## Hightech boost

MyRepublic is futureproofing its business for the next decade with technology adoption and a customer-centric approach

n an industry mired in price wars and declining profit margins, mobile and broadband services provider MyRepublic — named one of Singapore's fastest-growing companies in a study compiled by The Straits Times and global research firm Statista this year — will continue to rise above the competition in the next decade by doing what it does best: deploying cutting-edge technology and delivering "true value" to its customers.

Its chief operations officer Eugene Yeo, previously the company's chief information officer, elaborates: "Technology plays a huge part in enabling disruption, and as a company, we are always embracing the latest technology and evolving to compete better. We stay ahead of the tech curve and if there is something new and cool, we want to be the first to implement it."

## **TECHNOLOGICAL FIRSTS**

Embracing the cloud, open source and disruptive technology has kept the innovation-driven company at the forefront of the telecommunications digital transformation scene.



In 2011, the then start-up forged a radically different path from traditional telcos by being one of the first to fully adopt a cloud operating system which was in its nascent stage. It invested in developing its proprietary business support systems (BSS) and operations support systems (OSS).

Its cloud-based TelcoTech now runs most of its core operations - including customer lifecycle management, billing and collections, product and service catalogue, and product and service orchestration end to end, thus enabling it to remain

The single omnichannel interface to manage orders, automated "zerotouch" order-to-cash processing flow, and automated order closure system have revolutionised the customer experience, especially the onboarding process. Order confirmation and updates are almost instantaneous, and fulfilment can also be done within hours, Mr Yeo says.

## **CUSTOMER FOCUSED**

According to Mr Yeo, the roadmap for TelcoTech is to include more customer-centric components.

As poor customer service is a common gripe for telco customers, the company intends to enhance its live chat service by adding a robotic process automation (RPA) powered chatbot this year. It is capable of performing the same functions as a live agent, such as customer identity authentication, and resolving issues such as service disruptions caused by infrastructural outage or user account suspension.

the digital customer experience. PHOTO: MYREPUBLIC

An enhanced MyRepublic mobile application will also enable customers to access the tools they need and find solutions to basic problems.

In a further bid to understand its customers and their needs better, the company is also applying predictive data models that will use big data to help it make better business decisions. It has been reported that the company has amassed a central data repository from which its divisions can pull queries in real-time.

"We have a data science team that is analysing all our data and trying to understand how satisfied our customers are. The results present an accurate picture of the lifetime value of every customer and how

much we should invest to retain them," Mr Yeo explains.

And while the company is looking at enlarging its regional footprint, Mr Yeo says MyRepublic is also looking into exporting its proprietary technology: "We are going to start looking into this new line of business to help other operators in the region."

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MR EUGENE YEO,

chief operations officer, MyRepublic

## Secrets to success Leaders behind some of today's fastest-growing companies share how they tackle challenges and disruption in today's economic climate PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

We encountered many challenges that might have threatened the survival of our company over the years, and we've not

only survived but also thrived. This is because we never leave anything to chance and always strive to stay a step or two ahead in the industry through market research, strategic planning and continuous improvement in our process and technology.

MR FRANK CHEN, managing director, BR Metals



While we have encountered a manpower shortage in Singapore, we managed to resolve this by recruiting

capable Malaysian engineers in our factory in Malaysia. We leveraged modern technology and Internet connectivity to seamlessly communicate with them, allowing us to conduct meetings and complete our tasks while they are stationed there.

MR RODNEY HAM,

managing director, A-Plus Automation



The challenge we are facing in the logistics sector is in having adequate manpower. We can keep increasing the area of our warehouses to meet the demand

but we still need manpower, which we hope to address by tapping into high-tech capabilities. While it is important to grow the business, I believe it is more important to invest in people.

MR NEO CHEOW HUI. chief executive officer, GKE Corporation



The proliferation of mobile virtual network operators and pricing competition are challenges in our industry, but we are trying to compete in a more meaningful way with technological and product innovations as well as finding out what sort of value we can bring to our customers.

MR EUGENE YEO,

chief operations officer, MyRepublic



To adapt to the challenges presented by technological changes, we have built two research and development centres with around 100 engineers and experts to monitor these developments. We can then incorporate the latest trends in our solutions for our partners and customers.

MR DUTCH NG,

chief executive officer, i-Sprint Innovations

**STORYTELLING DIRECTORS** Tay Hwee Peng, Goh Hwee Koon, Shazalina Salim **PROJECT EDITOR** Rachel Tan **STORYTELLERS** Gilbert Wong, Jolene Limuco **CONTRIBUTOR** Esther Teo **HEAD OF DESIGN** Jeanette Ejlersen **ART DIRECTOR** Karen Ching **ART AND DESIGN** Loy Sze Jin **BUSINESS OPERATIONS MANAGER** Sumathi Ramu **ADVERTISING SALES** Michael Yim (9008-2500), Augustin Ma (9833-2842), Bottel Lim (9001-1410), Ivy Lim (8188-5807), Edlyn Ng (9711-1500), Clarice Jessie Wong (9844-9195)

For sales related inquiries, e-mail mkgsales@sph.com.sg or call 6319-8611