

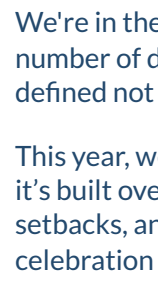
MAY 2026

HOME

REGIONAL

EVENTS

RESOURCE



MATE MASHUP

"Success is Not Final, Failure is Not Fatal; it is the Courage to Continue that Counts." - Winston Churchill

We're in the thick of MATE ROV Competition season, with [nearly 30 regional events](#) plus a number of demonstration events taking place around the world. It's a global journey, one defined not just by competition, but by growth, achievement, and success in all its forms.

This year, we want teams to focus on something powerful: success is not a single moment, it's built over time. It's found in the long hours of problem-solving, the breakthroughs after setbacks, and the determination to keep moving forward. The MATE ROV Competition is a celebration of those moments and a reminder that every step taken, every challenge faced, and every solution discovered contributes to something meaningful.

Behind the scenes, we see what success really looks like. Teams across the globe are designing, testing, refining, and pushing their ideas further than they thought possible. They're developing not only their vehicles, but also their profiling floats, technical documentation, presentations, and marketing displays. This process reflects the real-world engineering experience, where success is earned through persistence, collaboration, and continuous improvement.

As you prepare for your regional event, we 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 of 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.

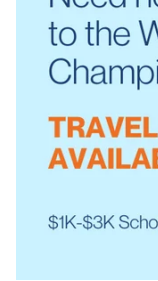
This season is about more than reaching a final destination—it's about recognizing the progress you make along the way. Every idea tested, every obstacle overcome, and every lesson learned is a success worth celebrating.

We can't wait to see what you accomplish this season.

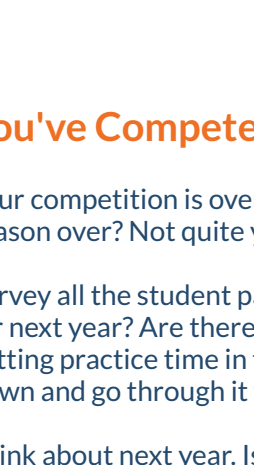
Keep on rocking, no matter the outcome. 🎸

Jill Zande

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



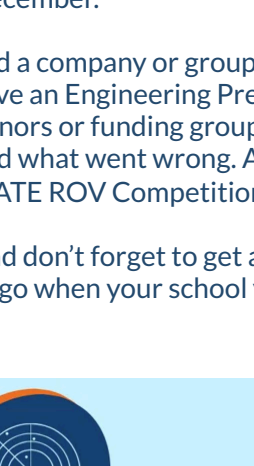
STAY AFLOAT



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.

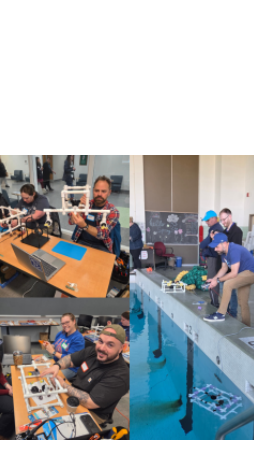
[Take the Fluid Power Quiz >>>](#)



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 🏆

Need help getting to the World Championship?
TRAVEL STIPENDS AVAILABLE!
\$1K-\$3K Scholarships Available

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 >>>](#)

You've Competed... Now What?

Your competition is over and you are not advancing to the World Championship. Is your season over? Not quite yet. It is time to get ready for next year.

Survey all the student participants. What worked well on the ROV? What would you change for next year? Are there procedures to change for next year, such as getting done earlier and getting practice time in the water? Have a returning team member write all the suggestions down and go through it with the other team members who will be returning next year.

Think about next year. Is someone new going to take over as the CEO? As Chief Technology Officer? Identify them now so they can think and plan for next year. And a hint from the Competition Technical Manager about next year's tasks - no matter what those tasks are, your ROV will need to move around the pool, going forward and reverse, turning, and going up and down. There is no need to wait until December when the missions come out to build your control system. Plan to be in the pool driving around, without any tools or claws, by December.

