

## Honours for School's Advisory Board Member

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**Telecom pioneer appointed as USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism's inaugural Economist-in-Residence and invited by President Nicolas Sarkozy to the prestigious EG8 Forum to advise political leaders about the digital ecosystem**

David C. McCourt (pictured above), Founder and CEO of Granahan McCourt Capital and Skyware Global is continuing to be tapped for his expertise in being in the forefront in building businesses in telecommunications and digital communications. This past April, Mr. McCourt was appointed by the prestigious USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism as its first Economist-in-Residence.

The position, a cornerstone of the school's media, economics and entrepreneurship programme calls on Mr. McCourt's impeccable credentials as a telecom revolutionary and more than 25 years as an innovator and entrepreneur in the industry, in fact, The Economist recognised him as having "impeccable credentials as a telcom revolutionary". His tenure began on April 4 with a keynote speech to the school, in which he discussed the challenges and opportunities created by the disruption of the traditional media industry's business models and highlighted the necessity of innovation and entrepreneurial qualities.

Ernest J. Wilson, Dean, USC Annenberg, said, "We're delighted that Mr McCourt accepted our invitation to become the school's first Economist-in-Residence. I have followed his career as what The Economist has aptly described as a 'transformational force on the telecommunications business' for a number of years – Mr McCourt was the standout choice for the school. His career embodies the very values we try to instill in our students: vision, creativity, risk-taking and flexibility but also with an eye to ethics and inclusiveness."

More recently, Mr. McCourt received a personal invitation at the initiative of Monsieur Nicolas Sarkozy, President of the French Republic and current President of the G8, to attend the eG8 Forum to discuss how critically important the internet and digital ecosystem sectors are to sustaining and accelerating global economic growth.

The eG8 Forum will take place in Paris at the end of May and will be a unique gathering of the world's top Internet and digital leaders, not only from across the G8 nations, but further afield. Through debates and discussions with prestigious entrepreneurs like Mr. McCourt, the group will be able to directly advise G8 leaders on reflections and ideas related to the impact of digital technologies, the promotion of innovation clusters, the mobile revolution and privacy/IP protection issues.

Says David C. McCourt, "It is an honour to be chosen by two very different, yet prestigious organizations. My appointment as USC Annenberg's first Economist-in-Residence is invigorating, as I am having the opportunity to work directly with students -- tomorrow leaders -- around two key themes: entrepreneurship and innovation – both essential for growth in today's rapidly-changing telecommunications landscape.

"My participation in the eG8 is exciting, as I will be able to draw upon my experience working with the most significant developments in the telecoms market from the previous two decades through the next ten years – and have meaningful discussions with other thought-leaders and political heads-of-states regarding the regulatory and technology issues that will shape the telecommunications landscape, and indeed, the global economy."

McCourt has been an innovator, entrepreneur, and business leader across the communications and media industries for over 25 years. He is credited for creating America's first competitive phone company, Corporate Communications Network and received the first-ever award from the White House (presented by President Reagan) recognising extraordinary accomplishments by private sector businesses. Described as having "impeccable credentials as a telecom revolutionary" by The Economist, he has contributed to numerous publications including the Financial Times and the Wall Street Journal. McCourt was also selected as "Entrepreneur of the Year" by Ernst & Young LLP and 'Top entrepreneur' by the Harvard Business School Club of New York.