# Best Fixed-Price MVP Development Companies for Startups in 2026

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## In brief

For startup founders, one of the hardest questions before building an MVP is surprisingly simple: how much is this actually going to cost?

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Traditional software development does not always provide a straightforward answer. An agency may quote an hourly rate, estimate the number of development hours, and provide an approximate budget - but the final cost can still change as the project progresses.

Fixed-price MVP development takes a different approach. The agency and startup define the scope before development begins and agree on a specific price for delivering it. For early-stage companies operating with limited capital and a defined runway, that predictability can be particularly valuable.

There are many software development companies offering fixed-price or fixed-scope engagements. For this article, we selected three companies we believe are particularly worth considering in 2026: Asper Brothers, RaftLabs, and Kinetico Agency.

This is a subjective selection rather than an exhaustive or definitive ranking. Each company has a different pricing level, scope, and approach to fixed-price MVP development, making them useful examples of how this model can work for startups at different stages.

## What Is Fixed-Price MVP Development?

Fixed-price MVP development means that a startup and development company agree on a defined product scope, delivery conditions, and price before the main development work begins.

Instead of purchasing developer hours, the startup is effectively purchasing an agreed outcome within an agreed scope.

A typical process starts with discovery or scoping. The agency identifies the core product requirements, user roles, workflows, integrations, and technical considerations. These requirements are converted into a written scope, and the agency commits to delivering that scope for an agreed amount.

For founders, this changes the commercial relationship significantly. The question moves from:

"How many development hours will this take?"

to:

"What product can you deliver for this price?"

That distinction is particularly important at the MVP stage, when startups usually need budget certainty and speed more than an open-ended development process.

## Fixed-Price MVP Development Companies Worth Considering in 2026

There are many software development companies offering fixed-price MVP services, and no single agency will be the right choice for every startup. The three companies below are our subjective selection of providers worth considering in 2026. They represent different price points and approaches to fixed-price development - from a standardized $10,000 MVP model to larger engagements designed around more complex product scopes.

### Asper Brothers

Fixed price: $10,000 Typical timeline: 4-6 weeks Model: One fixed-price MVP framework Best suited for: Early-stage founders looking for predictable MVP development

Asper Brothers offers a particularly straightforward fixed-price proposition: a $10,000 MVP with a typical delivery timeline of 4-6 weeks. The service is built around early-stage founders and covers the journey from initial product definition to a market-ready MVP. Founders do not need to arrive with a finished technical specification. The team helps shape the idea, identify the functionality that should make it into the first release, and then moves through UX/UI, frontend and backend development, and deployment. Asper Brothers also emphasizes scalable architecture and full IP ownership, so the product can continue evolving after the initial launch.

What makes the model notable from a fixed-price perspective is its simplicity. Instead of offering an hourly estimate or a wide pricing range, Asper Brothers structures the engagement around a clearly communicated $10,000 price and 4-6-week timeframe. This gives founders cost visibility early while still providing product support before development begins - an important distinction for startups that have identified the problem they want to solve but may still need help translating it into the right MVP scope.

### RaftLabs

Fixed price: $15,000-$35,000 for a Basic MVP Typical timeline: 6-14 weeks Model: Fixed-cost engagement with milestone payments Best suited for: Startups building more technically demanding or AI-enabled MVPs

RaftLabs takes a broader approach to fixed-price MVP development. Its published Basic MVP range is $15,000-$35,000, while Standard and AI-layered MVPs can range from $30,000 to $60,000. MVP engagements typically take 6-14 weeks, depending on scope. The Basic tier is intended for a focused product with one or two core features and a clearly defined assumption to test, while the higher tier can accommodate more functionality, AI capabilities, multiple platforms, or advanced integrations. RaftLabs also includes eight weeks of post-launch support with its MVP engagements.

Its commercial structure is a useful example of how fixed pricing can work for projects with greater technical complexity. After scoping, the startup receives a defined scope, timeline, and fixed cost rather than paying according to hours worked. RaftLabs states that the agreed price is locked in writing, while functionality added beyond the original scope is handled as a separately priced change request. Clients own the code, repository, and third-party service accounts, making the model suitable for startups that want budget predictability without limiting the engagement to relatively simple products.

