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News from The 8th Continent

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Event Listings

Visit the Calendar section of the [8C Website](#) for all of the details.

Betting the House: Entrepreneurs turn to 401(k)s to fund start-up businesses

WARNING: This article is not for everyone!

Did you know that you can tap funds in your 401(k) savings to start a business without getting hit by taxes and early-withdrawal penalties? As it turns out, there are two ways; and either may be just what's needed in this period where sources of traditional equity and debt financing are scarce...[<more from USA Today>](#)

Keeping America Competitive: Silicon Valley campaign seeks startup visa for foreign entrepreneurs

With more flexible regulations governing the export of US aerospace technology on the horizon, Space 2.0 entrepreneurs will increasingly find themselves in the same position as their IT colleagues when it comes to attracting top-rate entrepreneurial talent from overseas. Under current US immigration policy, foreign students attending US universities are either locked into large companies with employment-based visas or forced to return to their home countries.

Founders Visa, a new Silicon Valley-based campaign, seeks to change these policies to encourage foreign talent to stay and start up their companies in the US...[<more from The Guardian>](#)

8C Member Spotlight: Metzger Associates

"It's a natural fit." This according to both Burke Fort, director of 8C, and John Metzger, founder and CEO of Metzger Associates, about their 4-years-and-counting partnership.

Metzger Associates is one of the most respected strategic communications firms in the Rocky Mountain region. Since the company's launch, Metzger and his team have been on the leading edge of high-tech, energy, clean-tech and telecommunications. The company has established a leadership position in social and new media and has

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.

extensive experience in everything from viral marketing for restaurants to customer interaction management for aerospace companies. Metzger has been ahead of the curve throughout the entire history of online communication and holds the distinction of being the first communications firm with a Web site nearly 20 years ago.

Fast-moving, entrepreneurial companies are what drives Metzger Associates' business and "space-derived technology for use here on Earth is what 8C is all about," says Metzger. "'Space 1.0' was astronauts, rocket ships and billion-dollar government projects. 'Space 2.0' is venture-backed entrepreneurs starting new companies with new technologies. 8C's mission is to bridge the gap between these innovations and their commercialization."

For more about Metzger Associates, go to: <http://www.metzger.com>

Entry deadline near for 8C Business Plan Competition

University students: You have until March 1, 2010, to enter this year's competition to showcase your Space 2.0 idea, fuel your venture, and float in zero gravity...

For details, go to <http://8cproject.com> and click on "Competition."

NASA Undergraduate Student Research Program Internships

The NASA Undergraduate Student Research Program (USRP) is seeking candidates for the Fall 2010 internship session. The NASA USRP program is a mentored internship for undergraduate students that are offered at all 12 NASA Centers and research support facilities across the United States. Students majoring in Science, Engineering, and Mathematics will have the opportunity to gain hands-on technical research experiences. Undergraduate students will have the opportunity to participate and work with a NASA mentor on a research project from NASA's core workforce competency needs. USRP research projects are premier research and development projects that are aligned with NASA's research focus areas.

The deadline to apply for Fall 2010 internships is March 26, 2010.

For details and to apply, log on to the USRP web site at <http://usrp.usra.edu>

This Month's "Word to the Wise"

Watch for brain-controlled devices in the marketplace. In the shimmering fantasy realm of the hit movie "Avatar," a paraplegic Marine leaves his wheelchair behind and finds his feet in a new virtual world thanks to "the link," a sophisticated chamber that connects his brain to a surrogate alien, via computer. This type of interface is a classic tool in gee-whiz science fiction. But the hard science behind it is even more wow-inducing... [more from cnn.com](http://morefromcnn.com)

Until next month,



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