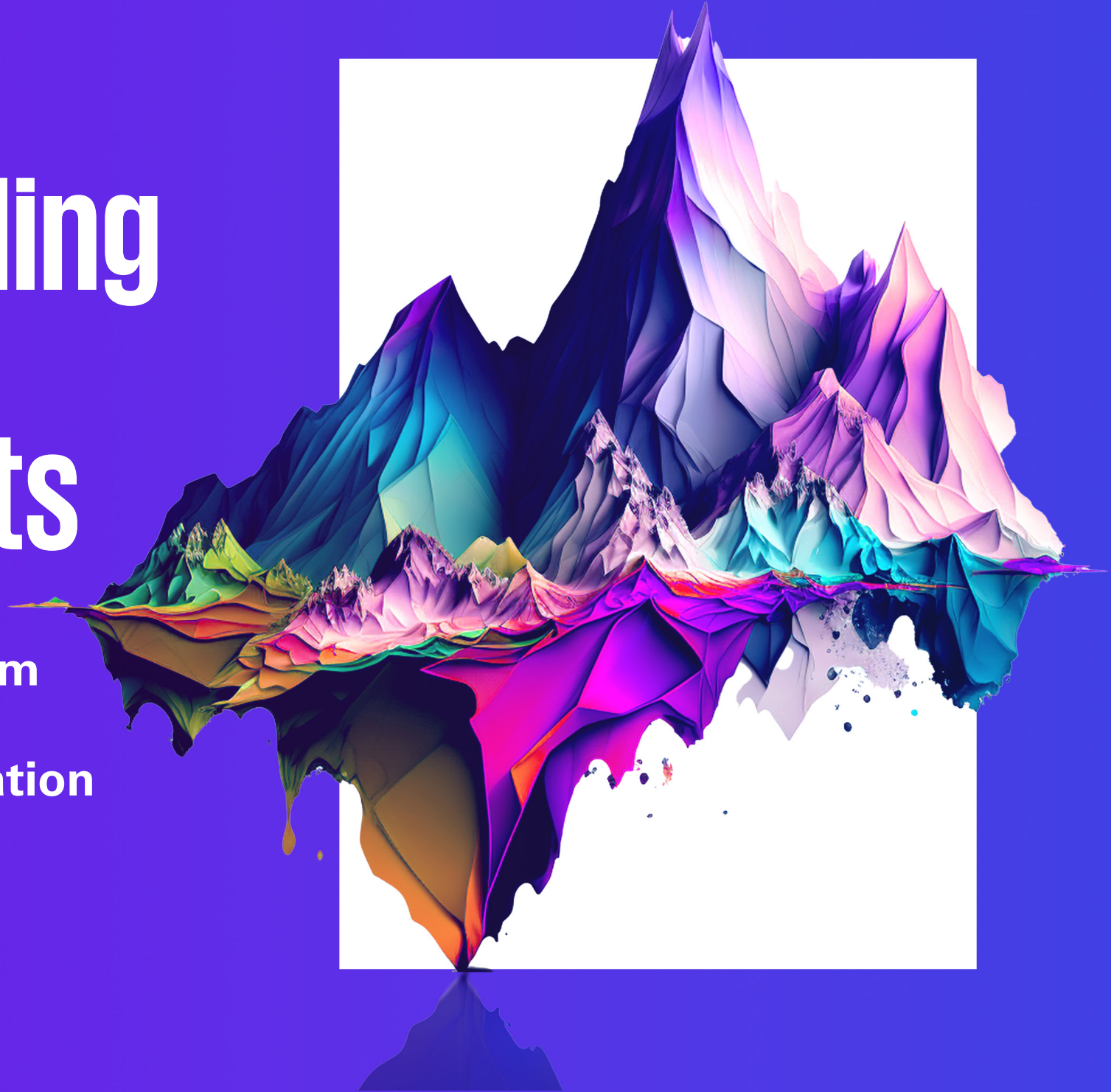




Ascending New Summits

Key insights from
the 2023 KPMG
Tech and Innovation
Symposium

June 19–21, 2023
Park City, Utah





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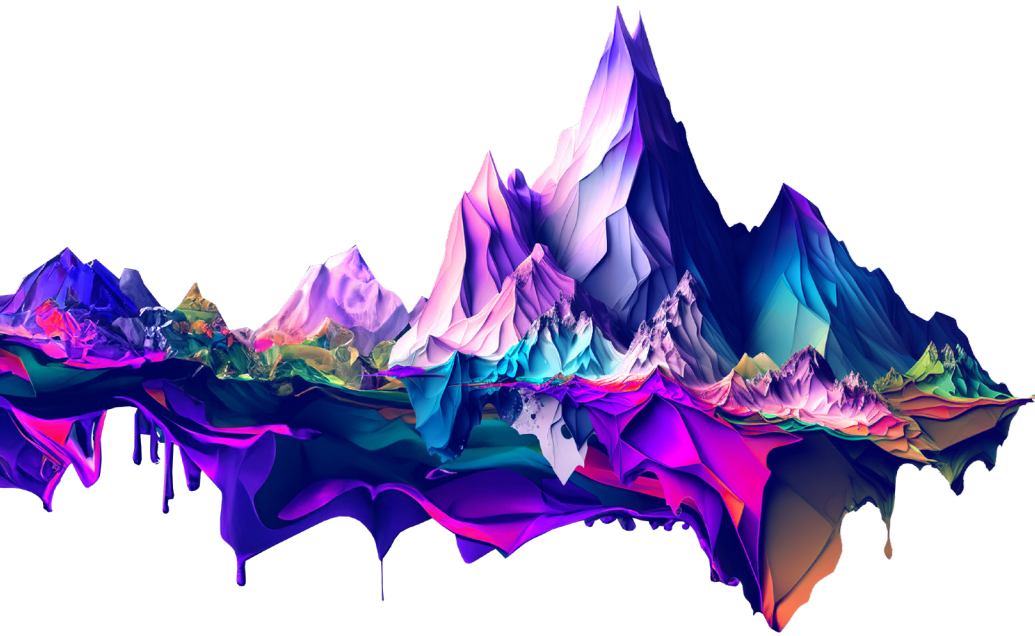
KPMG Tech and
Innovation Symposium

June 19-21, Stein Eriksen Lodge, Park City, Utah



Throughout the C-suite, executives are navigating unprecedented uncertainty and change. Tackling new challenges and seizing new opportunities can feel like scaling a mountain. It takes planning, endurance, and perspective. It also takes a willingness to pause—to assess forces of change, to reflect with others pursuing similar climbs, and to recharge for the journey. That was the purpose of the 2023 KPMG Tech and Innovation Symposium, held June 19–21 at the Stein Eriksen Lodge in Park City, Utah. This report offers key highlights and a reminder of why this extraordinary meeting of the minds is not to be missed.





Elevated complexity. Expansive opportunity.

Symposium speakers offered thought-provoking perspectives on the major forces driving disruption. These included the demographic shifts driving up the cost of capital, precious metals shortages resulting from geopolitical instability, and other complex, interconnected factors shaking up supply chains around the globe. Alongside unprecedented challenges, speakers also explored unprecedented opportunities made possible by emerging technologies such as generative AI, spatial computing, and quantum computing.



The environment for global macroeconomics for the last 500 years has been based on more integration, more access, more capital, more trade, and more interaction. It's a nice virtuous circle, but it's all been undergirded by population growth—and that story is now over. We have to invent a fundamentally new model from scratch, at least here in North America. The old rules apply for at least another 30 years. We've got time—hopefully we'll learn something from everyone else playing with this. But in the meantime, we have to get used to an extraordinarily different capital environment."

Peter Zeihan

American geopolitical analyst, author, and speaker



In order from left to right:

