

FUNDINGCONNECT2008

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FUNDING CONNECT 2008 BRINGS TOGETHER AUSTRALIA'S TOP INVESTORS AND ENTREPRENEURS

In an uncertain investment market, the funding opportunities for Australia's innovative entrepreneurs are few and far between.

However, investment in the technology space has been given a boost by the beginning of Funding Connect 2008, an event series designed to bring investors and entrepreneurs together.

"The speakers at Funding Connect represent the richness and diversity of Australia's technology scene."
Rachel Slattery, Director, SlatteryIT

Funding Connect provides opportunities for innovative entrepreneurs and investors to discover how best to grow businesses in the technology sector, and how to most successfully approach 2009 and beyond.

Taking place across four states during December – in Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney – Funding Connect offers an invaluable opportunity for entrepreneurs to engage with each other, meet potential investors and gain insights into the year ahead.

Boasting a speaker list including representatives from some of the most renowned investment houses in Australia, Funding Connect 2008 will provide a wealth of knowledge for those looking at their investment options.

In South Australia, Engineering Director for Google and entrepreneur at heart, Alan Noble, will share his experiences as an entrepreneur and will provide advice on how to gain companies like Google as investors. He will be joined by Rahmon Coupe whose company, YourAmigo, recently won SA Exporter of the Year.

In Brisbane speakers include Richard Mathews, an active investor who as CEO of Mincom was responsible for securing its sale to Francisco Partners for AU\$315 million; and Stephen Phillips – founder of Wotnews – who will be speaking on how he attracted Graeme Wood, founder of Wotif, as an angel investor.

In Melbourne, Simon Martin – an angel investor who has been with MYOB since the beginning– will speak alongside Leigh Jasper from Aconex. Aconex just received \$107 million from a US Venture Capital firm.

And in Sydney, industry icon Chris Beare – who as Chairman and CEO of Radiata led it to a successful sale to Cisco Systems for \$595 million in 2000 – will speak alongside David Spence, CEO of Unwired who joined OzEmail as Managing Director in 1995, and was appointed to President and COO after its listing on NASDAQ in 1996.

Director of SlatteryIT, Rachel Slattery, commented: "The speakers at Funding Connect represent the richness and diversity of Australia's technology scene". She added that: "Those speaking are investors who have demonstrated their commitment to investing in the early stage technology space and entrepreneurs of early stage companies who have valuable advice for budding entrepreneurs on valuations, exit strategies and meeting investors."

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This year, Funding Connect will for the first time feature a New Year's Resolution session, where entrepreneurs will give attendees an insight into the plans and opportunities for the year ahead. 'Resolutions for 2009 and Beyond' is also available as a standalone event.

Funding Connect 2008 is sponsored by Venture Capital SA, Playford Capital, the Victorian Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development, Microsoft Bizstart and the Australian Technology Showcase.

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ABOUT FUNDING CONNECT 2008

Specifically designed to allow attendees to gain an insight into the processes of securing funding, guests will have the opportunity to meet investors, learn how to find the right investment sources and to win their support. Leading entrepreneurs will also be on hand to offer inspiration on growing your business and the best ways to seek capital. Funding Connect will help you to make informed decisions about everything from when to seek an investor, to meeting, attracting and obtaining financial support, providing a wealth of information and advice to help focus your plans for 2009.

Queensland » Thursday 4th December, 2008 | State Library, Brisbane

Victoria » Thursday 11th December, 2008 | RACV Club, Melbourne

New South Wales » Tuesday 16th December, 2008 | The Mint, Sydney

Speakers include:

- » Mike Cannon-Brookes | CEO & Co-founder, Atlassian
- » Dr Michelle Deaker | Managing Partner, Andover Venture Partners
- » Geoff Dolphin | CFO, Innovation Capital
- » Geoff Elwood | CEO, Etech Group
- » Frank Grasso | Managing Director, eChannel On Line
- » Leigh Jasper | CEO & Co-founder, Aconex
- » Steve Lane | Partner, CM Capital
- » Richard Mathews | Managing Partner, MHB
- » Nick McNaughton | CEO, Blue Cove Ventures
- » Alan Noble | Engineering Director, Google
- » Richard Noon | CEO, Webjet
- » Fiona Pak-Poy | General Partner, Innovation Capital
- » Stephen Phillips | Founder, wotnews.com.au
- » Bob Waldie | Chairman & CEO, OpenGear

For more information or to arrange a photo, interview or press pass, please contact:

Zaz Teoh

SlatteryIT | 02 9280 3677 | zaz@slatteryit.com.au

www.slatteryit.com.au/FundingConnect2008
