

The Minnesota High Tech Association History and Mission

MHTA History

Today's **Minnesota High Tech Association (MHTA)** was originally established in 1982 as the Minnesota High Technology Council (MHTC) with a vision "To make Minnesota the best state in the nation for technology-based industry." The organization has deep roots in education and with the University of Minnesota, beginning a few years earlier as an advisory committee to the Dean of the University's Institute of Technology. Although MHTA works closely with government and education leaders, it is not government funded, and is organized as an independent, private non-profit 501 (c) 6 entity.

The Minnesota High Technology Council became affiliated with the American Electronics Association (AeA), now **TechAmerica**, in 1996. The affiliation continues today with MHTA as TechAmerica provides services to Minnesota members including global technology trade advice and perspective, lobbying at the federal level, executive education and world-class business connections.

The Association adopted its current name in 1998 with the merger of the **Minnesota High Technology Council (MHTC)** and the **Minnesota Software Association (MSA)**. Other affiliated entities have also merged, including the **Minnesota Internet Services Trade Association (MISTA)**, and the **Upper Midwest Java Council (UMJC)** to create what is today known as the Minnesota High Tech Association (MHTA).

Another affiliated organization was established in 1985, **The Minnesota High Tech Foundation**, a 501 (c) 3 organization that focuses on education, particularly math, science and technology skills. In tandem with advocacy and staff support from MHTA, the Foundation has made significant contributions by encouraging high standards and providing technology to schools as well as by increasing awareness of the need for strong math, science and technology training for our future workforce.

As a result of these partnerships and alliances, the MHTA has become an effective and credible voice in Minnesota, providing leadership for our technology-based economy. The Association is a catalyst for business executives, government officials, and educators to create initiatives that enable Minnesota and its technology-based economy to flourish. The MHTA works hard to make Minnesota a world leader for technology-based industry.

MHTA Mission

MHTA supports the *growth, sustainability and global competitiveness* of Minnesota's technology-based economy through advocacy, education and collaboration. MHTA is the only association that advocates for technology growth that benefits the entire spectrum of technology companies as well as organizations that are dependent on technology.