



MATE ROV COMPETITION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

APR 2026

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MATE MASHUP

The 2026 MATE World Tour is Officially On!

First stop: UK Scotland Regional | April 15

The MATE ROV Competition season is officially underway, beginning with our first stop in Scotland on April 15 and continuing with [nearly 30 regional events](#) around the world over the next two months. It's the start of a global season that brings our community together.

This year, we're embracing something a little different.

With the [World Championship heading to St. John's, Newfoundland & Labrador](#)—a place know for its deep-rooted music culture—we're carrying the spirit throughout the season. MATE 2026 is, in many ways, in our "music era"—a global tour that reflects what this program has always been about: *bringing people together through shared challenges, creativity, and collaboration*.

Behind the scenes, we know just how much work goes into getting to this point. Teams around the world are building, testing, refining, and preparing—not only their vehicles, but their profiling floats, technical documentation, presentations, and marketing displays. It's a process that mirrors the real-world engineering experience, and it's what makes this program so impactful.

As you prepare for your regional event, I encourage you to take a moment to ensure everything is in place. Registration deadlines vary by location, and all participants, including coaches, mentors, and students, must complete both standard and supplemental waivers through the registration process. These are small but important steps in ensuring a smooth and successful competition experience.

For teams who may advance to the World Championship, we also encourage you to begin thinking ahead. If international travel is part of your journey, [we have resources available](#) to support your planning.

And as always, if you find yourself needing last-minute components or adjustments, the [SeaMATE Store](#) is here to support your build.

This season represents more than a series of competitions—it's a global community coming together, each team contributing their own ideas, perspectives, and energy. That's what makes MATE so special.

We look forward to seeing you on this year's "tour."

Now it's time to make some waves—and a little noise along the way. 🎸

Jill Zande
MATE Executive Director | Marine Technology Society (MTS)
(And everyone here at Team MATE!)



STAY AFLOAT



Fluid Power Quiz [REQUIRED]

Just a quick heads up: If you're planning on using powered hydraulic or pneumatic tools or equipment on your ROV, you must pass the MATE ROV Competition Fluid Power Quiz first. The quiz fee is \$25, and it gives your team five shots to nail it. If you don't pass before the deadline, sorry, but no powered tools for your ROV.

[Take the Fluid Power Quiz >>>](#)



World Championship Travel

As we gear up for the 2026 MATE ROV World Championship, we've pulled together key travel information to help teams prepare for a smooth journey to St. John's, Newfoundland & Labrador. We're also closely monitoring global events that may impact travel and will continue to keep teams informed as updates become available.

[Access World Championship Travel Info >>>](#)



Schmidt Ocean Coalition Travel Stipends for MATE ROV World Championship 💰

The Schmidt Ocean Coalition is generously continuing its support for team travel by funding stipends to the 2026 MATE World Championship! This funding is available for new and re-building RANGER, PIONEER, and EXPLORER class teams across the U.S. and around the world! Travel stipend scholarship amounts will be determined based on each team's application and typically range from \$1,000 USD to \$3,000 USD.

Deadline: May 25, 2026.

[Learn More & Apply >>>](#)



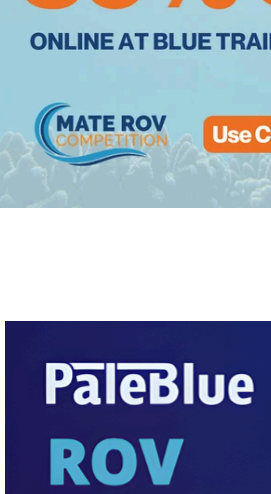
ROV RADAR



Watch Now: 2026 Safety Briefing

Always remember—safety first. Join MATE Technical Manager Matt Gardner for this essential safety briefing, your go-to guide for everything you need to know heading into competition. From initial safety checks to onsite inspections, Matt walks through what to expect, what judges are looking for, and real examples of what passes (and what doesn't). Tune in to make sure your team is prepared, confident, and ready to complete—safely.

[EXPLORER/PIONEER/RANGER >>>](#)
[NAVIGATOR/SCOUT >>>](#)



Patch Drop: 2026 Edition

The 2026 MATE ROV Competition patch is here—and we're diving deep. This year's design brings cold-water coral gardens into the spotlight (yes, the same kind you'll see in this season's missions), with an ROV front and center doing what it does best. It's all inspired by our World Championship location in St. John's, Newfoundland & Labrador—so consider this your first look before your ROV takes the plunge.



