

Q+A Document

NOFO No. 2026-JAII-02

Updated 01/07/2026

I. Technical Scope

1. Are there any restrictions on the simulation environment used to develop the digital twin (e.g., Gazebo, V-Rep/CoppeliaSim, proprietary tools such as Matlab/Simulink, HxGN Multiphysics, etc.)?

The simulation environment can be built using any open-source tool.

2. Is the solicitation focused on digital twins of entire robotic systems, robotic components, or either?

This solicitation is focused on the development of digital assets that are useful to a broader audience. Whether the proposal is for a robotic system or a component, the key is to outline the public benefit of developing and publicizing it.

3. Is a “works-like” digital twin—representing external geometry, interfaces, and behavior but excluding internal mechanisms—acceptable as the final deliverable?

Yes, a digital twin that exhibits realistic behaviors of the real robot is acceptable.

4. Please confirm that only the final digital twin artifact must be made public, and that proprietary tools, intermediate models, and internal design details used during development are not required to be released.

This is correct.

II. Eligibility & Applicant Types

1. What are the eligibility criteria for applicants (e.g., companies, startups, research labs)? Are there thresholds related to company size, employee count, or revenue?

There is no threshold for either employee count or revenue.

2. Are research labs required to demonstrate an industry or commercialization partner to be considered?

No, research labs may apply to this solicitation without an industry partnership.

3. Is there any preference between supporting research institutions versus business entities?

There is no preference.

III. Funding Amounts, Cost Structure & Limits

1. What is the award range for this solicitation?

MassTech expects to make multiple awards between \$25,000 and \$300,000 and may award grants up to \$500,000 for a larger initiative.

2. Are there caps or restrictions on indirect costs and fringe rates?

There are no specific caps though percents should be reasonable – typically 20-35% for Fringe and 10-15% for Indirect costs

IV. Personnel & Organizational Qualifications

1. What level of detail is required for direct labor and consulting personnel (e.g., CVs, bios, role descriptions)?

Role descriptions and a summary of prior experience are sufficient.

2. For consulting firms included in the proposal, is relevant firm experience sufficient, or are individual staff qualifications also required?

Relevant firm experience is sufficient.

V. Application Format & Submission Requirements

1. Should the application be submitted as a single compiled PDF or as multiple separate attachments?

Multiple separate attachments in a .zip folder is the preferred method.

2. For Attachment B, may the respondent and authorized representative be the same individual?

Yes

VI. Review Process, Awards & Payments

1. What is the anticipated timeline for application review, award notification, and project start?

MassTech anticipates award notifications in April, though this is subject to change.

2. What are the reimbursement frequency and payment terms?

Specifics of reimbursement frequency and payment terms will be discussed and agreed upon during the contracting phase for accepted proposals.

VII. Matching Funds Requirements

1. Regarding the 25% matching fund requirement, can the match consist of funds invested prior to the project, funds contributed during the project, or a combination of both?

Funds should be consistent with spending during the award period and contributed to the project. Funding received prior to the award would not qualify.

2. What is the preferred method for documenting and verifying the matching contribution?

Acceptable documentation includes itemized invoices, receipts, payroll records, timesheets, executed agreements, and proof of payment.

Documentation should show funds incurred during the award period.

3. Does personal investment by a founder or applicant count toward the matching fund requirement?

Yes, as long as funds are incurred during the award period, verifiable and documented and used for project costs. They also could not be used to satisfy another matching requirement.