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...by entrepreneurs for entrepreneurs.

Message from the Board

Useful Links

Dear vtTA Members & Supporters,

We were pleased to participate in the Governor's signing of the [economic development bill](#) passed this legislative session. The bill includes the elimination of the cloud tax, funding for an economic development marketing plan, and an increase in the licensed lender limit, among other provisions that are helpful to tech businesses.

There is plenty of evidence that Vermont's tech business sector is growing and creating jobs. The vtTA is working with representatives in Vermont's Department of Labor and Agency of Commerce and Community Development to conduct an economic impact study this summer to better measure and quantify the impact of Vermont's tech business sector and employment. The plan is to complete the study by the end of August.

And looking ahead to August, plan to attend the vtTA's annual signature event, the [sunset dinner cruise on August 27](#). We'll board the Spirit of Ethan Allen for an informal, fun evening featuring refreshments and dinner amid the spectacular setting of Lake Champlain. Get your tickets now for this popular social event. And thank you to our sponsors so far, major sponsors [FirstLight Fiber](#) and [PCC](#), and supporting sponsor the [Vermont Biosciences Alliance](#).

Jeff Couture

Executive Director, Vermont Technology Alliance

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Upcoming Events

Become a Sponsor

Tech@Newport

[June 23, 2015 - Eastside Restaurant, Newport]

We have sponsorship opportunities in our newsletter, for our Lunch & Learn and social events, on our website, and much more.

Click the link below to contact



us.

SPONSOR us

Tech@VT event is at the Eastside Restaurant & Pub in Newport. This meet up is for investors, small businesses, startups and entrepreneurs interested in meeting like-minded people in their area.

For more information, click [here](#).

Rutland Mini Maker Faire

[August 1, 2015 - Rutland]

The Rutland Mini Maker Faire is part science fair, part county fair, and something entirely new! As a celebration of the Maker Movement, it's a family-friendly showcase of invention, creativity, and resourcefulness

For more information, click [here](#).

VtTA's Annual Dinner Cruise

[August 27, 2015 - Spirit of Ethan Allen, Burlington]



Join the Vermont Technology Alliance for its annual sunset dinner cruise on Thursday, August 27 on the Spirit of Ethan Allen. The cruise is an informal, fun event and a great time for socializing, networking and celebrating the vtTA and tech in VT.

Details and registration are available [here](#).

Road Pitch

[August 3-7, 2015 - Statewide]

Road Pitch is a four day motorcycle tour of Vermont by "business bikers" who ride around the state and stop in various towns to listen to

entrepreneurs pitch their business concepts. Road Pitch will stop in eight towns during the first week in August.

To view the schedule, click [here](#).

Vermont Technology News

Vermont Named Among Top 5 States for Start-Up Activity

[June 16, 2015 - Source: Kauffman Foundation]

The Kauffman Foundation has ranked Vermont number five in its state-by-state listing of business start-up activity. The report found that startup activity was up in 32 of the 50 U.S. states last year, and 18 of the nation's top 40 metropolitan areas also saw increases in new venture activity. Vermont moved up in this year's index from the 12th spot in 2014.



For more, click [here](#).

Are alternatives to old-fashioned offices better?

[June 18, 2015 - Source: burlingtonfreepress.com]

VtTA's Lunch & Learn on creating effective workplaces prompted this Burlington Free Press feature on office choices and alternatives, highlighting our speakers at the event, Stephen Frey of Arocordis Design and Adam Bouchard of Agilion. The discussion focused on remote and on-site office environments, and how to create a workplace atmosphere that is productive and inviting.

For more, click [here](#).

Vermont fights patent troll case on two fronts

[June 16, 2015 - Source: vtdigger.org]

The Office of the Vermont Attorney General is asking a federal judge to dismiss a lawsuit by MPHJ Technology Investments that challenges the state's 2013 law designed to stop companies from making "abusive" patent infringement claims. The original case started in Washington Superior Court, but is

now tied up in the U.S. Court of Appeals following about two years of back-and-forth over whether state or federal judges should hear the arguments.

For more, click [here](#).

Tech grants announced for Vermont schools

[June 15, 2015 - Source: vtdigger.org]

All Public K-12 schools in Vermont are invited to compete for technology grants and could win a cart filled with 20 Apple iPads or Google Chromebooks. The Educate/Innovate grant program is being offered for the second time through the Vermont Lottery, in partnership with the Vermont Agency of Education.

For more, click [here](#).

Dealer.com vows to stay in VT after sale

[June 15, 2015 - Source: burlingtonfreepress.com]



Dealertrack, the company based in Lake Success, N.Y., that bought Dealer.com in December 2013 for nearly \$1 billion, has in turn been purchased by an Atlanta-based company for \$4 billion. Dealertrack announced Monday it has been acquired by Cox Automotive in an all-cash transaction expected to close in the third quarter of this year. Dealer.com will remain rooted in Vermont.

For more, click [here](#).

