



Ambassadors Update

August 2012

Expanding in MA

User access technology firm **Aveska** is expanding into an additional 7,000 SF at a larger location in **Waltham**. The expansion will provide Aveska with more space to accommodate increased hiring as the software company prepares to file an IPO during the next two years. Click [here](#) to read more.

Worcester-based energy services management firm **World Energy Solutions** recently moved to a new headquarters in downtown Worcester. World Energy signed a 10-year lease and hired its 100th employee. Click [here](#) to read more.

Electronics waste recycling firm **NextWorth Solutions** is expanding into a larger **Billerica** facility, enlarging its operations by nearly 4,000 SF. The expansion will allow the company to grow a leader in consumer electronics upgrades and trade-ins. Click [here](#) to read more.

Catalina Marketing, a precision marketing firm, recently signed a lease to expand into part of a 75,000 SF building in **Boston's** Seaport District. The Florida-based global brand manager will use the expanded space to accommodate steady new hiring. Click [here](#) to read more.

Sequence, Inc. and **PCI LLC**, two North Carolina-based life sciences companies, are expanding into Massachusetts with a joint office in **Boston's** Innovation District. The expansion will allow the companies to better provide services to their biotech clients in Massachusetts and is part of plans to hire approximately 65 more employees at the Boston location. Click [here](#) to read more.

Ambassador A-List, New Products & Funding

UMass Amherst was the only university among five organizations to receive a Game Changing Development grant from NASA to develop innovative deep-space robotics technology. The UMass proposal is aimed at improving automation used during space exploration missions. Click [here](#) to read more.

Boston-based **Best Doctors Inc.**, a company that helps patients determine the correct diagnostics and treatment, secured \$45M in funding from venture capital firm Brown Brothers Harriman. The funding will be used to invest in the company's infrastructure and increase hiring. Click [here](#) to read more.

Hopper, a big data travel services startup, has raised \$12M in Series B funding. The company, which plans to publicly launch its website in the fall, will use the funds for expansion and hiring at its **Cambridge** headquarters. Click [here](#) to read more.

Verax Biomedical, a company that produces testing technology for bacteria in blood platelets, has raised \$2.8M in financing from 11 investors. The **Worcester**-based company will use the funding for further platelet contamination tests. Click [here](#) to read more.

Cambridge-based pharmaceutical company **Genoclea Biosciences** announced that it has begun an aggressive Phase 1/2a clinical study on a promising investigatory herpes vaccine, GEN-003. Unlike other herpes vaccines, GEN-003 stimulates T-cells to target the infection. Click [here](#) to read more.

Ambassadors @ Work



**Massachusetts
Ambassador**

Boston World Partnerships, an initiative connecting Boston with the global economy, and **Workbar**, Boston's premier cosharing office space, recently teamed up to launch **OuterSpaces**, an innovative new coworking program. OuterSpaces matches startups and small businesses with established companies that have extra space available in their offices. Startups can browse for open desks online and rent on a monthly basis. The program not only allows for new companies to grow without committing to an office lease, but also encourages collaboration and entrepreneurial spirit in Boston. Click [here](#) to learn more about the program .

The **Massachusetts Cultural Council** formally launched the **Upstreet Cultural District** in **Pittsfield** in August. The Upstreet Cultural District is the first of its five new MCC-designated cultural districts to be unveiled and joins culturally significant areas of Boston, Lynn, Rockport, Gloucester, and Barnstable. Cultural district designation accompanies grants from the council that bolster the state's creative economy and efforts to improve the quality of life in Massachusetts communities through the establishment of creative hubs. The formation of cultural districts allows for broader support and funding for capital and structure improvements undertaken by arts and cultural nonprofits. Click [here](#) to learn more about the Commonwealth's designated cultural districts and creative economy initiatives.

Massachusetts
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The **2012 Inner City Economic Summit** will be held on September 19-20 at the Federal Reserve Bank, Boston. The event, organized by the **Initiative for a Competitive Inner City** and themed "What Works for Cities", will explore the issues faced by the nation's urban civic and economic leaders and recognize successful strategies. The summit will feature speakers and moderators from **Harvard Business School, The Boston Foundation, Goldman Sachs**, and the **U.S. Treasury Department** as well as the presentation of the Inner City Mayoral Leadership Award. Click [here](#) for more information about the event.

Rising Confidence in Massachusetts Housing Market

The Massachusetts housing market showed more signs of improvement in July with the **Massachusetts Association of Realtors** reporting that market confidence among real estate professionals is continuing to rise. The Realtor Price Index (RPI) was at 65.00, an all-time high, during July. Similarly, the Realtor Market Index (RMI) was higher during July than the previous year's comparison point for the 12th consecutive month. The two indexes measure the confidence that Realtor members have in the general condition and pricing of the state's housing market. Trisha McCarthy, president of the Massachusetts Association of Realtors, noted that the number of single-family homes in Massachusetts put under sale agreement during July rose nearly 34 percent, compared to July 2011. McCarthy expects prices, which decreased slightly earlier in the summer, to rise in the coming months. Click [here](#) to read more about the housing reports.

High Marks for Massachusetts High Tech Industries

A recent report from the **Bureau of Labor Statistics** has ranked Massachusetts second in high tech job growth. The report showed a growth rate of 5.5 percent for jobs in computer systems design and related services during the past twelve months. Massachusetts placed just behind Maryland and well above states such as Texas and New York. The Department of Labor figures were augmented by data compiled by **CBRE**, which ranked Boston as one the nation's "Tech Twenty" metropolitan areas. The study ranked regions in terms of job growth in the high tech and creative industries. The number of high tech employment opportunities in Boston represents a 9 percent increase compared with figures from two years ago. Click [here](#) to read more about the Bureau of Labor Statistics rankings and to view the CBRE [report](#).

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