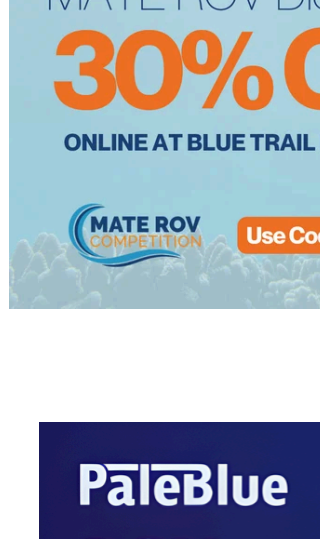
Did a company or group support your team financially? Show them your ROV. You probably gave an Engineering Presentation at your regional, consider giving a similar talk to any donors or funding groups. Tell them the interesting features of your ROV, what went right and what went wrong. And definitely let them know what you plan to do for next year's MATE ROV Competition.

And don't forget to get any replacement parts and pieces from the SeaMATE Store. Be ready to go when your school year starts in the fall.



ROV RADAR

Recap: MATE ROV Academy Workshop with Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary

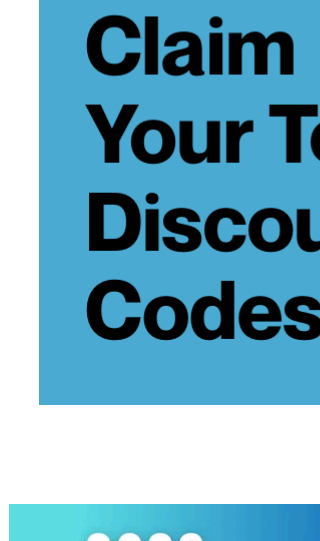


Lifetime learners here! The MATE ROV Academy recently held a workshop that supported 20 educators from K-12 - University classrooms, nature centers, river keeper organizations, and STEM programs across New York State with the primary focus on community schools around Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary. MATE was the recipient of a [Sanctuary Community Fund](#) award which was used to provide these educators with the tools, training, and resources to introduce underwater robotics to their students as a means of technical skill building, workforce development for ocean careers, and community engagement with Sanctuary shareholders.

The MATE ROV Academy workshop was funded by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, sponsored by the Great Lakes Institute, and hosted at SUNY Oswego campus.

[See Upcoming Workshops Here >>>](#)

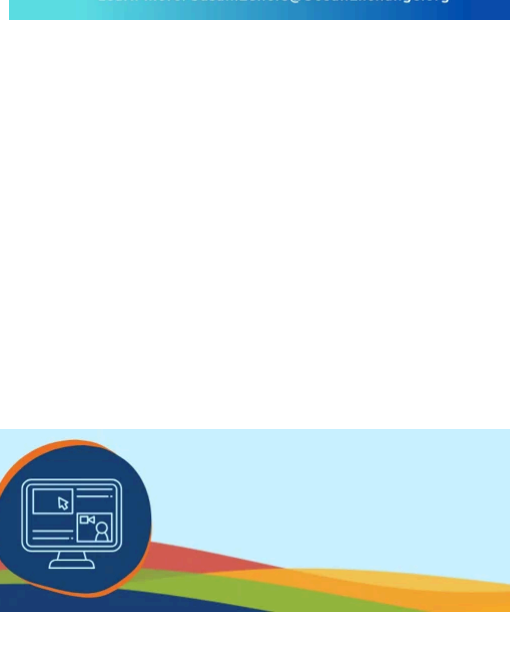
Reminder: Submit Your Marketing Display by May 21st



New this year, World Championship teams must submit a digital copy of their Marketing Display along with other documentation by May 21st. The marketing display must be submitted as a digital file. The file must be a single PDF, 300 dpi minimum resolution, sized for standard poster output (24 in x 36 in or A1), with all fonts embedded. Use RGB color, no crop marks or bleeds, and keep the file size under 25 MB. See the competition manual for more details.



(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 MATE Global Discount Program

Blu-Sub Mechatronics is dedicated to helping teams access subsea technology at more affordable pricing. Student teams of all class levels participating in the MATE ROV Competition; schools, colleges, universities, and purchasing departments ordering 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 >>>](#)



\$40,000 in Funding Available!

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

[Ocean Exchange](#), one of MTE'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).

