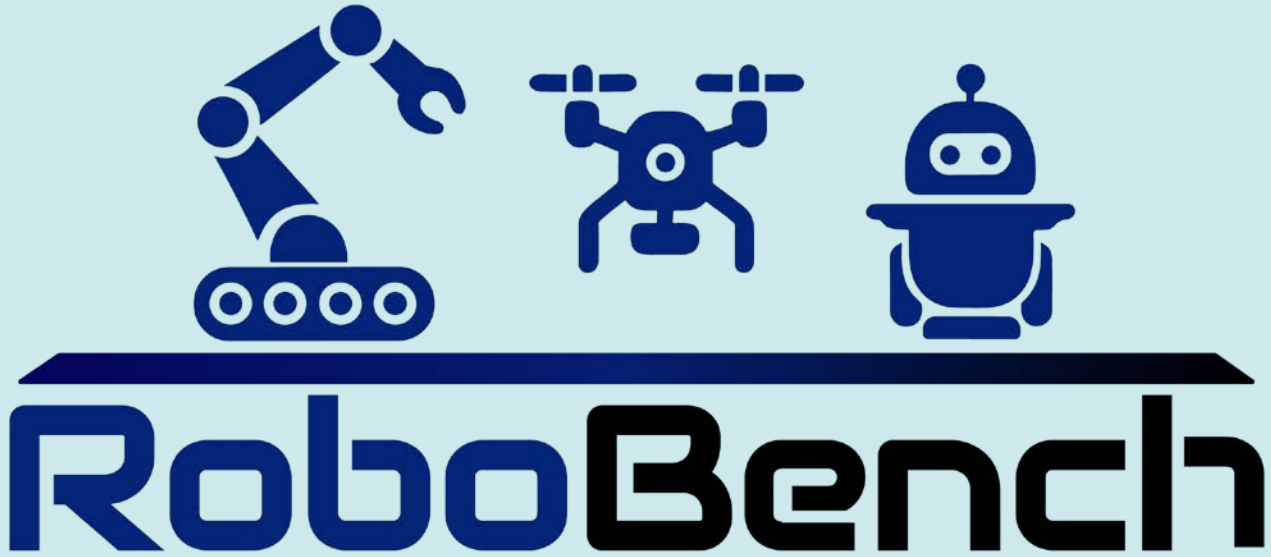

Informational Webinar
+
Q&A

RoboBench: Shared Infrastructure for Commercialization Readiness

January, 2026

MASSACHUSETTS TECHNOLOGY COLLABORATIVE

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Mission:

To strengthen the competitiveness of the tech and innovation economy by driving strategic investments, partnerships and insights, that harness the talent of Massachusetts.

Divisions:

- THE INNOVATION INSTITUTE
- MA-AI Massachusetts AI Hub
- MBI MASSACHUSETTS BROADBAND INSTITUTE
- CAM MASSACHUSETTS CENTER for ADVANCED MANUFACTURING
- MeHI MASSACHUSETTS eHEALTH INSTITUTE
- MassCyberCenter
- NEMC Northeast Microelectronics Coalition

The Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MassTech) was established in 1982 by legislative statute.

Program Summary – RoboBench: Shared Infrastructure for Commercialization Readiness

The **RoboBench Program** aims to strengthen the robotics innovation ecosystem by supporting the development of **shared infrastructure**—specifically through organizations that support robotics research groups and startups building physical hardware.

These organizations, such as **academic institutions** and **startup incubators**, provide access to critical resources that small robotics teams often cannot afford independently. By investing in shared prototyping and testing infrastructure, this program helps early-stage developers advance **toward commercialization, secure funding, and build pilot-scale prototypes** ready for real-world deployment.






