



Ambassadors Update

May 2011

Expanding in MA

Gemvara Inc., the online retailer of made-to-order jewelry, is relocating its headquarters from its 5,000 SF office in Lexington to **South Boston** in early June. The new **15,000 SF** space is part of the company's goal to double its employees by the end of the year, creating **40-60 new jobs**. Click [HERE](#) to read more.

St. Vincent Hospital has announced plans for a **40,000 SF** cancer care center in **Worcester** that will add **26 new employees**. The construction, which will begin in late summer and continue until December 2012, will create **100-120 construction jobs**. Click [HERE](#) to read more.

The **Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy Systems** broke ground on May 17th on the renovation of 5 Channel Center St. in **Boston** into a new **50,000 SF** research facility and technology showcase. Brokered by NAI Hunneman, it will be a center for the development and demonstration of new clean energy technology by established and start-up companies. In addition to helping with start-up companies' R & D, the center will create **25 new jobs** of its own. Click [HERE](#) to read more.

East Coast Offshore Fabrication LLC (ECO Fab) will open a facility in Massachusetts in order to provide foundations and other steel components for the proposed Cape Wind project. A joint partnership of Mass Tank Sales Corp., EEW Group of Germany, and Gulf Island Fabrication Inc., ECO Fab plans to **employ up to 300 people**. Click [HERE](#) to read more.

Acme Packet announced the expansion of its **Bedford** headquarters by **110,000 SF**. Having already added 70 new jobs this year, the new facility adjacent to its existing 151,000 SF facility will enable Acme Packet to hire an additional **117 employees**. The company provides interactive communications systems across network borders and in the past year has seen significant growth, with its Q1 revenue up by 45 percent. Click [HERE](#) to read more.

Ambassador A-List, New Products & Funding

Woburn-based **Skyworks Solutions** has acquired **SiGe Semiconductor Inc.** of **Andover** for as much as **\$275M**, with \$65M of the price based upon meeting performance expectations. SiGe's wi-fi and Bluetooth semiconductors will contribute to the range of analog and mixed signal mobile chips made by Skyworks. SiGe was planning its \$143M IPO when it was acquired by the public Skyworks. Click [HERE](#) to read more.

Metabolix, Inc., a producer of biodegradable plastic products in **Cambridge**, will receive **\$6M** federal grant to enhance the yield of bio products and fuels from switchgrass. The grant is a part of a national \$47M program to reduce the country's dependence on foreign oil. Click [HERE](#) to read more.

Avedro Inc., a laser vision technology company, has raised **\$13.3M** of its planned \$15.5M financing. The funds are an amendment on the June 2010 filing of \$5M. The **Waltham**-based company will use the funds to develop microwave-based surgery procedures intended to treat myopia without using surgical vision correction. Click [HERE](#) to read more.

Boston-based **SpringLeaf Therapeutics Inc.** sealed its **\$15M** Series B financing with the help of new investor SR One and existing shareholders Flybridge Capital and North Bridge Venture. The investment will help to make their drug delivery device ready for clinic use by the end of 2012. Click [HERE](#) to read more.

Thermo Fisher Scientific, a **Waltham** company with nearly 37,000 employees worldwide, has signed a **\$3.5B** deal to buy the Swedish **Phadia AB**, which develops diagnostic blood test systems. Thermo Fisher is a world leader in analytical and laboratory products. Taking major steps to expand its global presence, Thermo Fisher's acquisition of Phadia AB is its third acquisition for the year. Click [HERE](#) to read more.

Ambassadors @ Work



On May 26th, State Senator Karen Spilka and State Representative Joseph Wagner of the **Committee on Economic Development & Emerging Technologies** hosted the **Massachusetts Tech Hub State House Day**. The events focused on the importance of the technology industry in the Commonwealth. Key entrepreneurs and executives from some of Massachusetts' leading companies will discuss means of success and growth in the Tech Hub, including Massachusetts Ambassador Colin Angle. Click [HERE](#) to read more.

The **BuyMass** initiative will be dramatically expanding as a result of the public/private collaboration between the **Associated Industries of Massachusetts (AIM)** and the **Commonwealth of Massachusetts**. Governor Deval Patrick announced the expansion at AIM's Annual Meeting. BuyMass will now include the BuyMass Matchmaking, a series of meetings across the state to connect global companies with the state's top suppliers, as well as new BuyMass.org online directory enabling potential customers to search by numerous categories. Click [HERE](#) to read more.

On May 25th, **The Design Industry Group of Massachusetts (DIGMA)** hosted its Spring Conference called *Mass Made*. The conference included case studies by industry leaders showing people, places, and things that have reinvented manufacturing in Massachusetts. Framed economically by experts from state government and the John Adams Institute, leaders from Gillette, Artaic, Nypro, Litecontrol, John Matouk, and Taza added their unique strategies of applying design to help differentiate their products.

The Boston Globe is launching a new initiative, "Building A Better Commonwealth," to create an ongoing dialogue about major challenges and opportunities facing Massachusetts. On June 7th, the first forum - *Cultivating Talent* - will focus on how to attract and keep talent within the state. The forum will include remarks by Governor Deval Patrick, Diane Hessian, Jim Koch, Nadira Hira, and others. It will be presented by **Suffolk Construction**, in association with **Massachusetts It's All here**, **Boston World Partnerships**, **The Next Great Generation**, and **MassEcon**. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Massachusetts Ranks 3rd Nationally in Clean Energy Leadership

Massachusetts was named third in the nation in Clean Edge's annual Clean Energy Leadership Index. The industry's most comprehensive analysis ranks all 50 states based on seventy indicators across technology, policy, and capital infrastructures. With a score of 71.8, Massachusetts is only surpassed by California and Oregon. The Massachusetts-specific report credits the state's world-class academics, government leadership, highly educated workforce, and commitment to energy efficiency with the high ranking. Click [HERE](#) to read more.

Job Growth Slow, but Upward Trend

The state's unemployment rate fell to 7.8% in the month of April, the lowest point in almost two years. An increase of 19,500 jobs in a number of different sectors signaled a positive forecast for the Massachusetts economy. The New England Economic Partnership (NEEP) released projections that the economy will continue to add jobs until 2013 when the state will regain all of the 143,000 jobs lost in the recession. The report credits education and health services sectors for much of the future job growth. Click [HERE](#) for the news article and [HERE](#) for NEEP's summary.

MassEcon
892 Worcester Street
Wellesley, MA 02482
Phone: (781) 489-6262
Fax: (781) 489-6263
www.massecon.com

If you have information for this newsletter, contact Mary Duggan at 781.489.6262 or mduggan@massecon.com

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