### Kinetico Agency

Fixed price: $15,000-$50,000 Typical timeline: 6-12 weeks Model: Fixed price based on a written product scope Best suited for: Funded startups looking for integrated product design and engineering

Kinetico Agency offers a tiered fixed-price model aimed primarily at funded founders. Its published MVP pricing ranges from $15,000 to $50,000 over 6-12 weeks: Lean costs $15,000-$22,000 over six weeks, Standard $22,000-$35,000 over eight weeks, and Full $35,000-$50,000 over 10-12 weeks. The scope expands with each tier, from one user role and a core workflow at the Lean level to products involving multiple roles, billing, notifications, reporting, and several integrations at the Full level. Product design and engineering are handled by the same team, with production deployment, documentation, and handover included in the broader delivery process.

Kinetico's pricing methodology is particularly relevant to the fixed-price discussion because the company explicitly bases the final number on product scope rather than hours worked. Roles, screens, workflows, and integrations determine which pricing tier the product falls into. Following an initial scoping call, the company says it provides a written scope covering modules, screens, states, integrations, timeline, and price. This creates a more granular version of the fixed-price model and can work well for funded startups whose MVP requires a larger functional footprint but which still want the cost agreed before engineering begins.

## Why Fixed-Price MVP Development Can Work Well for Startups

The biggest advantage of fixed-price development is straightforward: budget predictability.

If a startup allocates $10,000, $25,000, or $50,000 to its first product, knowing the development cost before work begins makes financial planning considerably easier.

That matters because software development is rarely the startup's only expense. Founders may also need capital for marketing, sales, legal work, infrastructure, hiring, customer acquisition, and product development after launch.

A fixed-price contract makes it possible to reserve capital for those activities rather than maintaining a large contingency simply because development costs are uncertain.

### It encourages stronger MVP prioritization

Fixed pricing also forces both sides to define what the MVP actually needs.

With an open-ended development model, adding another dashboard, integration, user role, or workflow may initially appear to be a relatively small decision. Over time, dozens of those decisions can significantly increase development time and cost.

A fixed-price engagement requires more discipline.

The agency and founder need to determine which functionality belongs in version one and which features should be postponed. For an MVP, that constraint can be beneficial because the entire purpose of the product is to reach users and validate the most important assumptions without building the complete long-term vision upfront.

### It shifts part of the estimation risk to the agency

In a time-and-materials engagement, additional development hours are generally paid by the client.

With fixed pricing, the agency has more responsibility for accurately estimating the work required to deliver the agreed scope.

If a task within that scope takes longer than originally expected, that does not automatically mean the founder receives a larger invoice. This creates an incentive for the development company to understand the project carefully before committing to a price and to use an efficient delivery process afterward.

That does not mean fixed-price development eliminates all uncertainty. Changes to the agreed scope can still change the cost. The important distinction is that the original scope has a predictable commercial commitment.

## Fixed Price vs. Time and Materials

Time and materials (T&M) remains one of the most common models in software development.

Under this arrangement, the client pays for the time used by developers, designers, project managers, QA engineers, and other specialists. A project may begin with an estimated budget, but the final cost depends on the actual amount of work performed.

This model provides considerable flexibility.

Requirements can change during development, new features can be introduced, priorities can move between sprints, and the team can continue working without renegotiating the entire project scope.

For mature products, long-running development programs, and projects where requirements are inherently difficult to predict, that flexibility can be valuable.

For an early-stage MVP, however, the same flexibility can create financial uncertainty.

A three-month estimate can become four months. A seemingly minor integration can require more work than expected. Product decisions made during development can add hours to the project.

With fixed pricing, the relationship works differently. The founder sacrifices some flexibility inside the agreed scope in exchange for greater certainty about the cost and expected deliverable.

Neither model is universally better. They solve different problems.

Time and materials optimizes for flexibility. Fixed price optimizes for predictability.

For many early-stage startups, predictability can be particularly valuable during the first product release.

## Fixed Price vs. Dedicated Development Team

A dedicated-team model sits even further toward the flexibility end of the spectrum.

Instead of purchasing a particular product outcome, a startup effectively hires an external team for a period of time. The team may consist of developers, designers, QA specialists, and other roles and usually works continuously on the startup’s product.

This can be an excellent model once a company has an established roadmap and enough ongoing development work to keep the team productive.

It is less naturally suited to founders who primarily need one clearly defined first release.

A startup may not yet know whether it needs five developers for six months. What it often knows is that it needs a specific first product in the hands of users within a specific budget.

That is precisely the situation where fixed-price MVP development can be attractive.

The founder purchases the first product rather than committing to maintaining development capacity for an extended period.

## Fixed Price vs. Hiring Freelancers

Freelancers can offer another cost-effective route to building an MVP, particularly when a founder already has strong technical or product-management capabilities.

The challenge is that the founder often becomes responsible for assembling and coordinating the delivery process.

