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...by entrepreneurs for entrepreneurs.

## Message from the Board

Dear vtTA Members & Supporters,

We're pleased to announce the arrival of the **third edition of "Tapping Tech,"** a publication that demonstrates the positive impact of Vermont's growing technology businesses and why tech is important to the state's economy.

Tapping Tech features companies in Vermont's technology business sectors, highlights the technology ecosystem in the state, and includes a listing of Vermont companies and organizations that make up the state's tech economy. Tapping Tech is distributed to legislators, community and government leaders, tech businesses, schools, colleges, real estate agents and others. You can find a digital version of Tapping Tech on our web site [here](#). Tapping Tech is brought to you by the vtTA and the Vermont Technology Council, with support from the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development and our advertiser sponsors. These advertisers enabled the publication of Tapping Tech and we appreciate their support.

When it comes to landing government contracts, the vtTA has heard both interest and confusion on the part of tech businesses. To learn about how to find and compete for government contract opportunities, plan to attend our **April Lunch & Learn session**, featuring guest speakers from the Vermont Procurement Technical Assistance Center.

**Jeff Couture**

Executive Director, Vermont Technology Alliance

## Useful Links

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## Upcoming Events

### Lunch & Learn: Accessing Government Contracts

[April. 23, 2014 - Community College of Vermont, Winooski]

The Vermont Technology Alliance features an April Lunch & Learn session on how tech businesses can find state and federal government contracts. Director Robin Miller and Babette Lizotte of the Vermont Procurement Technical Assistance Center will discuss the process for finding and bidding on government contracts at the federal, state and local levels. They'll outline the opportunities and requirements, and share resources available for businesses to capture government contracts.

For more information, click [here](#)

## Become a Sponsor

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

Click the link below to contact us.

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## Girl Develop It Burlington Birthday Bash

[April. 24, 2014 - Drink, Burlington]

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The Burlington chapter of Girl Develop It celebrates its one-year anniversary with a birthday celebration. The event will feature live music, free appetizers and giveaways. Over the past year, the organization has signed on 400 members and held 24 events. Girl Develop It is focused on attracting more women into tech careers, but their events are also open to men.

For more information, click [here](#)

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## Prediction: The Next Big Thing

[April. 28, 2014 - Dudley H. Davis Center, UVM]

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UVM's Vermont Complex Systems Center brings together speakers from UVM, University of Miami and MIT's media lab to provide a broad scientific perspective on prediction and the connections between physical and socio-technical systems including climate, culture, finance, medicine, and politics.

For more information, click [here](#)

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## LaunchVT Final Competition

[May 8, 2014 - Main Street Landing, Burlington]

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The LaunchVT business pitch competition holds its last event for the six finalists, May 8 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Main Street Landing in Burlington. They will make their final pitch to the judges at an event that is free and open to the public, but registration is required. LaunchVT awards cash and in-kind resources to young entrepreneurs who deliver plans for a new business.

For more information, click [here](#)

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## Forum: Burton Snowboards Rapid Prototyping Facility

[May 16, 2014 - 80 Industrial Parkway, Burlington]

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The Vermont Manufacturing Extension Center is hosting a presentation and tour of the rapid prototype facility at Burton Snowboards. Participants will see a small-scale factory for building about 1000 snowboards a year using all the same equipment as their global manufacturing partners. The facility includes three 3D printers, laser cutters, ultrasonic knife pattern makers, a test lab and machine shop. There is no fee for this forum but preregistration is required and participation is limited.

For more information, click [here](#)

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## Vermont Tech In the News

## Have News?

### Cancer Researcher Wins BioTek's "Think Possible" Contest

[April 16, 2014 - Source: VermontBiz.com]

BioTek has awarded Dr. Jeff Peterson of the Fox Chase Cancer Center in Pennsylvania a new Cytation 3 Cell Imaging Multi-Mode Reader for winning BioTek's "Think Possible" Application Contest. Entrants were judged on a short essay they submitted detailing the application that they think is possible for their specific research using the Cytation 3.

For more information, click [here](#)

We're interested in keeping members up to date with all technology related news in Vermont. Have a story or event you would like to share? Have a link you believe would be helpful to members? Click the button below to submit your news or event item.

[SUBMIT NEWS](#)

### State Senators Want Changes to Vermont Telecommunications Authority

[April 15, 2014 - Source: VermontBiz.com]

Key members of the state Senate want to raise the bar for broadband Internet speeds in Vermont, and they're looking to change the administration's lineup to make it happen. A proposal in the Senate Finance Committee would fold the quasi-public Vermont Telecommunications Authority into the Agency of Administration.

For more information, click [here](#)

### Gov., Lawmakers Announce Economic Development Proposals for Tech

[April 14, 2014 - Source: Vermont.gov]

Gov. Peter Shumlin and legislative leaders unveiled two proposals designed to attract, grow and retain high-tech companies. The proposals, if approved in the economic development bills moving through the State House, would create flexible incentives for the state to attract or retain companies with substantial statewide or regional employment impact, and would support additional VEDA lending for tech start-ups in Vermont.

