



...by entrepreneurs for entrepreneurs.

Message from the Board

Dear vtTA Members & Supporters,

We've been discussing with our friends in the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development how to better market Vermont as a home for technology entrepreneurs, businesses and jobs. This also surfaced as a topic of interest among the statewide participants at the Vermont Economic Development Summit hosted by the agency this month. Among the actions we're discussing is branding and collecting updated statistics and facts on the size, scope and impact of the state's technology jobs and companies. An upcoming opportunity to highlight that impact is a planned special edition of Vermont Life magazine that will focus on Vermont's creative and tech economy. Do you have a tech innovation and lifestyle story that should be featured? Then plan to participate in one of [three pitch events](#), designed to generate content for the special issue. Finally, what are the recommendations of the Vermont Science and Technology Plan and how can they accelerate the growth of science- and technology-based companies and jobs? Find out and join the discussion at vtTA's [June Lunch and Learn event](#).

Jeff Couture
Executive Director, Vermont Technology Alliance

Useful Links

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Upcoming Events

Burlington 3D Printing and Modeling Sketchup Workshop

[Jun. 19th, 2013 - Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center]

Logic Supply, a leading provider of industrial and embedded computers, is hosting a 3D design Meetup on June 19, 2013. This will be a 2 hour event demonstrating how to use Sketchup to create 3D models. All are welcome regardless of skill level. The Meetup will start at 7:00.

For more information, click [here](#)

TEDx event in Manchester Village

[Jun. 22nd, 2013 - Burr and Burton Academy]

A TEDx event is scheduled for June 22 in Manchester Village at the Riley

LUNCH & LEARN

**June Lunch & Learn:
Vermont Science and
Technology Plan**

Wednesday, May. 26th, 2013
12:00pm - 2:00pm

PCC Maple Conference Room
20 Cascade Way

Center for the Arts at Burr and Burton Academy. The topic of the event is The Future of Creativity. Organizers have invited ten speakers from diverse disciplines and fields to provide a unique perspective on the theme, including Matt Dodds from vtTA member Brandthropology. This TEDx event will challenge you to have an open mind and ponder the future of creativity.

2nd Floor Champlain Mill
Winooski, Vermont 05404
[Directions](#)

RSVP

For more information, click [here](#)

Summer IT Institute for HS Students

[Jun. 22-30, 2013 - Champlain College]

Do you know a high school student ready to explore the world of tech and IT? Then they should check out the Governor's Institute on Information Technology at Champlain College scheduled for June 22-30. Even better, scholarships are available for girls to attend. The event will focus on all this IT, including electronic game design, cybersecurity, coding, digital video, web entrepreneurship, and object-oriented.

For more information, click [here](#)

Pitch Your Tech Story to Vermont Life

[Jun. 25-27, 2013 - Various Locations]

Do you have a tech story for a planned special edition of Vermont Life that illustrates the creative "live, work, play, learn" opportunities found in the state? Then attend one of three pitch events planned for June 25-27. The pitch sessions are expected to attract stories from across Vermont's creative economy, including software development and game design.

To pitch a story at one of the events, click [here](#)

Lunch & Learn: Spotlight on the Vermont Science and Technology Plan

[Jun. 26th, 2013 - PCC's Maple Conference Room]

The Vermont Technology Alliance believes that technology-based jobs, companies and workforce represent an economic growth opportunity for Vermont. How best to create the ecosystem to make that happen is the subject of our June Lunch and Learn event, when guest speaker John Evans, president of the Vermont Technology Council, discusses the 2013 Vermont Science and Technology Plan, published by the Council.

For more information, click [here](#)

Champlain Mini Maker Faire

[Sep. 28-29, 2013 - Shelburne Farms Coach Barn]

The second annual Champlain Mini Maker Faire, will be held Saturday, Sept. 28 and 29 at Shelburne Farms. Organizers are now accepting applications for exhibitors.

For more information, click [here](#)

Vermont Tech In the News

Have News?

Vermont Firm Planned Solar Energy System at Bonnaroo

[Jun. 13th, 2013 - Source: VermontBiz.com]

When world-renowned musicians such as Paul McCartney, Mumford & Sons and Macklemore & Ryan Lewis take the stage starting Thursday at Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival in Manchester, TN, solar panels from SolarWorld, the largest US solar manufacturer for more than 35 years, will offset electricity used to power their performances.

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](#)

IBM to Layoff Workers in Vermont, System-Wide Wednesday

[Jun. 12th, 2013 - Source: VermontBiz.com]

Vermont Business Magazine IBM officials have told Governor Peter Shumlin that its Vermont plant will be part of a sweeping workforce reduction, with cuts at many of its plants in the United States and Canada. According to a statement from the governor, the number to be laid off in Vermont was not disclosed. IBM has not been revealing its number of employees at the plant based in Essex Junction. Its last report to Vermont Business Magazine was 5,000. For more information, click [here](#)

For related stories, see below:

[How IBM Cuts Could Trigger Other Vt. Job Losses](#)
[Shumlin Says IBM Layoffs Will Affect Vermont](#)
[State Unemployment Fund Can Handle IBM Layoffs](#)

VEDA Approves \$10.1 Million in Vermont Projects

[Jun. 11th, 2013 - Source: VermontBiz.com]

Manufacturing expansion and renewable energy investments are among the commercial, small business and agricultural projects approved for \$10.1 million in financing by the Vermont Economic Development Authority (VEDA).

