JANUARY 13, 2026: NINE YEAR

Dear customers and friends,

My ninth year running Forecast LLC just concluded. This was a year of transition, as I significantly reduced the amount of independent engineering work to focus on running/teaching the Senior Experience in Engineering Design (SEED) program at the University of Vermont.

One major success was that the accelerated pavement test machine that I have been helping to design, build, and commission since 2021 is now operational, and has run nearly a million passes – enough data for a very happy civil engineering Ph.D. student to write his thesis. You can read more details about the machine in last year's anniversary note. We will continue to improve the functionality to support future testing that validates pavement models for improving roadways.

I continue to enjoy supporting LaunchVT and Generator's JumpStart program by sharing my time and expertise, meeting creative innovators, and helping them achieve their goals. I ran several sessions of a 2.5-hour introductory workshop at Generator on 3D CAD modeling using Autodesk Fusion, and there are more sessions coming up that you can register for if you are interested.

This year I worked with a few individual inventors on product development, engineering, or prototyping, and helped existing customers LogOx and Resonant Link Medical with engineering design challenges for new products. The work with LogOx was done in partnership with The Manufacturing Collaborative, a talented group of people in Randolph VT that provide design, prototyping, testing, advanced manufacturing, and training.

My 96 senior engineering students at UVM are halfway through their capstone design projects, where they solve real engineering challenges for local businesses, nonprofits, and researchers. Each of the 24 teams is solving a unique problem, and I love guiding the students through the engineering design process, learning about their topics, and continually refining the course to improve learning, student experience, and project success. It is very different from doing the engineering design myself, but I still get to play. One of the teams is using a microcontroller that I didn't have any experience with, so I purchased a development kit for myself and I've been learning how to work with it so I can have some fun and support the students as needed. It's an 8-bit PIC microcontroller, in case you are curious.

If you have any questions about anything mentioned here, just hit reply and ask. I'd also like to hear what you've been up to. To learn more about the history of Forecast LLC, you can find the previous eight anniversary notes on my website**.**

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