For more information, click [here](#)

### Summit Technologies and Route 802 Announce 'Mobilenomix'

[April 11, 2014 - Source: VermontBiz.com]

Summit Technologies and Route 802 have announced the launch of a new digital marketing platform called 'Mobilenomix.' The platform delivers an integrated suite of digital marketing solutions based on free Gigabit Wi-Fi, digital place-based advertising and specialized mobile marketing tools for local retailers, restaurants, hospitality and public venues. Burlington Town Center has selected the platform to provide the first indoor public venue to deliver gigabit Wi-Fi to its shoppers.

For more information, click [here](#)

## Fiber Optic Network Connects Vermont Classrooms

[April 8, 2014 - Source: VTDigger.org]

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Sovernet Communications has completed installation of a fiber network connecting 108 public schools to high-speed broadband service. The project was funded by a federal stimulus grant.

For more information, click [here](#)

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## Vermont Businesses Adopt Bitcoin

[April 7, 2014 - Source: VPR.net]

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The 3D print shop Blu-Bin and the makers group Laboratory B, are among area businesses and organizations exploring the use of cryptocurrency Bitcoin.

For more information, click [here](#)

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## New England Telehealth Consortium Selects FirstLight

[April 2, 2014 - Source: VermontBiz.com]

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FirstLight Fiber has announced that it will provide data center services to the New England Telehealth Consortium (NETC), a federally funded consortium of healthcare providers whose mandate is to create a shared network among rural and urban healthcare facilities across the region.

For more information, click [here](#)

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## Syrup-Makers go High-Tech with Wireless Monitoring

[April 1, 2014 - Source: Yahoo.com]

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Vermont sugar-makers are turning to wireless technology to help them solve a common problem when collecting sap via a network of tubes -- leaks. Meadowbrook Maple Syrup installed a monitoring system designed to help syrup producers keep an electronic eye their sap vacuum lines using of solar battery-powered radio units.

For more information, click [here](#)

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## Champlain Breaks Ground on Communications Center

[March 28, 2014 - Source: VermontBiz.com]

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Champlain College officials broke ground in March on a \$24.5 million Center for Communication and Creative Media (CCM) project which will provide students and faculty state-of-the-art facilities for programs that will include video game art, animation, and design, filmmaking, broadcasting, and creative and emergent media.

For more information, click [here](#)

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## Burlington Celebrates New "Maker Space"

[Mar. 27, 2014 - Source: NECN.com]

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Generator, a high-tech studio for creative types and entrepreneurs housed in Memorial Auditorium opened recently. Consider us one step closer to earning our moniker as "New England's Gigabit City."

For more information, click [here](#)

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## Commentary: We Need Patent Troll Protection

[March 23, 2014 - Source: VTDigger.org]

Eric Friedman, J.D., an assistant professor and the director of the Legal Studies Program at Champlain College argues for support of Vermont and federal legislation that protect companies from patent trolls.

For more information, click [here](#)

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## Middlebury Startup Raises \$880,000

[March 20, 2014 - Source: PRNewsWire.com]

Faraday, a cloud software provider delivering customer acquisition to the home improvement industry, announced the close of an \$880,000 Series A round of financing. The financing was led by FreshTracks Capital, with additional participation from environmental and renewable energy focused investors.

For more information, click [here](#)

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## Featured Member

### Symquest



Founded in 1996, SymQuest designs, installs, and supports business technologies that handle the information flow of electronic and physical communications. Symquest delivers computer network, software applications and document management services that help its clients gain increases in productivity. Symquest integrates technologies in the following areas:

- Electronic Communications
- Network Security
- Business Continuity
- Network Mobility
- Electronic Document Management
- Physical Document Management

Symquest has 185 technology professionals with locations in Vermont, New Hampshire, New York and Maine.

For more information, visit <http://www.symquest.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](mailto:newsletter@vtta.org)

## New Member Update

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The Vermont Technology Alliance continues to welcome new members to the organization. Among recent members are [Renewable NRG Systems](#), providing measurement technology for the renewable energy industry; and [Davis and Hodgdon Associates](#) CPAs, providing accounting and financial management services to Vermont entrepreneurs and residents.

## Useful Information & Links

### \$2.9B for STEM in President's Proposed FY15 Budget

A progress report from the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) provides an overview of the Obama administration's ongoing STEM efforts and the roster of STEM initiatives included in the president's FY15 budget request. Under the proposed budget, federal spending on STEM education would reach \$2.9 billion in FY15, a 3.7 percent increase over FY14 funding as enacted.

To read the report, click [here](#)

### Funding Opportunities from Vermont EPSCoR

Vermont EPSCoR is offering two funding opportunities with awards of up to \$15,000 to Vermont based businesses. The SBIR Phase (0) grant provides the opportunity to compete for up to \$15,000. Deadline is May 1. The Use of Facilities for Private Sector grant provides the opportunity to compete for up to \$5,000. This has a rolling deadline.

For more information, click [here](#)

Know of any resources that would be helpful to vtTA members? Send us an email at [newsletter@vtta.org](mailto:newsletter@vtta.org)

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