IVADO LABS

Press Release

$51M in AI investments for 43 projects funded by IVADO Labs as part of its AI adoption support program

Montreal, December 9, 2021 - Since 2019, IVADO Labs' Artificial Intelligence Adoption Program, INVEST-AI has selected and supported the realization of 43 AI projects, totaling $51M in investments, including $18M in funding provided by IVADO Labs.

Pierre Fitzgibbon, Minister of the Economy and Innovation and Minister responsible for Regional Economic Development, said: "Our government is convinced that Quebec's prosperity depends on supporting businesses that are committed to innovation. With IVADO Labs' co-financing program, we are supporting the adoption of artificial intelligence by SMEs throughout Quebec and consolidating our position as a leader in this sector."

Founder and Executive President of IVADO Labs, Ms. **Hélène Desmarais**, said: "By contributing to the completion of concrete and transformative projects for businesses, this co-investment program facilitates technology transfer in AI and accelerates the development of new expertise. By offering technical and financial support to SMEs that are ready to make the leap to AI throughout Quebec, we are lowering the risks and accelerating access to all the advantages offered by AI in terms of productivity and competitiveness, for a remarkable return on investment.

Projects that demonstrate the diversity of AI applications

The new projects selected by the IVADO Labs investment program demonstrate the diversity of applications offered by artificial intelligence within companies that are as innovative as they are varied. From AI-assisted retinal imaging analysis at Iris, to quality assurance automation at Polycor, to automated sorting of recyclable materials at Machinex, the integration of AI into operations is enabling new heights in a multitude of industries.

The list of projects is presented in the appendix.

Funded by the Quebec Ministry of Economy and Innovation, IVADO Labs' INVEST-AI co-investment program offers qualifying companies a reimbursement of up to 50% of the eligible expenses paid by the company for the implementation of an applied artificial intelligence project. The program can also help strengthen the business and technology aspects of the project, including technical reviews or business networking with AI firms that may be involved in the implementation of the project. For more information, visit ivadolabs.com/invest-ai

About IVADO Labs (ivadolabs.com)

IVADO Labs acts as an investment and consultant AI firm that accelerates the rapid adoption and integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and contributes to the development of a world-class Québec AI ecosystem. Based in Montreal, funded by the Québec government, IVADO Labs has developed programs aimed at supporting investment projects of companies that implement real-world applications in AI, the emergence of future Québec flagships in the sector, as well as the development of a skilled workforce.

– 30 –

Source : IVADO Labs
Information : Laura-Michelle Marcogliese, lmarcogliese@national.ca | 514-515-0115

Projects selected by the IVADO Labs investment program

Year 2021-2022 – 7 projects

Optimization of the fiber production process **Kruger Inc**. (Montérégie) AI suppliers: Vooban Project value: $2,7M Contribution: $750K	Kruger aims to improve the fiber strength consistency by developing new approaches to reduce the negative impact on inconsistent recycled fiber quality caused by the variability of the fiber at the beginning of the process and understand how we can act effectively to optimize output. This project will focus on implementing advanced predictive & prescriptive analytics supported by Machine Learning.
Development of hardwood optimization processes based on artificial intelligence with deep learning **J.M. Champeau Inc.** (Eastern Townships) AI suppliers: Bid Group Project value: $2,7M Contribution: $500K	The project consists in the implementation of optimizers allowing to identify visual and geometrical defects and and geometric defects and to process the images generated by them with AI by deep learning on the production lines of first and second transformation of wood in its raw state.
Machine learning driven electronic media detection solution **Voti Inc.** (Montreal) AI suppliers: Data Performers Project value: $913K Contribution: $400K	The project consists in developing an algorithm that will be able to detect and alert the X-ray scanner operator to the potential presence of electronic devices (e.g. SD cards, USB) that could compromise data security.
Modernization of the Enviro-Connection Recovery (ECR) center **Enviro Connexion.** (Montreal) AI suppliers: Waste Robotics Project value: $1M Contribution: $350K	The project consists of upgrading and automating our REC sorting center with intelligent robots to allow for greater operational flexibility and an increase in the volume, capture rate and quality of outgoing materials.
Intelligent automation of the scripting process for voice messages **Compro Communications.** (Capitale-Nationale) Project value: $346K Contribution: $145K	The project aims to reduce the pressure on writers and support the improvement of written texts by automating the script writing process through natural language processing, from the collection of production ideas to the automatic generation of scripts, thus minimizing production costs.
Prediction of infrastructure usage for maintenance optimization **P.E.A.C.E. plus maintenance inc.** (Montreal) AI suppliers: Data Performers Project value: $260K Contribution: $100K	The aim of the project is to use alternative data to forecast facilities usage inside a public infrastructure to adapt maintenance scheduling in order to improve service levels while using less resources.
A self-learning solution that targets the best candidates **Emplois Compétences** (Eastern Townships) AI suppliers: Airudi Project value: $249K Contribution: $95K	The project aims to gain efficiency through autonomous sourcing. Concretely, the algorithms developed will identify and then analyze thousands of CVs contained in databases and to rank candidates for a given job description using AI.

