



Notice of Funding Opportunity for NEMC POWER (Preparing
Our Workforce for microElectronics Resilience) Program
Solicitation No. 2026-NEMC-01

Massachusetts Technology Collaborative
75 North Drive
Westborough, MA 01581-3340
<http://www.masstech.org>

Procurement Team Leader:	Laura Hastings
Date Issued:	11/03/2025
Informational Webinar:	11/13/2026 11:00AM EST
Questions Due:	11/20/2025
Answers to Questions Posted:	11/26/2025
Responses Due:	12/15/2025 By 5:00PM EST

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

The **Northeast Microelectronics Coalition (NEMC)**, a division of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative ("Mass Tech Collaborative" or "MassTech") is issuing this Notice of Funding Opportunity for **POWER (Preparing Our Workforce for microElectronics Resilience) Program**, (Solicitation No.2026-NEMC-01) (the "NOFO") to solicit responses from qualified organizations ("Respondents") interested in receiving grant funding to **address workforce challenges to successful microelectronics research, education, training, manufacturing, and industry growth** (the "Project"). Respondents will be competing against each other for grant funding and the submissions of all Respondents shall be compared and evaluated pursuant to the evaluation criteria set forth in this NOFO. Depending on the number and quality of proposals received, NEMC anticipates making multiple awards.

Mass Tech Collaborative will be the contracting entity on behalf of NEMC for the purposes of this NOFO, and (except where the specific context warrants otherwise), NEMC and Mass Tech Collaborative are collectively referred to as Mass Tech Collaborative or MassTech. Mass Tech Collaborative will enter into a NEMC Sub-Performer Agreement with selected Respondents containing certain standard provisions (the "Agreement"), example located [HERE](#).

1.2 Mass Tech Collaborative and NEMC

Mass Tech Collaborative is an independent public instrumentality of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts chartered by the Commonwealth to serve as a catalyst for growing its innovation economy. Mass Tech Collaborative brings together leaders from industry, academia, and government to advance technology-focused solutions that lead to economic growth, job creation, and public benefits in Massachusetts. For additional information about Mass Tech Collaborative and its programs and initiatives, please visit our website at www.masstech.org.

The Northeast Microelectronics Coalition (NEMC) Hub is a network of over 250 member organizations, including commercial and defense companies, leading academic institutions, Federally Funded Research & Development Centers (FFRDCs), and startups concentrated in eight Northeast states. Established in 2023, the NEMC Hub is one of eight regional Microelectronics Commons Hubs acting on a shared mission to expand the nation's global leadership in microelectronics and accelerate domestic semiconductor prototyping. As a division of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, the NEMC Hub fosters a vibrant, connected ecosystem to provide sustainable lab-to-fab enablement, boost education and workforce development, and spur new jobs.

For more information about NEMC and its programs and activities generally, please visit the website at <https://nemicroelectronics.org>.

2. The Grant

2.1 Grant Overview

The POWER (Preparing Our Workforce for microElectronics Resilience) Program is an investment program intended to address workforce challenges to successful microelectronics research, education, training, manufacturing, and industry growth. This program is designed to crowdsource needs and solutions directly from the ecosystem. Rather than prescribing a solution, the POWER Program is intended

to provide grant funding to NEMC members who can clearly define a critical barrier to microelectronics workforce development, propose an innovative and actionable solution, and commit to the measurable outcomes that will be achieved with these public dollars.

Up to \$1.2M is available to be awarded. The number of awards is dependent upon the dollar amounts of proposals selected for award. The awarded project duration is expected to be approximately one year.

NEMC is keenly interested in hearing from members that have not otherwise interacted with NEMC and is particularly interested in creative and innovative solutions. The POWER program gives NEMC members and prospective members access to grant funds with a minimum 20% cost share. See Section 2.2.2 for eligible expenses.

Project Reporting Requirements: During the project period, each awardee will be obligated to report quarterly on progress using a template provided by NEMC. Reporting will include, but is not limited to, project status, funds spent, adherence to timelines, and risks identified and managed. Key performance indicators will be tracked, including (as applicable) jobs created or saved, number of trainees completing programs, revenue generated, and status of collaboration with external users. A final report will be due at project completion that will include the project's accomplishments, economic outcomes and impact on the microelectronics ecosystem in the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Awardees may be asked to present their work at an appropriate event as identified by NEMC during the term of the grant agreement.

