Dublin Tech Summit set to reinforce capital's position as European tech hub

Artificial Intelligence, robotics, privacy, space travel and the potential for human immortality are among the topics to be explored in this year's event

Ireland's largest innovative event, Dublin Tech Summit, is set to welcome dozens of Silicon Valley celebrities and big names to the RDS next month in a bid to bolster Ireland's position as a leading and resilient tech hub. DTS23 will host dozens of futuristic talks, unique panel discussions and interviews which will take place across multiple stages at the two-day event. These include an insightful opening address from entrepreneur Patricia Scanlon, Founder of Soapbox Labs and Ireland's first AI Ambassador. Scanlon was appointed by the Government to lead the conversation on the sudden and rapid rise of groundbreaking developments in Artificial Intelligence, which is set to transform the way we work, live and learn.

Over 200 interviews and panels will be taking place during the event, which is set to be attended by more than 8,000 people across two days. One of many highly anticipated guests is Egyptian astronaut Sara Sabry, the first woman from the continent of Africa to travel to space. Sabry will be in conversation with Dr Norah Patten, a leading figure in Ireland's space and aeronautics landscape.
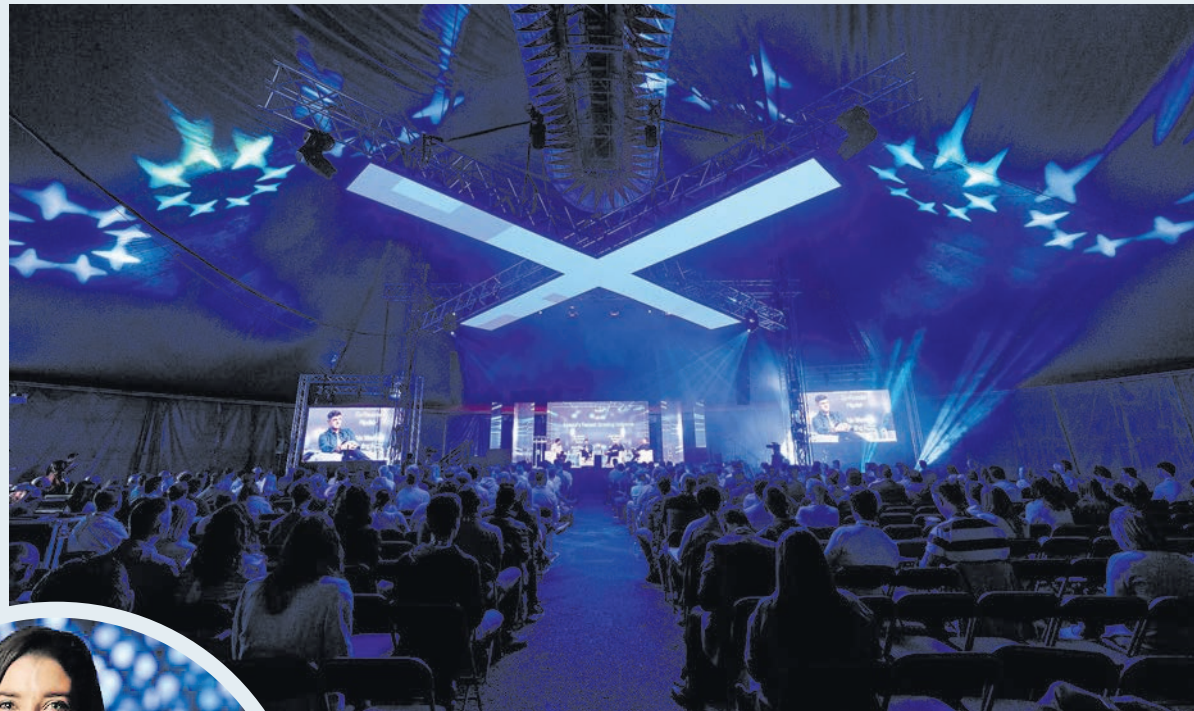
The summit will also feature a thought-provoking keynote address from popular futurist José Luis Cordeiro, who believes that immortality is within our grasp through technology. In his book La Muerte de la Muerte (The Death of Death), Cordeiro postulates that within decades we will be able to upgrade our brains in the same way we upgrade our computers.

