

Press Release 11. 4. 2018

The Innovation Week 2018 will introduce the top speakers of artificial intelligence research, and Sophia the Robot

Chief of the world leader in artificial intelligence and other top innovators will speak at an international conference within the Innovation Week 2018. The most advanced humanoid robot Sophia will be introduced, hi-tech innovations such as a plant producing electricity through photosynthesis are to be seen there and more than one hundred accompanying events will be organized across the country.

(Prague) In the third week of May, the Czech Republic will become the center of innovation, modern technology and artificial intelligence for several days. On Monday, May 14, within the Main Event of [the Innovation Week 2018](#), organized by the [European Leadership and Academic Institute \(ELAI\)](#), leading figures from the world of innovative technologies and business will attend [the International Conference](#) at the Karlín Forum in Prague.

Among others: **Igal Raichelgauz**, the head of the Israeli corporation **Cortica**, the world's number one in the field of artificial intelligence with the largest number of patents, or **Ermi Van Oers** of **the Living Light** project in the Netherlands who developed a unique lighting technology using the energy obtained from plant photosynthesis, also **Yoshai Potack of ReWalk Technologies**, whose exoskeleton allows wheelchair-bound individuals to stand up and walk again, **Jonathan Ledgard**, an innovator and inventor of **The Droneport** futuristic project, or **Carlo Schmid of the Swiss Mindfire Foundation** initiative to explore and develop „a real“ artificial intelligence. Representatives of companies and institutions from Hong Kong, the United States, Great Britain, Sweden, Switzerland and the Czech Republic will also speak there.

Special guest will be **Sophia the Robot**, the first robot ever to have been granted a citizenship. She has been developed by Hanson Robotics, the designer is the American roboticist David Hanson. Sophia, who bears the title of an innovative champion of the United Nations, was modeled after actress Audrey Hepburn. She perfectly recognizes and imitates human emotions, and she also manages the art of an unforgettable conversation. Being invited by ELAI, she will perform as a guest at the Innovation Week Conference 2018, which will be the first opportunity for inhabitants of the Czech Republic to see it alive.

„I am very glad that we managed to get such an exceptional guests within the biggest national event to support the Czech innovation environment,“ says Lukáš Sedláček, CEO and co-founder of ELAI. „The humanoid robot Sophia is the world stunt, and is visiting the Czech Republic on ELAI’s invitation for the first time ever. I am also very pleased that besides the representatives of a number of successful countries, the experts from Israeli innovation companies and startups will share their experience with us. Israeli innovation ecosystem is one of the most successful in the world,“ adds Lukáš Sedláček.

The leading representatives of the Czech innovation scene will also lecture and discuss at the conference, for example, **Tat’ána le Moigne**, the General Director of **Google** in the Czech and Slovak Republic, **Michal Pěchouček**, Professor and founder of the **Center for Artificial Intelligence** at CTU, **Oliver Dlouhý**, founder of the successful startup of **Kiwi.com**, and **Jan**

Řežáb, founder and chairman of the **Socialbakers**. **Nikita Poljakov**, deputy editor-in-chief of *Hospodářské noviny*, will be presenting as moderator.

On the same day, [the Innovation Fair](#) will be held in the Karlín Forum with professional seminars and presentations of top innovations, for example, **ABB Robotics**, the world's robotic giant, will present its latest **Yumi robot**, which besides other things is also capable of conducting an orchestra. New products from 3D prints, virtual reality, Signal Festival laser projections, testing drives in Tesla cars models X and S etc. will also be seen there.

Throughout the week, more than one hundred [accompanying events](#) will be held across the Czech Republic to support innovation, modern technologies and artificial intelligence. Visitors will be able to attend conferences, workshops, presentations and other events.

The general partner of the Innovation Week 2018 is Unipetrol, the gold partners are Google, Česká spořitelna, IQOS, Direct People, Forum Karlín, HB Media. The silver partners are Ayming, Comtes FHT, Representations of the European Commission in the Czech Republic, CA Technologies, Movisio and IBM.

About the Innovation Week:

Innovation Week is the biggest event of the year focused on innovation, advanced technology and artificial intelligence. Its aim is to familiarize companies and the public with the latest world trends in the field of innovation and modern technologies. The Innovation Week will be held from May 14th to May 20th. The main event is the Monday international conference in the premises of the Karlín Forum and the Innovation Fair with seminars to be held in the same place. During the Innovation Week, more than one hundred accompanying events will be held throughout the Czech Republic.

About ELAI:

The European Leadership & Academic Institute (ELAI) was founded in 2010 to cultivate development of talents in the Czech Republic. Both through educational activities led by outstanding personalities and by organizing nationwide events to promote innovation, business and startups. It creates a platform where no mantinels for new ideas and cooperation exist. ELAI organizes the Czech version of global event called the Entrepreneurship Week, also the already mentioned Innovation Week.

Contact for journalists:

Martin Zika

zika@elai.cz

+420 736 755 001

www.elai.cz

www.tydeninovaci2018.cz/en