2.2 Grant Requirements and Guidance

2.2.1 Eligible Applicants include:

- Non-profit entities;
- Workforce intermediaries;
- Community colleges;
- 4-year educational institutions;
- Economic development entities;
- State and local government agencies;
- Workforce boards;
- Private education and training facilities;
- Private companies, including startups, large corporations, and any sized company in-between;
- Any other entity* that demonstrates presence in the microelectronics industry and can clearly explain how this funding will change their trajectory in the industry.

*Individuals are not eligible for this funding opportunity

Application preference will be given to NEMC members who have** not previously received funding from NEMC.

Partnership requirements of applicants: There are no partnership requirements, however, partnerships are strongly encouraged to effect more substantial change. Each applicant will need at least one letter of commitment from an employer describing how the proposed solution will solve an existing microelectronics ecosystem problem they are facing and how that employer will participate in the project.

If the applicant is an employer, they must clearly articulate their challenge in finding qualified workers and how they intend to address their particular challenge with public funding, provide a compelling narrative of their specific workforce challenge and demonstrate how public funding will enable a solution that not only benefits their company but also contributes to the broader regional talent pipeline.

**Entities are not required to be NEMC members at the time of application; however, they must be a NEMC member in order to receive an award.

2.2.2 Eligible Expenses

Grants are available for workforce solutions to that address identified barriers to success in the microelectronics industry. Successful applications will show that the:

1. identified solution will address the identified barrier in the microelectronics industry;
2. solution will benefit the workforce ecosystem; and
3. proposed solution will have measurable outcomes.

Creative and innovative proposals are encouraged. By way of example, and not an exhaustive list, acceptable uses of these funds may include:

- Employer support:
 - o Developing and launching an internship or registered apprenticeship program.
 - o Purchasing key equipment required to expand training capacity and hire more people.
- Employee support:
 - o Providing wrap-around support services (e.g., transportation, childcare) that enable individuals to participate in and complete training, or go to work;
 - o Upskilling incumbent workers to enable growth, resiliency, and higher wages; and
 - o Establishing mentorship programming.
- Educational or training institution support:
 - o Enabling a cross-institution, train-the-trainer model to address instructor shortages;
 - o Developing curriculum for proven and validated industry needs; and
 - o Purchasing modern equipment so education and training is up-to-date and relevant to industry standards.
- Ecosystem and pathway support:
 - o Forging regional partnerships to coordinate workforce development efforts across multiple states or jurisdictions;
 - o Piloting programs to test innovative approaches to workforce development, such as virtual training platforms; and
 - o Creating clearer career pathways for new talent into the microelectronics industry.

2.2.3 Eligible Project Locations

While the applicant can be physically located outside of the eligible project area, all projects granted through this grant must have a direct workforce impact within the borders of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, or New Jersey.

2.2.4 Cost-share Requirement

All projects require a match contribution. Each proposal must include a description of at least a 20% cost-share. A greater percentage of matching funds will be considered favorably. Matching funds may include cash or in-kind contributions, such as staff time, use of facilities or equipment, or other donated services. Contributions will be evaluated in the full proposal “Cost Match” Criteria.

Match contributions must:

- (i) be necessary to accomplish the objectives of the project;
- (ii) be included in the approved budget for the project;
- (iii) be verifiable from the grantee's records;
- (iv) not be included as matching contributions for any other federal or state-supported project; and
- (v) be made after the closing date for proposal submissions.

Match can come from the applicant, third parties, other private investments, or federal grants.

3. APPLICATION PROCESS

3.1 Application and Submission Instructions

Mass Tech Collaborative shall evaluate each Application that is properly submitted. As part of the selection process, Mass Tech Collaborative may invite finalists to answer questions regarding their Application in person or in writing. In its sole discretion, Mass Tech Collaborative may also choose to enter into a negotiation period with one or more finalist Respondent(s) and then ask the Respondent(s) to submit additional information.

Lack of debarment status by either the state or federal government is also required.

Respondents are cautioned to read this NOFO carefully and to conform to its requirements. Failure to comply with the requirements of this NOFO may serve as grounds for rejection of an Application.

Respondents Please Note: Any and all responses, Applications, data, materials, information and documentation submitted to Mass Tech Collaborative in response to this NOFO shall become Mass Tech Collaborative's property and shall be subject to public disclosure. As a public entity, the Mass Tech Collaborative is subject to the Massachusetts Public Records Law (set forth at Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 66). There are very limited and narrow exceptions to disclosure under the Public Records Law. If a Respondent wishes to have the Mass Tech Collaborative treat certain information or documentation as confidential, the Respondent must submit a written request to the Mass Tech Collaborative's General Counsel's office no later than 5:00 p.m. ten (10) business days prior to the required date of Application submission. The request must precisely identify the information and/or documentation that is the subject of the request and provide a detailed explanation supporting the application of the statutory exemption(s) from the public records cited by the Respondent. The General Counsel will issue a written determination within five (5) business days of receipt of the written request. If the General Counsel approves the request, the Respondent shall clearly label the relevant information and/or documentation as "CONFIDENTIAL" in the Application. Any statements in an Application reserving any confidentiality or privacy rights that is inconsistent with these requirements and procedures will be disregarded.

