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Expo is added to econ summit Three-day tech event in Detroit to display, develop innovations

Nathan Hurst / The Detroit News

Detroit -- The Detroit Economic Club's upcoming National Summit, expected to draw thousands of business leaders from around the country, will take a turn toward technology.

Organizers of the event said Monday it will feature a so-called Innovation Expo for all three days of the June 15-17 summit.

"The Innovation Expo will display breakthrough ideas and new technologies, and also help develop and implement them," said Beth Chappell, president and chief executive of the economic club, in a Monday statement.

"In addition to space for exhibits, it will feature lectures and workshops to promote best practices and accelerate the pace at which innovation is implemented."

The new component of the summit is being developed in conjunction with The Henry Ford. Attendees will be encouraged to spend time at the Expo between lectures and "town hall" sessions that are part of the main event.

Announced last year, The National Summit has secured commitments from 57 top-level executives from a variety of American businesses to discuss the state and future health of the U.S. economy. Notable speakers expected to attend include Ford Motor Co. Chief Executive Alan Mulally, University of Michigan President Mary Sue Coleman and Richard Anderson, chief executive of Delta Air Lines Inc.

Originally slated for an audience of 5,000 at Ford Field, organizers recently announced a venue change -- to the Marriott at the Renaissance Center -- to accommodate a smaller, recessionary crowd of around 1,700.