

GM's fourth IT Innovation Center opens in Arizona

Big news for GM and big news for Arizona, particularly the growing tech sector in Chandler

General Motors Information Technology Innovation Centers are where GM in-sources the company's innovation capabilities and taps into an ever-expanding pool of new and experienced IT talent. With centers already operating in Warren, Michigan, Austin, Texas and Roswell, Georgia, the late August ribbon-cutting at their new GM Arizona IT Innovation Center in Chandler marks their fourth.

Randy Mott, GM senior VP Global Information Technology and chief information officer, was joined at the grand opening ceremony by local and national elected officials including Chandler Mayor Jay Tibshraeny, US Representatives Matt Salmon and Kyrsten Sinema, Arizona House of Representatives President Andy Biggs and Speaker of the House Andy Tobin. Approximately 500 facility employees also attended the event.

GM's IT Innovation Centers are part of a companywide transformation to improve performance, reduce operating costs and increase output of technical innovations. GM announced Chandler

as the site of the company's fourth IT Innovation Center in March 2013, and construction on the 170,000 square-foot center was completed in June of this year.

GM expects to hire a total of 1000 employees at the Chandler center over the next five years. About 500 employees are already employed here, about 25 percent of whom are recent college graduates.

We toured the facility, part of a global campus connected by 24/7 full-room, large-screen teleconferencing—featuring real time two-way, three-way or more-way video links to teams in other centers throughout the GM network. These nodes enable rapid development of the latest in a wide range of e-based customer interface and satisfaction methodologies, as well as incorporating flex hours, creative commons for collaborative brainstorming, stand-sit workspaces, idea walls for sketches and notes, and more. Technologies developed here, including systems to 100 percent purchase a car online, are all about the customer first.

Collaboration knows no boundaries. While the

other half of the room may be in Korea, China, Austin, Australia, Detroit and other hotbeds of development worldwide, the Arizona group can still step outside and enjoy the Arizona sunshine and our enviable lifestyle any time they want.

Arizona Governor Jan Brewer recognized the facility as "great news for the local economy. Today's event speaks volumes about the business-friendly environment we have created in Arizona, including our high-tech talent and competitive cost of operating. I could not be prouder of our state and what this announcement means for the future of Arizona's economy."

Chandler Mayor Tibshraeny was among the dignitaries present at the opening, off Price Road southeast of Chandler Fashion Center, saying, "GM is exactly the type of technology employer we need in Chandler and in our state. The GM Innovation Center is a perfect complement to Chandler's Price Corridor, and furthers the city's reputation as a regional hub for innovators and world-class IT professionals." ■

