

MEET THE WORLD'S FIRST AI-BASED VIRTUAL ADVISOR FOR ENTREPRENEURS

LAS VEGAS: At Dell EMC World, Circular Board unveiled Alice, the first-ever artificial intelligence platform for women entrepreneurs. Developed in partnership with Dell and Pivotal, Alice is on a mission to make it possible for significantly more female founders to succeed at unprecedented levels. Women-owned businesses currently employ 7.8 million workers in the US and generate \$1.3 trillion in revenue overall, yet only 2% of women entrepreneurs in the US have reached more than \$1 million in revenues. Alice and her partners will work to flip this stat to 98%.

"Alice is a female founder's best mentor, guide and consultant. The current startup ecosystem continues to cycle resources among a very small percentage of well-connected entrepreneurs, making it difficult for less traditional founders to navigate," said Carolyn Rodz, founder and CEO of Circular Board. "Alice instantly filters millions of resources down to the personalized, verified content that enables founders to scale to the highest heights, no matter where they are located or who they know."

Meet Alice

Driven by data analytics, Alice is a virtual advisor that connects women entrepreneurs in real time with the resources needed to scale based on startup stage, location, industry, revenue and individual needs. As Alice populates, machine learning will allow her to predict founders' needs to guide them to referrals, events, mentors and access points to capital and ecosystems.

Alice offers its users the following:

- A conversational user interface to express different areas where women entrepreneurs need help (e.g., financing, legal, marketing, technology).
- Static and machine learning based on user input
- Personalized dashboard with real-time modules based on user activity.
- User profiles with data collection capabilities for personal and company demographics.
- An extensive library of resources, network of global experts and leaders and events calendar.
- Robust search pages with stored results that sort

and filter by location, industry, annual revenue, employee count, years in business and content publication source.

• Bulk and single upload of resource(s) and mentor(s) by trusted partners and the Circular Board team of experts for easy content aggregation and suggestive analytics.

The relationship with Dell Technologies

In 2016, Circular Board approached Dell with an idea to disrupt the startup world by building an entirely new ecosystem for women founders. Built on its existing commitment to support growing businesses, Dell grabbed a leadership seat at the table to lend its expertise, capital and innovative spirit to create Alice.

"Entrepreneurship is part of Dell's DNA. We're always looking for ways to bring entrepreneurs the best technology solutions to help empower them in the new world of digital transformation," said Karen Quintos, EVP and Chief Customer Officer, Dell. "Through the power of the Dell Technologies net-

work and the expertise of the Circular Board, we're driving innovation to help women entrepreneurs take their businesses to the next level."

Pivotal, the company accelerating digital transformation for startups and enterprises, developed and deployed Alice's software in near record-setting time - just over three months from concept to launch. The Circular Board team successfully adopted Pivotal's next-generation software development methodology, as well as used Pivotal's cloud technology, to ensure machine learning capabilities allow Alice to evolve and continue to provide targeted resources and mentorship for female entrepreneurs.

"Circular Board is leading the way in helping female entrepreneurs turn ideas into fast-growing businesses," says Rob Mee, CEO, Pivotal. "Working with us, the Circular Board team have successfully adopted Pivotal's next-generation methods and technologies to ensure their ecosystem and platform thrives. We're thrilled to be able to help Circular Board on this important mission."

AXILSPOT ANNOUNCES AVAILABILITY OF ASW120 IN-WALL WIRELESS ACCESS POINT

DUBAI: AXILSPOT, a global vendor in enterprise wireless networking, announced availability of its ASW120 In-wall wireless access point in Middle East and Africa to help businesses manage their growing indoor workload congestions, using a secure and reliable network and Internet connectivity device. Customers are being challenged with providing wireless access in an environment with many rooms including RF-blocking walls, floors, and doors, such as hotel, patient rooms, classrooms and apartments.

time, indoor wireless networks are seeing increasing demands on their bandwidth and network performance. Devices such as the ASW120 In-wall wireless access point can go a long way in improving the quality of service, while providing secure access and management." August Chen, Director of Global Sales, points out that the launch of previous AXILSPOT access point and in-wall products have been well received in the region both by business customers and channel partners, due to their innovative features and specifications.

"AXILSPOT continues to innovate its products with the latest MIMO(MU-MIMO)chip capability, dual radio frequency optimization, high-speed bandwidth throughput, multi-port access capability including PoE and USB charging, secure wireless network access and segmentation of the networks based on user groups, amongst others. Plug and play installation, automatic firmware upgrades and configuration settings are being well received by on-site installation teams," added Chen.