For more information, click [here](#)

Vermont Fairpoint President Mike Smith Honored for Anti-Fraud Efforts

[Jun. 11th, 2013 - Source: VermontBiz.com]

Vermont Attorney General William Sorrell has honored Mike Smith, Vermont state president of FairPoint Communications, with the Attorney General's Pure Vermont award for Smith's "significant efforts to educate Vermonters about telephone scams and to protect them from wire-transfer fraud."

For more information, click [here](#)

MyWebGrocer Completes Growth Equity Raise with HGGC

[Jun. 11th, 2013 - Source: VermontBiz.com]

HGGC, formerly known as Huntsman Gay Global Capital, announced the acquisition in a news release Tuesday.

Terms of the deal were not disclosed, but The New York Times, in its DealBook section, estimated the deal at being in the higher end of a \$25 million to \$100 million price range. No changes in management are planned, Tarrant said, and the company's work force will remain in Winooski.

For more information, click [here](#)

Winooski's MyWebGrocer Lands New Investor

[Jun. 11th, 2013 - Source: TechJamVT.com]

One of Vermont's fastest-growing tech companies has a new majority owner. Silicon Valley equity firm HGGC has acquired Winooski-based MyWebGrocer - the New York Times reported the news today on its DealBook blog; the company also distributed a press release.

For more information, click [here](#)

BioTek Instruments Establishes Japanese Office

[Jun. 7th, 2013 - Source: VermontBiz.com]

BioTek Instruments, Inc, continues their global expansion in the microplate-based technology market with the establishment of BioTek Japan. Managed by Mr. Satoshi Sagara, the new direct sales and service organization in Tokyo will focus on growing BioTek's brand and expanding the sales network in Japan. BioTek Japan will be fully functional by July 1, 2013. Long-time partner and distributor, DS Pharma Biomedical Co., Ltd., will work closely with BioTek Japan to ensure a seamless transition. BioTek Japan will continue to work with existing distributor, Central Scientific Comm., Inc., to grow the Japanese business.

For more information, click [here](#)

Vermont's Northern Power NPS 100 Wind Turbine Powers Microgrid in Hawaii

[Jun. 5th, 2013 - Source: VermontBiz.com]

Several farmers in North Kohala, Hawaii, are now benefitting from an innovative off-grid water-pumping system powered by a Northern Power NPS 100 wind turbine. Like many others in remote locations and island communities, North Kohala farmers have been searching for an alternative to using polluting, expensive diesel fuel to generate electricity. This microgrid project, known as SkyGrid Energy, marks the growing trend of turning to affordable, clean, renewable wind energy as the solution. The NPS 100 wind turbine is specifically designed to support microgrids with its sophisticated voltage controls and no inrush current, thereby relieving stress to the system. In addition, the NPS 100's ability to control reactive power independently of wind speed more reliably meets energy demands, a crucial component of microgrids.

For more information, click [here](#)

FairPoint Expands Broadband to Bethel, Fairlee, Strafford, Thetford, Vershire

[Jun. 5th, 2013 - Source: VermontBiz.com]

FairPoint Communications, Inc. (NasdaqCM: FRP), a leading provider of advanced communications in northern New England, has expanded broadband to more than 500 homes and businesses in the Upper Valley towns of Bethel, Fairlee, Strafford, Thetford, and Vershire. This is the first wave of broadband expansion projects that will bring high-speed Internet to the Upper Valley for the first time. FairPoint's new fiber-based, high-capacity network offers customers a better, faster way to communicate.

For more information, click [here](#)

NeighborWorks Alliance of Vermont Uses Technology to Build Network

[Jun. 4th, 2013 - Source: VermontBiz.com]

A grant made in the fall of 2011 following Tropical Storm Irene to strengthen and support five regional housing nonprofits working together as the NeighborWorks Alliance of Vermont is creating video conferencing capacity, the groups announced today. The \$200,000 grant made by NeighborWorks America is also helping the organizations collaborate more effectively, be better able to deliver services statewide, assist in the ongoing needs of Vermonters affected by flooding and be prepared for responding to future disasters.

For more information, click [here](#)

Vermont Targets Patent Trolls with New Legislation

[May 29th, 2013 - Source: WorldiPreview.com]

The US state of Vermont has passed an act aimed at reducing "bad faith" patent infringement claims, in what is believed to be the first anti-patent troll US legislation. Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin signed the 'Bad Faith Assertions of Patent Infringement' act on May 22, but it will not take effect until July 1, 2013. Patent trolls, or non-practising entities, typically acquire patents in order to license or litigate them.