Per Edin, Board Committee Chair, Global Lead Partner, and Innovation leader for Deal Advisory & Strategy

Jonathan Brill, Author, Fortune 50 Futurist and Board Advisor, Center for Radical Change

Stuart Pann, Chief Business Transformation Officer and Senior Vice President, Intel Corporation

Andrea Course, Venture Principal investing in Robotics and AI, Shell Ventures

Ajit Dansingani, Global Head of Strategy and Senior Vice President, HP Personal Systems

A convergence of industry veterans and technology visionaries

Executives at the symposium engaged with some of the top names in tech and innovation: Stability AI CEO and Founder Emad Mostaque, Journey Founder and Chief Metaverse Officer Cathy Hackl, Snowflake Computing CEO Frank Sloatman, Paramount Global Futurist Ted Schilowitz, Intel Chief Business Transformation Officer and Senior Vice President Stuart Pann, and Northwestern Mutual Vice President of Data Sciences and Analytics Anju Gupta, to name a few.

Speakers and panelists also included seasoned venture capitalists and entrepreneurs such as Chief Commercial Officer of Mayfield Fund Gamiel Gran, CEO and Founder of Kresus Labs Trevor Traina, and Cofounder and President of Touchdown Ventures Scott Lenet.



Shelly Palmer, Professor of Advanced Media in Residence at Syracuse University and CEO, Palmer Group
Ted Schilowitz, Futurist, Paramount Global



Cathy Hackl, Futurist, demonstrates brain computer interface



Attendees debrief from the day over live music



“

There is a lot of buzz around GenAI right now, but lurking in the background is quantum computing. As our speaker from IBM Quantum confirmed, it's coming very quickly—and it's going to open up new possibilities and provide tools to solve problems that you couldn't even attempt with classical computing.”

Cliff Justice

US Leader, Enterprise Innovation, KPMG LLP

Innovation imperative

Gamiel Gran of Mayfield Fund shared his thesis on the “three I’s” of corporate innovation—ideation, incubation, and investment—and emphasized the importance of a culture of innovation. His advice? “Begin to develop a culture of innovation that allows for new ideas to be tested and even fail... Be willing to take risks, take some bold bets, and do it rapidly.”