By submitting a Full Proposal, Respondent certifies that they (1) are in compliance with the terms, conditions and specifications contained in this NOFO, (2) acknowledges and understands the procedures for handling materials submitted to the Mass Tech Collaborative as set forth above, (3) agrees to be bound by those procedures, and (4) agrees that the Mass Tech Collaborative shall not be liable under any circumstances for the disclosure of any materials submitted to the Mass Tech Collaborative pursuant to this Solicitation or upon the Respondent's selection.

3.2 Application Timeframe

The application process will proceed according to the following schedule. The target dates are subject to change. Therefore, Respondents are encouraged to check Mass Tech Collaborative's website frequently for updates to the schedule.

Task	Date:
Solicitation Released	11/03/2025
Informational Webinar	11/13/2025 @ 11 AM EST
Questions Due	11/20/2025 @ 5 PM EST

Question and Answer File Posted	11/26/2025 @ 5 PM EST
Applications Due	12/15/2025 @ 5 PM EST
Notification of Award	Q1 2026

3.3 Application Overview

The required proposal application is [HERE](#) and the budget template is [HERE](#). The completed proposal is limited to 12 pages, including appendices.

Proposal components are as follows: Section 3.3.1 outlines the Application template sections, Section 3.3.2 outlines the Application criteria.

Required Submissions

All proposals must include the items listed below, unless noted otherwise:

- Respondent and, if any partner, contact information;
- Project location(s)
- Completed Application Template including:
 - o the details of Respondent's proposed project; and
 - o a description of Respondent and any partners
- Attachment A – Application Cover Sheet
- Attachment B - Massachusetts Technology Collaborative Authorized Respondent's Signature and Acceptance Form
- Attachments:
 - o Budget Template
 - o Vendor Quotes (as necessary)
 - o Letter(s) of Commitment
 - o W9 Form

3.3.1 Application Template Overview: Your proposal narrative (12 pages maximum) must follow the provided template and address the following:

1. **Proposal Overview & Vision** – Describes why the applicant is proposing the project, states the barrier to deployment, and how the project proposes a workforce solution to that barrier.
2. **Problem Statement & Workforce Solution** – Outlines the problem, including why this project is needed, how it is different relative to the status quo, and proposed solution(s). The proposal must include details of the stakeholders, how the workforce will benefit from the solution, and key measurable outcomes.
3. **Project Impact** – Outlines the potential impact on workers, employers, and the regional ecosystem. The proposal also must outline the geographic impact of this project, and the economic scale of the impact. The proposal must include defined metrics to measure success.
4. **Proposed Work** – Outlines the full scope of the project, including key activities, deliverables, and how grant funds will be applied.
5. **Funding Impact** – Describes, in measurable terms, the impact of this specific grant funding is critical to your project's success and trajectory.
6. **Budget & Timeline** – Includes a completed budget table for each year of project spend, grant match amount, and total spend. Includes a timeline and key milestones. Proposals must include the project risks and risk mitigation strategies.
7. **Team & Capabilities** – Describes who the project team will consist of and the expertise, capabilities, and track record for project execution. Proposals must identify the gaps in the team capabilities and the possible solutions to resolve gaps.

