

Minnesota: “THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE HIGH SPEED DIGITAL COMPUTER”



**MINNESOTA COMPUTER HISTORY INITIATIVE
OUR 2017 PROGRESS REPORT NEWSLETTER
APRIL 12, 2017**

A. WHAT ARE WE?

At a summary level, the broad, overall purpose of our computer industry history initiative is two-fold:

- To make available and facilitate the use of information that explains the historic role Minnesota played in building today’s global computer and technology industry, and, through the education of younger generations;
- To accelerate their interest and involvement in technology in Minnesota thus contributing toward achieving our State-wide vision of being in the "top 5" in the Science and Technology Industry in the nation, and eventually in the world.

More directly, we are focused on the execution of our business plan that includes the delivery of several major industry products and services over the next 3 – 5 Years. Those deliverables are:

1. Our TPT Twin Cities PBS Documentary (2017-18 and beyond) - The production of a one hour historical documentary on Minnesota’s leading role in the creation of our global computer industry.
2. Our “Put A Stake in the Ground” Public Announcement and Recognition Ceremony (2017) – Hopefully on the original St. Paul ERA founding site in St. Paul, we will conduct a community-wide ceremony announcing to the world that Minnesota is the Birth Place of the High Speed Digital Computer!
3. A Comprehensive Shared Resource Database (2018) – The researching, collecting, and compiling of “all” available resources into a single, shared online database on the web.
4. Building Lasting Collaborative Statewide Partnerships(2017-18) – MHTA will work closely with the Charles Babbage Institute at the University of Minnesota, the Dakota County Historical Society, The Minnesota Historical Society, the Minnesota Science Museum, the Bakken Museum, the UMN Program in the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine, and will integrate our common computer industry education endeavors toward achieving our common, unified vision.
5. Engaging Cities and Towns Across Greater Minnesota (2018) – Assist with the development of exhibits, seminars, classes, co-working spaces, maker centers and related services, targeted at incorporating industry history into education initiatives throughout the state.
6. Aligning with STEM Efforts for All Levels of our Education System (2018-2019) – Creating STEM curriculum guides/discussion guides, and related items that continuously explain the historic role of Minnesota in building our global computer and technology industry. This will be focused on STEM for all levels of our education system with services customized for each distinct area.
7. Integrating Product Delivery with All Target Industries (2018-2020) s – Extending, expanding, and integrating our products with the top targeted economic development industries state-wide. This will

involve creating short videos to tell the historic accounts of specific companies, linking our products with their internal leadership development efforts, as examples.

B. WHAT PROGRESS HAVE WE MADE OVER THE LAST 6 MONTHS?

As of April, we have laid the ground work for this endeavor in three (3) major areas of progress:

1. Submitted Minnesota Historical Society, Heritage Partnership Program Grant Application.

Under the guidance Matt Hill and our Minnesota High Technology Foundation, this grant application was officially submitted on March 10th. Our application seeks seed funding for our TPT documentary and includes partnership participation by our MHTA Foundation, The Charles Babbage Institute at the U of Minnesota, and the Dakota County Historical Society (DCHS). We expect the results of our application by June 1st.

2. Completed Initial Discussions with Our “top 20” Potential Industry Sponsors and Supporters.

Over the last several months, we have met in person, by phone, or in meetings with our targeted potential industry sponsors. A select few of these individuals have been: Bob Price, former CEO on Control Data Corporation (CDC), Larry Jodsaas, former CDC senior leader, John Rollwagen, former CEO of Cray Research, Gary Smaby, former industry consultant and venture capitalist, Dave and Roger Norris from the Norris Institute, and others. Each of these individuals remains interested in supporting our initiative as it proceeds and would be willing to serve as founding members of our Board of Advisors/Board of Directors as these governing entities are formed.

3. Business and State-Wide Community Awareness and Communication.

In addition, during the Fall of 2016, Dale Weeks, our Executive Director, made in-depth presentations on our initiative to The VIP Club, that is composed of very enthusiastic retirees, former employees, spouses, and retirement eligible employees of Unisys, Lockheed Martin, and their Twin Cities predecessor companies (consisting of close to 500 members), to the Eagan Rotary Club, and has announced our effort to the Control Data Alumni Group on LinkedIn, that is composed of 2,000 or so former CDC leaders and employees across the globe. Each of these groups expressed a strong interest in supporting our history initiative, if not financially, then from a historical perspective in providing artifacts, resources, possible volunteers, and related in-kind services.

Dale also continues to serve as a member of the 2017-2018 Board of Trustees of the Dakota County Historical Society (DCHS). He recently joined both their Development and Personnel Board committees as the DCHS moves into a distinct growing phase of its county historical efforts. DCHS currently has a substantial collection of MN computer industry artifacts on display at its South St. Paul museum donated by Lockheed and other local computer industry businesses.

We will be actively continuing to connect with these initial industry sponsors and supporters in the months ahead.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP US

Please join us as an original supporter and sponsor in this very important initiative. We value your leadership and commitment. To help make this endeavor a reality contact:

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