TRL 4-6

1 robot built
3D printed plastic parts
Hand-wired or hand-soldered
Off-the-shelf components
Tested in a makeshift or temporary environment

TRL 7-9

10-15 robots built
Parts made from 3D printed carbon fiber or resin, injection molding, etc
Automated PCB manufacturing
Tested in an operational environment
Data is collected to prove the feasibility of the technology

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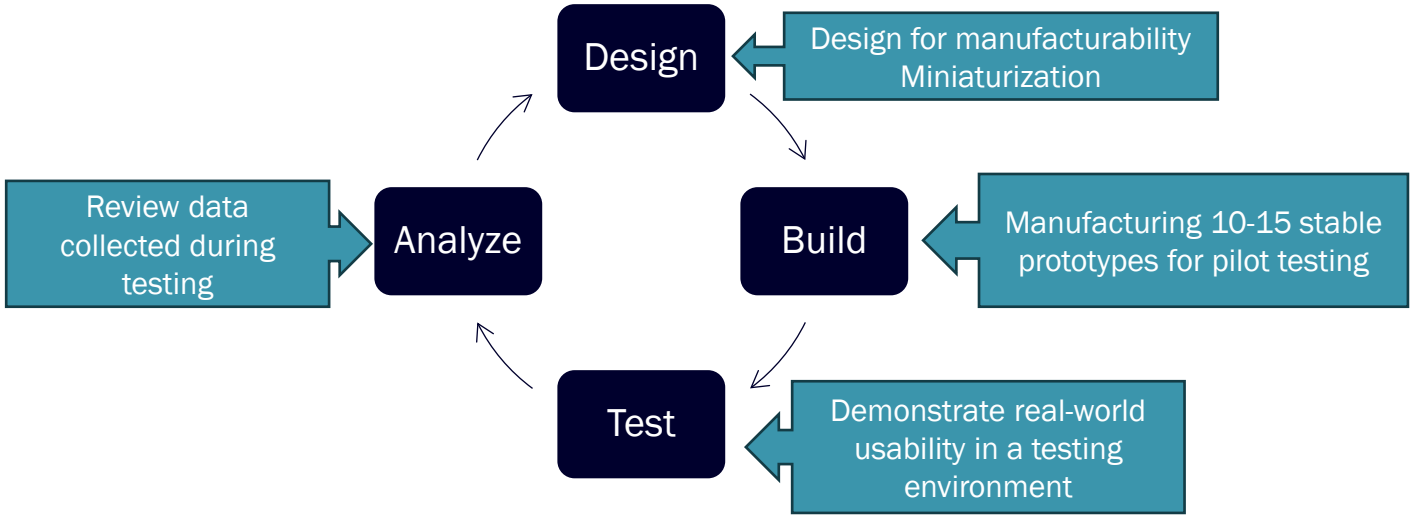
Program Summary – RoboBench: Shared Infrastructure for Commercialization Readiness

Unmet Needs

Robotics developers struggle to access the resources they need to commercialize quickly, leading to funding challenges. This can be improved by enabling "**fast-fail tech cycles**", reducing barriers between the prototype and pilot stages.



Proposed Solution

We propose a program targeting the development of ubiquitous robotic shared infrastructure, with a focus on **cross-sector capabilities.**

The goal is to both build on **existing infrastructure** and develop **new facilities** to increase access to vital resources for developing robotic hardware.

Examples:

- Precision assembly labs for small-batch robot manufacturing
- Sensor calibration rigs and vision testing arenas
- Human-robot interaction and safety testing zones
- Environmental or terrain testbeds (e.g., wet lab, dust, temperature, slope)

Anticipated Outcomes

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The goal of RoboBench is to enable the robotics ecosystem to **more effectively develop robotic and physical AI systems**, while enabling robotics developers to **overcome both early hurdles and the "Valley of Death"** in product development.

1 **The development of accessible and sustainable shared facilities for building and testing pilot-stage robotic hardware.**

Increase access to robotics commercialization resources, such as manufacturing facilities and testing platforms, across the Commonwealth. The program aims to support the expansion of current facilities as well as the development of new resources in underserved regions.

2 **Expand robotics commercialization efforts across the state**

Enabling fast-fail tech cycles and expanding access to these resources will boost commercialization efforts, increasing both startup formation and venture capital investments in robotics. This in turn creates jobs and boosts Massachusetts' innovation economy.

3 **Encouraging industry/academia partnerships around shared resources**

Enable academic and industry developers to use common platforms for testing and validation, accelerating the transfer of robotic research into real-world applications.

