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News From the 8th Continent

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8C Sponsor Focus: The Deming Center for Entrepreneurship

We are fortunate on the Front Range to have a program close at hand that's the caliber of the [Deming](#)

GREETINGS!

The mission of the 8th Continent Project has never been more important than it is today. Even in the current environment, space continues to attract attention, from the cover of Newsweek to the launch of SpaceX's Falcon 1, which placed the Malaysian microsatellite RazakSAT into low-earth orbit in July.

Startup companies and small businesses have always led the nation in job creation, even when the economic outlook is uncertain. We help early-stage companies that use technology developed for space projects undertaken by NASA or the military. Repurposing patented technology cuts R&D time, speeds job creation and makes aerospace start-ups attractive to venture investors in a way they haven't been before.

At the 8th Continent Project, a program of the Colorado School of Mines, we assist by:

- Connecting small companies with resources through the 8th Continent Business Incubator, in cooperation with the Boulder Innovation Center
- Broadening our reach through media relations, speaking engagements and seminars
- Promoting students' work on the next generation of ideas through the 8th Continent Business Plan Competition, which returns in Spring 2010
- Building a global "Space 2.0" brand

We are ahead of schedule in our program's development but need partners to really make it happen in ways that extend far beyond financial support. Our sponsors have

[The Center for Entrepreneurship](#)
Center for Entrepreneurship
at the University of
Colorado's Leeds School of
Business in Boulder, led by
8C's good friend Paul Jerde.

The Deming Center describes
its mission as educating
students from
undergraduates to PhDs;
facilitating high impact
research; and creating
"productive collisions" among
students, faculty, and the
dynamic local business
community. Its areas of
focus include renewable
energy, sustainable business
and cleantech.

Look for some "productive
collisions" between 8C and
the Deming Center in the
coming year, to benefit
early-stage space businesses
- and, we hope, all small
tech businesses.

Seminar on intellectual
property protection
rescheduled

The Space 2.0 breakfast
seminar Patent Reform: Are
we headed in the right
direction? A view from the
trenches with Gene Branch
has been rescheduled for
later this fall. Check
www.8cproject.com for the
new date and time.

Branch, a partner in the
intellectual property law
firm [Townsend and
Townsend and Crew](#), will
discuss the shortcomings of
America's antiquated patent
system, why it needs to be
overhauled and what it
means if you have an idea
you need to protect

played an active role in shaping the 8th Continent Project
to date.

We believe that early-stage investors, consultants,
educational programs aimed at early stage companies,
economic development entities and companies - in
traditional aerospace as well as Space 2.0 - can derive
substantial benefits from collaborating with us to build 8C.
Our mission reflects the School of Mines' newly articulated
commitment to "Earth. Energy. Environment."

8th Continent Project sponsorships begin at \$5,000 per
year. If you see the economic wisdom of creating
companies from space technology, and the benefit of
connecting with other companies in this industry, please
consider a sponsorship investment for 2010. Contact me
(burke.fort@8cproject.com) for more information or visit
the "[Do More](#)" section of our website.

Boulder VC invites 8th Continent Seminar Attendees to 'Ask Him Anything'

No topic is off limits, promises Jason Mendelson, managing
director at Boulder-based Foundry Group, who will talk
about navigating the risk capital landscape.

Shades of Green: Risk Capital 101, Wednesday, Sept. 30, 5-
7 p.m. MDT: Gordon Biersch Brewpub, at the northwest
corner of FlatIron Crossing Mall (next to the theaters) in
Broomfield. The seminar is FREE! Food and drink will be
available to purchase. RSVP to news@8cproject.com.

We'll be offering a simultaneous webcast with the
opportunity for participants outside Colorado to hear Jason
talk, ask questions and interact with other audience
members. It will be available for download and later
viewing. Check www.8cproject.com for details.

[Here's more about Jason:](#)

Jason has more than a decade of experience in venture
capital and technology, in investing, operational and
engineering roles. He currently serves as managing director
at Foundry Group, a venture capital firm focused on
making investments in early-stage information technology,
Internet and software startups, and serves on the board of
directors of [Brightleaf](#), [Oblong](#) and [Pie Digital](#). Prior to co-

About The 8th Continent Project

The Colorado School of Mines' 8th Continent Project is the world's most comprehensive effort to integrate space technology and resources into the global economy. 8th Continent provides the infrastructure and resources to solve a wide range of challenges from global warming to biomedical to renewable energy development. 8th Continent brings space down to Earth with the industry's first trade association, incubator, funding network and research hub, all working together to develop the next generation of space-derived business ventures.

founding Foundry Group, Jason was a Managing Director and General Counsel for Mobius Venture Capital, where he also acted as its chief administrative partner. At Mobius, he was actively involved in negotiating and structuring all financings, mergers and exits in the portfolio. He gained valuable experience as a restructuring expert during the challenging "Internet bubble." Companies for which Jason has worked, represented and/or held a board seat includes Accelergy, eCast, Stratify (acq. IRM), and Vitria (VITR).

Earlier, Jason practiced corporate and securities law at Cooley Godward Kronish LLP, with an emphasis on representing emerging companies in private and public financings, mergers and acquisitions. And he was a senior consultant and software engineer at Accenture, where he supervised programming teams of up to 40 people, and managed deliverables in multi-billion dollar engagements. He holds a B.A. in economics and J.D. cum laude from the University of Michigan. He was named one of the Denver Business Journal's "[40 under 40](#)" in 2009. Jason blogs at [Mendelson's Musings](#) and www.askthevc.com and plays drums and bass in several bands.

New England event: early stage funding roundtable

The Capital Network kicks off its 2009-2010 roundtable series Sept. 8 with "Funding Options," to be held from 5:30 to 9 p.m. at the offices of Bingham McCutchen, 1 Federal St., Boston. The roundtable aims to present an overview of early stage capital sources from angels to VCs to grants, strategic partnership and debt financing. Topics will include investment criteria, time to closing, investment range, success rates, control features, compliance requirements and the overall costs of capital from each such source. Registration is \$60, with discounts for TCN members, approved guests and students. Register at the [TCN website](#).

The Capital Network's series continues Sept. 8 with an evening roundtable on funding options; a Sept. 16 sponsor lunch on "Equity Compensation Pricing and the Perils of 409A;" and a lunch Oct. 7 on debt financing for startups. It will wrap up with a breakfast roundtable, "Preparing for Growth and Exit During Fundraising," time and place TBD.

Word of mouth still fuels our growth ... and

yours

Chamber membership remains free for the first three months. If you know of emerging companies, service providers or investors who should be included in our growing community, direct them to www.8cproject.com to sign up for trial membership.

Thank you again for your interest and support of 8th Continent. As always, if you have any questions, ideas or suggestions, we welcome your email.

Until next month,



Burke O. Fort
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