to them." Dark Blue Labs describes its objective as "Learning deep structured and unstructured representations of data to make intelligent products, including natural language understanding, a reality."

Appen preparing for a public offering

Appen provides text analysis software, including highly specialized datasets that help machines learn to read, write, listen, and speak in 150 different languages. *The Australian Financial Review* reported that the company may be going public soon. The company has 150 full-time employees, but calls on a network of 150,000 Appen accredited freelancers around the world to work on projects based on the different language and technology skills required.

In 2011, Appen acquired Butler Hill. Today, two-thirds of revenue come from helping commercial clients "tune" their search engines. This includes improving internal website search functions for eCommerce platforms and servicing companies looking to compete against Google. The company indicated that Microsoft, owner of search engine Bing, is a big customer, with the remaining bulk of revenue coming from speech recognition clients. Applications include the automation of call centers and surveillance.

People

M*Modal announces new CEO

M*Modal, a provider of clinical documentation and Speech Understanding solutions (p. 28), announced that healthcare IT industry veteran Scott MacKenzie has joined the company as Chief Executive Officer and a member of M*Modal's Board of Directors. MacKenzie joins M*Modal having served as CEO of Passport Health Communications, which was purchased by Experian in 2013. Prior to Passport, Mr. MacKenzie was part of McKesson Corporation as President of RelayHealth Pharmacy Solutions. He also held executive positions at Cerner Corporation.

Amy Neustein publishes new book on speech technology in healthcare

Amy Neustein is the editor of a just-published book, *Speech and Automata in Health Care* (De Gruyter), part of the series "Speech Technology and Text Mining in Medicine and Health Care." From Amy's introduction:

"Speech and Automata in Health Care forges new ground by closely analyzing how three separate disciplines, namely speech technology, robotics, and medical/surgical/assistive care, intersect with one another, resulting in an innovative way of diagnosing and treating both juvenile and adult illnesses and conditions. This includes the use of speech-enabled robotics to help the elderly population cope with common problems associated with aging caused by the diminution in their sensory, auditory and motor capabilities. By examining the emerging nexus of speech, automata, and health care, the authors demonstrate the exciting potential of automata, both speech-driven and multimodal, to affect the healthcare delivery system so that it better meets the needs of the populations it serves."