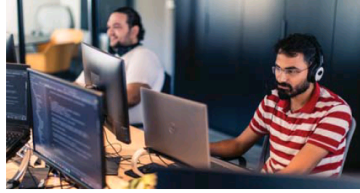


## eCabs partners with Google and Noovle on machine learning project

eCabs has partnered with Noovle Malta Ltd, the international branch of Noovle S.p.A, part of TIM group and their main partner Google, to carry out a machine learning project, which serves as the next chapter in the evolution of the state-of-the-art mobility company's platform. The project supports eCabs in moving onto its new generation of software and laying the foundations of AI through cutting-edge machine learning solutions to power the company's soon to be international platform.

In the project's framework, eCabs team members work hand in hand with Noovle and Google experts, allowing the Malta-based tech company to leverage the multitude of its data points through the Google Machine Learning Platform to empower real-time, machine-enabled analysis and real time actions. This will allow the eCabs platform to make faster, more efficient, and more effective decisions based on market supply and demand.

The project objectives seek to elevate eCabs' technology to the intended next level in support of the company's internationalisation plans by allowing instant, consistent and scalable improvement to its proprietary platform. The technology will enhance the optimised user experience for drivers and passengers by learning from automated decisions rooted in big data processing.



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Luca di Michele, Chief Technology Officer at eCabs, said, "It is to our delight that we are collaborating with such expertise on the global market leading in machine learning platform, on such an important project that see us move into our next generation of software development."

As the next step in this project, eCabs is planning to use its data to create the future of self-learning software in their vertical, which shall be able to scale quickly based on big-data-driven decisions made by the machine learning process. Via this ambitious undertaking, the technical teams of eCabs are exposed to a great learning curve as they work with the best of the best professionals in the field.

CTO di Michele added: "This is only the beginning. By improving our supply and demand analysis, we will be able to positively impact all other software components of our platform, such as estimated time of arrival and map mechanics to mention but a few examples. This is an important evolution of every aspect of the eCabs platform, which eventually boosts the data-driven aspect of our business by using automation."

This machine learning collaboration comes after eCabs has recently successfully migrated to the Google Cloud Platform.



David Debono, Victoria Debono and Alan Debono

## Four key officers appointed at db Group's



Robert Debono

The db Group's board of directors has appointed four key officers to take forward its vision and oversee its execution. The move also marks a watershed in the family's succession planning moment.

Robert Debono has been appointed as the Group's CEO with a clear brief to continue to drive an already robust business and investment strategy and to consolidate financial success on all fronts.

Dr David Debono, a lawyer, is the chief Legal officer overseeing all legal matters as well as those pertaining to HR and Alan Debono will be the chief Procurement and Accounting officer responsible for financial and purchasing policy and execution. Victoria Debono is now the Brands manager in charge of nurturing and expanding the Group's local and global brand portfolio.

Silvio Debono remains chairman of the Board.

Robert Debono comments: "This is an exciting and humbling challenge for my siblings and myself. The Board is trusting us to sustain and enhance the success of a group of companies on which the livelihood of 4,500 families and individuals depends. It is also happening as the tourism industry and the economy are expected to get a post-pandemic reboot. The future looks bright and we are ready for it."

Silvio Debono comments: "My wife and I gave our children the freedom to choose their individual paths in life. They took different ones which, as luck would have it, are converging at this very moment. I am convinced that they will continue to expand and deepen our Group's vision and prudently execute it. As the Group's chairman, I shall oversee this positive transition, ensuring that our strong

financial standing is sustained and to see that our excellent track record remains and extends to the future."

### db Group performance

The db Group's post-pandemic recovery is exceeding forecasts, with figures in March comparing well with those of March 2020, the last month before the pandemic struck. The March 2020 financial results were better than those of the year ending March 2021, the year in which the pandemic took its biggest toll. Accordingly, comparisons with the March 2020 benchmark, at the end of a record year for tourism in Malta, lead to a more balanced picture of the Group's performance.

As it did during the financial crisis, the Group once again continued to invest even during the darkest pandemic months. Throughout, the Group maintained its position as Malta's largest local hotel operator. New Starbucks outlets and two new restaurants, LOA and Sonora, were inaugurated, the latter two after March of this year. This growth was also complemented with an extensive re-branding and modernisation programme of the hotels and their restaurants.

The strategy paid off as it did at the end of the 2009 financial crisis. It drove the uniquely fast recovery of the Group as the worst of the pandemic was put behind us.

In March the Group revenue stood at €40m, just €20m less than in March 2020. EBITDA in March stood at €24m, just €3.5m less in the same period.

Profit after tax in March was €10.5m when compared to €12m in March 2020. Capital expenditure in March 2020 was almost €8m against a Capex of almost €5m this year.

## Pierre Etienne Cizeron appointed CEO of Epic

Epic's transformation journey is moving to its next phase, as Tamas Banyai steps down as its CEO, and Pierre-Etienne Cizeron takes over from 1st October 2022.

Tamas has been with the company for eight years, and has led as CEO since April 2020. During this period, Epic launched a new brand, no contract unlimited plans, doubled its retail footprint, started the rollout of its new mobile network with Malta's fastest 5G, and launched 2000 Mbps fibre broadband Internet services first in Malta. As a result, the company is steadily increasing its customer-base and its revenues and has regained the pole position in the mobile market.

In March 2021, Epic entered into a long-term service agreement with Phoenix Towers International for the provision of hosting services of its mobile infrastructure as well as for the



Pierre Etienne Cizeron

construction of new sites through a build-to-suit programme, securing long-term access by Epic to such infrastructure. Earlier this month Epic secured €20 million financing from the European Investment Bank to accelerate the rollout of new services and future-proof its infrastructure.

"The Board is grateful for Tamas's leadership and his significant achievements. We will continue to build on the solid foundation that is his legacy, to ensure that the company continues to go from strength to strength. We wish him the best of luck for his new career going forward," said Professor Juanito Camilleri, Chairman of the

### Board of Epic.

With Pierre-Etienne's arrival, Epic's journey will start a new phase that will see the completion of the modernization and upgrade of its new mobile network with nationwide 5G coverage, continued improvement of customer experience, and further acceleration of Epic's journey of becoming a fully converged operator. He brings with him a wealth of international experience in the rollout and management of the full spectrum of state-of-the-art telecom and digital services in highly competitive markets.

"Pierre-Etienne will accelerate Epic's journey in Malta building an infrastructure which is second to none and matching this great network with excellent customer experience and value. No doubt he will further unleash the potential of Epic's great team, and on behalf of everyone at Epic, I welcome and wish him every success in his new role with Epic at this exciting juncture", added Prof. Camilleri.