

# MassRobotics Celebrates New Expanded Hub for Startup Innovation

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Mass. Gov. Charlie Baker speaks at the MassRobotics ribbon cutting in Boston's Seaport Innovation District. (Photo by Joyce Sidopoulos)

It was standing room only as media, dignitaries, tech luminaries, and AI-enabled droids gathered for the official opening of [MassRobotics'](#) new 25,000 square-foot laboratory, demonstration, and event space in Boston's Seaport Innovation District.

Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker, and executives from Amazon Robotics, iRobot, and MassRobotics delivered remarks to the crowd of 100+ assembled for the Jan. 28 celebration.

"The kinds of capabilities [at MassRobotics] don't just make robotics companies strong, they make all kinds of companies stronger," commented Baker.

He and Walsh both extolled the non-profits' support for resident startup companies, contributions to STEM education and employment in the commonwealth.

Chairman of the MassRobotics Board of Directors Tim Rowe noted the Bay State's long and storied history of innovation, including Alexander Graham Bell's [invention of the telephone](#) only blocks away from the organization's Channel Street location.

An innovation hub for startups across robotics, automation, connected devices, and artificial intelligence, MassRobotics first opened in 2017. The group believes this [recent expansion](#) to 40,000 square feet will enable support to more than 70-companies and 200 employees seeking their assistance.

Tom Ryden, MassRobotics executive director, specifically thanked MITRE for our ongoing contributions to the organization, including support of residents and alumni, before a [TruPhysics](#)-powered robot extended the ribbon to make the opening official.

## Bridging Innovation: MITRE's Embedded Support at MassRobotics

MITRE's Bridging Innovation team sponsored several elements of the expansion, most notably a collaboration room within the new space. But MITRE's biggest contribution, according to [Russ Graves](#), is its matchmaking ability.

"Having a day-to-day presence inside MassRobotics is unique and enables us to help foster and encourage the solutions that government agencies are seeking," Graves said. "We can point startups to resources to help accelerate development, and ultimately to government markets for their solutions."

For example, in December 2019, MITRE sponsored the [Navy Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer session](#) at MassRobotics. More than 80 companies, ranging from MassRobotics residents to Boston-area start-ups and small businesses, attended.

MITRE's role as matchmaker between startups and government agencies was chronicled in a [recent Project Story](#) and highlighted in [BostInno](#).

"The facility is amazing and combined with the vision and commitment of the MassRobotics team, startups have tremendous resources to develop the next great thing," Graves noted.

"The robot revolution is definitely in full swing, and it's thrilling for our team to be involved with so many innovative companies from an early stage."

*Learn more about our [Bridging Innovation work](#).*