



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

NEMC Team

June 17, 2026

# Propel

Powering Regional Opportunities  
for Prototyping Microelectronics

**The Northeast Microelectronics Coalition's new PROPEL Program will invest grant funds to strengthen the microelectronics ecosystem in the Northeast and beyond**

**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:

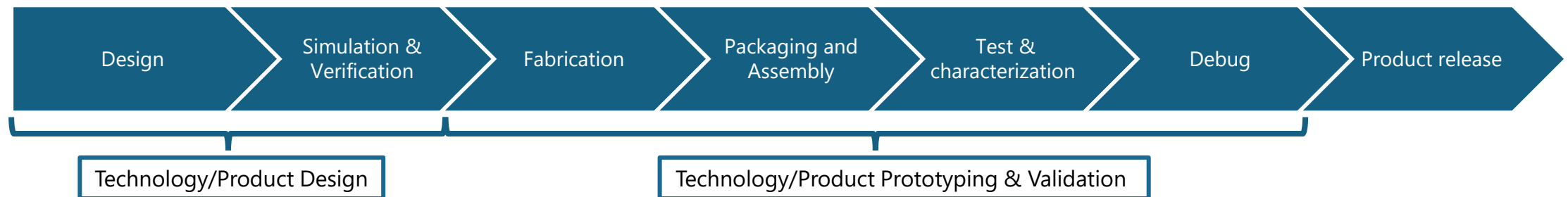
- Please submit your questions via chat
- Questions will be answered at the end of this presentation
- New Questions and answers will be added to the Q&A document on the website

# PROPEL Program Resources

- **Program Website:** <https://nemicroelectronics.org/propel-program>
- **Key Documents to Review:**
  - Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO): Located on Website – Check for updates
  - Rolling updated Q&A Document: Located on Website – Check for updates
- **Application Documents:**
  - Application Form: Link on the website
  - Budget Template: Downloadable copy under the "Application Instruction Questions" - Check for updates
- **Timeline Updates:**
  - Window deadline modifications or additions will be updated under the "Timeline" Section on the website.

# 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 an NEMC Hub member (or have a pending membership application) 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, or have an active contract under the current NOFO



## 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 [maximum of 12 months]
  - 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.

# Project Preferences

- Preferences are subject to change. Please check the website prior to application submission.
- Preferences as of 6/17/26: Preference for projects utilizing Draper services offered through the NEMC-Draper Partnership.
  - Services include:
    - Application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC) design
    - Multi-project wafer (MPW) readiness
    - Backend packaging advisory services
  - For more information and link to Draper Services Request form go to: Masstech.org>NEMC>Technical & Business Services > Technical Advisory Services or <https://nemicroelectronics.org/technical-advisory-services>

## Project Preferences

- What do I do if ASIC Design, MPW Readiness and/or backend packaging work is our next critical work to be done and I want to include it in my PROPEL application?
  - Submit Request for Information form on the Technical Advisory Service website before submitting the PROPEL application
  - Under the manufacturing budget section, write in "NEMC" as vendor, and "Technical Advisory Services." Section can total up to 100k for grant funding. If awarded, the dollar amount will be refined to match the quote.

# PROPEL Program: Timeline

Task	Date
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

Task	Date
Round 4 Deadline	<b>June 30, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. ET</b>
Round 5 Deadline	<b>January 15, 2027 at 11:59 p.m. ET</b>

**\*Rolling** – Applications can be submitted at any time. Once the window closes, all applications received in that window will move into review.

## Useful Links:

- PROPEL Website:

<https://nemicroelectronics.org/propel-program>

- Technical Advisory Services Webpage:

<https://nemicroelectronics.org/technical-advisory-services>

- Current NEMC member list:

<https://nemicroelectronics.org/our-members>

- NEMC Tech Concierge – Growing database of manufacturing services available in the ecosystem:

<https://nemicroelectronics.org/technical-concierge>

# PROPEL Program: Collated Q&As After the Meeting

We will update the Q&A document on a rolling basis with any new questions and answers

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

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:
  - **Next Rolling Submission Deadline:**
    - **June 30, 11:59 PM EDT**
    - **See website for application & additional submission deadlines:**  
<https://nemicroelectronics.org/propel-program>

