

**FACC PNW High-Tech & Innovation Committee**  
2015 Mission Statement

The FACC Innovation and High-Tech Committee is a group established by the French-American Chamber of Commerce of the Pacific Northwest (FACC PNW). Its purpose is to create an active network of **French-speaking** individuals (“Francophones”) and French / American companies sharing a common interest on High-Tech and Innovation.  
  
The Committee members uses formal and informal networking means throughout the year and aims at:

* Facilitating the contact and the **sharing** of experience and best practices between members ;
* Increasing the visibility and **networking** of French companies and/or French-speaking individuals in the PNW
* Providing analyses, information or business **insights** around the high-tech industry and on innovation trends
* Advising or helping French **startups** to open an office in Washington State or US companies wishing to expand or start a business with French companies (leveraging the Chamber of Commerce team).

The group is open to anyone working in the High-Tech or Innovation-focused companies located in the Pacific North West (Washington, Oregon, Idaho). There are about 10,000 French nationals in these States and about 5,000 additional French-speaking people. As of 8/2015, the Committee consisted of 56 companies and 114 members. The objective is to have 200+ active members by 12/2015, 300+ active members by 12/2016, and 500+ active members by 12/2017.

The Committee organizes 3-4 key annual events at its companies’ facilities where recognized industry, research leaders or senior executives share best practices or innovation/high tech trends and business Insights. In 2014 these events happened at Amazon, Microsoft, and Exequo. In addition, there are ad-hoc meetings on specific topics throughout the year, usually as ‘breakfasts’ or ‘social evening chats’. Topics are based on major trends and included Internet Of Things, Machine Learnings, Business disruption through Innovation or the new ‘Sharing Businesses’ (like Uber),. The Committee also leverages a linkedin group where key information is shared and helps as a social networking platform (new).

The Board works closely with leaders of other FACC Committees for e.g. the Aerospace Committee (sharing Innovations relevant to High-Tech and Aerospace), other organizations such as While 42, and is engaged in initiatives around ‘Innovation’ such “Start-up Week-end” or the annual “FACC Innovation Awards Ceremony”.

**Key Contacts:**

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**Key Members: Companies:**

