



With GE on its way, Mass. economy comes full circle

By **Jay Fitzgerald** | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT JANUARY 19, 2016

After a long erosion of its industrial base, Massachusetts last week landed one of the world's biggest industrial companies.

The decision of General Electric Co. to move its headquarters to Boston highlights how the local economy has come full circle, through decades of invention and reinvention, to be a leader in the tech products and services every US industrial company needs to compete globally.

In choosing Boston, General Electric made clear that it desperately wants and needs to tap into the region's diverse tech ecosystem — buttressed by research institutions such as MIT and Harvard University. The goal: to transform GE into an “industrial Internet” company making transportation, health care, and energy products with sophisticated digital intelligence and communications systems.

“Massachusetts has found its next act,” said Fred Breimyer, a local economist and former president of the New England Economic Partnership, a nonprofit research group. “GE’s decision to relocate here is a tech story. But it’s also a manufacturing story. It’s a life-science story. It’s a higher-education story. It’s a combination of a lot of stories that are interwoven together in Boston.”

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