



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Washington Technology Industry Association Unveils History of the Puget Sound Technology Universe

Results of year-long project to map history of local tech community revealed at Urban Leadership Series event.

SEATTLE – January 22, 2009 – The Washington Technology Industry Association (WTIA) (<http://www.washingtontechnology.org>), North America's largest statewide association of technology companies, IT departments and individual technology professionals, today unveiled the results of a year-long project to document the history of the Puget Sound technology industry. Working with researchers from Virginia Tech University and Seattle University, the WTIA created a poster-sized map that shows more than 750 technology companies, associations and venture capital groups, including many that trace their origins to the six companies that built the foundation of the local tech industry: Microsoft, Aldus Corporation, University of Washington, Boeing, McCaw Cellular and Amazon.com. The poster is available for viewing online at <http://www.washingtontechnology.org/TechPoster>.

"The poster illustrates a visual history of the technology industry's growth in the Puget Sound Region," said Ken Myer, president and CEO of the WTIA. "It's clear that a handful of foundational companies and research institutions made an enormous impact on the state's economy. The entrepreneurs who populated this galaxy and the venture capitalists and service providers who support them have created the robust technology industry we see today."

More than 1,000 local technology companies, organizations and associations participated in the creation of the poster via a survey regarding the region's entrepreneurial climate. Several major patterns and trends, such as the existence of the six major foundational companies, emerged as a result of this feedback and contributed to the layout and details of the poster. Other patterns included the importance of research—through the University of Washington and Boeing—in fostering a successful tech community, as evidenced by the numerous successful companies created by ex-students and employees of both organizations.

The WITA will unveil the poster at its Urban Leadership Series breakfast. An interactive version of the poster can be found at <http://www.washingtontechnology.org/TechPoster>, and copies are available for purchase for \$14.95.

Sponsors of the project are [Accenture](#), [Deloitte](#), [F5 Networks](#), [Madrona Venture Group](#), [OVP Venture Partners](#), [Physio Control](#), [Regence BlueShield](#), [UW Computer Science and Engineering](#), [Voyager Capital LLC](#) and the [Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development](#).

About the Washington Technology Industry Association

The Washington Technology Industry Association, founded in 1984, is the largest statewide association

of technology companies, IT departments and individual technology professionals in North America. With more than 1,000 member companies representing more than 100,000 employees in Washington State, the association is a catalyst for sharing expertise, fostering collaboration, delivering key business services and advancing the value and global impact of technology companies doing business in Washington. The association's global partners are Davis Wright Tremaine LLP, Microsoft, Regence BlueShield, Sun Microsystems, Vertafore and Wells Fargo Insurance Services. The association's funding partners are AH&T Insurance, Comerica Bank, F5 Networks, GrapeCity, Moss Adams and RealNetworks. For more information, go to www.washingtontechnology.org.

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