

Dmitry Medvedev to attend Open Innovations 2018 Moscow International Forum

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev will attend the plenary session 'Smart Country. National Strategy' on October 16 at the 7th Moscow International Forum Open Innovations.

The discussion, dedicated to the issues of progress in the digital economy in Russia and the world, will be aired live by Rossiya 24 TV channel and will feature participating leading Russian and international experts. Those taking part in the plenary session include:

- Arkady Volozh, co-founder and CEO, Yandex;
- *Peter Voser*, Chairman of the Board of Directors, ABB Ltd;
- Ann Cairns, Vice Chairman, Mastercard;
- Dmitry Konov, Chairman of the Management Board, Sibur Holding;
- *Paul Polman*, CEO, Unilever;
- Sergei Sobyanin, Mayor of Moscow;
- *Mark Weinberger*, Global Chairman and CEO, EY.

This year the Open Innovations Forum is being held on October 15-17 with each of the three days offering a distinct format. The forum will be held at the Skolkovo Techno Park with the participation of the Foreign Investment Advisory Council. The overall forum is subtitled Sources of Digital Breakthrough.

The forum's first day is dedicated to the digitalization and upgrading of the education system. The participants will discuss issues connected with the across-the-board introduction of digital technologies and their effect on our lives. They will consider the Lifelong Learning program, discuss investment in the EdTech sector and customisable education. A special focus will be the role of education in raising the general digital literacy of the population and training qualified personnel under current realities since the central figure behind accelerated technological development is a person.

The agenda of the second day includes the transformation of the business environment and the development of an innovation ecosystem. The discussion will cover the interaction of the authorities, society and business in advanced technologies since technological progress and digitalization offer a variety of new opportunities for each party but also carry certain risks. Among the hottest topics are advanced technologies, corporate innovation, venture investment and many others.

Special attention will be given to science and technology on the concluding third day of Open Innovations. The forum will discuss fundamental research, investment in research and development, and emerging markets.

Over 600 speakers from 90 countries will take part in the 2018 forum including people from the US, Great Britain, China, France, and also leading scientists, startup founders, representatives of development institutes, and Russian and international business leaders. Among the speakers are BlaBlaCar co-founder Nicolas Brusson; director of the *Institute for Media Innovation*, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore; head of the MIRALab at the University of Geneva; Nadine social robot inventor Nadia Thalmann; Vera robot inventor Alexander Uraksin; Wafa Games founder Kathy Gong, and other noted experts. Also, a Russian-Chinese forum will be held on the trends in the venture capital markets in the two countries and the issues of setting up joint funds.