

# Tech keeps on booming in the Big Apple

BY IVAN PEREIRA  
ivan.pereira@am-ny.com

The Big Apple is becoming a bigger player in the tech world, attracting a who's who of names to the city.

Last year, there were more than 100 acquisitions of up-and-coming tech companies in the city, amounting to \$8.3 billion in transactions, ranking New York second in the nation behind Silicon Valley, according to a report issued by PrivCo, a financial research analyst group.

Sam Hamadea, PrivCo's CEO, said big-name New York-based firms such as IBM and AOL are pumping billions of dollars into Gotham's economy, which fuels the fire for newcomers.

"When you have 100 private tech companies [acquired] in New York, that money mostly goes back to people who want to do more startups," he said.

Under most acquisitions, a major firm would purchase stock of a smaller firm or buy out the company and include it as a subsidiary. In a lot of cases, the smaller company

## TOP BUYERS



These are the top 5 New York area-based acquirers of private tech companies in 2012:

1. IBM (5 companies)
2. AOL (4 companies)
3. IAC (3 companies)
4. The Blackstone Group (2 companies)
5. PricewaterhouseCoopers (2 companies)

that tracks trends in the tech world, said New York leads the nation with the acquisition of Internet-based companies such as Buddy Media.

Anand Sanwal, the co-founder of CB Insights, said New York has more venture capital firms that are looking to invest in the up-and-coming tech companies than Silicon Valley and Boston, the cities which his company ranked first and third respectively in tech acquisitions last year.

Between 2005 and 2010, the number of tech-related jobs in New York went up 30% to 120,000, according to the mayor's office.

"Boston doesn't have the momentum that New York has," Sanwal said.

He added that the city is also home to many other industries that are looking to enhance their businesses with the Internet — such as fashion, media and advertising — and that also creates an incentive for tech companies to take a shot.

Big business isn't the only one looking to enrich the technol-



Mayor Michael Bloomberg, seen at Boxee's Manhattan headquarters in the fall, has been a major advocate for growing the city's tech sector. (MAYOR'S OFFICE)

ogy industry.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg constantly touts the growth of tech companies and has come up with several initiatives to incubate business over the last couple of years.

Aside from the creation of the Cornell engineering

school on Roosevelt Island, the Economic Development Corporation set up an entrepreneurship program aimed at mentoring business leaders in the tech industry, and start-up talent competitions.

"These reports are another example of the tremendous growth taking place within New York City's tech-

nology sector," the EDC said in a statement about PrivCo's and CB Insights' surveys.

Hamadea agreed, stating that the more people get behind the tech world, the stronger it becomes.

"The true proof of success is when you see these companies get sold," he said.

## Sources: American, US Air merger is set

American Airlines and US Airways will merge after the boards of AMR Corp. and US Airways Group Inc. separately met yesterday to approve a deal that would value the combined company at around \$11 billion, people familiar with the matter said.

The deal, which was to be announced early today, comes more than 14 months after the parent of American Airlines filed for bankruptcy in November 2011, and would mark the last combination of legacy U.S. carriers. (REUTERS)

## Wedding bells for Naked Cowboy

Even the Naked Cowboy isn't immune to Cupid's arrow.

The guitar-toting, Times Square legend, whose real name is Robert Burck, will marry girlfriend Patricia Cruz tomorrow in a private ceremony in his manager's L.A. home.

"I swore I'd never get married my whole life, then I met her and now I can't wait," Burck said.

Burck, 42, and Cruz, 25, have been secretly engaged for three months. The pair decided to "go for it" this week during the Naked Cowboy's promotional tour in California.

While Burck isn't planning on a

career change anytime soon, he'd retire his tighty-whities for Cruz.

"I doubt she'll ask me to quit," Burck said. "She's been in love with the character for years — she saw me in a book when she was in high school."

The Naked Cowboy and his bride, who live in Queens, will don traditional attire at the California nuptials.

Burck said the pair might have a ceremonial wedding later in Times Square — and it's unlikely his clothes will stay on there. (ANNA SANDERS)



What will he wear to the wedding? (GETTY)

## B'klyn man shot by cop faces charges

BY SHEILA ANNE FEENEY  
sheila.feeny@am-ny.com

A 31-year-old Brooklyn man was in Brookdale Hospital yesterday awaiting arraignment after being shot by police and charged with weapons possession and assault on Tuesday night.

The shooting occurred after the 75th Precinct Anti-Crime team responded to a tip about a man with a gun illegally residing at 456 Glenmore Ave. in East New York. As a sergeant and three officers approached the front of the residence, another officer in the back of the building

saw Alexis McIntyre exiting while allegedly carrying a 38-caliber revolver.

The cop ordered McIntyre to drop the weapon, and when he did not obey, the officer shot him once in the chest, police said. McIntyre, of East Williamsburg, was listed in stable condition at press time.

The assault charge was added after police received a report that McIntyre had earlier twisted a woman's hand, chipping a bone in her finger, police said.

The officer, who was not identified, was hospitalized for observation.

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