



Mike Lazaridis, President and
co-CEO of Research In Motion

VIP PROGRAMME: Thought Leadership / Meet a Leader. “Smartphones and the Connected Society”. Research in Motion

The “Meet a leader” session of the VIP programme featured Mike Lazaridis, President and co-CEO of Research In Motion (RIM), the maker of BlackBerry smartphones. Opening remarks were made by Helen McDonald, Assistant Deputy Minister at Canada’s Department of Industry, Spectrum, Information Technologies and Telecommunications. The session was moderated by Patricia Szarvas of the television broadcaster CNBC, United Kingdom. Mr Lazaridis highlighted a number of issues at the core of the wireless industry’s success. From the importance of security as a fundamental foundation for the wireless industry, to the role of technology in e-health, he drew on his many years of experience in the industry.

Mr Lazaridis is known in the global wireless community as a visionary and exceptionally talented engineer. A Canadian whose hometown is Windsor, Ontario, he founded RIM while a student at university. As President and co-CEO, he is responsible for research and development, product development, and manufacturing. He is also a passionate advocate of education and scientific research, and personally invested USD 150 million in the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics, which opened in 2001 in Waterloo, Ontario. He has also helped generate more than USD 100 million in additional private and public-sector funding for the institute, a centre of scientific excellence that is now associated with over 30 Canadian universities and a growing number of others worldwide.

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