

**Subject: News from the Central Okanagan Economic Development Commission - June 21, 2010**

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### Local Companies Growing Fast

Five Okanagan firms have made the top 200 list of the fastest-growing companies in Canada. Profit magazine compiles and publishes the list annually based on revenue growth over the past five years.

[Canada Web Hosting](#), which has operations in the Landmark buildings in Kelowna, was ranked No. 34; call center call-resolution track [SQM \(Service Quality Measurement\) Group](#) of Vernon was No. 127; waterpark equipment maker [Waterplay Solutions](#) in Kelowna was No. 163; software developer for governments, [StarDyne Technologies](#) was No. 187, and web designer [Acro Media](#) came in at 195.

[Full report...](#)



### Detached Home Construction

### British Columbia Technology Companies Shine at metabridge Okanagan

The much anticipated British Columbia stop of the [metabridge](#) event series delivered an impressive performance last week. In just its second year, metabridge Okanagan provided a portion of the provincial technology community with an injection of positive energy and likely prospect for aspiring technology leaders.



Peter Matejcek of Hustream Technologies Inc and Tim Bjarin of PC Magazine

metabridge, an initiative that provides British Columbia's technology companies with direct connection and access to key international technology partners for investment, joint strategic partnerships, mentorship and advisory opportunities, is celebrating the success of its June 10-11 event after surpassing expectations and more than doubling the attendance from last year's event. Attendance numbers increased in every category and the event attracted an impressive list of VIPs, representing connections to Google, Facebook, Disney, Microsoft and Electronic Arts, among others.

Support for metabridge was outstanding, with 'ultimate 2 day package' sales soaring 412% over 2009. In part, the increase reflects heightened interest in the event among Silicon Valley executives, whose participation more than doubled this year as well. The tech VIP's were particularly impressed with the format, which allowed them to interact with leaders of British Columbia's technology companies in a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere.

"Compared to most events, metabridge presents a more casual, personal experience, where you can get to know people better," said Howard Donaldson, Vancouver-based vice-president of Disney Interactive Studios. "This is also a component of some other events but metabridge offers a much more relaxed atmosphere."

The uniqueness of the event and the chance to get to know senior technology executives in a relaxed setting was not lost on local companies. Over three quarters of the British Columbia technology companies rated the networking opportunities as

## Up in 2010

Kelowna's new home construction market, led by the detached home sector, began 2010 on a positive note.

First quarter detached home starts more than doubled from the same three month period in 2009.

First quarter existing home sales were up from the same three month period in 2009, with detached and attached home and apartment condominium sales all posting big year-over-year gains.

either met or exceed their expectations.

"The core value of this event is to make connections." said Peter Matejcek, founder and chairman of Kelowna-based Hustream Technologies Inc. "metabridge attracts a certain level of talent that would be hard to access without an introduction. I've never been to another event like this."

The program is supported by the Central Okanagan Economic Development Commission (COEDC) in partnership with the BC Innovation Council (BCIC) and with support from the Okanagan Science & Technology Council (OSTEC).

The metabridge organizing committee would like to thank this year's sponsors who include: BC Innovation Council, Western Economic Diversification, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Central Okanagan Economic Commission, Farris LLP, Okanagan Science and Technology Council, BDO Dunwoody, & Vineyard Networks.

## Links and Events

### June 25

Westbank Chamber Breakfast & Learn  
Nineteen Steakhouse & Lounge at Two Eagles Golf Course

### June 30

Kelowna Downtown After 5 at the Kelowna Community Foodbank

### September 27-28

Shifting Directions: Preparing the Next Workplace

### August 1-31

9th Annual BC Cultural Crawl  
Submit your registration by July 1st

### November 15-18

Building SustainAble Communities Conference  
Free admission if registered by June 30th

## Create at UBCO - September 7, 2010

The Create Showcase provides a unique opportunity to promote your service, company or organization to new and returning students, staff and faculty at UBC-Okanagan.



What happens at Create? Students spend the day meeting one another, getting oriented to the campus, learning how to be successful at university and attending Showcase to learn about the services offered by UBC and the Kelowna community. As an exhibitor you enhance Create by fostering excitement and energy on this very important day: the first day of university. This is a great day to show what the campus and community have to offer!

Why should your organization get involved? Nearly 2,000 new students, 250 volunteers, potentially 5,000 returning students, and 750 staff and faculty will attend Showcase. Most students who are new to UBC's Okanagan campus are not from Kelowna and are eager to learn about the services, businesses and organizations their new community offers. Exhibitors are encouraged to interact with students through activities, creative displays and by providing prizes.

[Click here](#) to register or for more information, call Adam Goodwin, Orientation Coordinator at (250) 807-8632 or email [adam.goodwin@ubc.ca](mailto:adam.goodwin@ubc.ca)

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