

New Accenture Microsoft Business Group Will Empower Enterprises to Thrive in the Era of Digital Disruption

NEW YORK and REDMOND, WA; Feb. 4, 2019 – Accenture (NYSE: ACN) and Microsoft Corp., in conjunction with their joint venture Avanade, today announced the launch of the Accenture Microsoft Business Group. The new group elevates a longstanding strategic alliance, expanding combined service capabilities, global scale and joint solution development to help clients overcome disruption and lead transformation in their industries. Majority owned by Accenture, Avanade was founded in 2000 by Accenture LLP and Microsoft Corporation.

Clients around the globe are looking to Accenture, Microsoft and Avanade for new strategies and industry solutions to drive innovation and growth in the digital era. In response, the new organization represents the largest partner investment in harnessing the enterprise-wide potential of Microsoft technology to date. Building on the success of Avanade, the group will bring together more than 45,000 dedicated professionals – the largest group of Microsoft solution experts in the world. With new joint products and services built on the Microsoft cloud, clients will be able to engage customers in new ways, empower employees, reimagine operations and invent new products and services.

The Accenture Microsoft Business Group will be led by [Emma McGuigan](#), senior managing director, Accenture, who has been with the company for more than 20 years in various technology leadership roles. Adam Warby will continue to serve as the CEO of Avanade.

“The Accenture Microsoft Business Group is a major step forward in our decades-long relationship with Microsoft. It brings Accenture’s broad industry experience and transformation skills together with Microsoft’s powerful digital technologies and Avanade’s specialization in the Microsoft ecosystem,” said Paul Daugherty, Accenture’s chief technology & innovation officer and chairman of the Avanade board. “The demand for digital transformation, powered by the cloud, has never been greater. We are bringing the leading capabilities of our companies together to meet this demand and deliver innovation to our clients.”

Judson Althoff, executive vice president, Worldwide Commercial Business at Microsoft said, “Every company is becoming a digital company. Building on our successful partnership with Accenture and Avanade, we will help customers fuel innovation at scale and lead their industries into the future. This is core to our mission to empower every person and every organization on the planet to achieve more.”

“The new business group brings together the leading technology innovation and industry experience from our companies to help clients transform their businesses and become intelligent enterprises,” said Bhaskar Ghosh, group chief executive, Accenture Technology Services.

As digital disruption and innovation often occurs within industries, the group will co-invest in functional and industry solutions based on Microsoft technologies, with a mission to provide clients with the most comprehensive set of services focused on user experience, analytics and AI, cloud, security, IoT and other critical areas.

To help organizations across all industries, the new group will emphasize helping clients migrate to Microsoft Azure and effectively harness the power of data and artificial intelligence, optimize Microsoft business processes with Microsoft Dynamics 365, and foster modern work and collaboration with Microsoft 365.

Together, Accenture and Avanade have delivered more than 35,000 Microsoft projects for more than 4,000 clients around the world, helping companies such as Carlsberg and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) advance their digital transformation agendas.

“Our digital program is all about giving customers and consumers an even greater experience when they engage with Carlsberg and with our beers. We worked closely with Accenture, Microsoft and Avanade to transition our business-critical IT infrastructure to the Microsoft Azure public cloud,” said Mark Dajani, CIO

and SVP of Global Business Services at Carlsberg Group. “The transition covered more than 150 terabytes of data on 600 servers and 200 applications, serving more than 10,000 employees in our Western European region. Moving to the cloud has given us more visibility into our IT operations and enabled us to accelerate innovation with artificial intelligence, DevOps and analytics.”

“CMHC embarked on our technology and business transformation to enable our employees to better assist Canadians in meeting their housing needs,” said Paul Mason, chief information officer at Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. “Our close partnership with Accenture and Avanade has allowed us to introduce a range of Microsoft solutions that are helping us to transform the customer and employee experience, create exciting new housing solutions, and support continuous innovation throughout our business. Thinking digital has been an important focus of our work in recent years, and technological advancement is a vital component of our company’s strategy going forward.”

Accenture and Avanade have been named Microsoft Alliance Partner of the Year 14 times, and Accenture was recently ranked number one by industry analyst firm HFS Research in their Top 10 for Microsoft AI Services 2019 report.

About Accenture

Accenture (NYSE: ACN) is a leading global professional services company, providing a broad range of services and solutions in strategy, consulting, digital, technology and operations. Combining unmatched experience and specialized skills across more than 40 industries and all business functions — underpinned by the world’s largest delivery network — Accenture works at the intersection of business and technology to help clients improve their performance and create sustainable value for their stakeholders. With approximately 469,000 people serving clients in more than 120 countries, Accenture drives innovation to improve the way the world works and lives. Visit us at www.accenture.com.

About Microsoft

Microsoft (Nasdaq “MSFT” @microsoft) enables digital transformation for the era of an intelligent cloud and an intelligent edge. Its mission is to empower every person and every organization on the planet to achieve more.

About Avanade

Avanade is the leading provider of innovative digital and cloud services, business solutions and design-led experiences delivered through the power of people and the Microsoft ecosystem. Our professionals bring bold, fresh thinking combined with technology, business and industry expertise to help fuel transformation and growth for our clients and their customers. Avanade has 34,000 digitally connected people across 24 countries, bringing clients the best thinking through a collaborative culture that honors diversity and reflects the communities in which we operate. Majority owned by Accenture, Avanade was founded in 2000 by Accenture LLP and Microsoft Corporation. Learn more at www.avanade.com.

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