

Press Release

Scottish Dataflow Pioneers, Obashi, join World Economic Forum's Global Innovators Community and its Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution

Falkirk, Scotland - Tuesday 10th November 2020

Obashi Technology Ltd. (Obashi), has become the first Scottish company to join the World Economic Forum's Global Innovators Community and its Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

The World Economic Forum's Global Innovators Community is a select, by invitation-only group of the world's most promising start-ups and scale-ups that are at the forefront of technological and business model innovation. The World Economic Forum provides the Global Innovators Community with a platform to engage with public and private sector leaders and to contribute new solutions to overcome current crises and build future resiliency.

The World Economic Forum recognised that understanding dataflow is fundamental to shaping and advancing the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Their recently published white paper – "A Roadmap for Cross-Border Data Flows: Future-Proofing Readiness and Cooperation in the New Data Economy" suggests that nations will not be able to harness the social and economic benefits of the fourth industrial revolution if they do not understand their data flows.

"Cross-border data flows policy is a foundational prerequisite to a functioning international data economy" – World Economic Forum, A Roadmap for Cross-Border Data Flows: Future-Proofing Readiness and Cooperation in the New Data Economy

There is now a growing understanding around the world that the flow of data must be treated like every other utility - the flow of water, flow of electricity, and the flow of oil & gas. All of these flows need to be understood, and the flow of data is no different.

"We are delighted to have Obashi join our Global Innovators Community," says Sheila Warren, Head of Blockchain, Digital Assets and Data Policy at the World Economic Forum. "We are excited to work with Obashi within the Data Policy Platform given their focus on data flows as a key to accessing the opportunities of the new global data economy"

Obashi helps people see data flow.

Obashi has created a flexible dataflow governance model that allows governments, businesses and other organisations to understand and unlock their dataflow potential. No matter the industry sector, Obashi's Dataflow Methodology and technology platform enables users to see how data flows through their organisation's people, processes, and technology.

Recognising that understanding dataflow is relatively new to industry, the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) partnered with Obashi to develop dataflow units in its Higher National qualifications in Computing, Cyber Security and Business. The units introduce learners to a methodology of mapping digital dataflow in a business environment and are currently being delivered across colleges in Scotland.

Obashi is also working closely with the University of Glasgow on various on projects including simulating socio-technical behaviours within large scale complex systems, and with the University of Strathclyde on global Regtech and Fintech challenges.

A professional accreditation for Obashi's Dataflow Methodology is also available worldwide via APMG International Ltd.

"Dataflow underpins every industry on the planet, and it's exciting and heartening to now see it being recognised as a vital global utility and a key component part of the Fourth Industrial Revolution," said Fergus Cloughley, CEO of Obashi. "We're delighted to be the first Scottish company to begin collaborating with the World Economic Forum and other technology leaders as part of the Global Innovator's Community."

As part of the Global Innovators Community, Obashi will help define the global agenda on key issues with a particular focus on shaping the future of technology governance – Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning.

The Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution is a World Economic Forum hub for global, multi-stakeholder cooperation to develop policy frameworks and advance collaborations that accelerate the benefits of science and technology.

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Partner Statements

ScotlandIS

"Scotland has a strong reputation for education, innovation and now for technology. Data is at the heart of our future invention and growth. Obashi has created a critical foundation for our future - Dataflow for the digital age.

This Dataflow model underpins both the fourth industrial revolution and our ability to become a true Digital Nation. We are extremely proud that a Scottish company is at the heart of this, creating this framework to unlock our digital potential at a global level" - Jane Morrison-Ross, CEO of ScotlandIS

Scottish Qualifications Authority

SQA helps individuals realise their potential and achieve their ambitions by providing a wide range of high quality, internationally recognised qualifications, and associated services. SQA works with schools, colleges, universities, and training organisations to develop, deliver, and accredit qualifications and assessments.

"My team recognised that understanding dataflow was going to be a fundamental educational requirement for learners in the digital age and the economic opportunities it brings.

As part of our ongoing work to develop the next generation of Higher National qualifications, we are now exploring the possibilities to incorporate dataflow into Computing, Engineering and Business courses." - Alistair Wylie, Head of Technology, Engineering, Construction and Creative Qualifications

FinTech Scotland

"We're delighted that Obashi will join the WEF Global Innovators Community. Data and dataflow sit at the heart of fintech innovation and will provide future opportunities to create new businesses, generate jobs and deliver greater financially inclusive outcomes for people.

Obashi demonstrates the depth of expertise Scotland has in data and fintech. Its cross-sector collaboration has enabled a data flow framework that can support the emerging digital economy and future economic growth." - Nicola Anderson, CEO of FinTech Scotland

Scottish Business Resilience Centre

"We congratulate Obashi in their selection to the World Economic Forum's Global Innovators Community and on their continued growth and success. The Obashi Platform can provide an excellent solution in understanding key data streams within an organisation to enhance the business process and cyber resilience. Protecting the organisational "crown jewels" grows with importance.

Obashi technologies can greatly assist in addressing the increasing regulatory and compliance framework requirements and the ever-growing threat of cyber malfeasance." - Eamonn Keane, Head of Cyber

University of Glasgow

"We have developed a close working relationship with Obashi since 2016. They have frequently recruited our graduates into their development teams as their organisation has expanded and collaborated on joint undergraduate dissertation projects. They now share co-located space within our Software Engineering Laboratory allowing us to explore new potential directions together.

Obashi have co-sponsored a PhD student to investigate new techniques to simulate socio-technical behaviours within large scale complex systems. They have also sponsored undergraduate interns to work on research projects on common interest, in particular integrating our simulation tools into the Obashi infrastructure, creating the opportunity for real world impact for us.

I'm extremely pleased that Obashi's innovative approach to understanding and managing large scale complex IT infrastructures has been recognised by the WEF." - Dr Tim Storer, Senior Lecturer (Computing Science)

University of Strathclyde

"The University of Strathclyde and Fintech Scotland, along with FS Institutions and the renowned Scottish FinTech cluster have launched a Global RegTech Innovation Alliance whose objective it to drive real-world insights to the challenges which industry, regulators, academia and customers face as we adapt to the new normal and solving the global RegTech business challenges, which are evolving.

"Obashi has provided crucial insights into how understanding and modelling data flow and is critical in connecting the separate innovations to create a vibrant and dynamic RegTech ecosystem." - Dr Devraj Basu, Senior Lecturer (Accounting & Finance)

About Obashi

Obashi Technology Limited revolutionised the way companies and organisations map and model the interconnectivity between their people, business processes and technology. Obashi help people see data flow. The company developed a Dataflow Methodology and a fully scalable cloud-based platform. Obashi's employees are dedicated to educating the world about dataflow and pushing the boundaries of technology to make the best dataflow products and services possible. Obashi has helped many leading organisations and industries understand and model their dataflow, including, The Bank of England, G20, Federal Reserve, United Nations, and Governments amongst others.

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