

Ms Dana Farrugia  
CEO – Tech.MT

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**Title: INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY IS THE KEY TO GROWTH FOR MALTA'S INDUSTRIES AND SOCIETY ALIKE**

Good afternoon, my name is Dana Farrugia I am the CEO of Tech.mt, a public private partnership established between the Government of Malta and the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise & Industry, to promote the National Strategy for Technology & Innovation.

In today's economies it has become a must for countries to keep abreast with new technologies and benefit from innovative solutions. Technology is the underlying layer of every transaction and is fundamental to generate trade on a global scale.

The economy of the Maltese islands is self-reliant, although positioned in the middle of the Mediterranean between multiple continents, Malta's economy is independent from other regions. We have seen this over the past years with our overperforming economic activity.

Since Malta's economy is majorly dependent on services, with little reliance on raw materials, self – sufficiency may be difficult to maintain. Hence the importance of strengthening our connections worldwide. Malta has worked hard throughout the years to increase presence and its reach worldwide through air links and sea links. We have also invested highly in our physical connectivity, in fact we are referred to as the digital island.

We now need to start migrating our economies and our society to new technologies and embracing the benefits of innovation. We should not fear what is new and undiscovered. Malta so far has not shied away from being curious about new technologies, in the past days you must have followed how the Hon Silvio Schembri has rolled out a national strategy on Artificial Intelligence. The mandate is to create a safe environment without suffocating growth. And this is exactly why Tech.mt was created.

We pledge to put Malta on the forefront globally, as the technology hub of choice. Although we've been in operation for a few months we have already made our presence known both locally and internationally. Helping local businesses to reach international markets is one of our mandates. We have just participated in the World Summit AI, where we have promoted our technology sector at an international level.

At Tech.mt we believe that through technology businesses can break borders, operate as one free market and enjoy greater economies of scale. The reach out there is infinite and we want to enable everyone to be exposed to new technologies and adopt them.

Our economic sectors should all start exposing themselves to new solutions and adopting them, the Government has taken the lead in this by adopting innovative technologies in education, health, business registry and the public services. To achieve a nationwide changeover, we are working hand in hand with the tech sector to develop new products and act as a vehicle for other economic sectors to digitalise.

At Tech.mt we want to be your partner in success. We encourage you to get in touch with us to explore ways of how we can assist you. We look forward to being part of your drive to go digital!