(NOT SO) HIDDEN TREASURES

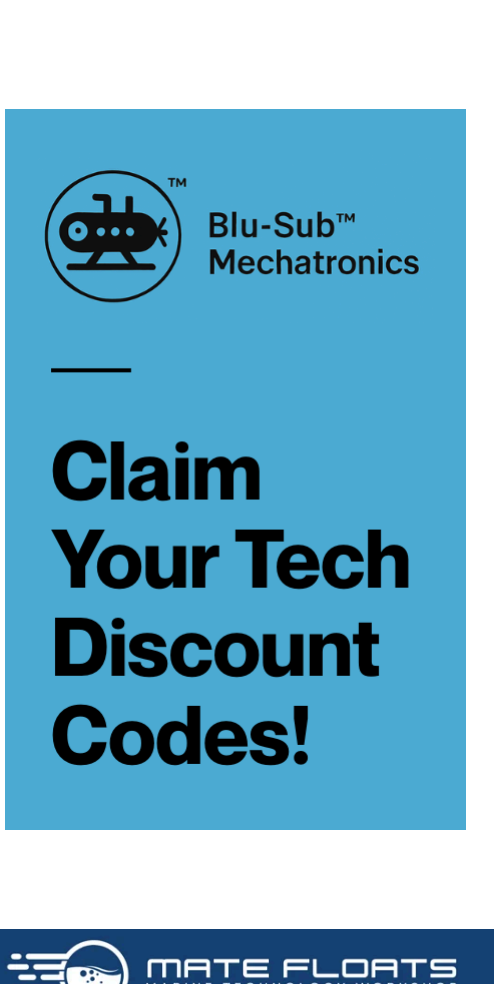


MATE ROV Special Discount - Blue Trail Engineering

Big thanks to Blue Trail Engineering for supporting MATE teams in 2026! As competition season ramps up, teams can take advantage of 30% off parts and components with code **MATEROV30**—perfect for last-minute upgrades, replacements, and getting competition-ready.

CODE: MATEROV30

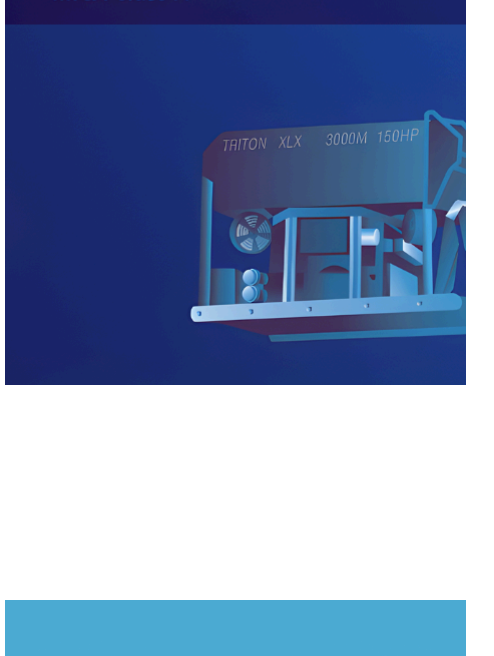
[Shop Now >>>](#)



PaleBlue ROV Simulator License for MATE ROV Teams

Inspired by [its impact](#) on [The KAUST School](#) preparing for the MATE Red Sea regional, [PaleBlue](#) is offering licenses to its ROV simulator to each school or organization fielding a RANGER, PIONEER, or EXPLORER class team this competition season! The simulator provides an ideal platform for MATE teams to hone in on their piloting skills. It's also an [IMCA Class A](#) simulator, which puts students on a path to achieving industry recognition. If you've already registered as a RANGER, PIONEER, or EXPLORER class team or are planning to, stay tuned for more information sent directly to your mentor's inbox!

[More Info on the Simulator >>>](#)



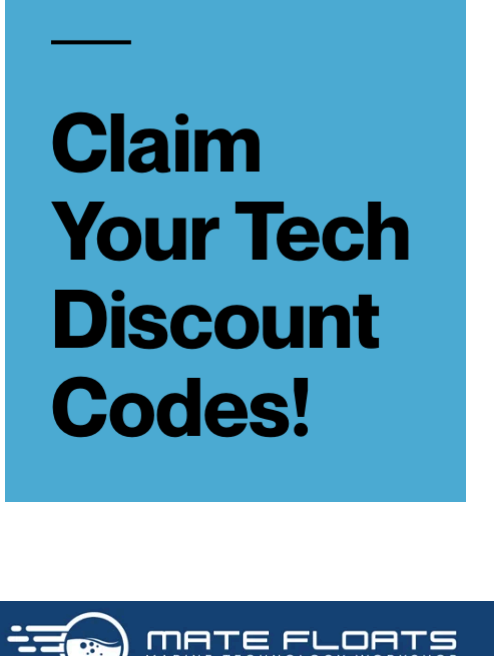
Blu-Sub™ Mechatronics

Claim Your Tech Discount Codes!