3.3.2 Proposal Evaluation Criteria Proposals will be reviewed and scored based on the following criteria:

1. **Proposal Summary** – How clearly does the applicant describe the project?
2. **Problem Statement & Workforce Solution** - How well-defined and critical is the problem? How innovative, feasible, and targeted is the proposed workforce solution? Does the proposal address high-quality jobs?
3. **Project Impact & Scalability**– What is the potential impact on workers (e.g., new jobs, incumbent worker skills), employers, and the Northeast regional economy? Does the project have the potential for broader, systemic impact beyond the initial participants?
4. **Project Longevity and Succession Planning** – How will the project's activities and benefits be sustained beyond the grant funding period? Proposals will be evaluated on the project timeline, including lasting effects beyond the proposed budget period.
5. **Benefit to Workers**– How directly does the project support workers? If a credential is part of the proposal, is it industry-recognized and portable? Proposals will be evaluated for potential impact on workers, including new jobs created and incumbent workers upskilled, knowledge creation, geography, and economy with clearly defined metrics. In addition, will the proposed barrier removal support the ecosystem on a broad scale?
6. **Project Feasibility & Team** – Is the project plan clear, with realistic milestones, deliverables, and a sound budget? Does the team have the requisite experience and capabilities to execute the project successfully? Proposals will be assessed for clarity and feasibility of the project plan. Proposals will include key milestones, deliverables, budget, timeline, and team details.
7. **Budget** – Is the budget sound and is there a commitment to a successful outcome? The timeline must be realistic and indicate key milestones with strategies for declared risks and their mitigation.
8. **Cost Match** – What is the cost match? More than 20% will be looked upon favorably.

The order of these factors does not generally denote relative importance. The goal of this NOFO is to select and enter into an Agreement with the Respondent(s) that will most closely align with MassTech's goals in the publication of this NOFO. MassTech reserves the right to consider such other relevant factors as it deems appropriate.

3.4 Questions

Questions regarding this NOFO must be submitted by electronic mail to proposals@masstech.org with the following Subject Line: "Questions –NOFO No." 2026-NEMC-01". All questions must be received by 5:00 p.m. EST as specified above. Responses to all questions received will be posted on or before the above date to Mass Tech Collaborative's website.

3.5 Webinar

An informational webinar will be held on November 13, 2025¹ at 11:00 am (ET). Potential Respondents interested in participating in the informational session can register [HERE](#) . Mass Tech Collaborative will post summary responses to procedural questions and issues addressed at the webinar to the MassTech Collaborative website.

4.0 GENERAL CONDITIONS

4.1 General Information

- a) If an Application fails to meet any material terms, conditions, requirements or procedures, it may be deemed unresponsive and disqualified. The Mass Tech Collaborative reserves the right to

waive omissions or irregularities that it determines to be not material.

- b) This NOFO, as may be amended from time to time by Mass Tech Collaborative, does not commit Mass Tech Collaborative to select any firm(s), award any contracts for services pursuant to this NOFO, or pay any costs incurred in responding to this NOFO. Mass Tech Collaborative reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to withdraw the NOFO, to engage in preliminary discussions with prospective Respondents, to accept or reject any or all Applications received, to request supplemental or clarifying information, to negotiate with any or all qualified Respondents, and to request modifications to Applications in accordance with negotiations, all to the same extent as if this were a Request for Information.
- c) On matters related solely to this NOFO that arise prior to an award decision by the Mass Tech Collaborative, Respondents shall limit communications with the Mass Tech Collaborative to the Procurement Team Leader and such other individuals as the Mass Tech Collaborative Massachusetts Technology Collaborative NOFO No. 2026-NEMC-01 Massachusetts Technology Collaborative may designate from time to time. No other Mass Tech Collaborative employee or representative is authorized to provide any information or respond to any questions or inquiries concerning this NOFO. Respondents may contact the Procurement Team Leader for this NOFO in the event this NOFO is incomplete.
- d) The Mass Tech Collaborative may provide reasonable accommodations, including the provision of materials in an alternative format, for Respondents with disabilities or other hardships. Respondents requiring accommodations shall submit requests in writing, with supporting documentation justifying the accommodations, to the Procurement Team Leader. The Mass Tech Collaborative reserves the right to grant or reject any request for accommodations.
- e) Respondent's Application shall be treated by the Mass Tech Collaborative as an accurate statement of Respondent's capabilities and experience. Should any statement asserted by Respondent prove to be inaccurate or inconsistent with the foregoing, such inaccuracy or inconsistency shall constitute sufficient cause for Mass Tech Collaborative in its sole discretion to reject the Application and/or terminate of any resulting Agreement.
- f) Costs that are not specifically identified in the Respondent's response and/or not specifically accepted by Mass Tech Collaborative as part of the Agreement will not be compensated under any contract awarded pursuant to this NOFO.
- g) Mass Tech Collaborative's prior approval is required for any subcontracted services under any Agreement entered into as a result of this NOFO. The selected Respondent will take all appropriate steps to assure that minority firms, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are used when possible. The selected Respondent is responsible for the satisfactory performance and adequate oversight of its subcontractors. Subcontractors are required to meet the same requirements and are held to the same reimbursable cost standards as the selected Respondent.
- h) Submitted responses must be valid in all respects for a minimum period of sixty (60) days after the deadline for submission.
- i) Applicants shall comply with all applicable Federal and State statutes, rules and regulations prohibiting discrimination in employment including but not limited to: the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 et seq.), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. § 794), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d et seq.), the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§ 6101 et seq.), M.G.L. c. 151B, M.G.L. c. 272 §§ 92A, 98, and 98A, M.G.L. c. 111 § 199A, 42 U.S.C. 9918 (c) and 45 C.F.R. 80.
- j) Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment (31 U.S.C. 1352) – Applicants that are awarded an amount exceeding \$100,000 must certify that it will not and has not used Federal appropriated funds to pay any person or organization for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a

