

Maryland

Steering disruptive tech into the Old Line State

Drone technologies have found a home in Maryland, with applications to make utility inspections safer and ease the strain of finding a parking space.

A local utility company is taking advantage of the state's welcoming drone policies to keep employees safely on the ground and off power poles. Baltimore Gas and Electric Co. launched a pilot program to use drones to inspect overhead power lines and poles. Normally workers would climb the poles to complete the inspections or use binoculars to view lines from the ground. Now employees are being trained as drone pilots to fly the devices and carry out the more than 40,000 inspections BGE undertakes each year.

Other disruptive technologies are seeing a similar welcome. The state Department of Transportation recently issued the first permit for the testing of self-driving vehicles to STEER, a company developing a system of self-parking cars. The department's parking lots will now serve as a laboratory for new advancements.

Venture capital investment and research and development spending is also on the rise. From 2016 to 2017, the amount of VC spending per capita grew by 18 percent to \$147.80, and R&D investment saw an increase as well to nearly \$854 in 2017.

Sources: (Baltimore Sun) (Transportation Today)

WHAT DID WE DO RIGHT?

Maryland is home to nearly 300,000 tech jobs.

WHAT CAN WE DO BETTER NEXT YEAR?

The state can make tax policies more friendly to businesses. The state is among the bottom 10 in the Tax Friendly category.

WHERE HAVE WE MOST IMPROVED?

Nearly 18 percent of residents over the age of 24 have an advanced degree — improving Maryland's grade from a 'B' in 2017 to an 'A' in 2018.

Best & Brightest	C
Fast Internet	A
Grants Advanced Degrees	A+
Tech Workforce	A
Tax Friendly	C-
Attracts Investment	B
Entrepreneurial Activity	B
Ridesharing	A-
Short-Term Rentals	B
Sustainable Policies	B-
Self-Driving Vehicles	A
Drones	A



Fast Internet

79 percent of Maryland households have internet connections of at least 10 mbps, and nearly 75 percent enjoy speeds of 25 mbps or more.



Entrepreneurial Activity

Maryland's small businesses added more than 58 jobs per 1,000 people from Q2/2011 through Q4/2016.



Self-Driving Vehicles

Maryland allows the development of self-driving vehicles without restrictive rules.



Attracts Investment

Venture capital investment reached \$147.80 per capita, and the state saw more than \$853 per capita spent on research and development.

Building Bridges Between Local Industries and the Workers they Need to Grow

A Baltimore County program aims to match out-of-work Maryland residents with employers looking to expand their workforces.

The Job Connector Initiative — supported by \$2.5 million in public funds — emphasizes the specific advanced skills local employers need to fill their vacancies.

Baltimore County expects nine industries — including healthcare, financial services, manufacturing, information technology and port operations and logistics — to drive 75 percent of the job growth in the area. To meet their workforce needs, employers in these industries will draw on the program to providing participants with appropriate training.

Bank of America already plans to add 600 new positions at its Hunt Valley campus — on the heels of another expansion that created 300 new jobs in the area in 2017.

Sources: (Baltimore Sun) (WYPR) (Delaware Business Now)