Blu-Sub Mechatronics MATE Global Discount Program

Blu-Sub Mechatronics is dedicated to helping teams access student technology at more affordable pricing. Blu-Sub teams of all class levels participating in the MATE ROV Competition; schools, colleges, universities, and purchasing departments operating on behalf of an eligible team; and team mentors/advisors and other institutional stakeholders supporting eligible teams are able to apply for discount codes to offset the price of various products to further their learning.

[Claim Your Codes Now >>>](#)



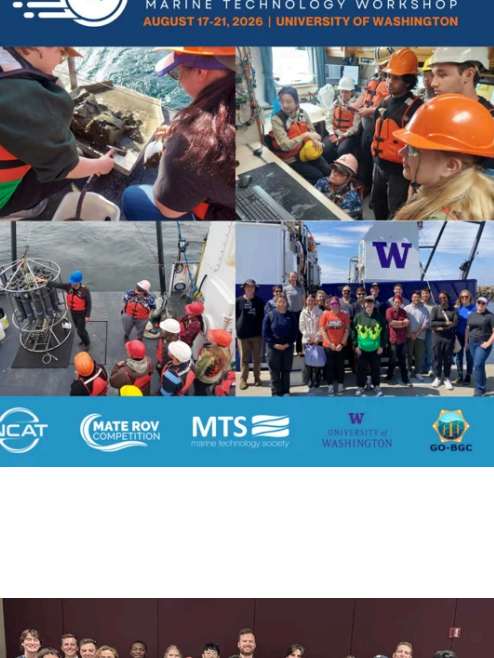
MATE FLOATS MARINE TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP AUGUST 17-21, 2026 UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Last Chance to Apply: MATE Floats!

Time is running out to apply for the MATE Floats! Marine Technology Summer Workshop, supported by the NCAT and the University of Washington. This 5-day (August 17-21) immersive experience gives high school seniors and undergrad students hands-on exposure to GO-BGC float technology and ocean data science.

📅 Priority Deadline: April 10, 2026
🔥 Final Deadline: May 1, 2026

[Learn More & Apply >>>](#)



MTS EMERGE A Program Supporting Our Future Leaders in Marine Technology Applications Due: April 17, 2026

MTS EMERGE Program

MATE students, alumni, and early career professionals—this is your next step. The yearlong MTS EMERGE program builds on your MATE experience with mentorship, professional development, and real connections across the ocean tech community—plus support to attend Underwater Intervention 2026.

Deadline to Apply: April 17, 2026

[Learn More & Apply >>>](#)



2026 COLLEGIATE CALL FOR SOLUTIONS APPLICATIONS OPEN APRIL 1

Learn more: [Susan.Zellers@OceanExchange.org](#)

\$40,000 in Funding Available!

MATE teams—this is a great opportunity to take your work further!

[Ocean Exchange](#), one of MTS's flagship programs, has officially opened applications for the 2026 Collegiate Call for Solutions. Selected teams will compete for 4x \$10,000 USD non-dilutive awards and the opportunity to present their solutions live at Ocean Exchange in Ft. Lauderdale, FL (Oct 25-27).

If your team is developing innovative solutions, whether inspired by ROV design, ocean data, aquaculture, or beyond, this is a chance to gain visibility and connect with leaders across the ocean enterprise.

Deadline to Apply: September 16, 2026

[Learn More & Submit >>>](#)



GUIDING THE ROVolution



Underwater Robotics & Engineering Design Workshop

From April 25—26, this professional development workshop will be held on-site at SUNY Oswego in Oswego, New York. Participants will have the opportunity to teach the engineering design process using underwater robotics, including the fundamentals of basic ROV building and engineering design activities to integrate into their classroom.

[Learn More & Apply >>>](#)



Volunteers Needed!

MATE ROV Competition regional events are on the calendar (see below!), and teams are gearing up to compete! We're looking for volunteers to serve as judges, safety inspectors, and event support to help create an inspiring and professional experience for students. Check out the list of regional events and sign up to volunteer at one near you — we'd love to have you on board.

