



# SANTA CRUZ TECH BEAT

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## Digest #356

Many thanks to Amazon for renewing our partnership. As you may know, support from partners allows us to provide Santa Cruz Tech Beat to you, the reader, free of charge. Learn about our partners [here](#).

Santa Cruz Tech Beat has been sharing news about Monarch Media, the award-winning Santa Cruz-based eLearning company, for many years, starting with [How 6 Remarkable Women Are Making Waves in Surf City](#) (2/17/14). It's cool to be able to share Monarch's latest big news: Monarch Media has been acquired. Learn more below.

Parallel Flight Technologies, the La Selva Beach-based industrial-grade drone company, has joined startup accelerator Avanta Studios. The program enables startups like Parallel to explore new markets, business models, and technologies. Learn more below.

And, Digital NEST announces plans to grow.

There's plenty more. Scroll down and start reading!

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## Top Stories

Monarch Media, the award-winning eLearning company founded in Santa Cruz in 1997 by Claire Schneeberger, has been acquired. [Read the article.](#)

Parallel Flight Technologies has been invited to join Avanta Studios, an accelerator for startups with innovative ideas in the InsurTech, Mobility, and Insurance-Adjacent markets. [Read the article.](#)

On the eve of their 6th anniversary in Watsonville, Digital NEST announces plans for an expanded presence in Salinas, and plans to open a new site in Gilroy. [Read the article.](#)

Wildfires have created an unprecedented opportunity for researchers to study the impact of fire on a watershed immediately after it has burned. [Read the article.](#)

Poly is recognized by Nemertes as winner of the 2020 Pilothouse Award

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for room video conferencing systems. [Read the article.](#)

The Microsoft Teams certifies Poly Sync 20 smart speaker phone. [Read the article.](#)

Findings open up new avenues for understanding Alzheimer's Disease and suggest promising strategies for therapeutics. [Read the article.](#)

Advances in understanding the evolution of birds and mammals is made possible by new methods for comparing the genomes of hundreds of species. [Read the article.](#)



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