The ASW120 is a dual-radio Access Point, with data rate up to 867Mbps on the 5GHz radio and 300Mbps on the 2.4GHz radio. It supports multi-user MIMO (MU-MIMO)to provide simultaneous connectivity for multiple devices, maximizing wireless throughput and improving efficiency. ASW120 features four Gigabit Ethernet ports and USB port, supports Standard PoEoutput, VoIP, IPTV, Telephone, Internet access and USB charging. It can be deployed into any standard electrical outlet box, creating a low profile, secure design and front port access fitting in unobtrusively with in-room furniture replacement. The ASW120 combines Gigabit Ethernet wired and reliable 802.11ac Wave 2 wireless connectivity into a sleek and easy to use device. It is ideal for high-end hotels, medical clinics, classrooms and branch offices, which often require flexible and scalable network deployment options.



Nick Huang, Regional Sales Manager, AXILSPOT



August Chen, Director of Global Sales, AXILSPOT

ASW120 has been purpose-built for high-density and micro-cell environments, offering a cost-effective way for providing high-speed wireless services for multiple users and multiple mobile device in every room.

Commenting on the launch of the product in the region, Nick Huang, Regional Sales Manager, AXILSPOT said, "The ASW120 In-wall wireless access point provides additional versatility for small and large businesses as they are expanding their facilities or trying to improve the quality of service for their wireless network users. With wireless network users accessing multiple applications and using more than one device at the same



AXILSPOT's New ASW120 In-wall Wireless Access Point



MARISSA MAYER DEPARTS AS YAHOO ENDS ITS RUN

ICONIC SILICON VALLEY COMPANY SELLING CORE INTERNET OPERATIONS

SAN FRANCISCO: Marissa Mayer was hailed as Yahoo's savior when she took charge of the pioneering internet firm five years ago. But Mayer was unable to stem the decline of the iconic Silicon Valley company, which is set to close a deal on Tuesday selling its core internet operations to telecom giant Verizon. She is likely headed for the exit as Yahoo ends two-decade run as an independent company, getting a departure package worth an estimated \$186 million.

Mayer inherited a company in protracted decline, having lost its leadership as an internet search company to Google and falling behind others like Facebook in serving money-making ads to users. She is the latest in a line of chief executives who tried to reinvent Yahoo, and her experience at rival Google inspired hope. "Marissa inherited a mess, in a company that had already lost its leadership role in search," said Creative Strategies president and analyst Tim Bajarin, who has known Yahoo since its early days.

Mayer, 42, joined Google in 1999 as its 20th employee and led efforts for hit products, including its flagship search product and homepage. At Yahoo, where she became CEO in 2012, she went on a buying spree that included a \$1 billion acquisition of blogging platform Tumblr to reach a younger audience. She also cut more than a thousand jobs. "Buying your way out of a problem like this is rarely going to solve your trouble," analyst Rob Enderle of Enderle Group said of acquisitions racked up at Yahoo. Yahoo's finances have been skewed by its stake in China's Alibaba. It bought a 40 percent stake in Alibaba in 2005 for \$1 billion and its current holding is now worth many times that amount, dwarfing the value of its internet operations.

It also has a multibillion-dollar stake in Yahoo Japan. These holdings will not be transferred to Verizon but remain in a separate entity named "Altaba."

Like to dislike

A survey released last month by business insights specialty website Owlser ranked Mayer as the second most disliked chief executive, behind the head of United Airlines. "Career-wise, Marissa is done," Enderle said. "She's rich, so she could certainly fund herself as a venture capitalist but if she doesn't work on her skill set she is going to lose a lot of money as a VC."

Enderle put fault on the Yahoo board, saying Mayer was put in a "very bad spot" and failed to provide a mentor for a job she had never done before. "Like our president, it shows that when you take someone with no idea what they are doing and put them in a job they shouldn't do, it will end badly," Enderle said. Born in a small Wisconsin city, Mayer worked at a grocery store before attending Stanford University, where she studied computer science.

While her intellectual skills qualify her as a

nerd, her blond good looks and star quality have put her on the cover of magazines including Fortune, Vanity Fair and Vogue, where pictures of her featured in a fashion spread. Glamour magazine named her "woman of the year" in 2009 and she has been on several lists of influential tech personalities.

