

Call for Interest: Mentoring RISE :

I) Context :

The CNRS RISE mentoring program, led by CNRS Innovation, aims to support deeptech start-up projects that intend to exploit the technologies developed in the 1,000 CNRS laboratories, from the idea to the structuring of the project, including creation, and up to the first phases of financing.

Open to all start-up projects and to young start-ups, the RISE program allows the project leaders to benefit from the expertise and network of CNRS Innovation, and to profit from effective upstream support to help their project emerge under optimal conditions.

In addition to a dedicated team of experts who provide tailored support, CNRS Innovation offers these innovative start-ups the help of mentors who assist them in 4 major areas: awareness, training, structuring, and networking.

Mentoring is understood here as voluntary assistance provided by the mentor to the mentee, aimed at meeting his or her personal and professional objectives. This relationship of support, exchange and learning is therefore above all a relationship based on mutual sharing.

Through this call for interest, CNRS Innovation wishes to strengthen this mentoring programme by building up a database of mentors, the most qualified and competent, whether they are technical or more business-oriented mentors. This program will strengthen the support available to the promising start-ups accompanied by RISE.

II) Objectives of the programme :

The mentoring programme set up by CNRS Innovation aims to respond to the needs formulated by our entrepreneurs and to the deficiencies that many start-ups often suffer from. In this sense, it pursues several objectives:

- To enable the sharing of knowledge, skills and experience between the mentor and the mentee
- To allow the mentee to benefit from the mentor's network.
- To "break" the frequent isolation of the project leader by providing him or her with an outside and enlightened view of his or her strategy.
- To increase the mentee's managerial skills and thus strengthen the survival rate of the start-up.

III) Profiles sought :

CNRS Innovation wishes to offer its entrepreneurs the most qualified and relevant mentors possible. This call for expressions of interest is therefore addressed to all the following profiles:

- Experienced entrepreneur, manager or executive, strategy consultant with at least 10 years of experience in executive functions, and having successfully passed through the different growth capes of a company in one of the fields in which start-ups supported by CNRS Innovation evolve (food industry, communication, cosmetics, data, medical diagnostics, education & entertainment, energy, environment, fintech, industry and production, IA, market place, medtech, mobility, human and social sciences, transport).

CNRS Innovation is looking for motivated and attentive mentors who wish to share their knowledge and contribute to the growth of promising young profiles. Participating in this real "human adventure" will give the mentor the satisfaction of contributing to the personal and professional development of the mentee. It is a privileged opportunity to continue learning and discovering, to take a step back from one's own professional situation by discovering new business models, new technologies and new strategies. This program also allows the mentor to enrich his or her contact network by evolving in new, innovative and dynamic ecosystems. Finally, it is an opportunity to embark on a new entrepreneurial adventure, with the possibility, if the supported project succeeds, of joining it, within the advisory board, for instance...

IV) Application procedure / Commitments :

The selected mentors commit to :

- Support the mentees by sharing their experiences, expertise and contacts on a voluntary basis in order to contribute to the development of the project team.

- Interact regularly with CNRS Innovation's startup managers to enable the most accurate possible follow-up of the start-ups being mentored.

- Jointly define the mentee's needs and commit to meet with him/her on a regular basis (at least once a quarter). These interviews may, with the agreement of the parties, be spaced out or grouped together, dematerialized or face-to-face.

To join the mentoring program set up by CNRS Innovation, mentors wishing to join the adventure must complete the following online questionnaire:

V) Agenda:

September 7 – September 27, 2020 : Call for application

November 5, 2020 : Announcement of the winners