member of Congress in connection with obtaining any Federal contract, grant or any other award covered by 31 U.S.C. 1352. Each Applicant must also disclose any lobbying with non-Federal funds that takes place in connection with obtaining any Federal award.

- k) Debarment and Suspension- (Executive Orders 12549 and 12689) – Applicants understand that a contract award may not be made to parties listed on the government-wide exclusions in the System for Award Management (SAM).
- l) Applicants must be able to comply with all applicable standards, orders or regulations issued pursuant to the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401-7671q) and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251-1387). Violations must be reported to the Federal awarding agency and the Regional Office of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- m) As appropriate and to the extent consistent with law, Applicants should, to the greatest extent practicable, provide a preference for the purchase, acquisition, or use of goods, products, or materials produced in the United States. The requirements of this section must be included in all contracts and sub awards awarded hereunder.
- n) The awarded Applicant shall maintain and utilize systems and procedures to prevent, detect, and correct fraud, waste, and abuse in activities funded under this Program.
- o) Pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 200.303, the awarded Applicant shall establish effective control over, and accountability for, all funds, property, and other assets funded under this Program and assure that they are used solely for authorized purposes.
- p) The awarded Applicant shall maintain an accounting system and supporting fiscal records adequate to audit and otherwise verify that assistance payments and administrative costs meet Federal and State requirements.
- q) An Awarded Applicant shall use its best efforts to ensure that it will not knowingly use contract funds to purchase, or enter into contracts to purchase, any equipment, services, or systems that use prohibited telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of a system subject to 2 CFR § 200.216. 4.2.

4.2 Posting of Modifications/Addenda to NOFO:

This NOFO has been distributed electronically using the Mass Tech website. If Mass Tech Collaborative determines that it is necessary to revise any part of this NOFO, or if additional data is necessary to clarify any of its provisions, an addendum will be posted to the websites. It is the responsibility of each potential Respondent to check the Mass Tech website for any addenda or modifications to the NOFO. Mass Tech accepts no liability and will provide no accommodation to Respondents who submit a response based on an out-of-date NOFO.

Attachment A
Application Cover Sheet

Name of Respondent			
Mailing Address	City/Town	State	Zip Code
Telephone	Fax	Web Address	
Primary Contact for Clarification		Primary Contact E-mail Address	
Authorized Signatory		Authorized Signatory E-mail Address	
Legal Status/Jurisdiction (e.g., a Massachusetts Corporation, LLC, LLP, etc.)		Respondent's UEI No.	

Attachment B
Massachusetts Technology Collaborative
Authorized Respondent's Signature and Acceptance Form

The undersigned is a duly authorized representative of the Respondent listed below. The Respondent has read and understands the Solicitation requirements. The Respondent acknowledges that all of the terms and conditions of the Solicitation are mandatory. By executing this Authorized Respondent's Signature and Acceptance Form, Respondent certifies that they (1) are in compliance with the terms, conditions and specifications contained in this Solicitation, (2) acknowledges and understands the procedures for handling materials submitted to the Mass Tech Collaborative as set forth above, (3) agrees to be bound by those procedures, and (4) agrees that the Mass Tech Collaborative shall not be liable under any circumstances for the disclosure of any materials submitted to the Mass Tech Collaborative pursuant to this Solicitation or upon the Respondent's selection.

The Respondent understands that, if selected by the Mass Tech Collaborative, the Respondent and Mass Tech Collaborative will execute an Agreement specifying the mutual requirements of participation. Respondent agrees that the entire bid response will remain valid for sixty (60) days from receipt by the Mass Tech Collaborative.

I certify that Respondent is in compliance with all corporate filing requirements and State tax laws.

I further certify that the statements made in this response to the Solicitation, including all attachments and exhibits, are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Respondent: _____
(Printed Name of Respondent)

By: _____
(Signature of Authorized Representative)

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Attachment C
Budget Template

SEE EXCEL SPREADSHEET