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...by entrepreneurs for entrepreneurs.

## Message from the Board

## Useful Links

Dear vtTA Members & Supporters,

We're looking forward to launching the third edition of "Tapping Tech" soon, a publication that highlights Vermont's vibrant technology sector. Continuing in the successful footsteps of our previous issues, this latest edition will feature companies in leading tech segments in Vermont and the ecosystem that supports the state's tech economy.

Tapping Tech is brought to you by the Vermont Technology Alliance and the Vermont Technology Council, with support from the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development and our advertiser sponsors. These sponsors enable the publication of Tapping Tech and we appreciate their support.

One of the important infrastructure needs for Vermont tech businesses is broadband Internet access and cell service. The vtTA welcomes Chris Campbell, executive director of the Vermont Telecommunications Authority, to our [March 26 Lunch & Learn session](#) to discuss Vermont's progress in providing statewide broadband Internet access.

Our Lunch & Learn events feature guest speakers addressing a range of topics of interest to the Vermont technology community and provide an opportunity for networking. You can find our upcoming schedule [here](#).

### Jeff Couture

Executive Director, Vermont Technology Alliance

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## Upcoming Events

## Become a Sponsor

### Lunch & Learn: Connecting Vermont - An Update on Vermont's Broadband Initiative

[Mar. 26, 2014 - Champlain Mill, Winooski]

Vermont's tech businesses depend on high-speed broadband Internet access and cell phone service for success, and Vermont has set a goal to connect all of the state to the digital highway. The vtTA welcomes Chris Campbell, executive director of the Vermont Telecommunications Authority, to our March Lunch & Learn session to discuss the progress and obstacles to expanding broadband Internet connections, and creating cellular service and fiber optic infrastructure in Vermont.

For more information, click [here](#)

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.

[SPONSOR us](#)

## Generator Open House

[Mar. 29, 2014 - Memorial Auditorium Annex, Burlington]

The grand opening event for Burlington's new maker space, Generator, is Saturday March 29, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., featuring food, demos and music. Generator is a 5,000 square foot space with studios, tools, classroom and a lounge located in the Annex of Burlington's Memorial Auditorium.

To RSVP, click [here](#)

For more information on Generator, click [here](#)

## Invention 2 Venture Conference

[Apr. 29, 2014 - Dudley H. Davis Center, UVM]

Join Vermont's technology community for the University of Vermont's annual Invention 2 Venture conference, hosted by the college's Office of Technology Commercialization, April 3, 1 to 5 p.m. at the Dudley H. Davis Center at UVM. The event will feature roundtable discussions and a keynote speech by Brian Halligan, CEO and co-founder of Hubspot and a UVM Alumnus. His topic is "Everything I wish I Learned about Startups at Sloan." The conference is free of charge, but registration is required.

For more information, click [here](#)

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## Vermont Tech In the News

## Have News?

### OpenTempo Wins Governor's Worksite Wellness Award

[Mar. 19, 2014 - Source: VermontBiz.com]

OpenTempo has been awarded a bronze-level Governor's Worksite Wellness Award for 2013, in recognition for its wellness practices. OpenTempo is a healthcare IT company that helps medical practices create efficient staff schedules.

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](#)

### ECFiber Connects 600th Customer

[Mar. 17, 2014 - Source: VermontBiz.com]

East Central Vermont Community Fiber Optic Network ("ECFiber") announced that it connected its 600th subscriber last week. By the end of this year, the fiber-optic network will extend over 200 miles with the capability to connect over 2,000 homes and businesses in 12 towns.

For more information, click [here](#)

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## **VT Telecom Authority Seeks Broadband Grant**

[Mar. 13, 2014 - Source: VPR.net]

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The Vermont Telecommunications Authority has taken the initial steps to secure what it hopes will be a long term grant to expand fiber optic service. The authority is pursuing funding through a Federal Communications Commission program designed to bring broadband to un-served and underserved areas. The VTA is initially proposing that grant money be used to work with Vermont providers to run fiber to homes, businesses and community institutions.

For more information, click [here](#)

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## **Generator Maker Space to Open This Month**

[Mar. 12, 2014 - Source: SevenDaysVT.com]

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Burlington's first-ever maker space - called Generator - is opening March 29 in the Annex of the city's Memorial Auditorium. The 5,000-square-foot facility will provide artists, engineers, programmers and tinkerers with studio space, shared tools and classes on topics ranging from jewelry making to 3-D printing. Maker spaces like Generator give creative types access to the latest technology and to each other's energy and ideas, and can serve as business incubators, educational hubs or venues for community engagement.

