

# 2018 was a big year for tech, so what's in store for 2019?

Technology innovation is moving so fast you can be forgiven for thinking it's moving too fast. What was predicted one year ago to be the next big thing may have already been replaced with the latest and greatest concept.

2018 was a big year for innovation in technology with that trend expected to continue in 2019. For entrepreneurs this presents a challenge as not all new technology ends up catching on, so it's important to be careful with R&D dollars and investments. Remember technology is a tool to enable business to run more efficiently and more economically.

## **Big technology trends in 2019**

Three big trends for 2019 evolve around 5G, the Internet of Things (IoTs), and Artificial Intelligence (AI). Many other new technology trends will be enabled under these umbrellas accelerating research and development (R&D) in blockchain, mobile app development, autonomous vehicles, data analytics, smart cities and buildings, and ideas yet to be thought of.

5G is the next generation of radio access (wireless) networks delivering predicted speeds of up to 100 times faster than 4G. 5G is starting to be rolled out now in selected capital cities around the globe. Many new smartphones in 2019 will offer 5G connectivity and hence incredible online performance.

The Internet of Things will involve all things being connected online, and will be supported by 5G networks. For example a motion sensor in your home will inform your smartphone of a possible intruder, or you can remotely turn on your washing machine from work.



Artificial Intelligence is a general term for machine learning. We already see this with online “bots”, some personal robots or assistants (Amazon “Echo” etc), and with the way big companies such as Facebook use their “like” system for targeted advertising. Of course this is just the very beginning of AI, and it will perhaps be the biggest technology trend of the next decade.

Blockchain is a secure decentralized digital ledger that can't be altered. It's possible that in the future every recorded piece of digital data can be stored this way. It can mean all transactions an individual or a company makes can be recorded. Looking ahead it is quite likely we will follow China's lead and use our smartphone to simply purchase all our goods wherever we go. A cashless society recorded on the blockchain.

**A brief look at a few of the innovative technology related companies we follow at Investorintel**

**Cobalt Blockchain Inc.** (TSXV: COBC) is working with partners to develop a blockchain-based reporting platform to provide greater certainty of provenance and further assurance that all

minerals (notably cobalt) procured are ethically sourced.

**Global Blockchain Technologies (CSE:BL0C)** “BL0C” is an investment company that provides investors access to a mixture of assets in the blockchain space, strategically chosen to balance stability and growth. BL0C invests in new markets enabled by blockchain technology. On December 17, 2018, BL0C made a key acquisition by acquiring 100% of the issued and outstanding shares of X2 Games. BL0C and X2 Games have initiated a comprehensive strategy to optimize BL0C’s assets towards gaming, eSports, and AI. BL0C’s assets will be leveraged to support X2’s pursuit of disruptive gaming interfaces.

**Global Cannabis Applications Corp. (CSE: APP | OTCQB: FUAPF)** designs, develops, markets, and acquires data technologies for the cannabis industry by applying artificial intelligence, blockchain, and crypto-currency to improve cannabis health sciences. The Company mission is to build a technology-enabled community to improve health and wellness.



**Internet of Things Inc. (TSXV: ITT)** operate as an Internet of Things technology accelerator and industry investment acquisition company. In other words they buy up early stage promising IoTs companies.

**NanoSphere Health Sciences Inc.** (CSE: NSHS) do not technically fit into this category but they are doing some good things with bio tech. One of their great products is the only patented nano-particle delivery system to transport the highest level of therapeutic agents directly to the bloodstream, therefore removing the need for needles.

**Siyata Mobile Inc.** (TSXV: SIM | OTCQX: SYATF) provide an all in one 4G device that reduces clutter on company fleet dashboards. The tablet style device runs mobile apps that eliminate the use for a cell phone, a 2 way radio communications device, or even a GPS navigation system. Siyata plan to be first to market with a 5G dedicated in-vehicle device.

By no means is this a complete list but rather a brief look at some key 2019 technology trends, many of which will be showcased at the upcoming Cantech Investment Conference in Toronto Canada, January 29-30, 2019. InvestorIntel will be attending as a media partner, so we hope to see you there.