



Kansas BEST Robotics March 2025 Newsletter

Hello everyone! It's that time of year again when we start building the energy around the new year's game theme. **fActoIds** is going to help us understand more about the world of AI. It is making lots of headlines right now. It appears to be the next big milestone in technology and may impact all facets of life that are touched by it.



The teaser video for **fActoIds**, this year's game, is at bestinc.org. It looks like a fun challenge!

We don't have dates for our competition events yet. They all hinge securing a venue for Game Day. Tentatively we have September 6 for Kickoff.

Kit Upgrade Status

We have had a change in direction on the kit upgrades. We will be replacing the Cortex controller with the Vex 5 controller. Yes, we have been talking about the Raspberry Pi based Gizmo for a couple of years now, but things just didn't pan out on that front. Vex 5 has been around long enough it can be considered a mature and dependable product. There are a lot of robotics programs using it and it looks a lot like the Cortex we have been using since 2012.

If your team is interested in acquiring the Gizmo, it will be available. As we get the specifics I will pass them along to you.

[bESTology](https://bestology.com) has started posting information in keeping with the game theme this year. This is a great resource to learn more about AI, do some recruitment for your fall team, and inspire those young minds. This can even be a resource for the research paper that needs to be developed for the project notebook.

Registration

We are having some technical difficulties with the Registry, so I don't believe you can sign up your teams there. I'd like to start finding out who is planning to join us this year for the competition though. So if you would, **please send me a quick email if you plan to compete this year**. Once the Registry is back up and running, I'll notify you and you can get on the official roster.

Thanks for your time. If you want to be removed from distribution, let me know. If you know other teachers or potential coaches/mentors that would be interested, please feel free to forward this to them. All newsletters will be posted at kansasbest.org

Linda Manfull

Co-Director Kansas BEST Robotics



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linda.manfull@bestinc.org