Projects selected by the IVADO Labs investment program

Year 2020-2021 – 27 projects

Integration of artificial intelligence in optical sorters **Machinex Inc (**Centre-du-Québec) AI suppliers: Updata, INO Project value: $2,6M Contribution: $1M	This project consists of integrating deep learning into the automated sorting of a stream of recyclable materials to optimize the process.
Dynamic scheduling of finishing operations and automation of dryers using artificial intelligence **Boa-Franc SENC** (Chaudière-Appalaches) AI suppliers: Vooban Project value: $2,2M Contribution: $1M	The company is targeting dynamic scheduling of finishing operations. This will be followed by Dryer Automation, which will focus on the automation of drying decisions and the dynamic scheduling of drying activities.
Self-programming of robots for surface treatments on landing gear parts **Héroux-Devtek** (Montérégie) AI suppliers: Omnirobotic Project value: $2,5M Contribution: $800K	The project aims to use industrial robots for complex surface treatment processes without manual or off-line programming, or even the use of part location templates. Automatic optimization by AI should exceed the performance of a human-generated program.
Optimization of the logistics network mileage **Cascades Canada ULC** (Centre-du-Québec) AI suppliers: IVADO Labs Project value: $2,3M Contribution: $1M	In order to minimize the company's ecological footprint, Cascades use AI algorithms to evaluate millions of trips lasting 1 to 5 days. To solution developed in partnership with IVADO Labs allows Cascades to identify optimal routes that minimize empty mileage while respecting Cascades contractual commitments and the regulatory framework.
Sales price prediction **Krops Imports Inc**. (Montreal) AI suppliers: Moov.AI Project value: $1,9M Contribution: $730K	The project consists of a series of insights generated via predictive models to dynamically estimate the selling price by analyzing several complex variables so that the Krōps Group's sales departments can know the trends in the Canadian fresh fruit and vegetable market.
AI Lift Model **WAVO.ME inc.** (Montreal) Project value: $1,5M Contribution: $700K	The model quantifies the impact of Wavo ads through machine learning techniques. Specifically developed to meet the needs of the music industry, it indicates sales performance and supports marketing efforts.
AI assisted analysis of retinal imaging **IRIS Le Groupe Visuel** (Laval) AI suppliers: Diagnos Project value: $2,3M Contribution: $675K	The project is for the development, deployment and enhancement of AI assisted screening for vascular changes in the retina using retinal fundus photography and Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT). The use of these diagnostic instruments and software will allow optometry clinics to screen for various retinopathies with the goal of early detection.
Artificial intelligence for quality journalism **La Presse (2018) inc**. (Montreal) Project value: $1,6M Contribution: $553K	The six AI-based initiatives will point to sales, ad placement sales, readership lifecycle study, front page recommendations and automatic news generation to enable quality journalism.