Tracey Carney, managing director of Catalyst Media, the organisation behind Dublin Tech Summit, says the event aims to showcase Ireland as a tech hub for Europe and the world. She believes that hosting a gathering of such scale will enhance Ireland's position within Europe and strengthen the interest of innovative companies in doing business here. "The tech ecosystem in Ireland and around the world is changing every day," she says. "Dublin Tech Summit was established to explore the present and future of what technology has made possible, and what lies ahead."

Robot rock

Just a quarter of the way through 2023, Artificial Intelligence is one sector that continues to grow, despite uncertainty in other sectors. New iterations of the medium are promising to change the way we work, live and learn, something which is of significant interest to the wider population. A highly anticipated keynote presentation by Dr Ben Goertzel and a fireside talk with Janet Adams, both of SingularityNET, is already proving of interest among soon-to-be attendees. SingularityNET is a decentralised AI hub that al-

Dublin Tech Summit: among the topics under discussion will be the sudden and rapid rise of groundbreaking developments in Artificial Intelligence

Dr Norah Patten: a leading figure in Ireland's space and aeronautics landscape

lows developers to publish and share their discoveries. Goertzel and Adams will be joined by Desdemona, SingularityNET's humanoid robot, to perform as the Jam Galaxy Band – possibly the world's first transhuman supergroup.

Desdemona won't be the only robot at the RDS. Cecilia Tham, co-founder and chief executive of Futurity Systems, will be accompanied by Herbie the Robot for Tham's discussion on "the interspecies economy", or how we must plan for a future alongside AI and robots with autonomy and their own economic influence.

The impact of AI is also set to be explored in earnest by Sean Hurley, assistant commissioner with the Data Protection Commission, and Barry Scannell, leading AI law expert. The looming threat that AI presents to online privacy and safety, and recent calls for enhanced legislation as well as a moratorium on AI development, are also up for discussion. In addition, online privacy and safety in an advancing era will be explored by Rickard Carlsson, chief executive of Detectify, and Ambika Kapur, vice-president of VMware. The duo are expected to pull no punches in their fireside chat, subtitled 'Why You Are Not As Safe As You Think'.

The discussion of Artificial Intelligence at Dublin Tech Summit won't be all doom and gloom, of course. Its practical applications in business are already known to be valuable and a panel discussion featuring Patricia Scanlon and Adam Cheyer, co-founder of Siri & Viv Labs, will ask the question 'How smart is GPT-4, really?'. The debate aims to ask whether the concerns over AI are unfounded or not and how it will change the world for business and societies.

Andreea Wade, vice-president

Egyptian astronaut Sara Sabry: the first woman from the continent of Africa to travel to space

of product strategy at iCIMS, will talk about Preparing for the Future of Work: Navigating Technological Advancements and Evolving Skill Sets, which will open up the realm of digital transformation even further. This will be followed by a fireside chat with Cian Ó Maidín, Founder of Nearform on day two.

All these and many more talking points will make up the two days of Dublin Tech Summit, along with a wide array of interactive demonstrations, displays and more. Tracey Carney says the summit has grown to become the biggest event of its kind in Ireland and will serve as a reminder to businesses here and around the world that Ireland remains at the epicentre of innovation. "Every stage will see true thought leadership presented and new ideas

explored," says Carney, "along with innovative solutions to some of the most important challenges that lie ahead for the world in the coming years."

"We are looking forward to welcoming the world to Dublin once again next month," she adds, "and are really excited to hear what our guest speakers and panelists have to say about the wider world, whilst also highlighting Ireland's attractiveness as a tech hub despite recent turbulence."

Dublin Tech Summit takes place on May 31 and June 1, at the RDS in Dublin. Tickets for this year's event are on sale now. For more information, please visit https://dublintechsummit.tech