



IN BRIEF

MAKING **MOVES** IN MASSACHUSETTS

Expanding in MASS



Workspace provider, **Industrious**, opened its newest **Boston** location with a **30K SF** space in the heart of the financial district. Read more [here](#).



Cambridge officials approved **Boston Properties'** plan to build an **18-story** glass office building in **Cambridge's Kendall Square**, with Google as its likely tenant. Read more [here](#).



Quiet Logistics, a fast-growing fulfillment company for the e-commerce retail industry, announced its **355K** lease in **Devens**. Read more [here](#).



Following a merger with Vet Path Services in Ohio, bio-research company, **Histo-Scientific Research Laboratories** will **triple its manufacturing presence** in **Worcester**. Read more [here](#).



Chase Bank plans to open **18 retail branches** in **Greater Boston** by the end of 2019. Read more [here](#).



Solar company **Solar Wolf Energy** is moving its headquarters from Millbury to **Douglas**. The facility is expected to be open for the start of 2019 and marks the company's third location in the state (with other sites in Millbury and Marlborough). Read more [here](#).

NEW Products & funding



Cambridge Mobile Telematics, a tech startup based in **Cambridge** that uses smartphone data to analyze driver behavior, secured **\$500 million**. The company plans to explore new uses for its technology. Read more [here](#).



Boston-based Cogito secured **\$8 million** to bring its AI technology to more call centers. Read more [here](#).



Manufacturing analytics startup **MachineMetrics** secured **\$11.3 million** for product updates, custom features, and improved service as it looks for global expansion. While based in **Northampton**, the company will be expanding to **Cambridge** and hiring for multiple positions. Read more [here](#).



Analytics and AI startup, **Forge.AI**, based in **Cambridge**, secured **\$11 million** to accelerate hiring, product development, and go-to-market activities. Read more [here](#).



To expand its market to more retailers, **Boston-based** software company **Celect** secured **\$15 million**. The company, whose software works to help buying teams at national retailers make better decisions about which items to purchase, how many to purchase, and how to best distribute them among stores, will use the funding to expand engineering and sales teams. Read more [here](#).



Somerville-based RightHand Robotics secured **\$23 million** to help retailers deal with logistical problems from e-commerce. The company has about 40 employees and plans to hire business and engineering positions. Read more [here](#).



Relay Therapeutics, a company headquartered in **Cambridge** that works at the intersection of computation and biotechnology, secured **\$40 million** to support the company's discovery efforts, advance existing programs into the clinic, and strengthen its broad platform and diverse team. Read more [here](#).



Self-driving boat startup **Sea Machine Robotics**, based in **Boston**, secured **\$10 million** to expand its engineering and technology team. Read more [here](#).



Cambridge-based Malta Inc., which works on storing renewable energy in salts, secured **\$26 million**. The company's energy storage system can store electricity for weeks at a time and release it back to the grid when demand is high. Read more [here](#).

Ambassadors @work



On December 18, **CRRC** hosted its Rail Car Rolling Out Ceremony in Springfield, featuring the official rollout of the first pair of **next generation rail cars for the MBTA's orange and red lines**. Read more [here](#).



Earlier this month, MassEcon's Holiday Lunch featured PawSox President Dr. Charles Steinberg discussing the **PawSox move from Rhode Island to Worcester**. Learn more about the event [here](#).



On February 7, the **N-Squared Innovation District** will host **Innovate 128**, an event to showcase the entrepreneurial ecosystem happening at the colleges and universities in Boston's inner western suburbs. Learn more [here](#).



Notes on the *economy*

The **Baker-Polito Administration** and the Commonwealth's Economic Assistance Coordinating Council [approved six projects for participation in the Economic Development Incentive Program](#). Approved projects are expected to create 3,703 net new jobs, retain 4,313 jobs throughout Massachusetts and leverage more than \$82 million in private investment. These are the certified projects:

- Aetna in Wellesley
- Millstone Medical Outsourcing in Fall River
- TOG Manufacturing Co., Inc. in North Adams
- Wayfair in Boston and Pittsfield

Local Incentive Only Projects include:

- Crootof & Sawyer Ventures in Northbridge
- United Lens Corporation in Southbridge

Mike Kennealy was just named the new Secretary of Housing & Economic Development and will be sworn in on December 28. Kennealy has served as the Assistant Secretary for Business Growth and Co-Chairman of the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center Board. Read more [here](#).

Governor Baker's **Future of Transportation Commission** released its recommendations this week on how to improve the Commonwealth's transportation system by 2040. Now, the Baker-Polito Administration will review and consider initial steps that state agencies can take to move more people while reducing emissions. Read the full report [here](#).

[Five months into the state's fiscal year, Massachusetts' tax revenues are ahead of expectations](#). Read more [here](#).

According to **AIM, the Business Confidence Index rose .6 points to 61.6** in November, ending a three month slide.

Between 2017 and 2018, the Massachusetts **clean energy sector has continued its trend of upward growth with an additional 1,500 workers**, according to the [Massachusetts Clean Energy Center](#).

The latest [MassBenchmarks "Current and Leading Indexes"](#) indicates that the Massachusetts and U.S. economies grew at very similar rates in the third quarter. Unemployment rates for Massachusetts and the nation remain low and well below pre-Great Recession levels.

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