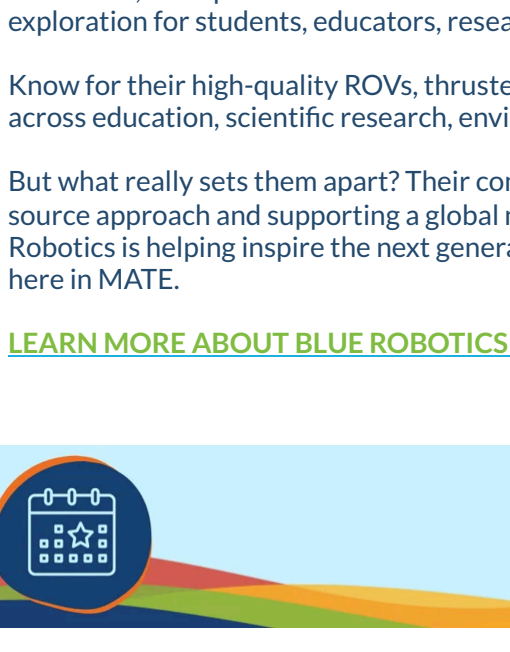
If your team is developing innovative solutions, whether inspired by ROV design, ocean data, aquaculture, or beyond, this is a chance to gain visibility and connect with leaders across the ocean enterprise.

Deadline to Apply: September 12, 2026

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



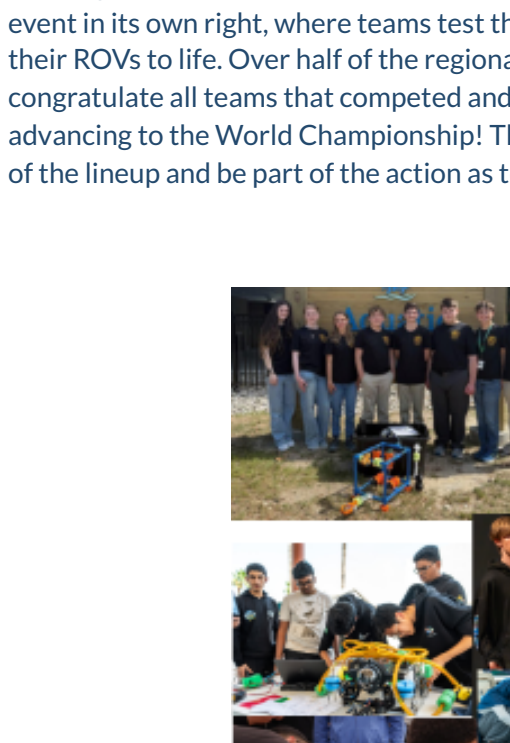
GUIDING THE ROVolution



Alumni Highlight - Richard Henderson

Richard Henderson's journey into aerospace, defense, and sub-sea engineering started with curiosity and a MATE ROV competition that helped turn that curiosity into a career. As a member of the Monterey High School team in 2007 and 2008, Richard got his first hands-on experience designing and competing with remotely operated vehicles. One of his favorite memories comes from competing at the regional championships in San Diego, where he also had the opportunity to tour the robotics facilities at NIWC Pacific.

[Learn More About Richard Here >>>](#)



2026 NMEA Conference and Blue Technology Workshop

[MATEA \(Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association\)](#) invites all who teach about water to the 2026 National Marine Educators Association Conference. Join NMEA for the "Meeting of the Waters" in Cambridge, Maryland from July 12-16, 2026. A special Blue Technology Education Workshop, hosted by NOAA Ocean Exploration will take place July 16th as part of this conference.

Early bird registration closes May 31st!

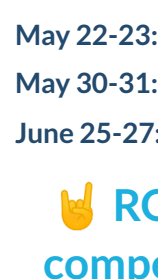
[Learn More & Register >>>](#)

