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The Chairmen's RoundTable**

**About Chairmen's RoundTable**

The Chairmen's RoundTable is a non-profit volunteer organization comprised of current and former CEOs with extensive Board of Director experience and diverse industry backgrounds. They provide businesses in San Diego County with priceless business advice and mentorship, free of charge, as a way of giving back to the community. CRT's well-defined mentoring program is ideal for companies at a strategic crossroads that are looking to gain an outside perspective on key business issues.

[www.chairmensroundtable.com](http://www.chairmensroundtable.com)

# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

*Question: Where can a small business owner obtain free business advice?*

**Answer:** You may be surprised at how many free resources are available to businesses in San Diego. The motivations for sharing valuable business advice at no charge varies, but all the groups mentioned here are committed to helping companies grow and prosper.

The **Chairmen's RoundTable (CRT)** is a non-profit volunteer organization comprised of successful current and former CEOs with diverse industry backgrounds. The CRT's mission is to support the growth and success of the local business community through executive mentorship. Its well-defined mentoring program has helped more than 140 local companies to identify critical business issues, evaluate various solutions, and ultimately develop a framework for implementing the best one. [www.chairmensroundtable.com](http://www.chairmensroundtable.com)

The **SCORE** Association (Service Corps of Retired Executives) is a nonprofit association comprised volunteer business counselors throughout the U.S. and its territories. Every month SCORE provides free counseling to hundreds of entrepreneurs in the San Diego area. Their goal is to help keep the small businesses of San Diego County vibrant and profitable! [www.score-sandiego.org](http://www.score-sandiego.org)

Trade associations are also an excellent source of information and guidance. Due to the concentration of technology companies in San Diego, there are many groups that have been formed to foster the growth of technology entrepreneurs:

**RTA@CONNECT** supports sustainable technology growth, providing direct business assistance to entrepreneurs and high-tech and biotech companies, programs to bridge the digital divide, and research and education to help shape public policy and forge effective collaboration. [www.sdrta.org](http://www.sdrta.org)

**CONNECT** is the globally recognized, university-based public benefits organization fostering entrepreneurship in the San Diego region by catalyzing, accelerating, and supporting the growth of the most promising technology and life sciences businesses. [www.connect.org](http://www.connect.org)

**MIT Enterprise Forum** hosts nine programs annually. The goal is to discuss the business issues of leading technology companies in a public forum where everyone can learn about how to keep hot technology companies running straight and fast! They use a case study method to uncover valuable insights about presenting companies. [www.sdmitforum.org](http://www.sdmitforum.org)

In addition, your service providers – accountants, bankers, lawyers, marketing communications, etc. may also have helpful information to share and/or may connect you with someone who can provide the advice you seek.