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Expanding in Massachusetts

Verizon broke ground on a new Technology Innovation Center in Waltham. The center, together with the existing Verizon Technology Campus, will employ more than 300 employees. The center is scheduled to be completed in early 2011 and will include a 60,000SF, three-story facility. Verizon joins Google, Microsoft, IBM, Cisco and others in establishing significant R&D facilities in Massachusetts. Click [here](#) to read more.

Cape Wind Project, the nation's first offshore wind farm to be located off Cape Cod, took the first step in becoming a reality with federal approval announced by U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar. Moving forward, the project has the potential to create 1,000 construction jobs in the building of up to 130 wind turbines and puts Massachusetts in the forefront of clean energy leadership. Click [here](#) to read more.

The University of Massachusetts Boston has launched the UMass Boston Entrepreneurship Center, run through its College of Management. Founding director Dan Phillips is the former CEO of SilverBack Technologies and former COO of Concord Communications. The new center will mentor students through workshops and networking events, Phillips said. Click [here](#) to read more.

FloDesign Wind Turbine Corp. received a \$3M financing package from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center which will allow the firm to establish a new corporate headquarters and product development center in Waltham. By maintaining its headquarters and R&D facility in MA, FloDesign will create 150 jobs over the next three years. Click [here](#) to read more.

Blu Homes Inc., a Waltham-based green building company, is relocating its manufacturing business from Littleton to East Longmeadow as "the first anchor in what will become a green technology park". Blu Homes plans to occupy 80,000SF of space. Click [here](#) to read more.

Ambassador A-List, New Products & Funding

Watertown start-up Selecta Biosciences Inc. raised \$15M to leverage recent advances in immunology and nanotechnology to develop a new nanoparticle vaccine. Selecta has raised more than \$30M since it launched two years ago. Click [here](#) to read more.

Verifica-BG Inc., a Lexington-based medical device maker was formally launched this month. The startup is backed by \$850,000 of investments that will support its development of spectroscopic medical devices and is part of a planned \$1.7M round of equity financing. Click [here](#) to read more.

Software developer SpaceClaim Corp. has raised \$5M in venture funding to help grow its global sales and support. The Concord-based company develops simulation and analysis tools used in 3-D direct modeling. Click [here](#) to read more.

Zipcar, a car sharing service based in Cambridge, MA announced its acquisition of the London-based company Streetcar. Zipcar in the long term will allow members to access vehicles in the US, Canada, and across Europe. According to Zipcar President, Mark Norman, the deal is valued at around \$50M. Click [here](#) to read more.

Chicopee-based John R. Lyman Co., received a \$2.2M tax-exempt bond from MassDevelopment. The 104-year-old firm, which manufactures specialized wipes for clean-room environments, will use the bond to renovate its 80,000SF building at the Westover Industrial Park. Click [here](#) to read more.

Turbine Inc., a gaming company based in Westwood, known for Lord of the Rings Online and Dungeons and Dragons Online, has been acquired by Warner Brothers home Entertainment Group in a deal reportedly valued at \$160M. Click [here](#) to read more.

Ambassadors @ Work

On April 14th, MassChallenge launched the world's largest global startup competition. Over 200, including Governor Patrick

and Mayor Menino, gathered at One Marina Park Drive to celebrate the competition, which is expected to accelerate the development and success of new businesses. Click [here](#) for the story.

Staffers from MassDevelopment and MassEcon were recently in New Orleans for the CoreNet Global Summit marketing the assets of Massachusetts to real estate decision-makers and location advisors from around the country. Team New England, which is sponsored by Northeast Utilities, hosted a reception as well as a booth on the tradeshow floor that drew executives from companies including Jones Lang LaSalle, ADP, Fischer and Company, Mohr Partners, Coca-Cola, Black Rock Financial, and Nestle.

The New England Venture Capital Association finished up its Open House Series, which is part of the Start *here* initiative. The last two open houses were hosted by Care.com and Vivox. The NEVCA will continue to hold office hours at the Cambridge Innovation Center through May. Click [here](#) for the schedule.



Massachusetts is National Leader in Patents Per Capita

According to this year's Index of the Massachusetts Innovation Economy, released by the John Adams Innovation Institute, Massachusetts leads the nation and the globe in patents per capita. Massachusetts has a high percentage of research and development in relation to the state's gross domestic product. The state also ranks first in Small Business Innovation Research awards per capita, receiving \$227M in federal SBIR funds. Click [here](#) for the report.

Recent Reports Show Housing Market on the Rise

According to the Massachusetts Association of Realtors, the median selling price for a single-family home in Massachusetts rose for the fifth straight month in March, and the inventory of Bay State homes for sales has increased for the first time since March 2008. A report by the Warren Group noted that March sales of single-family homes also rose 28 percent in Massachusetts. The rise could be a result of the expiring home buyer tax credit, however is what the market needs to stabilize. Click [here](#) for the full story.



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