A product may require UX/UI design, frontend development, backend development, infrastructure, QA, and deployment. If those responsibilities are split across several independent specialists, someone needs to manage priorities, dependencies, communication, and final integration.

A fixed-price MVP agency typically packages those responsibilities into a single engagement.

That can make the headline cost higher than hiring an individual freelancer, but the comparison is not necessarily equivalent. The agency is selling not only engineering time but also the process required to move from scope to a completed product.

For a non-technical founder in particular, having one party accountable for the complete agreed scope can be an important advantage.

## The Main Advantages of Fixed-Price MVP Development

### 1. A known development budget

The most obvious benefit is knowing the price before committing to the build. This allows founders to plan runway and allocate the remaining capital elsewhere.

### 2. Clearer scope

A fixed price requires a defined deliverable. That creates an incentive to identify the core workflows and avoid unnecessary features in the initial release.

### 3. Easier comparison between agencies

When agencies quote against a defined scope, founders can compare proposals based on the actual product being delivered rather than comparing hourly rates that may involve very different team structures and productivity levels.

### 4. Greater accountability for delivery

The agency commits to an outcome rather than simply providing development capacity. Its profitability therefore depends partly on estimating and executing the project efficiently.

### 5. Less exposure to development overruns

Unexpected complexity inside the agreed scope becomes primarily an estimation problem for the vendor rather than an automatic increase in billable hours for the startup.

### 6. Easier financial planning after launch

When the initial development cost is known, founders can plan more confidently for marketing, infrastructure, customer acquisition, fundraising, and subsequent product iterations.

## What Should a Good Fixed-Price MVP Proposal Include?

A fixed number on its own is not enough.

Before signing an agreement, founders should understand exactly what the price covers.

A strong proposal should define the core functionality being delivered, relevant user roles and workflows, platforms, important integrations, design responsibilities, development responsibilities, deployment, and the expected timeline.

It should also clarify ownership.

Ideally, founders should know who owns the source code, design files, repository, infrastructure accounts, third-party services, and intellectual property once the product is delivered.

The proposal should also explain what happens when scope changes.

For example, RaftLabs explicitly states that its scoped MVP price is locked in writing and that additional scope becomes a separately priced change request. Kinetico similarly defines modules, screens, states, integrations, weeks, and price in its written scope before work begins.

That level of clarity is what makes fixed pricing useful. Without a clear scope behind the number, "fixed price" can become little more than a marketing phrase.

## When Does Fixed-Price MVP Development Make the Most Sense?

Fixed-price development tends to work particularly well when a startup:

- has a defined development budget;
- needs to launch a first version within a specific timeframe;
- can identify the primary problem and target user;
- is willing to prioritize the most important functionality for version one;
- wants one development partner responsible for the complete agreed scope;
- values cost predictability more than unlimited flexibility during development.

It can also work when the initial idea is not yet translated into technical requirements, provided the agency includes a discovery or scoping process before committing to the build.

Asper Brothers, for example, prepares an MVP Blueprint covering the product concept, core launch features, initial user flow, and technical setup before the proposal is finalized. Kinetico similarly uses a scoping process before issuing its written scope and fixed price.

That is an important distinction: fixed price does not necessarily mean the founder needs to arrive with a finished specification.

It means enough product definition needs to happen before the development commitment is finalized.

## Final Thoughts

Fixed-price MVP development addresses one of the biggest concerns early-stage founders have when outsourcing software development: uncertainty about the final cost.

By agreeing on scope, price, and expected delivery before the main build begins, startups can make product development a more predictable investment. The model also encourages feature prioritization, creates clearer accountability, and allows founders to plan the rest of their runway with greater confidence.

The three companies highlighted here demonstrate that fixed-price development can work at different levels of product complexity. Asper Brothers offers a $10,000, 4-6-week framework aimed at helping early-stage founders move from an initial idea to a market-ready MVP. RaftLabs provides fixed-cost, milestone-based development starting at $15,000 for Basic MVPs and extending into more technically demanding and AI-enabled products. Kinetico Agency uses scope-based fixed pricing from $15,000 to $50,000 for funded startups requiring integrated product design and engineering.

There are many other capable fixed-price MVP development companies on the market, and this selection is intentionally subjective rather than exhaustive. What matters most is not the name at the top of a ranking, but whether the agency can clearly explain what it will build, how much it will cost, when it will be delivered, and what happens if the scope changes.

For startups that value those answers before development begins, fixed-price MVP development can be a compelling alternative to paying for an open-ended number of engineering hours.

## References

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