Eligible Applicants

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Who is Eligible to Participate in RoboBench?

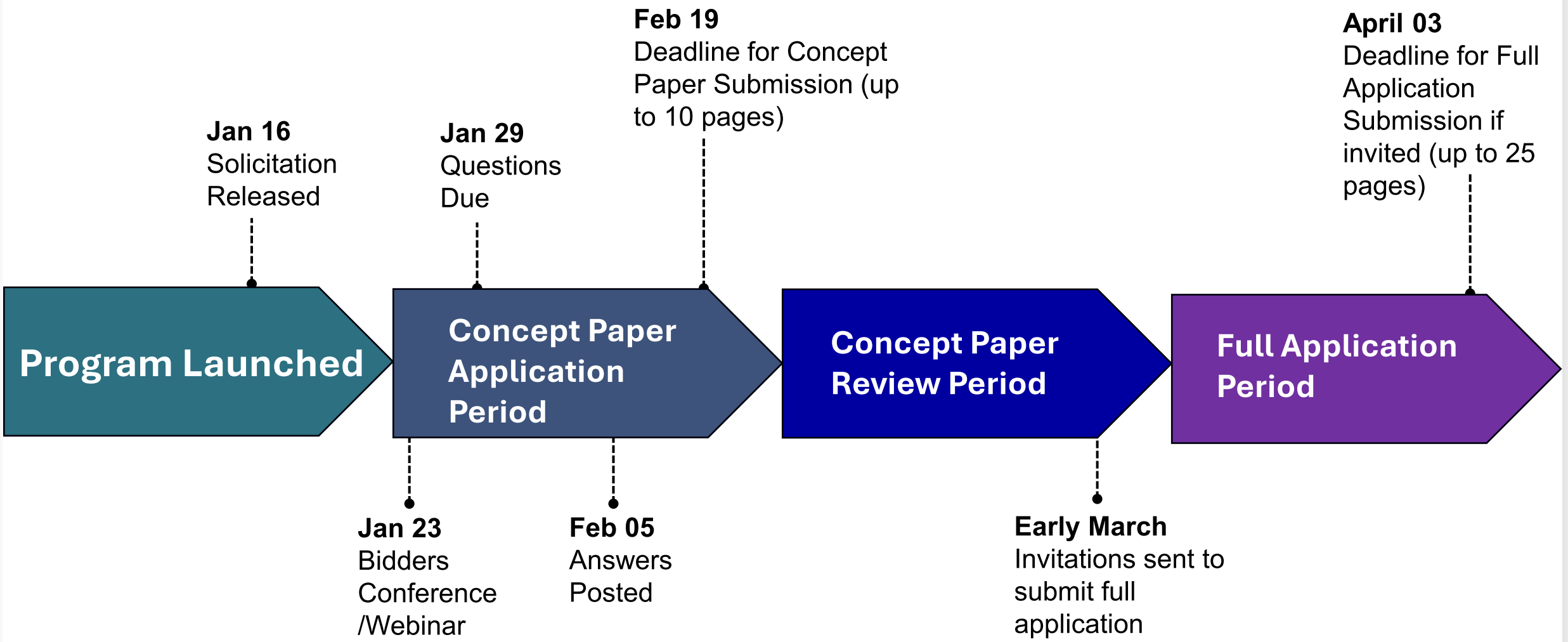
The lead or primary applicant must be a nonprofit entity or public/private institution of higher education supporting the **commercialization of hardware-based robotic technologies**. Organizations must have a point of presence in Massachusetts.

All applicants must demonstrate a genuine collaboration with key industry participants.

Robotics Capabilities/Solutions	Robotics Industry Sectors
• Drones • Underwater Autonomous Vehicles (UAVs) • Autonomous systems • Robotic Arms • Autonomous mobile robots (AMRs)	• Logistic/Warehouse Robotics • Consumer Robotics • Medical Robotics • Agricultural Robotics • Assistive Tech Robotics • Educational Robotics • Manufacturing Robotics • MarineTech Robotics • Defense & Aerospace Robotics • DisabilityTech Robotics

The RoboBench Program will support multiple awards of $250K - $2M each.
*Required 25% match

Application Process



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