For more information, click [here](#)

High-Speed Internet for Vermont Delivered by a Horse

[May 26th, 2013 - Source: HighSpeedGeek.com]

In the quest to provide all corners of Vermont access to broadband, the needs of 21st technology are being handled by a decidedly 19th century means - a draft workhorse. In Vermont's remote Northeast Kingdom, a 14-year-old draft horse, named Fred, and his owner, 66-year-old Claude Desmarais, sometimes work seven days a week hauling miles of fiber optic cable for vtTA member Fairpoint Communications. This horse is part of the "race" to provide Vermont with broadband connections to all in 2013.

For more information, click [here](#)

FairPoint Expands Broadband Coverage in Johnson, Brattleboro Regions

[May 24th, 2013 - Source: VermontBiz.com]

FairPoint Communications, Inc. (NasdaqCM: FRP), a leading advanced communications provider in northern New England, has expanded broadband to more than 100 homes and businesses in Johnson. FairPoint's new fiber-based, high-capacity network offers customers a better, faster way to communicate.

For more information, click [here](#)

Rich States, Poor States Report: Utah first, Vermont Last

[May 23rd, 2013 - Source: VermontBiz.com]

Utah holds the top spot for states with the best economic outlook in 2013, followed by North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming and Virginia, according to a new report released by the American Legislative Exchange Council. "Utah's economic policies have remained strong, and because of their firm commitment to economic growth and

competitiveness, they've ranked first in all six editions of our report," said Jonathan Williams, director of the American Legislative Exchange Council's Center for State Fiscal Reform and co-author of Rich States, Poor States: ALEC-Laffer State Economic State Competitiveness Index.

For more information, click [here](#)

Vermont Tech Appoints Linda Rossi State Director of Vermont SBDC

[May 23rd, 2013 - Source: VermontBiz.com]

Vermont Tech is pleased to announce that Linda Rossi has accepted the position of State Director of the Vermont Small Business Development Center (VtSBDC), effective June 1 of this year. Rossi currently serves as the Associate State Director of the VtSBDC and has worked with the organization since 2005. She is succeeding Lenae Quillen-Blume after many years of service to Vermont Tech and the center.

For more information, click [here](#)

Vt Gov Signs Novel Law Against False Patent Claims

[May 23rd, 2013 - Source: abcnews.com]

Vermont Gov. Peter Shumlin signed into law Wednesday a novel measure aimed at protecting companies from so-called patent trolling, the practice of making deceptive claims of patent infringement in the hopes of collecting licensing or settlement money.

For more information, click [here](#)

Patent Troll That Wants \$1,000 Per Worker Gets Sued by Vermont A-G

[May 22nd, 2013 - Source: ArsTechnica.com]

Late last year, a vigorous and secretive patent troll began sending out thousands of letters to small businesses all around the country, insisting that they owed between \$900 and \$1,200 per worker just for using scanners. The brazen patent-trolling scheme, carried out by a company called MPHJ technologies and dozens of shell companies with six-letter names, has caught the attention of politicians.

For more information, click [here](#)

Featured Member

Route 802



Route 802's mission is to become Vermont's premiere digital marketing vehicle. We are connecting like-minded businesses, consumers and communities with targeted new media solutions and current hyper-local content. Through collaborative partnerships at local, state and regional levels, we are creating a marketing ecosystem like no other. Our Vermont Travelers' Information Network (VTIN) brings together an unprecedented coalition of publishers, chambers of commerce and Vermont's leading businesses with a statewide

network of mobile apps, digital signage and free public Wi-Fi in twenty Vermont Welcome and Information Centers, the BTV Airport and other large public venues throughout the state.

"Driving Business to Vermont"

For more information, visit route802.biz or email info@route802.biz.

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

Useful Information & Links

Cloud Computing - Prewritten Software Accessed Remotely

The legislative moratorium on collection of sales tax on prewritten software accessed remotely has not been extended and expires on June 30, 2013. Purchases before July 1, 2013, are not taxable; liability for the tax will be incurred starting July 1.

The Department of Taxes has withdrawn Technical Bulletin 54 and intends to publish regulations to guide taxation in this area, which will afford a process for resolving possible gray areas in the application of the tax. In the meantime, please refer to the fact sheet provided below to help you decide if Vermont sales and use tax applies to the software you are purchasing.

More information will become available over the next few months, so please check this webpage periodically for updated information. If you have questions on cloud computing, you may also call us at (802) 828-2551. You can read more [here](#).

Fact Sheet: [The Sales and Use Tax Treatment of Cloud Computing](#)

Vermont Election Software Development Opportunity

Sometime in the third quarter of this year, the [Vermont Secretary of State's office](#) will issue a request for proposal to replace the agency's family of election-related software applications. Qualified and interested entities (from inside and outside the state) will be given an opportunity to bid. The state will be open to evaluating bid responses that are based upon existing vendor products and to new development. The development option also contains the possibility of creative licensing arrangements between the state and the state's selected development partner.

The contact for this project is Steve Mattera, steve.mattera@sec.state.vt.us

Internship Listings

You can find current openings for interns with area technology companies listed by the [Vermont Technology Council](#).

Know of any resources that would be helpful to vtTA members? Send us an email at newsletter@vtta.org

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