

XCORP 2014 LLC

enktesis.com

Marco Ciavolino
XCORP 2014 LLC
office 410-838-8264
fax 443-307-0094
marco@enktesis.com

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

XCORP 2014 announces a new product line for its educational offerings: Empower Mats: Tools to empower students who are blind or visually impaired to participate in competitive robotics programs.



Robotics is a great way to introduce youth to the principles of mechanical engineering, computer science and artificial intelligence. Robotics has helped thousands of students develop their creative problem solving, collaboration, and teamwork skills while having fun in the process.

Youth with visual disabilities, however, have been at a disadvantage because most products are designed with only sighted youth in mind. The goal of Empower Mats is to give youth with a variety of disabilities an opportunity to participate in mainstream robotics.

What's different about Empower Mats? Our creative line of robotics training mats will provide tactile guidance to locations and paths, with braille descriptions where needed. The goal is to create a mat that allows all students to participate without interfering with the robots of other teams.

These innovations are made possible through a grant from a national foundation and in collaboration with The Maryland School for The Blind, TechBrick Education, LET'S GO Boys & Girls, and other national institutions. Empower Mats will create new opportunities for students who are blind or visually impaired to be involved in STEM activities, possibly opening new doors for them to pursue STEM careers. It is likely this technology will assist students with other disabilities and sighted students as well.

Our vision is to develop accessible programming environments for EV3 and similar systems. In the near future, we hope to involve students who are blind or visually impaired in FIRST LEGO League, Dash & Dot, BeeBots, SumoBots, and similar table-top robotics challenges.

CONTACT AT XCORP2014: Marco Ciavolino / marco@robotmats.com / office 410-838-8264

Interested in participating in testing and getting more information?

Register at our site: <https://empowermats.com>

XCORP2014 FAMILY OF PRODUCTS



<https://robotmats.com>

Build the skills of your current team. Start today with our universal training mats. They provide every scenario required to teach all the fundamentals of EV3/NXT/RCX programming and similar robotics systems.



<https://creativeplaymats.com>

These amazing mats feature imaginative, play-producing, images by Bill Connolly. Each mat is designed to provide just enough imagery to spur creative play and encourage your children to create their own stories.



<https://emergencyplanningmats.com>

Custom multi-mat systems to allow emergency preparedness planning and strategy.