Manufacturing tasks powered by predictive and prescriptive models **APN Inc**. (Capitale-Nationale) Project value: $1,5M Contribution: $529K	The solution aims to maximize product compliance by optimizing the use of human and machine resources. It will provide greater flexibility via AI-powered predictive and prescriptive models based on the temporal layout of tasks.
Platform for integrity assessment of large infrastructures and facilities **Torngats Technical Services** (Capitale-Nationale) AI suppliers: INO Project value: $1,6M Contribution: $500K	The project aims to automate the interpretation of data collected by visual imaging of large-scale infrastructures, in order to meet the challenges of the 4.0 Industrial Revolution.
Detection of unauthorized defects in a potato and sorting at the conveyor by robots **Patates Dolbec inc.** (Capitale-Nationale) AI suppliers: Vooban Project value: $883K Contribution: $442K	Thanks to a vision algorithm based on neural networks and the installation of sensors, Patates Dolbec detects unauthorized defects on the production line.
Personal Assistant for people living with a visual impairment **Technologies Humanware** (Centre-du-Québec) AI suppliers: Nu Echo Project value: $812K Contribution: $400K	The project aims to develop a personal assistant that will allow visually impaired people to recognize objects handled in everyday life, detect objects of interest and converse in natural language with a conversational agent in order to grasp the main characteristics of nearby objects.
Slab AI **Polycor Inc.** (Capitale-Nationale) AI suppliers: Extend AI Project value: $780K Contribution: $340K	The solution consists of automating the product quality assurance and raw material optimization function by integrating artificial intelligence into the organization's processes.
Supply chain and logistics optimization with artificial intelligence **RPM Eco** (Laurentides) AI suppliers: Simwell, Osedea, AI3 conseil Project value: $1,1M Contribution: $332K	The objective is to optimize the performance and environmental footprint of operations by predicting customer recyclable accumulations by market segment in order to plan optimal collection routes.
Demand forecast for the meat and fruit & vegetable departments **Métro Inc.** (Montreal) AI suppliers: Moov. AI Project value: $1M Contribution: $330K	The project aims to make store purchasing and processing operations more efficient for the meat and produce departments by forecasting demand and automating orders. The forecasts will improve labor planning and replenishment processes.
Candidate identification tool for generating unsupervised AI matches **Placements AEM inc. — Radar Chasseurs De Talent** (Laurentides) AI suppliers: Stent io Project value: $791K Contribution: $300K	The project is based on the implementation of natural language analysis and classification analysis algorithms that link recruiters to the most interesting prospects for the roles they are trying to fill, in a professional and executive recruitment context.
Inferring dynamic hyperlinks within architectural blueprints **Construction virtuelle et Technologie Bimone Inc.** (Capitale-Nationale) AI suppliers: Data Performers Project value: $665K Contribution: $270K	The objective of this project is to develop a navigation tool for BIM experts to make their work more efficient and to generate a higher return on investment.

Development of a chatbot with an avatar (PAM) and based on a correlation algorithm **NOVO SST** (Capitale-Nationale) Project value: $570K Contribution: $265K	AI makes it possible to develop conversational machines that, by linking risks to prevention plan measures, make it possible to propose a recommendation to the employee to ensure safety at work.
AI enhanced process automation for aviation components manufacturing and inspection **General Electric Canada** (Eastern Townships) Project value: $781K Contribution: $260K	In the context of this program GE Aviation will perform one step towards cognitive robotics in the aviation manufacturing environment. Robotic systems, embedding deep learning and reinforcement learning algorithms will address classification, detection and motion planning challenges posed by the industrial manufacturing setting.
Optimization of the quality control of the shavings **Tourbière Ouellet et Fils inc.** (Bas-Saint-Laurent) AI suppliers: Vooban Project value: $560K Contribution: $250K	The objective of this project is to use AI to control the feeding of the bags in order to have a constant volume inside them, limiting human intervention to a minimum and controlling the quality of the shavings.
Automatic 10-min Cardiac Magnetic Resonance scan & analysis **Circle Cardiovascular Imaging** (Montreal) Project value: $3,5M Contribution: $214K	This project aims to accelerate the Cardiac Magnetic Resonance workflow by developing integrated and automated AI tools for reconstruction, enhancement, quality control, segmentation, and clinical metric extraction of novel ultrafast scanning protocols.
Enhancement of our automated AI inspection systems **AV&R** (Montérégie) AI suppliers: Bolero AI Project value: $576K Contribution: $200K	AV&R is active in the aeronautics industry where part inspection is critical to aircraft safety. To reduce human intervention, AV&R wants to improve its detection performance, reduce the time to create recipes and automate the validation of recipes by using artificial intelligence.
Assisted routing of translation projects via artificial intelligence **TRSB** (Montreal) AI suppliers: Groupe NEOS Project value: $560K Contribution: $195K	The project aims to develop a tool to automate the process of analysis and allocation of translation requests. An NLP analysis algorithm, coupled with a series of predictive models, will provide the necessary estimates for the allocation of the project to the most appropriate resource.
Area prediction allowing the optimum filling speed of our apartments for rent **EMD Batimo** (Laurentides) AI suppliers: Data Science Institute Project value: $390K Contribution: $195K	Using AI, EMD Batimo lists its units according to their availability and rental value, in order to obtain optimal benefits and maximize its occupancy rate.
Optimization of the diaper recycling process using a SCADA system and artificial intelligence **RECYC php Inc**. (Centre-du-Québec) AI suppliers: Data Performers Project value: $305K Contribution: $152K	Implementation of a SCADA system and optimization of the diaper recycling process by continuous artificial intelligence analysis in order to improve production consistency and product quality, increasing by at least 20% the quantity of treated rejects.
Automation of administrative processes specialized in aeronautics **Produits intégrés Avior inc.** (Laval) Project value: $292K Contribution: $130K	The goal of the project is to automate data entry into the company's ERP system in order to improve efficiency in managing compliance with aerospace standards

