



connect
Readers' Choice Award

ragula bhaskar

FatPipe Networks

Co-founder, President & CEO

Ragula Bhaskar, Ph.D. is no stranger to risk. He left his tenured position at the University of Utah in the mid-1990s and co-founded FatPipe Networks with his high-tech guru wife, Sanchaita Datta (see page 64), trading a stable teaching job for the life of an entrepreneur.

Today, Bhaskar is revered by many as one of the best entrepreneurs in the state. His no-nonsense style, pioneering sales techniques, and money management skills are credited for keeping FatPipe alive through the dot-com meltdown that annihilated so many of his peers. FatPipe now has offices in Utah, Arizona and India. The company has made the Utah 100 list of fastest growing companies four years in a row and this year placed 381st on Deloitte's 2006 Technology Fast 500 list.

Bhaskar was recently recruited to help revamp the blueprint for the state's Centers of Excellence program into a more go-to-market program with the help of the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED). He was co-chair of the state's Boards and Commissions' review committee for the Huntsman gubernatorial transition team.

He's served on the Utah Technology Council's board of trustees and also serves on the Industrial Advisory Board for the University of Utah's College of Engineering.

What's one thing about you that most people don't know?

"I can actually be a fun-loving person outside the office."

What's the scariest thing you've ever done?

"When I was 18, I was undergoing training in one of the world's deepest mines, the Champion Reefs mine, Kolar Gold Fields, Karnataka, India. To go to the lowest level, we had to take wet, rickety wooden ladders down the shaft to go from the 9,500 feet level to the 10,000 feet level. Miners tend not to wear safety harnesses. If I had slipped and fallen, it would have been a few hundred feet of freefall to a watery bottom."

Name a personal hero or mentor in your life.

"My father, Ragula Purushotham, Mahatma Gandhi and my mentor, Dr. Raj Ramani."

What is your all-time favorite music album?

"The Eagles Greatest Hits."

