foreword to
connected sustainable cities

In the 21st century, climate change, energy management and low carbon economics have emerged as major strategy and policy priorities among government and enterprise organizations globally. With their populations on the rise, cities are experiencing considerable increases in energy consumption. According to UN Habitat, cities are responsible for 75% of the world's energy use and for 80% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Cities are also centers of innovation, economic growth, social transformation, healthcare, and education—and most are taking a proactive approach to address the urban sustainability challenge. The unprecedented development of new cities around the globe, however, and the need to renew outdated 20th century infrastructures in mature cities, requires innovative approaches in urban design, metropolitan governance, and infrastructure investment models.

Sustainability and information and communications technology (ICT) are emerging at the commencement of the 21st century as two sides of the same coin: both are innovations for cities seeking to improve their environmental effectiveness in the context of connected societies, global competitiveness, economic development, climate change, and demographic shifts. Today's cities are linked by a global information and communications infrastructure that facilitates communications, human interaction, collaboration, and mobility. Information is coming to people, rather than the reverse. As a result, cities are evolving into places where overlapping networks of companies, institutions, civil societies, and citizens are supported by ICT-enabled flows of people, materials, information, capital, services, and media.
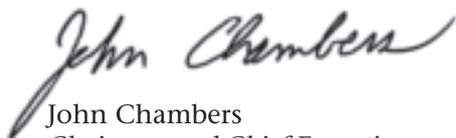
The Connected Urban Development Program

The partners in the Connected Urban Development program believe that ICT networks, and the resulting knowledge-based economy, are as significant as the two major waves of "network" innovation that characterized 20th century urban development. In addition, the imperative to develop a new way of approaching the challenges of reducing carbon emissions and improving energy efficiency is critical, given the urgency posed by rapid climate change.

Connected Urban Development was born from Cisco's commitment to the Clinton Global Initiative. The first phase concentrated on building partnerships amongst Cisco and three cities: Amsterdam, San Francisco, and Seoul. In February 2008 the program was expanded to include the cities of Birmingham, Hamburg, Lisbon, and Madrid. Each of these cities is focused on excelling in one or two key areas. Areas addressed within the program are Green ICT, Connected and Sustainable Buildings, Connected and Sustainable Mobility, Connected and Sustainable Work, and Connected and Sustainable Energy.
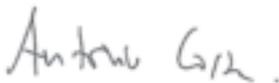
The Connected Urban Development partner cities are jointly developing innovative approaches in the area of urban sustainability and ICT. In addition researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) are providing the globally recognized thought leadership on connected sustainable cities. The authors of this book, Professor William Mitchell, and Dr Federico Casalegno bring their innovative perspectives to the future of technology usability and applications, in particular to urban environments. Their contribution to the Connected Urban Development program has been to marry innovative practical solutions, which are core to the program, with a visionary perspective to the future of urban environments.

In this context the partners in the Connected Urban Development program are delighted to endorse this book, in recognition of its important contribution towards a blueprint of best practices and methodologies that can be implemented both within the cities in this program, and as a reference to scale the innovative pilot initiatives to other cities around the globe.

Signed;

John Chambers
Chairman and Chief Executive
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Antonio Costa
Mayor of Lisbon

Job Cohen
Mayor of Amsterdam

Gavin Newsom
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Paul Tilsley
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