Cinematic Segmentation for Virtual Reality Production **Felix & Paul Studios Inc.** (Montreal) Project value: $240K Contribution: $85K	Felix & Paul Virtual Reality Experience Studios uses AI processes to rotoscope images, reducing the repetitive and costly work that this technical process requires.

Projects selected by the IVADO Labs investment program

Year 2019-2020 – 9 projects

Complis-IA program **Vidéotron** (Montreal) Project value: $3,5M Contribution: $1M	The ComplisIA program aims to equip Videotron's Customer Experience Management with an Artificial Intelligence capable of minimizing operational frictions and increasing the desirability of its services.
Inventory management and procurement platform optimisation **Celliers Intelligents** (Capitale-Nationale) AI suppliers: Levio Project value: $2,6M Contribution: $1M	Through the commercial development of Celliers Intelligents, restaurateurs will be able to acquire accurate predictive provisions that will save them the time required to manage the wine inventory of their business.
Medical evaluation of a patients via a dialogue system **Dialogue inc.** (Montreal) AI suppliers: MILA Project value: $2,2M Contribution: $946K	The objective of the project is to automate the process of medical evaluation and patient triage via a dialogue system (chatbot) while improving medical quality and patient experience. The system would enhance Dialogue's virtual care service.
Improved discoverability and content recommendations in Stingray applications **Stingray Group Inc.** (Montreal) Project value: $1,3M Contribution: $500K	The goal is to improve the content discovery of Stingray Music applications by providing the user with better content recommendations through personalization.
Providing factor-based investment model to help investors better forecast returns **Inovestor Inc. (**Montreal) AI suppliers: Quantolio Project value: $798K Contribution: $395K	The project solves the most important problems for Inovestor: those related to the collection of data that prevent from maximizing its use and, ultimately, to revalue it to develop customized products for its customers. Identification of candidates by AI
LexRockAI — Insurance **Irosoft Inc.** (Montreal) Project value: $385K Contribution: $168K	With the collaboration of partners/clients from the insurance industry, the project aims to develop a platform that can be used in real-life situations and that can be used worldwide. Eventually, it will allow insurers and intermediaries to analyze group insurance contracts more finely and thus improve their productivity, speed and profitability.
Open platform to facilitate drug discovery research in both academic and industry settings **Invivo AI** (Montreal) Project value: 211K Contribution:105K	The objective of the project is to enable scientists to discover molecules that could be effective against diseases, in a fully automated way, in order to save time and money in drug research and contribute to the well-being of the population.

Predicting life expectancy **Alternative Capital Group Inc.** (Montreal) AI suppliers: Moov. AI Project value: $137K Contribution: $66K	The project consists of developing a solution producing better life expectancy reports than existing third-party providers. Such a solution will improve the overall underwriting process in terms of efficiency, time, and accuracy, resulting in better investment decisions.
Hand pose estimation and tracking for extended reality **Collabora (Canada) inc.** (Montreal) Project value: $109K Contribution: $55K	The project aims to develop a process for tracking hand movements using artificial intelligence. Ultimately, it will pave the way for innovation in the field of extended reality, i.e. the experience of environments where reality and the virtual are one.