

# mHUB EPIC PRIZE ROUND 3 | SUMMARY SLIDE

## OVERVIEW OF MHUB

mHUB's mission is to enable U.S. hardtech innovation and commercialization by fueling collaboration between entrepreneurs, industry and investors and providing a hyper-resourced environment to develop, fund and accelerate clean energy, health, sustainability, and manufacturing technologies.

As a top-ranked incubator in manufacturing and hardtech that has supported 500 startups to generate 533 patents, \$1.57 billion in revenue, and attract \$1.89 billion in investments, and create more than 6,400 jobs in seven years.

## Clean Energy Pilot Launchpad (CEPL)

We envision a thriving and connected lab-to-market pathway that supports commercialization of new climate and energy hardtech in the Chicago area that lowers barriers of access to entrepreneurship for people from all backgrounds and especially those underrepresented in tech and manufacturing.

A streamlined lab-to-market pathway requires connectivity of wraparound services, funding, and industry engagement from TRL 1 through 9.

Through this program we seek to fill the ecosystem gap in pilot-stage support to accelerate lab-developed technologies from prototype to end-user

## Pilot Launchpad Program Description

The Pilot Launchpad program is designed to accelerate clean energy startups/SMEs by preparing them to secure and execute pilot projects with industry partners. The program offers a comprehensive blend of workshops, expert mentorship, and an expert developed Pilot Readiness Playbook with practical tools aimed at ensuring startups are ready to scale from lab to market.

## IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

During Phase 2, mHUB made key progress towards the CEPL MVP, with the Pilot Launchpad Bootcamp set for October-November 2024:

- **Pilot Readiness Playbook:** Finalized toolkit to help startups assess pilot readiness. Feedback highlighted its practical value.
- **Bootcamp Design:** Developed a 2-week workshop series with 1:1 mentorship and 6-month wraparound services.
- **Industry Partners:** Secured commitments from Constellation Energy and Nicor Gas for mentorship and pilot opportunities.
- **Team Expansion:** Hired a full-time program manager and two experts-in-residence to advise and support startups.
- **Recruitment:** Launched applications (internally and invite only), with 3 startups confirmed, ongoing until early October.
- **Funding Sources:** Developed a repository of funding sources and created pilot development grants.

### Program Pivots:

- Shifted to a hybrid bootcamp model for broader reach.
  - Focused applicant pool on mHUB's existing startups, reducing cohort size to 4 – 5 for MVP phase.
- mHUB remains on track to meet Phase 2 objectives with these strategic adjustments.*