



Construction app sets sights on big time after pitching to prince

A LONDON start-up that developed software used by workers on the multi-billion-pound Crossrail project was named as a finalist in a business scheme backed by the Duke of York.

Alex Siljanovski, 35, says his web and app-based software BaseStone “helps cut risk and cost” on construction sites. It connects site workers with office staff and allows designs and other materials to be stored digitally in one location.

Mr Siljanovski, a former chartered engineer whose team is based in Whitechapel, says the software has been used at up to 15 per cent of Crossrail’s sites in the capital.

His company was one of three London firms to reach the final stages of Prince Andrew’s Pitch@Palace, where start-ups pitch to industry experts for support and investment. Of 42 companies that pitched, 15 made it to the final, which was held at St James’s Palace last night.

Hal Watts, the co-founder of Knyttan, software which allows users to design a jumper and program it into a knitting machine, accepted the audience award. Appear Here, which was founded by Ross Bailey and links pop-ups with



“Fantastic”: Alex Siljanovski set up BaseStone. Right, Andrew with entrepreneurs, from left, Yarden Jacobsen, Jonathan Gan, Ross Bailey and Hal Watts

retail space, came second while London firm BabyLifeBox came third. Its low-cost baby incubator, made from recycled materials, was developed by students at Imperial College London.

The people’s choice award went to app Whichit, set up by Yarden Jacobsen and Jonathan Gan. It allows users to ask questions, such as what film to watch, which are answered by other users.

The third London start-up which made the final was Winnow, whose app helps combat kitchen food waste.

Mr Siljanovski, of Wandsworth, said the competition “gives your company the opportunity to catch the eye of a number of potential investors”.

Lizzie Edmonds



Leaving EU would harm London’s tech industry, warns French minister

Mark Blunden
Technology Reporter

BRITAIN should resist “closing down the barriers” and leaving the EU because it would damage France’s growing tech relationship with London, the French minister for digital affairs says.

Axelle Lemaire claimed a potential “Brexit” would be “counterproductive for innovation”, saying an easy flow of workers between France and Tech City was essential to give the capital an edge over Silicon Valley.

Ms Lemaire – who lived in Bayswater for 13 years – was visiting London as French start-ups pitched to potential UK backers.

In an interview at the ambassador’s residence in Kensington Palace Gardens, she said: “The position of the French government is very clear on the

hypothesis of the Brexit. I don’t think it would be good, neither for Britain, nor for France, where I think the natural sense of history goes more towards co-operation.

“The start-up ecosystem is an open, international, multicultural world. It’s difficult to understand these kinds of temptations of closing down the barriers and looking inwards rather than outwards.

She added: “One of the growing problems in Silicon Valley is the capacity to find the right people for the right position, because they are all in good positions in very big internet companies.

Especially for smaller business, it is increasingly difficult to find the right talent – that’s an area where Europe can potentially be extremely attractive.” She

Seeking co-operation:
digital affairs minister
Axelle Lemaire

said a lack of information from Britain about the Government’s proposed renegotiation of its EU membership was clouding matters: “We hear a lot about it, but I don’t really know what the Prime Minister is talking about, and I’m really looking forward to seeing in his negotiation document what he’ll be asking for.”

Ms Lemaire’s favourite French tech includes the Autolib electric car-share scheme, which launched in London this summer.

She described open data as “the new oil”, and said that ensuring developers get access to public sector data was vital to boosting the digital economy and fostering innovation.

This access is part of France’s draft “digital republic” bill. It also proposes the right to a “digital death”, so users can determine how their personal data is used after they die.

Ms Lemaire called for a “high level of privacy protection for people, because they feel the internet and digital tools are becoming more and more intrusive. [This] is important for the growth of the digital economy, because without trust and confidence there’s no digital economy.”

@_MarkBlunden

Novelist Boyd backs Chelsea fight against Crossrail 2

Pippa Crerar City Hall Editor

WRITER William Boyd today became the latest well-known figure to join the campaign against bringing Crossrail 2 to Chelsea.

The novelist, whose latest book is a James Bond tale, accused Transport for London of proposing an “act of civic and urban vandalism”. He said

building a station on the King’s Road “would wreak irreparable damage on one of the most cherished, characterful and colourful districts of London. It must be adamantly opposed in every possible way”.

The campaign against Crossrail 2 is backed by about 4,000 residents including director Sir Alan Parker and actress Felicity Kendal. TfL has

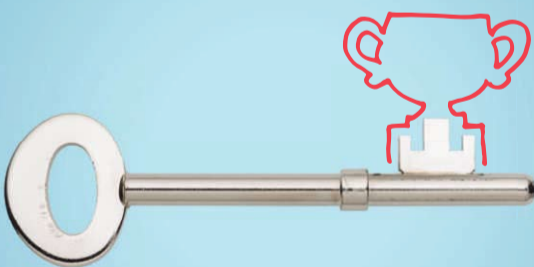
launched a public consultation into the £27 billion landmark rail project which will cross the capital from north to south by 2030.

Michèle Dix, of TfL, said: “A Crossrail 2 station in Chelsea will not only improve access to jobs and other opportunities across London, but also support local business and economic growth.”

@PippaCrerar

POST OFFICE Money

Remortgaging?
How about a fixed rate from
an award winning† mortgage
provider?



1.85%

fixed until
31/12/2017
and then

4.49%

variable which is The Bank of
England base rate (currently
0.5%) plus 3.99% for the rest
of the mortgage term

The overall cost for
comparison is

4.1% APR

- Minimum deposit 25%
- £0 arrangement fee
- Early repayment charge: 3% of the sum repaid until 31/12/2017

- Lending fee of £195 applies (due on completion but payment can be deferred until mortgage is fully paid)
- Standard Valuation fee paid by the Lender
- Standard legal fees paid by the Lender when using their nominated solicitor

Visit us [postofficemoney.co.uk](https://www.postofficemoney.co.uk) Ask us at the counter Call us 0330 400 6202*

Post Office Money® Mortgages are provided by Bank of Ireland UK.

YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON YOUR MORTGAGE

†The Awards given relate to the product range, application process and servicing, which are provided in conjunction with Bank of Ireland UK. Subject to status and lending criteria. Written illustrations are available on request. Borrowers must be 18 or over. Post Office Limited is an appointed representative of Bank of Ireland (UK) plc which is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. Bank of Ireland UK is a trading name of Bank of Ireland (UK) plc which is registered in England & Wales (No.07022885). Registered Office: Bow Bells House, 1 Bread Street, London EC4M 9BE. Post Office Ltd is registered in England & Wales. Registered No. 2154540. Registered office: Finsbury Dials, 20 Finsbury Street, London EC2Y 9AQ. Post Office Money and the Post Office Money logo are registered trade marks of Post Office Ltd. Rates correct as at 16/10/2015. *Calls to 0330 numbers cost no more than calling a standard geographic number starting with 01 or 02 from your fixed line or mobile phone and may be included in your call package dependent on your service provider. 9732150730(D)