

Biography
Michael Laine
Founder and President
LiftPort Inc.

As president and founder of LiftPort Inc., the company devoted to the commercial development of an elevator to space, Michael Laine is turning a lifetime interest in space into a professional venture.

Laine brings more than 15 years of business management and development experience for the technology, financial services and military markets, with the past four years devoted to space technology and development.

Prior to LiftPort, Laine was co-founder and president of HighLift Systems, a Seattlebased company that received funds from NASA's Institute for Advanced Concepts (NIAC) to research building an elevator to space. Prior to creating HighLift Systems, Laine was chief executive officer and founder of TEKnology-Laine LLC, a Bremerton, Washington-based Internet conglomerate, which he owned and operated from 1996 to 2001. TEKnology-Laine consisted of three distinct companies: TekChek, one of the first checking account based financial transaction services for the Internet; TekNet, a national network of website designers; and YelloWWWWeb, an internationally-recognized Internet merchant directory with more than 750,000 companies doing business over the Internet listed. Among his achievements while at TEKnology-Laine include designing and building the first online grocery store. Prior to TEKnology-Laine, Laine worked in a variety of positions in the financial services industry, providing advice for investments, insurance and real estate, as well as business operations consulting. Prior to that, Laine served in the United States Marine Corps, where he coordinated, tested and trained other instructors to implement a pilot program of hand-to-hand combat for Marines in a variety of schools and class situations. These training techniques were implemented throughout the Marine Corps two years later, and now is a formal part of all United States Marine Corps development.

Laine has been recognized many times for his leadership in civic and community development, and has served on several non-profit boards. Laine studied Business Administration at Boston University.

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