

# CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS

## IVADO R3AI Research Cluster on Supply Chains and Mobility Systems

### Context

Target group and fields supported:

- Type of program: funding for **postdoctoral-fellow support** in a research team;
- Type of research: Fundamental or applied.

This call for proposals aims at supporting research projects in the areas delineated in the [R3AI Research Cluster Program](#) R9 on Supply Chains and Mobility Systems. The main research objectives of this cluster are to integrate and improve modern optimization and machine learning methods to improve the efficiency and resilience of supply chains and mobility systems, while reducing their environmental footprint. More specifically, the cluster's research program is organized around five main axes that are further explained in the proposal ([R9 Supply Chains and Mobility Systems 2024-2026](#)).

- **Axis 1: Complex uncertainty quantification**
- Axis 2: Integrating prediction and optimization
- **Axis 3: Accelerating the solution of multi-stage stochastic decision problems**
- Axis 4: Developing decision-aware end-to-end optimization
- **Axis 5: Integrating endogeneity in decision models**

The research supported by this call must be collaborative and multidisciplinary, i.e., combining methodological approaches from machine learning and operations research with applications in supply chain and mobility systems. While projects are expected to contribute in an important way to the overall program, **contributions to axes 1, 3, and 5 will be prioritized.**

## Calendar

- Opening of the competition: September 19, 2025.
- Application deadline: October 31st, 2025, 11:59 p.m. EST.
- Expected results notification date: November 21st, 2025.
- Funding start date: As soon as possible. Funds must be used by September 30, 2026.

## Conditions of funding, eligible costs and funds available

Generally speaking, the [Tri-Agency Financial Administration Guide](#) and the [Canada First / Apogée program](#) rules will serve as guides for the program.

Funding of up to \$40,000 will be awarded to each selected project in order to provide partial support for one postdoctoral fellow for a year (\$40,000 per year). Funds should be used by September 30th, 2026. A renewal will depend on the administration of the second term of the cluster.

## Eligibility criteria

- The principal investigator (PI) must be a faculty member at Université de Montréal, Polytechnique Montréal, HEC Montréal, McGill University, or Université Laval;
- The PI may not submit more than one application for this competition.

## Submitting an application

The application must be submitted by the principal investigator and the package must include:

- The [application form](#);
- A description of the research project submitted as a separate PDF file, maximum two pages (excluding references), Times New Roman font, size 12, PI name in the left corner in the header. The description must include information that allows to assess the proposal against the evaluation criteria (see section below), including objectives, how they align with the cluster's research program, and anticipated impact;
- The list of references (maximum one page);
- The CV of the PI in free format (the NSERC Canadian Common CV is suggested as a template);
- The CV of the proposed postdoctoral fellow (optional but strongly recommended).

The application file containing all documents must be sent to the R9 research advisor: **Danielle Maia de Souza**, [danielle.maia.de.souza@ivado.ca](mailto:danielle.maia.de.souza@ivado.ca).

## Evaluation of applications

### Administrative screening

Proposals will go through an administrative screening, with applications rejected if:

- The application form is incomplete;
- The description of the research project exceeds the maximum number of pages;
- They are not submitted by an eligible professor;
- The same PI has submitted multiple applications.

### Evaluation criteria

Projects will be evaluated based in equal parts on (i) the research project and (ii) the team and individuals. Note that, according to Canada First / Apogée program requirements, 10% of the budget is reserved for PIs that are early-career researchers<sup>1</sup>.

#### Research project

- Alignment with the cluster's research program;
- Significance of the expected impacts, research excellence, originality;
- Feasibility of the project, and appropriateness of the methodology;
- Clarity of the proposal;
- Efforts made to consider EDI aspects in research project;
- Integration with other projects funded by this cluster.

#### Team and individuals

- Excellence of the researchers involved in the application, according to their degree of career advancement;
- Excellence of the identified postdoctoral fellow (a strong advantage will be given to applications where the individual is already identified);
- Multidisciplinarity of the team;
- Efforts made to consider EDI aspects in the team composition and the research environment provided.

### Selection process

- Carefully considering the evaluation criteria and the complementarity of the submitted proposals, the final selection of the projects will be made by the coleaders of the R<sup>3</sup>AI Cluster 9 on Supply Chains and Mobility Systems (Yossiri Adulyasak, Jean-François Cordeau, Erick Delage, and Emma Frejinger).

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<sup>1</sup> A maximum of 5 years of experience as a professor.

## Commitment

The PI commits to being an active member of the cluster (e.g., by participating in organized activities) and submitting, within the communicated deadlines, a final report including the following:

- Summary of the project;
- List of publications;
- List of participations in events;
- New funding obtained or applied for on the basis of the work carried out during the project.