

Machine Science Launches Mobile Robotics Club with TechFoundation TechGrant*January 22, 2016, Cambridge, MA.*

Machine Science, Inc. is pleased to announce that the company has been selected to receive a grant of \$13,500 from TechFoundation as part of the TechGrants program.

Thanks to this TechGrant, this spring Machine Science will launch a Mobile Robotics Club, a travelling after-school robotics program for schools that otherwise would not have the resources to purchase the computers, robots, or coaching needed for such an activity. The program will allow for greater participation in Machine Science's annual Robot Sumo Tournament, held at the Museum of Science. The Mobile Robotics Club will be based at three schools at a time, and each school year the club and equipment will rotate to a different set of schools.

The Mobile Robotics Club—which provides laptops for programming, robot processors, hardware and sensors, and club coaches—is an intentionally shared resource that responds to the high demand for robotics education by rotating resources. The goal is to create a more communal and cooperative approach to education. After students participate in the annual Robot Sumo Tournament, they will have the opportunity to act as program mentors and tournament volunteers in subsequent years. Eventually, we hope that some of these mentors will become robotics coaches for the program. The first year of the Mobile Robotics Club will be funded entirely by TechFoundation.

About Machine Science:

The mission of Machine Science, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, is to foster critical thinking and technological competency among underserved and historically underrepresented young people through hands-on robotics, science, and data exploration. Machine Science has supported hands-on engineering and science education through the development of kits, curriculum materials, and software resources. Information about our programs can be found at our web site www.machinescience.org.

With funding from private foundations and a series of grants from the National Science Foundation, Machine Science has worked closely with schools in Boston to offer engaging after-school, vacation week, and summer engineering programs for students in grades 6 to 12. The school year programs culminate in our annual Robot Sumo Tournament at the Museum of Science, attracting competitors and spectators from the greater Boston area.

If you are interested in being one of this year's teachers or being a robotics club coach, contact Program Manager Kia Hall at kia@machinescience.org or 617-354-7171.