For more information, click [here](#)

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## **Blu-Bin Brings 3-D Printing to the Masses on Church Street**

[Mar. 12, 2014 - Source: SevenDaysVT.com]

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Blu-Bin, a first- of-its-kind 3-D print shop is serving a variety of customers from its storefront at 20 Church Street in Burlington. Using a scan of a physical object, or a downloadable 3-D digital file, Blu-Bin's proprietors can manipulate the image, modifying or combining it with other images and files, then print an entirely new and original object.

For more information, click [here](#)

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## **Middlebury Grads Develop 3D Software**

[Mar. 5, 2014 - Source: VPR.net]

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Two recent Middlebury College graduates are developing software for a device that would allow architects and builders - and their clients - to explore architectural models in virtual reality. They're calling their venture "Iris."

For more information, click [here](#)

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## **Sovernet Gets State and State Colleges Contracts**

[Mar. 4, 2014 - Source: VermontBiz.com]

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Sovernet Communications has been awarded two separate contracts by the State of Vermont to provide high capacity data transport to 92 state sites. Sovernet will provide wide area networking (WAN) services to the Vermont Department of Information and Innovation, connecting 77 locations throughout the state. Sovernet also will provide WAN services to 15 Vermont State College (VSC) sites.

For more information, click [here](#)

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## Revision Acquires Power Management Technology Company

[Feb. 26, 2014 - Source: VermontBiz.com]

Revision Military has added power management to its roster of integrated technologies, through the acquisition of Panacis, an Ottawa-based company focusing on Lithium ion rechargeable energy storage systems. Revision is a leader in protective military equipment with two plants in Vermont.

For more information, click [here](#)

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## Green Mountain Games Festival Showcases Student Projects

[Feb. 23, 2014 - Source: TechJamVT.com]

Hundreds of students, gamers and game developers converged on Champlain College in Burlington last month for the first-ever Green Mountain Games Festival.

For more information, click [here](#)

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## Featured Member

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### FirstLight



FirstLight Fiber is a leading provider of high speed data, Internet, colocation and voice services to enterprise and carrier customers in upstate New York, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts and Maine over the company's own fiber optic network. Its mission is to offer customers a full selection of the highest quality telecommunications services, utilizing the most advanced technology available. FirstLight operates a network comprised of more than 190,000 fiber miles and 1,400 lit buildings. FirstLight's clientele includes service providers, high tech manufacturing and research, hospitals and healthcare, banking and financial, colleges and universities, professional offices, and government.

For more information, visit <http://www.firstlight.net/>.

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

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

### Logic Supply Launches Website for Computer Tinkerers

A new website from vtTA member Logic Supply offers tutorials, workshops and other resources geared toward teaching tinkerers the basics of electronics and programming based on the open hardware platform of the BeagleBone Black.

For more information, click [here](#)

### Advanced Tickets for Burlington Ruby Conference Available

Early-bird tickets are available for the Burlington Ruby Conference will be held August 2 and 3. The conference is an opportunity for Ruby enthusiasts to gather in Vermont to network, learn and relax.

For more information, click [here](#)

### VT Invites Proposals for Health Care Integrated Eligibility Project

The State of Vermont announced the release of its Integrated Eligibility Request for Proposal (RFP). The state is soliciting competitive sealed fixed price proposals for the design, development, implementation and maintenance of a Health and Human Services Integrated Eligibility (IE) solution that will utilize an IT Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) infrastructure platform being developed by the state - known as the Health Services Enterprise (HSE) Platform (HSEP) Project.

For more information, 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](#)

### Workshops Offered on How to Start a Business

The Vermont Small Business Development Center is offering several workshops for those thinking about starting their own business - taking their idea and turning it into a full-fledged venture. Workshops on "How to Start Your Own Business" and write a business plan continue throughout April.

For more information, click [here](#)

## Champlain Valley SCORE Offers Business Workshops

Champlain Valley SCORE will present Simple Steps for Growing Your Business, a three-part workshop series to help entrepreneurs with marketing, sales, finances and human resources. The workshops will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. on April 17, April 24 and May at KeyBank branches.

For more information, click [here](#)

## StoryHack Competition Explores the Future of Books

How will books change over the next 100 years? That's the subject of the latest digital media competition, "Future of the Book," from Burlington-based StoryHack Contestants are asked to make a two-minute or shorter video of themselves reading from a book published in the year 2114. Two awards will be granted for \$250 in free books from Northshire Bookstores.

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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