[LEARN MORE >>>](#)



SEAS THE DEALS



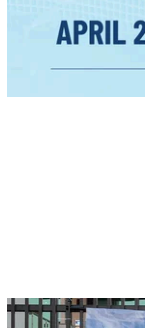
Meet the Kits: TriggerFish 🐟

Meet our TriggerFish ROV Kit—designed to introduce students to more advanced control through analog joystick piloting. This shift from basic on/off inputs allows learners to explore how small adjustments in speed and direction impact movement underwater, bringing a new level of precision and understanding to their builds.

Designed for middle and high school classrooms and clubs, TriggerFish creates opportunities to connect hands-on engineering with core concepts in physics and computer science. From exploring forces like thrust and drag to understanding how inputs translate into coordinated motor output, students begin to see how control systems shape real-world ROV performance.

With instructional guides aligned to key education standards, TriggerFish offers educators a practical way to deepen student learning while building confidence in more advanced robotics concepts.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE TRIGGERFISH KIT >>>](#)



SEAFARING SPONSORS

Major Thanks to Fugro for Supporting MATE!

Fugro is the world's largest Geo-data specialist, delivering critical insights into the built and natural environment for the energy, infrastructure, and water markets. With its unique map, model, and monitor solutions, Fugro shows how ROV, robotics, and engineering skills translate into real subsea and remote operations careers.

A key part of Fugro's work is enabled by remote and autonomous technologies, including uncrewed surface vessels (USVs), subsea with electric remotely operated vehicles (eROVs) to perform a wide range of seabed inspection, monitoring, and survey tasks.

These systems are operated from Fugro's global network of Remote Operations Center's (ROCs), where mariners, engineers, pilots, and data specialists conduct offshore missions from shore-based facilities. This approach improves safety by reducing offshore exposure, increases efficiency through near-real-time data delivery, and allows teams in different locations to collaborate using live video and sensor data.

One of Fugro's ROCs is in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador—the host city for this year's MATE World Championship. The technologies and skills showcased in MATE closely mirror the real systems Fugro uses every day, highlighting how competition experience connects to professional practice in marine robotics and remote operations.

[Learn More >>>](#)



WHAT'S ON DECK

The MATE ROV 2026 World Tour! 🎤🎸

MATE has nearly 30 stops on our 2026 World Tour—spanning the globe and showcasing the full range of what teams have been building toward. Each regional competition is a main event in its own right, where teams test their designs, problem-solve in real time, and bring their ROVs to life. Check out the lineup and be part of the action as teams take the stage! 🎯

Upcoming Events

April 15: Scotland Regional | [REGISTER](#)
 April 16-17: Red Sea Regional | [REGISTER](#)
 April 18: Florida Regional | [REGISTER](#)
 April 23-25: Egypt Regional | [REGISTER](#)
 April 24-26: Northern Gulf Coast Regional | [REGISTER](#)
 April 25: East Tennessee Regional | [REGISTER](#)
 April 25: Arizona Regional | [REGISTER](#)
 April 25: Monterey Bay Regional | [REGISTER](#)
 April 25: Hawaii - Big Island | [REGISTER](#)
 April 25-26: BOYA Regional | [REGISTER](#)
 April 25-26: Hong Kong Regional | [REGISTER](#)
 April 7: ASEAN Regional | [REGISTER](#)
 May 1: Quebec Regional | [REGISTER](#)
 May 1-2: Appalachian Highlands Regional | [REGISTER](#)
 May 1-2: Gray's Reef Southeast Regional | [REGISTER](#)
 May 2: New England Regional | [REGISTER](#)
 May 7-9: Newfoundland & Labrador Regional | [REGISTER](#)
 May 9: Washington Regional | [REGISTER](#)
 May 9: Long Beach Regional | [REGISTER](#)
 May 9: Oregon Regional | [REGISTER](#)
 May 9: Coastal Carolina Regional | [REGISTER](#)
 May 9: Texas Regional | [REGISTER](#)
 May 16: Great Lakes Regional | [REGISTER](#)
 May 16: Pennsylvania Regional | [REGISTER](#)
 May 22-23: Mid-South Regional | [REGISTER](#)
 May 30-31: Bengaluru Regional | [REGISTER](#)
 June 25-27: World Championship - St. John's Newfoundland & Labrador | [REGISTER](#)

🔥 ROV on, MATE teams! Best of luck at your regional competitions—go out there, trust your build, and enjoy every moment. We can't wait to see what you do.



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