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## GOSSELIN: IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE VERMONT'S INNOVATIONS

[COMMENTARY](#)

OCT. 3, 2013

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*Editor's note: This commentary is by Lisa Gosselin, commissioner of the Vermont Department of Economic Development.*

When we think of what is “Made in Vermont” we often think of sharp cheddar, craft IPAs, and fancy-grade maple syrup. What may not come to mind as quickly? A new wave of Vermont-manufactured products that use technology so innovative it is changing the world.

That transdermal patch your doctor prescribed? There's a good chance it was made in St. Albans by global health care company Mylan Technologies, which recently announced a major facility expansion. The Ever-Led light tube you just installed to save energy? Built by LED Dynamics in Randolph. That smart phone you are carrying? Most likely powered by micro electronics created in Essex Junction by IBM.

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While people around the globe are familiar with Burton's snowboards, Green Mountain

Coffee's K-Cups and Concept2's rowing machines, many Vermonters are using thousands of other innovative products created in our state.

# VTDigger

A publication of Vermont Journalism Trust

97 State Street  
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Gov. Shumlin has

(802) 225-6224

proclaimed this Friday,

Oct. 4, "National

Manufacturing Day

Led by journalists, powered by the public. is "home to many great manufacturing businesses, many of which are world

leaders in their fields."

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case for a "cooler" of sorts that can trans-

heart or other organs destined for a transplant. In

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helps military air crews preserve their hearing with

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Technology engineers the underwater robots that

service nuclear reactors.

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Gov. Shumlin has proclaimed this Friday, Oct. 4, "National Manufacturing Day" in Vermont, noting our state is "home to many great manufacturing businesses, many of which are world leaders in their fields."

That's not surprising considering that the modern machine shop came to life here in the 1820s, in the town of Windsor. "Precision Valley," as the Springfield/Windsor section of the Connecticut River valley became known, pioneered what the British called the "American system of manufacturing," using division of labor, mechanized production and a new business system of networks that paired engineers and entrepreneurs, craftsmen and mechanics.

Today, Vermont's manufacturing landscape is totally different but equally innovative. Small, technologically sophisticated companies rely on skilled workers, extensive supply chains and global markets. Facilities are state of the art and environments are clean, modern and often eco-friendly. Vermont now has more than 1,000 manufacturing firms

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with 60 percent employing fewer than 10. About 31,000 Vermonters work in manufacturing, or about 10 percent of the total workforce – earning wages 36 percent above the statewide average. Manufacturing alone contributes 11.1 percent of Vermont's Gross Domestic Product.

As more and more people discover the value (and values) associated with a product that is “made in Vermont,” that number will grow. Already, we are seeing some shifts that buck the national trend toward moving manufacturing offshore. Consider Cabot Hosiery, which has made a name by knitting Darn Tough socks so durable they come with a lifetime guarantee. Or Vermont Castings, which announced last Friday it would be consolidating its grill manufacturing (some of which is done outside of the U.S.) back here in Randolph. “We believe in Vermont,” said Vermont Casting's new CFO Jacob Reuben, a former New York financial adviser who helped transition the company to employee ownership this past summer. “There's a brand here that you just can't duplicate. ‘Made in Vermont,’ that means something. It means quality.”

## 50 INNOVATIONS MADE IN VERMONT

To highlight some of the great things made in our state, the Vermont Department of Economic Development has created a list of 50 Innovations Made in Vermont, available at [ThinkVermont.com](http://ThinkVermont.com). It is a list of just a few of the innovative products, designs and technology we produce. It's a list we hope to add to each year and we invite you to share your thoughts and nominations on our [Vermont Economic Development Facebook page](#).

## MEET THE MANUFACTURERS

You can also celebrate this Friday, as many Vermont manufacturers ranging from Burlington's Burton to the North Hartland Tool Co. to Middlebury's Danforth Pewter will open their doors to the public. For more information on these and other events, visit [www.mfgday.com](http://www.mfgday.com) or contact the [Vermont Manufacturing Extension Center](#). In the Bennington area, teachers in math, science and other STEM programs have already made it part of their curriculum to visit the area's industries. Take some time to show yourself or your children what “Made in Vermont” can mean. Show them the possibilities. Show

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them the future.

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## COMMENTS

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Brian McAllister

October 4, 2013 at 5:11 pm

These are great innovations, however I am amazed by how many native Vermonters that don't know our own history.

Like how we were the first Republic in the United States, or how we were the first state to abolish slavery (we actually did that before we were officially a state).

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## COMMENTS

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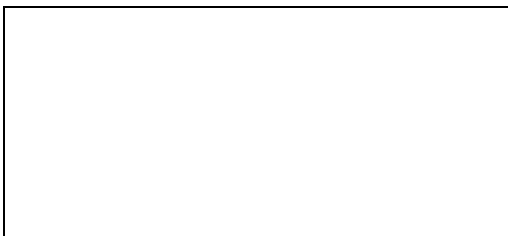
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[@ALISONTURKOS](#) GREAT! THANKS FOR BEING AN ATTENTIVE READER! [OCTOBER 4, 2013 6:27 PM](#)

[@ALISONTURKOS](#) THANKS FOR LETTING US KNOW— WE ARE LOOKING INTO THE PROBLEM! [OCTOBER 4, 2013 5:24 PM](#)

VIDEO OF THE GOVERNOR'S NEWS CONFERENCE AS HE ANSWERS QUESTIONS ABOUT THE HEALTH CARE EXCHANGE. [HTTP://T.CO/DQCUFGPXBO](http://t.co/DQCUFGPXBO) #VTPOLI [OCTOBER 4, 2013 3:30 PM](#)

[@AARON\\_STRAUSS](#) [@VTHEALTHCONNECT](#) BY 4 P.M., MORE THAN 25,000 VERMONTERS HAD VISITED THE SITE, AND MORE THAN 1,800 HAD REGISTERED AN ACCOUNT. [OCTOBER 4, 2013 2:12 PM](#)

AFSCME CHOSEN IN VERMONT HOME CARE

WORKERS UNION VOTE. [#VTPOLI](http://t.co/GUOKGEB8CN) OCTOBER 3, 2013 10:19 PM

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