KeepBTLocal plans to buy Burlington Telecom

[June 15, 2015 - Source: vtdigger.org]

A 500-member not-for-profit cooperative is gearing up to buy Burlington Telecom when it goes on the market in the next few years. KeepBTLocal, a members-based cooperative that started in 2013, brought together members, board of directors, and a telecommunications consultant to announce that the co-op is writing an acquisition plan.

For more, click [here](#).

Coworking Space to Open in Bennington

[June 13, 2015 - Source: vpr.net]



A new project in Bennington, called The Lightning Jar, hopes to tap into the growing popularity of coworking spaces. Organizers of the project have partnered with the Vermont State Employees Credit Union to convert 1,200 square feet of the credit union's downtown offices into a coworking space. The idea is to provide small businesses and start-ups with low-cost professional facilities and opportunities to collaborate with others.

For more, click [here](#).

Colleges Receive \$17.8 Million for Biomedical Research

[June 13, 2015 - Source: vermontbiz.com]

A \$17.8 million grant has been awarded to further biomedical research and education at all of Vermont's colleges. The National Institutes of Health grant is the third to be awarded to the Vermont Genetics Network, which is based at the University of Vermont and serves UVM, the state college system, St. Michael's College, Middlebury College and Norwich University.

For more, click [here](#).

VTel rolls out 10 Gbps Internet

[June 9, 2015 - Source: vermontbiz.com]

VTel has introduced 10 Gigabits per second (Gbps) Internet available to every VTel home. VTel's new 10 Gig residential Internet has been made possible by an \$85 million VTel telephone network award from the US Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS). This RUS project is expected to be complete by June 30, 2015.

For more, click [here](#).

Konica Minolta Acquires South Burlington's SymQuest

[June 3, 2015 - Source: vpr.net]

Konica Minolta Business Solutions, U.S.A has purchased South Burlington-based, SymQuest, which provides a variety of computer and network services for business. Konica Minolta, which has more than 41,000 employees worldwide, said it will retain SymQuest's 186 employees.

For more, click [here](#).

Burlington's Designbook Faces Off With Facebook

[June 2, 2015 - Source: sevendaysvt.com]



Facebook has challenged Burlington startup Designbook's trademark filing. Designbook allows budding entrepreneurs, or "founders," to create free public profiles that explain their business concepts, and then to crowdsource the resources they need to get their enterprises off the ground. The company's founders aren't backing down from a fight against the social networking giant.

For more, click [here](#).

Featured Member

Vermont Information Processing - VIP



Vermont Information Processing (VIP) is a leader in providing innovative business solutions to the beverage industry, serving that market for more than 40 years. VIP is an employee-owned company that works exclusively with beverage distributors and suppliers, and provides solutions for all three tiers of the beverage industry.

VIP has nearly a 60% market share among beer distributors in the country, and a growing number of independent Pepsi and soda bottlers use the VIP Beverage System. VIP provides data collection and analytics to more than 200 beverage suppliers including such well-known brands as MillerCoors, Heineken USA, Pabst Brewing Company, Guinness, and many others.

VIP's technology and business solutions for beverage distributors include: a complete financials package; mobile applications for sales reps, drivers, and merchandisers; innovative applications for warehouse management such as automated truck loading, voice picking, and location-based inventory; iDIG sales analytics; electronic report capture,

email, and retrieval; and all of the VIP applications are available as a cloud solution.

For more information about VIP, visit www.vtinfo.com

Would you like to see your company highlighted? Know of a company the vtTA should be talking about? Send us an email at newsletter@vtta.org

New Member Update

The Vermont Technology Alliance continues to welcome new members. New members joining the vtTA in the past month include **Control Technologies**, **Technology Consultants, Inc**, and the **Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce**.

If your business is not a member, please consider joining. Members benefit from vtTA's advocacy work and programs, including discounts on our sponsored events, job postings in our Career Center, and networking and business opportunities. Sign up to be a new member [here](#).

Useful Information & Links

vtTA's Career Center

Be sure to visit the Career Center tab on the **Vermont Technology Alliance website**. Member companies can post open positions, while job seekers can search positions and sign up for new posting notifications.

Current available positions listed include:

- Web Engineer - Empower Mobility LLC
- Web Developer - Vermont Information Processing
- Mobile App Developer - Vermont information Processing
- Coordinator of Academic Services, Technology - Community College of Vermont
- Junior Systems Administrator - Logic Supply
- Computer Production Technician - Logic Supply
- Security Engineer - NuHarbor Security
- Account Executive - OEM/ISV - Logic Supply

For more, click [here](#).

Champlain Makers Faire - Call for Makers

The Champlain Maker Faire has issued a Call for Makers for the event scheduled for Sept. 26 and 27. Both returning and new makers are welcome.

To apply to exhibit, click [here](#).

In addition, if you are interested in presenting, showing off your making skills to a large crowd as a "MakerTainer", conducting a workshop, or facilitating an outdoor event, click [here](#).

vtTA's Resources Page



Check out the [resources page](#) posted on the [Vermont Technology Alliance website](#), to find listings and links for businesses, financing, internships, government organizations, events, services and more.

Find the resources page [here](#).

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