He noted that innovation will involve some disruption: “You’re going to have to change the current process. You might lose some resources or redeploy resources as you remodel productivity and different teams. It has to have a higher-order impact. The same is true for the start-up who’s trying to support you. They can’t have a transactional relationship. They need a long-term customer relationship.”



Attendees at the Symposium



Gamiel Gran, Chief Commercial Officer, Mayfield Fund



Dr Misty Blowers, Chief Technology Officer, Datalytica



Shelly Palmer, Professor of Advanced Media in Residence at Syracuse University and CEO, Palmer Group



Jonathan Dambrot, Founder, Cranium connects with an attendee

The Gen AI juggernaut

“We are living through a transition from AI that curates to AI that generates,” according to speaker Shelly Palmer. He linked generative AI to economic productivity, citing two ways to make money: charging more for goods and services or spending less to create them. He believes generative AI can make workers dramatically more productive. But will “robots” replace people? “No,” he says. “People who are awesome AI coworkers will.”

Other speakers pointed to the need for a data strategy before developing a cogent AI strategy. Language models need to be trained and tuned using data that’s trusted, organized, and optimized for generative AI.

For the C-suite, another key challenge will be adjusting workflows and processes—establishing ways to innovate teams and adapt them quickly and effectively as technology continually changes.

“There are real risks to this technology, but there’s also a massive opportunity, and I think we need to have a balanced approach to those.”

Emad Mostaque, CEO, Stability AI

“The cybersecurity organization is now being thrust into the AI world and has a massive requirement to get up to speed and drive awareness in the enterprise around threats that have not really been persistent historically.”

Jonathan Dambrot, Founder, Cranium



Fiona Grandi, Retired
KPMG Partner, Advisory
Risk Services Leader

Scott Gibson, Chief
Strategy Officer, Melwood

Judith Spitz, Former CIO
of Verizon, Founder and
Executive Director, Break
Through Tech

Shobhana Ahluwalia,
Former CIO, Peloton

Cultivating nontraditional talent sources

Panelists discussed how people are central to the implementation and adoption of innovative technologies. They also pointed to crucial questions: How do we ensure that technology is consistent with our human values? How do we manage AI fairness and bias? One of the key enablers is ensuring that we bring diverse people around the table to make key decisions.

And yet, as a tech talent panel discussed, diversity remains low in tech roles in general and AI roles in particular. They put forth novel approaches to finding and developing talent. For example, Scott Gibson of Melwood suggested that companies change how they screen and select talent to enable greater opportunities for neurodivergent talent. The need for change is especially pronounced at the entry level.

Judith Spitz of Break Through Tech acknowledged a pervasive belief that there's a scarcity of talent. But she noted that

everyone is pursuing talent at the top 25 universities in the United States. She added, "There are 170,000 women in this country attending four-year institutions trying to get their bachelor's degree in a tech-related field. Ninety-two percent of them go to a school that's not a top-25-ranked school. That is an incredible opportunity pool not only of talent but in terms of diversity that companies are not tapping into."

“The power of doing good is in people and the possibilities of people working together. It's looking at rewarding people in different ways, tapping into diversity of talent, as well as diversity of thought. That's what pushes us forward from an innovation perspective.”

Brian Miske,
KPMG Ignition – National Ignition Leader, KPMG LLP

Memorable moments from Park City

The 2023 symposium featured discussions—and demonstrations—of frontier tech innovations. These included:

Cathy Hackl, the world's first chief metaverse officer, demonstrated the Brain Computer Interface, wowing attendees by showing the communication pathway between her thoughts and an external device.

Krista Kim, contemporary artist and founder of the Techism movement, donned a headset for a one-to-one discussion about mental health and the metaverse in the metaverse with Harvard Medical School Professor of **Psychiatry Srinii Pallay, MD**.

W. Scott Stornetta—one of the founding fathers of blockchain and a leading expert in cryptography and distributed computing—created and invited attendees to join a blockchain.

Neerav Kingsland of Anthropic used his company's large language model to create client-facing talking points for a real-world financial services organization. It took mere seconds to generate the content.



Scott Gibson, Chief Strategy Officer, Melwood, interacts with the KPMG Catalyst Corner

“XR technologies transcend the confines of physical reality and transport us into immersive realms. They have the power to dissolve the barriers between the real and the virtual, opening up a world of infinite possibilities. However, the metaverse's significance extends beyond the realms of technology and art. It holds immense potential in addressing the global mental health crisis that plagues our society.”

Krista Kim

Metaverse Artist and Cofounder of 0Studio.ai

Check out the session playbacks and related content from the 2023 KPMG Tech and Innovation Symposium [here](#).

Save the date! The 2024 KPMG Tech and Innovation Symposium is coming back to Deer Valley, August 5th - August 7th, 2024.

Contact us



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