

The Future of Business in Pittsburgh

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Kubota Acquires Pittsburgh's Bloomfield Robotics to Revolutionize Smart Agriculture

Kubota Corporation, headquartered in Osaka, Japan, has acquired Pittsburgh-based Bloomfield Robotics through its North American subsidiary, Kubota North America Corporation. This strategic acquisition aims to enhance Kubota's smart agriculture offerings by integrating Bloomfield's advanced AI-driven crop monitoring technology.



This Kubota tractor has been outfitted with Bloomfield technology.

Bloomfield Robotics specializes in using AI and imaging technology to provide plant-level health and performance insights for specialty crops, such as grapes and blueberries, across seven countries. Their innovative system utilizes purpose-built cameras mounted on farming vehicles to capture geo-located images of plants, enabling growers to assess crop health in real-time. This data provides valuable insights into crop maturity, yield, and optimal harvest timing, helping farmers optimize operations, reduce labor costs, and increase asset utilization.

"Combining AI-driven technology with our legacy quality products will enable Kubota to solve real issues facing agriculture," said M. Brett McMickell, Kubota North America's Chief Technology Officer. "This acquisition is a key milestone for Kubota's strategic vision to provide comprehensive smart agriculture solutions."

Bloomfield President & CEO Mark DeSantis expressed enthusiasm for the partnership, adding "The Bloomfield vision from our founding was to provide continuous plant-level knowledge to every specialty crop farmer around the world. This acquisition brings that vision forward at a scale and speed we could not have imagined. Fortunately, we've been working closely together for over two years, so we have a running start at achieving this vision. We're truly excited for what's to come."

Duolingo Surpasses 100 Million Monthly Active Users, Sees Strong Growth



Duolingo achieved significant milestones.

Pittsburgh's tech scene continues to thrive, with language learning platform Duolingo reporting impressive growth and innovative partnerships in recent months.

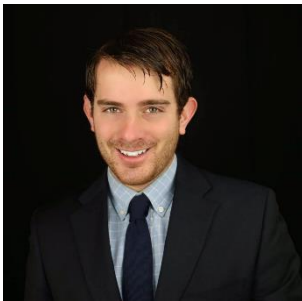
In the second quarter of 2024, Duolingo surpassed 100 million monthly active users (MAUs), a 40% increase year-over-year. This milestone, coupled with a 41% revenue growth and 59% increase in daily active users (DAUs), underscores the company's strong performance and global appeal.

Duolingo further solidified its position as an innovative leader in education technology by partnering with Sony Music. This collaboration brings popular songs from renowned artists like Dove Cameron, Hozier, and Whitney Houston into Duolingo's Music course. By integrating familiar music into the learning process, Duolingo aims to make music education more engaging and accessible.

Duolingo's success story and ongoing innovation contribute to Pittsburgh's growing reputation as a vibrant technology hub. The city's supportive environment for startups and established companies fosters a fertile ground for groundbreaking advancements across various industries, including education technology.

Pittsburgh Business News and Updates

- Pitt BioForge lays out vision for biomedical breakthrough
(<https://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/news/2024/09/06/pitt-bioforge-elevatebio.html>)
- A White House exec's quiet visit signals Pittsburgh's growing robotics clout
(<https://technical.ly/civic-news/pittsburgh-robotics-white-house-visit-mill-19-nec/>)
- Pittsburgh's Zico Kolter joins OpenAI's Board of Directors
(<https://openai.com/index/zico-kolter-joins-openais-board-of-directors/>)
- "Digital Replicas of Traditional Art in Japan" lecture comes to Pittsburgh
(https://www.pittsburghmagazine.com/events-in-pittsburgh/?_evDiscoveryPath=/event/2614831-from-cleveland-to-japan-a-replica-returns-to-the-scene-of-the-original)
- AI Horizons summit showcases how human-first AI can be commercialized to benefit society
(<https://aihorizonspggh.com/>)



About Ryan

Ryan O'Shea is a JETRO Investment Advisor focused on connecting Japanese companies to opportunities in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He is the host of Future Grind, a podcast that explores the ethics and impact of emerging science and technology, and also works with the Pittsburgh Robotics Network. In 2017, Ryan co-founded an artificial intelligence startup that was named a Top 10 team in the IBM Watson AI XPRIZE. Ryan has represented NASA and CalTech's Jet Propulsion Laboratory as a Solar System Ambassador and serves both as a World Economic Forum Global Shaper and an ambassador for Pittsburgh AI. He is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh & serves on the boards of multiple non-profit organizations.