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Connecticut's Most Innovative Companies Showcase Cutting-Edge Tech as Opening Act for CT Forum's 'Big Tech' Event

Interactive, informative and entertaining event features virtual reality, robotics, biotech, security and data mining technologies developed in Connecticut

HARTFORD, Conn. – As part of The Connecticut Forum's second event of the season, [Big Tech: What Is the Future We're Building?](#), the [Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development](#) and [MetroHartford Alliance](#) will co-sponsor a **Big Tech Showcase**, a celebration of innovative technologies developed in Connecticut.

The Big Tech Showcase, which takes place in the lobbies of the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts on Friday, Nov. 16, 2018, provides CT Forum attendees with up-close access to advanced technologies from across Connecticut's vibrant technology sector. Multiple exhibits will offer patrons an immersive and interactive way to experience the technologies.

"From virtual reality to robotics, big data to software, Connecticut's technology sector continues to grow by leaps and bounds," says Bart Kollen, Deputy Commissioner of Connecticut's Department of Economic and Community Development. "A balanced ecosystem of established companies and start-ups are contributing to Connecticut's tech revolution and powering growth in many of our key business sectors, like advanced manufacturing, biosciences, financial services and insurance."

The **Big Tech Showcase** will feature the following companies:

- [CALT Dynamics](#) (3D printing)
- [Center for Education, Simulation and Innovation at Hartford Hospital](#) (robotics)
- [Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology](#) (3D scanning)
- [NE FIRST](#) (STEM education)
- [MOVIA Robotics](#) (robotics)
- [VR Sim](#) (virtual reality)
- [XVIVO](#) (biotech animation)

"Innovative companies are choosing to set up shop in Hartford, adding to an ecosystem already filled with Connecticut's longstanding leaders in technology," says David Griggs, President and CEO, MetroHartford Alliance. "Hartford's global reach and strong tech sector paves the way for companies in a variety of sectors to do great things here. We look forward to working with the community and prospective businesses to ensure long-term economic growth for generations to come."

The Connecticut Forum, [Big Tech: What Is the Future We're Building?](#), hosted by [Comcast](#), will examine key questions about technology today, tomorrow, and in the days ahead. The Forum features:

- [Jaron Lanier](#), tech visionary and virtual reality pioneer
- [Sherry Turkle](#), Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor and digital culture expert
- [Nicholas Thompson](#), Editor-in-Chief of *WIRED* magazine
- [John Dankosky](#) (moderator) executive editor of the New England News Collaborative.

The expert panel will engage in a live, unscripted conversation before an audience of 2,800 about the new technologies revolutionizing our world, the ethical questions we should be asking regarding data, privacy, and online safety, and the impacts of technology on our brains and interpersonal relationships.

“Connecticut Forum members and guests will personally experience amazing homegrown technologies, immediately before hearing from some of the world’s leading visionaries in this field,” said Doris Sugarman, chief executive officer of The Connecticut Forum. “This unique event is a perfect representation of The Forum’s mission to inform, challenge, entertain and inspire, and will no doubt make for a provocative, exciting and unforgettable evening.”

Attendees can experience the showcase exhibitors prior to the start of The Forum and during the event’s intermission.

Tickets for “Big Tech” and access to the Big Tech Showcase are \$25-\$110 and are currently available at www.ctforum.org or 860-509-0909.

For more information or inquiries about media coverage, please contact: Paula Wilson at 860-509-0909 (office) / 860-490-6188 (mobile)

About The Connecticut Forum

The Connecticut Forum is a one-of-a-kind 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that serves Connecticut and beyond with live, unscripted panel discussions among renowned experts and celebrities, and community outreach programs including the Connecticut YOUTH Forum. Its mission is to encourage the free and active exchange of ideas in forums that inform, challenge, entertain, inspire and build bridges among all people and organizations in our community.

About MetroHartford Alliance

The MetroHartford Alliance is a top-performing economic development partnership that executes on an aggressive and innovative strategy for growing the Greater Hartford regional economy. The organization continues to evolve as the region’s primary business and economic development organization driving economic prosperity through a collaborative and unified strategic effort. It aims to retain and create jobs while highlighting the assets the region offers to the people who live, work, play and raise a family here.

About Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development

The Department of Economic and Community Development is the state's lead agency responsible for strengthening Connecticut’s competitive position in the rapidly-changing, knowledge-based global economy. The agency takes a comprehensive approach to economic development that incorporates community development, transportation, education and arts and culture.