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From the Boston Business Journal:

<https://www.bizjournals.com/boston/news/2018/05/13/four-year-old-bbj-column-gets-national-attention.html>

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## Four-year-old BBJ column gets national attention through Trump-Russia lens



The Boston Business Journal was part of a segment on The Rachel Maddow Show on Friday regarding an April 2014 column written by an FBI agent that attracted national attention last week.



By [Don Seiffert](#) – Managing Editor, Boston Business Journal  
May 13, 2018

A column written by a special agent in charge of the FBI's Boston office, which ran in April 2014 in the Boston Business Journal, attracted attention in [national media outlets](#) this past weekend as evidence of ties between people close to President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

[The 2014 column](#), written by the FBI's Lucia Ziobro, warned Massachusetts high tech companies against entering into joint partnerships with venture capital firms from Russia. That warning, Ziobro wrote, "was based on the FBI's growing concern that the purported reasons offered by the Russian partners mask their true intentions."

One section of the column reads:

When the FBI observed a new pattern of Russian government-funded businesses increasing their footprint in Boston and Silicon Valley by seeking joint ventures with U.S. companies and academic institutions, its analysts and agents reviewed the pattern to discern the factors and motivations behind their sudden emergence. It was determined that the partnerships were primarily promoted by the Skolkovo Foundation, founded by Russian president Dmitry Medvedev in 2010. The Foundation may be a means for the Russian government to access our nation's sensitive or classified research, development facilities and dual-use technologies with military and commercial applications. This analysis is supported by reports coming out of Russia itself. The Foundation has been reported to be a critical part of Medvedev's plan to modernize the Russian economy, decrease dependency on oil revenue, create a more diversified economy based on high-technology and innovation and to completely renovate its military technology equipment and arsenal by 2020.

The mention of the Skolkovo Foundation is likely what attracted the attention of NPR national security and politics writer Tim Mak, who cited the column in [a May 11 story](#). The Skolkovo Foundation, Mak wrote, is controlled by Russian oligarch Viktor Vekselberg, who allegedly reimbursed Trump's personal lawyer, Michael Cohen. Those allegations were made by Michael Avenatti, attorney for porn actress Stormy Daniels, and have not been verified.

In his story, Mak said that "the 2014 FBI warning is now newly relevant given allegations revolving around Vekselberg and his reported ties to Trump lawyer Cohen."

After NPR posted the story, several other news outlets picked it up, including [The Hill](#) and [The Rachel Maddow Show on MSNBC](#).

## THE LIST

# Largest Cybersecurity Technology Firms in Massachusetts

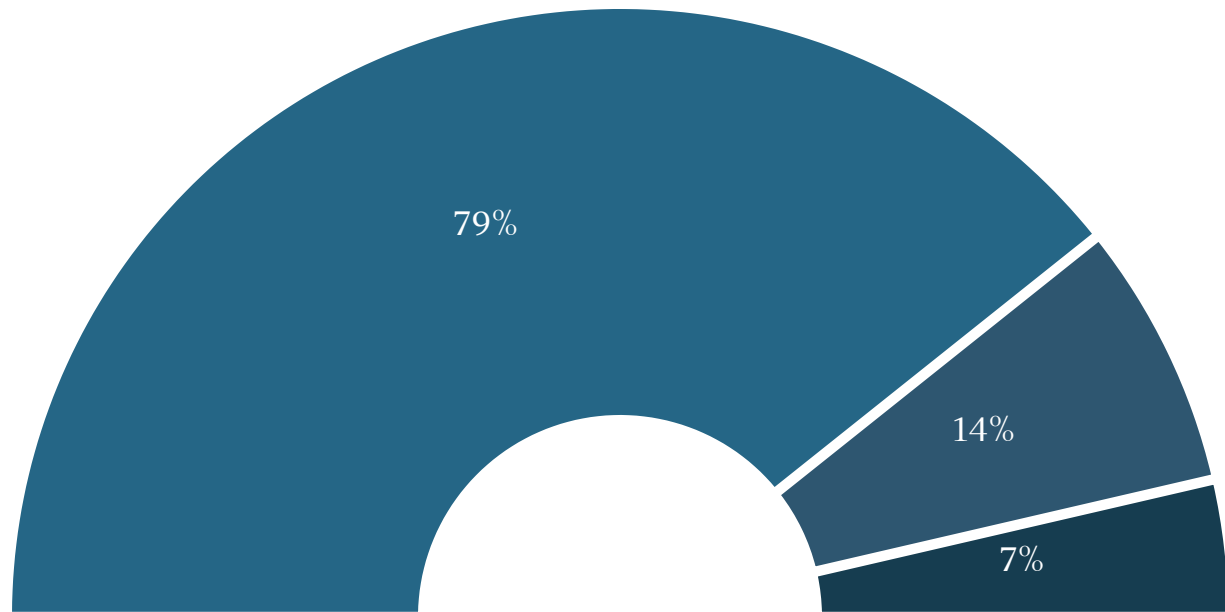
Mass. cybersecurity employees as of March 1, 2018

Rank	Prior Rank	Firm/Prior rank (*unranked in 2017)/
1	11	Akamai Technologies Inc.
2	1	Carbon Black
3	2	Rapid7

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BUSINESS PULSE   POLL

**Should MassDOT green-light Allston's proposed West Station?**



**79%**

MassDOT should approve it — it will lead to development, and more demand

**14%**

Harvard offered \$58M toward the \$95M cost, but MassDOT should hold out for more private investment before moving forward

**7%**

Wait till it's built up, in 2040, before committing more public funds for commuters

Total number of responses: **325**

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*This poll is not a scientific sampling. It offers a quick view of what readers are thinking.*