

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Peak Pitch '07: Sunday River Gives Entrepreneurs a Lift**

Peak Pitch '07 brings start-ups and investors together on the slopes of Northern New England

**February 28, 2007 – Portland, ME.** CEI Community Ventures, Inc., a venture capital firm, today announced it will co-sponsor Peak Pitch at Sunday River ski resort in Bethel, Maine, on Friday, March 23.

Peak Pitch brings entrepreneurs and investors together for a uniquely Northern New England version of the classic "elevator pitch." In the traditional elevator pitch, entrepreneurs take advantage of an unexpected opportunity to share an elevator ride with a potential investor and present their business idea. At Peak Pitch, a shared chairlift is substituted for the elevator, giving entrepreneurs the opportunity to pitch their business plans to a variety of venture capitalists, angel investors, commercial lenders, and other entrepreneurial advisors as they ride together up a mountain on a high-speed chair lift.

One entrepreneur who benefited from attending Peak Pitch 2006 is Zach Conover, president and CEO, CrossRate Technologies, a developer of the next generation of integrated timing, frequency and navigation components and receivers. "Peak Pitch provided me the opportunity to socialize with potential investors outside of the standard office meeting," Conover explained. "Over the past year we have been working with an investor who is helping us on a customer validation process for our product. By networking at Peak Pitch 2006, we solidified an important business relationship that enabled us to move forward. I plan to attend in March and would encourage any Maine entrepreneur to join me."

"We are pleased to co-sponsor Peak Pitch in Maine," said Michael Burgmaier, Principal of CEI Community Ventures. "We've invested in two companies in Maine and are looking for more businesses in which to invest that are a good fit with our fund and venture capital. Peak Pitch is a great opportunity for entrepreneurs and investors to meet, share ideas and eventually help companies grow."

The Peak Pitch '07 program will include a series of events to support entrepreneurial communities across Maine, New Hampshire, New York and Vermont. Sponsors of the Peak Pitch '07: Sunday River event include CEI Community Ventures, Finance Authority of Maine, the Maine Investment Exchange, the Maine Technology Institute, and the Small Enterprise Growth Fund. The Peak Pitch Series sponsor is Village Ventures of Williamstown, MA.

Last year, Peak Pitch attracted over 200 entrepreneurs and investors to the series.

"Borealis introduced Peak Pitch as part of our commitment to strengthen Northern New England's entrepreneurial community," said Phil Ferneau of Borealis Ventures. "Peak Pitch emphasizes entrepreneurial passion, not Powerpoint, and helps entrepreneurs connect one-on-one with investors and mentors. Peak Pitch's rapid growth to five events this year reflects the positive response that we have received to the Peak Pitch formula of focused networking, informed feedback, and plenty of fresh air."

More information and registration details on Peak Pitch '07 are available on [www.peakpitch.com](http://www.peakpitch.com) or by contacting Meagan Pryor at 603-643-1500 or [meagan@borealisventures.com](mailto:meagan@borealisventures.com).

### **About Peak Pitch 2007**

The Peak Pitch '07 program will include a series of events to support the entrepreneurial community across Maine, New Hampshire, New York and Vermont. Dates, locations and local hosts are as follows:

March 1	Bolton Valley, VT	Hosted by Fresh Tracks Capital
March 2	Mt. Wachusett, MA	Hosted by Long River Ventures
March 9	Mt. Sunapee, NH	Hosted by Borealis Ventures
March 16	Gore Mt., NY	Hosted by High Peaks Venture Partners
March 23	Sunday River, ME	Hosted by Borealis Ventures

To learn more about the Peak Pitch 2007 series, please visit our website: [www.peakpitch.com](http://www.peakpitch.com)

### **About CEI Community Ventures**

Located in Portland, Maine, CEI Community Ventures Inc. (CCVI) manages a \$10 million venture capital fund. Led by an active team with extensive operating, investing and consulting experience, CCVI invests in companies in northern New England. CCVI looks for opportunities in both technology and consumer-related businesses and has invested in eight companies to date. For more information, visit [www.ceicommunityventures.com](http://www.ceicommunityventures.com).

### **About Borealis Ventures**

Borealis Ventures is a seed and early stage venture capital firm uniquely focused on partnering with exceptional entrepreneurs in Northern New England and throughout the Dartmouth College network to build great companies.  
[www.borealisventures.com](http://www.borealisventures.com)