.

About IBM Watson: Pioneering a New Era of Computing

Watson represents a new era in computing called cognitive computing, where systems understand the world in a way more similar to humans: through senses, learning, and experience. Watson continuously learns from previous interactions, gaining in value and knowledge over time. With the help of Watson, organizations are

harnessing the power of cognitive computing to transform industries, help professionals do their jobs better, and solve important challenges.

As part of IBM's strategy to accelerate the growth of cognitive computing, Watson is open to the world, allowing a growing community of developers, students, entrepreneurs and tech enthusiasts to easily tap into the most advanced and diverse cognitive computing platform available today. Watson solutions are being built, used and deployed in more than 45 countries and across 20 different industries.

For more information on IBM Watson, visit: ibm.com/Watson. Join the conversation at #ibmwatson.

About Viva Technology

Viva Technology Paris, is an international event organized by Publicis Groupe and Les Echos Groupe. It is dedicated to the growth of startups in the areas of digital transformation and innovation. The event connects startups and large companies under one roof, to showcase the latest innovations and help develop the networks of attendees.

For more information, please visit www.vivatechnologyparis.com and @VivaTech

*Rapport d'activité 2015-2016 de l'Agence du Numérique (The 2015-2016 annual report of the French Digital Agency)

**Baromètre EY du capital risque en France - Bilan annuel 2016 (EY Barometer on capital-risk in France - 2016 annual report)

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