



IN BRIEF

MAKING **MOVES** IN MASSACHUSETTS

Expanding in MASS



Motif, a subsidiary of biotech giant Ginkgo Bioworks, launched in **Boston** to make alternative proteins to sell to food companies and product developers as an ingredient. Read more [here](#).



Commercial drone startup **Kiwi Technologies** expanded to more than **18K SF** in **Malden**. Read more [here](#).



Worcester-based Table Talk Pies, has started construction on a new **27K SF** cold-store facility. Read more [here](#).



Cambridge-based **Vecna Technologies** signed a **78K SF** lease in **Waltham**. Read more [here](#).



Irish pharmaceutical giant **Allergan** announced its plans to open a research facility in **Cambridge's Kendall Square** during the first quarter of 2019. Read more [here](#).



Pharmaceutical advertising agency **Intouch Solutions** expanded from Kansas to **Boston**. Read more [here](#).



Organogenesis Inc., a regenerative medicine company out of Canton signed a nearly **44K SF** lease of office and lab space in **Norwood**. Read more [here](#).



Luminoso, a text analytics start-up with roots in the MIT Media Lab, is moving its headquarters to **more than 15K SF** in **Boston**. The new space will allow the company to double the size of its current 41-person staff. Read more [here](#).

NEW Products & funding



FutureFuel.io, a fintech startup based in **Boston's BackBay**, secured **\$11.2 million** to add sales and marketing employees to its team of 12, as well as expand the features of its student debt employer benefits platform. Read more [here](#).



Cambridge-based blood disorder startup **Imara** secured **\$63 million** to finance clinical trials. Read more [here](#).



Boston-based storage firm, **MakeSpace**, secured **\$30 million** and acquired a new storage business, bringing the company's storage services to 20 new markets. Read more [here](#).



3D printer maker **Markforged**, based in **Watertown**, secured **\$82 million** to expand internationally and add a new manufacturing facility in the Boston area. Read more [here](#).

Ambassadors @work



BusinessWest is looking for nominees for its 5th **Continued Excellence Award** recognizing outstanding leadership, dedicated community involvement, professional achievement, and ability to inspire. Nominations will be accepted through May 3 and the winner will be unveiled at the magazine's 40 under Forty gala on June 20. Read more [here](#).



MassEcon's **ReadyMass 100** portfolio reflects a high level of marketability and attracts prospective companies and site selectors to consider Massachusetts as an expansion location. To apply, complete the electronic form [here](#). The minimum criteria for screening candidates are [here](#). Application deadline is April 10.



CITY AWAKE

Meet the **co-founder**, Stephanie Kaplan Lewis of **Her Campus**, the leading site for college-age women at City Awake's **Lunches on Leadership** on April 11. Hear how Stephanie and her co-founders built their brand. Register [here](#).



**NEW ENGLAND
BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**
CONNECT & GROW

The **New England Business Association's Innovation Awards** are introducing exciting changes, including video applications to the awards application process. Learn more [here](#).



Notes on the *economy*

The most recent issue of [MassBenchmarks](#) noted **consistent growth** in the Massachusetts economy since the 2009 Great Recession, but **encourages caution** amid significant economic and political uncertainties.

Last month, [business confidence rebounded](#) with **increased confidence among Massachusetts employers** in both the state and national economies, according to **Associated Industries of Massachusetts**.

The Walton Family Foundation released its [2019 report on most dynamic micropolitans in the U.S.](#) Among the top was the only community in New England, **Vineyard Haven**, ranking number 12, encompassing **Martha's Vineyard** and surrounding islands known for its **tourism sector**.

A [new report](#) by **CBRE** ranked the **Boston-Cambridge market** as the **top life sciences cluster** in the US.

The WorkForce Training Fund released its [impact highlights](#), featuring success stories and a message from the Massachusetts Secretary of Labor & Workforce Development.

Massachusetts gained **6,600 jobs in February** bringing the state unemployment rate down to **3%** (eight tenths of a percentage point better than the national average). Read more [here](#).

The **Massachusetts Department of Transportation** released a [statewide airport economic impact study](#) which evaluated funding for airport safety and preservation projects, and measured the economic output that aviation brings to the Commonwealth.

The **technology industry** is expanding in Massachusetts, adding **11,000 new jobs** in 2018 and increasing its contribution to the state economy every day. Read more in the [Cyberstates 2019 guide](#).

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