

Groundbreakin' and Earth Shakin' - Data Center of the Future

Have you heard the pounding thump of the pile driving rig in Dearborn recently?

Our ears' short lived pain is Ford's long term gain. Construction crews are laying the foundation, quite literally, for the Data Center of the Future.

A beautiful fall day on the Ford World Headquarters campus in Dearborn set the stage for the Data Center of the Future groundbreaking ceremony on October 18, 2016.

The crowd of almost 150 people gathered under a tent on the actual construction site. A bulldozer and pile driver appropriately set the stage as leadership provided congratulatory words and shared their thoughts on moving Ford's transformation further through technology.

The audience was comprised of Ford IT and Ford Land team members, as well as our supplier partners and members of the construction crew. Everyone gathered as Ford President and CEO Mark Fields and Marcy Klevorn, vice president and CIO, brought their shovels to the ground and kicked-off this massive project that is part of the Dearborn Campus Transformation and also an expansive project for IT changing the way we manage and contain Ford's data.

Marcy Klevorn took the stage first welcoming the crowd, highlighting the increased demand for technology including an explosion of data at Ford. Before turning things over to Mark Fields she stated, "Today represents the automotive and mobility company Ford is becoming supported by technology and software."

Next up, Mark Fields reflected on how the Data Center of the Future supports our expansion to be both an automotive and a mobility company, and provides modern and secure computing data storage capabilities that will allow us to be a trusted steward of our customer's data.

"As we go forward, the role that IT is playing and will play in our business – it is priceless!" Fields stated.

Referencing the overall Dearborn Campus Transformation, Roger Gaudette, director Dearborn Campus Transformation at Ford Land said, "The Data Center is an important and large part of the 10-year campus transformation", which in itself is pretty cool, he then went on to say "the Data Center of the Future is the first visible sign of transformation outdoors on the World Headquarters Campus."

Jeff Lemmer, director IT Operations, wrapped up the ceremonial speeches with recognition for all those playing a critical role in the Data Center of the Future, noting that we have the right people for the job. Lemmer acknowledged, "The IT team is being challenged to think differently about how we deploy applications and create infrastructure, and new data centers will allow us to meet those challenges."

After the ceremonial speeches, under the falling leaves of a Slippery Elm tree, everyone indulged in donuts and cider to celebrate a truly remarkable event looking forward to the amazing things happening at Ford as we continue to improve people's lives through technology.

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