Feedback Wanted: National Center for Autonomous Technologies (NCAT) Survey

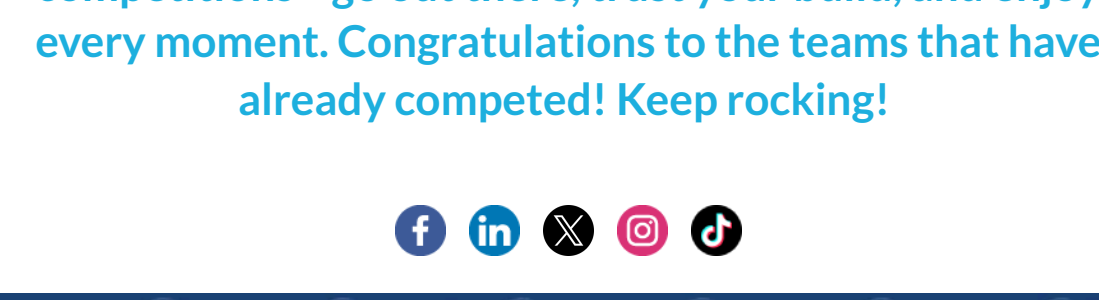
MATE and [AUVSI](#) are partnering with the [National Center for Autonomous Technologies](#) (NCAT) to gather industry input on a new competency model for autonomous systems technicians. This survey aims to define the core technical skills needed across air, land, and sea domains, focusing on system-agnostic knowledge and abilities that underpin success across platforms.

Insights from this survey will help shape a future U.S. Department of Labor Competency Model. The goal is to ensure workforce development, training programs, and hiring pipelines reflect real-world industry needs as autonomous technologies continue to scale.

[Take the Survey >>>](#)



SEAS THE DEALS



Dive Into Classroom Bundles 🐠

Looking ahead to your next program or classroom setup? Our new bundles make it easy to get everything in place, whether you're starting fresh or scaling up. Classroom bundles are the perfect way to engage your classrooms with applied robotics experience.

Classroom bundles are available for our AngerFish, PufferFish, TriggerFish, Fish, and Barracuda kits. Our classroom bundles include 5, 8, or 10 kits with all necessary Add-Ons, Spare Parts, and Power Supplies, giving classrooms of 15-30 students an engaging platform for hands-on robotics projects. Now is the perfect time to prepare for the next school year with our deals on classroom bundles!

[LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR CLASSROOM BUNDLES >>>](#)

SEAFARING SPONSORS

Program Partner Spotlight: Blue Robotics

Program Partners play a key role in powering the MATE ROV Competition, supporting everything from workshops to the World Championship and helping bring hands-on learning to students and educators at every stage.

Blue Robotics is all about making underwater tech more accessible. Through innovative, affordable, and open-source marine robotics solutions, they're helping unlock ocean exploration for students, educators, researchers, and professionals around the world.

Know for their high-quality ROVs, thrusters, cameras, and sensors, their technology is used across education, scientific research, environmental monitoring, aquaculture, and beyond.

But what really sets them apart? Their commitment to community. By championing an open-source approach and supporting a global network of builders, engineers, and explorers, Blue Robotics is helping inspire the next generation of ocean innovators—many of whom are right here in MATE.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT BLUE ROBOTICS >>>](#)

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. Over half of the regional competitions have taken place. We would like to congratulate all teams that competed and send extra congratulations to the winners advancing to the World Championship! Thank you for rocking the world! Check out the rest of the lineup and be part of the action as teams take the stage! 🎤

Upcoming Events

- April 15: Scotland Regional | [COMPLETED](#)
- April 16-17: Red Sea Regional | [COMPLETED](#)
- April 18: Florida Regional | [COMPLETED](#)
- April 23-25: Egypt Regional | [COMPLETED](#)
- April 24-26: Northern Gulf Coast Regional | [COMPLETED](#)
- April 25: East Tennessee Regional | [COMPLETED](#)
- April 25: Arizona Regional | [COMPLETED](#)
- April 25: Monterey Bay Regional | [COMPLETED](#)
- April 25: Hawaii - Big Island | [COMPLETED](#)
- April 25-26: BOYA National | [COMPLETED](#)
- April 25-26: Hong Kong Regional | [COMPLETED](#)
- April 7: ASEAN Regional | [COMPLETED](#)
- May 1: Quebec Regional | [COMPLETED](#)
- May 1-2: Appalachian Highlands Regional | [COMPLETED](#)
- May 1-2: Gray's Reef Southeast Regional | [COMPLETED](#)
- May 2: New England Regional | [COMPLETED](#)
- May 7-9: Newfoundland & Labrador Regional | [REGISTER](#)
- May 9: Pacific Northwest 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: Olympic Coast 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. Congratulations to the teams that have already competed! Keep rocking!**





MTS, One Thomas Circle, Suite 700, WASHINGTON, DC 20005, United States

[Please subscribe MATE's preferences](#)