



Powering Regional Opportunities for Prototyping Microelectronics (PROPEL) Grant Program Informational Webinar

NEMC Team

June 10, 2025

Propel

Powering Regional Opportunities
for Prototyping Microelectronics

The Northeast Microelectronics Coalition's new PROPEL Program will invest up to \$4M to strengthen Massachusetts' microelectronics ecosystem.

Designed to help startups and small businesses, this initiative will fund operation and manufacturing services to assist with the high costs of scaling transformative technologies to market.



Today's Agenda

- Deep dive into the new NEMC Hub PROPEL Program
- Today, we'll be reviewing the program in detail, including:
 - **Program Goals & Benefits** (How it helps your lab-to-fab development)
 - **Eligibility Requirements** (Who can apply, where, and for how much)
 - **Application Process** (What materials you need and key deadlines)
- We encourage you to actively participate in today's webinar by asking questions throughout the session using the Q&A feature. We'll answer them during and after the presentation and publish a Q&A summary.



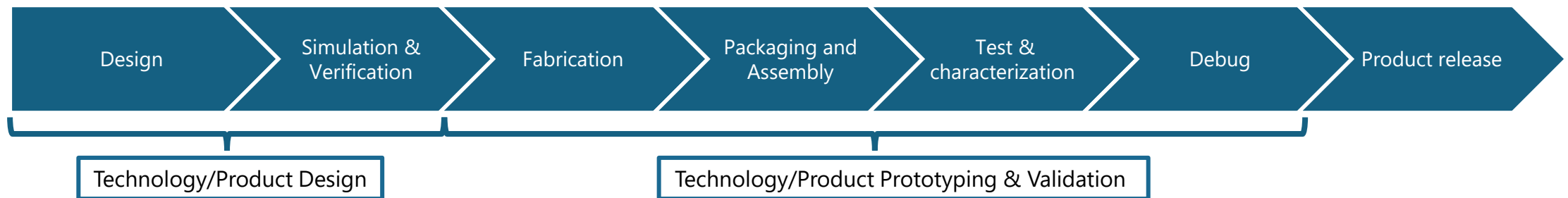
PROPEL Program: Your Questions During the Webinar

Here's how to submit your questions:

- Look for the Q&A icon. Click on it to open the Q&A pane.
- Once the Q&A pane is open, you'll see an option to Ask a Question. Click on this.
- A Compose box will appear where you can type your question.
 - *Tip for Anonymous Questions:* If you prefer to ask your question without your name being visible to hosts and other attendees, you have the option to "Post as Anonymous" before sending.
- Once you've typed your question, click Send.

PROPEL Program: Overview

- **Program Goal:** Accelerate microelectronics lab-to-fab transition & commercialization for startups and small businesses
- **Program Scope:** A rolling grant program with up to \$4M in grant funding available to advance microelectronics technologies, this initiative will provide up to \$200,000 per awardee for Manufacturing and Operations Development Services
- **Anticipated Number of Awards:** Dependent upon the dollar amounts of the award proposals received.
- **Award Duration:** Up to 15 months



PROPEL Program: Eligible Applicants

- Applicant Requirements:
 - Must be a NEMC Hub member when the application is submitted, Apply here: <https://nemicroelectronics.org/membership>
 - Must have 100 or fewer employees
- Applicant Preferences:
 - Organizations based in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Jersey, and New York
 - Organizations working with service providers who are NEMC Hub members. See member list here: <https://nemicroelectronics.org/membership/our-members>
 - Organizations that have not received funds from PROPEL Operations & PROPEL Manufacturing



PROPEL Program: Grant Overview

- Companies with 50 or fewer employees are eligible for a 75% grant subsidy
- Companies with 51-100 employees are eligible for a 50% grant subsidy
- Applicants may be awarded up to \$200,000 total consisting of:
 - Up to \$100k for manufacturing development services
 - Up to \$100k of operations development services

PROPEL Program: Eligible Expenses

- Grants may be used to fund **third party service providers** for the following:
- **Manufacturing Development:**
 - Prototype Fabrication services
 - Prototype Packaging services
 - Prototype Testing and Analysis services
- **Operations Development:**
 - Patent services: e.g., drafting and filing of patents
 - Electronic Design Automation (EDA) software fees: e.g., software licenses
 - Cybersecurity provider services: e.g., assessments, software licenses, etc.
 - Employee training service providers

Note: Reimbursement for IP technology licenses paid to third parties (e.g., fees paid to universities for licenses under their patents) is not allowed.

Project Requirements

- Startup projects are required to align with one or more of the NEMC Hub's six technology areas:
 - 5G/6G
 - AI Hardware
 - Commercial Leap Ahead
 - Electromagnetic Warfare
 - Secure Edge
 - Quantum Technology.
- Applicants must demonstrate that they are advancing the goals of the NEMC Hub and lab-to-fab technology transition.

PROPEL Program: Timeline

Task	Date
NOFO Released	5/28/2025
Informational Webinar	6/10/2025 @ 11:00 AM ET
Questions Due for 1 st Q&A File	6/12/2025 @ 5 PM ET
Answer Posted in 1 st Q&A File	6/17/2025
Questions Due for Updated Q&A File	Rolling*
Answers Posted in Updated Q&A File	Rolling*
Applications Due	Rolling* (See below)

Rolling Application Submission Windows for 2025

Task	Date
Window 1 (May 28 to July 8, 2025)	Tues, July 8, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. ET
Window 2 (July 9 to Sept. 30, 2025)	Tues, Sept 30, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. ET
Window 3 (Sept. 30 to Dec. 23, 2025)	Tues, December 23, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. ET

***Rolling** – Applications can be submitted at any time. All applications submitted by the close of each submission window will be moved to review.



Q&A Time!

Here's a quick reminder on how to participate:

- Locate and click the Q&A icon.
- Click on the option to Ask a Question.
- Type your question into the Compose box.
 - *Anonymous Option:* If you wish to ask anonymously, look for the option to "Post as Anonymous" before sending your question. This will prevent your name from being displayed to the hosts and attendees.
- Click Send to submit your question.
- We will do our best to answer as many of your questions as we can during this session. Don't be shy!

PROPEL Program: Collated Q&As After the Meeting



We will be collecting and collating all submitted questions.



Additional post-webinar questions regarding this NOFO must be submitted to proposals@masstech.org with the Subject Line: "Questions – NOFO No. 2025-NEMC-03".



To be included in the 1st Q&A document, questions must be received by Thursday, June 12th 5 PM EDT.



Responses to all initial questions received will be posted in a Q&A summary document on the NEMC website by **Tuesday, June 17th at 5 PM EDT**. The document will be updated on a rolling basis.



Slides will be uploaded to the website

Thank You for Joining!

- We hope you gained valuable insights into the program and how it can benefit your microelectronics innovations.
- We look forward to receiving your submissions!
Deadlines:
 - **First Rolling Submission Deadline:**
 - **Tuesday July 8, 11:59 PM EDT**
 - **See website for application & additional submission deadlines:**
<https://nemicroelectronics.org/propel-program>