Pioneered search

Yahoo was one of the first companies that enabled users to find their way online, but lost its role as a leader. It is selling its core internet operations to telecom giant Verizon for \$4.48 billion, capping a long decline from when it had a peak market value of some \$125 billion in 2000. Founded in 1994 by Stanford University students David Filo and Jerry Yang, Yahoo was created as a type of directory for the internet. It was originally called "Jerry and Dave's Guide to the World Wide Web."

Its initial public offering in 1996 was the largest for a tech startup at the time. Based in Sunnyvale, California, Yahoo became the leading "portal" for the internet, with a home page that allowed users to click on categories such as sports, finance and movies, or search for information. "In a way, Yahoo introduced the concept of search," Bajarin said. "They started diversifying with all these content layers and in the process didn't put enough engineering resources in the search engine." — AFP

BOARD ADOPTS REPORT ON UBER'S CULTURE, SILENT ON CEO LEAVE

DETROIT: Uber's Board of Directors has adopted a series of recommendations about the company's corporate culture from former Attorney General Eric Holder, but it was silent late Sunday on whether it would approve a leave of absence for the ride service's embattled CEO. A spokesman confirmed that the board met with Holder and Tammy Albarr-n, both partners with Covington & Burling LLP, a law firm hired to investigate complaints of widespread sexual harassment and other deep-seated cultural problems at Uber.

Board members voted unanimously to adopt all of the firm's recommendations, which were

to be released to employees today, the spokesman said. He would not comment on any further actions taken by the board, including whether it discussed the future of CEO Travis Kalanick. Multiple media outlets reported Sunday that the board was considering a leave of absence for Kalanick.

Uber Technologies Inc. has been rocked by accusations that its management has fostered a workplace environment where harassment, discrimination and bullying are left unchecked. Uber announced last week that it fired 20 employees for harassment problems after a separate investi-

gation by a different law firm. Under Kalanick, Uber has shaken up the taxi industry in hundreds of cities and turned the San Francisco-based company into the world's most valuable startup. Uber's valuation has climbed to nearly \$70 billion.

But Kalanick has acknowledged his management style needs improvement. The 40-year-old CEO said earlier this year that he needed to "fundamentally change and grow up." In February, former Uber engineer Susan Fowler wrote on a blog that she had been propositioned by her boss in a series of messages on her first day of work and that superiors ignored her complaints. Uber set up a hotline for complaints after that and hired the law firm of Perkins Coie to investigate.

Federal investigation

That firm checked into 215 complaints, with 57 still under investigation. Uber has been plagued by more than sexual harassment complaints in recent months. It has been threatened by boycotts, sued and subject to a federal investigation that it used a fake version of its app to thwart authorities looking into whether it is breaking local laws.

Kalanick lost his temper earlier this year in an argument with an Uber driver who was complaining about pay, and Kalanick's profanity-laced comments were caught on video. In a March conference call with reporters after that incident, board member Arianna Huffington expressed confidence that Kalanick would evolve into a better leader. But Huffington, a founder of Huffington Post, suggested time might be running out. — AP



NEW YORK: In this March 15, 2017, file photo, a sign marks a pick-up point for the Uber car service at LaGuardia Airport. — AP



NEW YORK: The Pandora Media name appears above a trading post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. — AP

SIRIUS XM BUYS STAKE IN STREAMING SITE PANDORA

NEW YORK: Pandora is raising cash to help it take on Spotify and other streaming music services. The online music service is selling a 19 percent stake in its business to satellite radio company Sirius XM for \$480 million. Pandora will pay a \$22.5 million breakup fee to private equity firm KKR for breaking up a previously agreed \$150 million deal. Pandora, which is based in Oakland, California, will raise another \$200 million selling its Ticketfly ticket service to Eventbrite - a service Pandora bought for \$450 million in 2015.

Pandora works as an internet radio, and most users listen for free. But its financial losses have deepened in the past few years while its user base has been stagnant, and

in March it launched a subscription service that copied the strategy of competitors like Spotify and Apple Music. Like those apps, it can now charge users and then let them pick the songs they want to listen to.

Sirius will be able to pick three people for Pandora's board, one of whom will be chairman. Most of Sirius' listeners are in cars, and by investing in Pandora, it gets entry into the digital radio business. Analysts say there are opportunities for the two companies to collaborate and bundle products. Pandora Media Inc shares rose 10 cents, or 1.2 percent, to close Friday at \$8.52. Shares in New York-based Sirius XM Holdings Inc. dipped 20 cents, or 3.7 percent, to \$5.20. — AP