

IT BUSINESS FORUM

Macedonia, Land of ICT Experts

Four Seasons Hotel, Silicon Valley

2050 University Avenue, East Palo Alto California

Date: **November 11th, 2008**
Time: 10:00 am
Venue: Four Seasons Hotel, Silicon Valley Room Location TBC

Agenda

- 10:00 **Introduction to the Republic of Macedonia and to its Economic Policy:** Macedonia on its path towards NATO and EU, tax reforms including introduction of flat income and profit tax; regulatory guillotine; flexible labour market; protection of ownership rights; reduction of grey economy; attracting foreign investment; strengthening competitiveness of domestic production; enhancing business climate for small and medium enterprises; expanding technological industrial development zones; etc.
- Keynote speakers: **Nikola Gruevski**, President of the Government of Macedonia, **Philip Reeker**, US Ambassador to Macedonia (confirmed), **Simeon Djankov**, Chief Economist, The World Bank (confirmed), **John Bitove**, Chairman of Canadian Satellite Radio and Co-Founder of DAVE Wireless
- 10:50 **Coffee Break**
- 11:20 **Macedonia, Land of ICT Experts:** Macedonian government expands on successful ICT programs (in education, government ICT applications geared toward the improvement of efficiency and transparency) and introduces several initiatives, including: Establishment of a new ICT University (with support of US university professors), Computer for Every Child Campaign (150,000 computers for primary and secondary schools in Macedonia) and etc. Macedonia: the first internet wireless country in the World” - USAID legacy. Next steps for Macedonia in the ICT sector? How should the new ICT University look like? “How does partnership between government, private sector and donors contribute to this success? Next steps for Macedonia in the ICT sector?

Keynote speakers: **Ivo Ivanovski**, Minister for IT in the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, **Dick Goldman**, former USAID Mission director in Macedonia (TBC), **Prof. Peter Bock**, George Washington University

11:50

Macedonian IT industry – Partner of US companies in South East Europe. Macedonia has a growing ICT industry and highly competitive domestic companies with track record of superior customer satisfaction. Macedonia has supplied innovative solutions to multinational companies like Johnson Controls, Airbus, Toshiba, Thomson Reuters and... With ICT skills shortage in the US and growing demand for outsourcing services – the Macedonian IT industry can be an ideal partner.

Presentation by representatives from MASIT and the ICT Chamber of Macedonia and **Igor Lestar**, SEAVUS - a Swedish company with investments in Macedonia.

Moderator: Zoran Jolevski, Ambassador of Macedonia to the USA

12:30

Lunch

Speakers:

Zoran Stavreski, Vice President of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia

02:30

B2B meetings