

Port Innovation Challenge

International Edition 2025

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CHALLENGE OBJECTIVES

The Port of Québec and Cycle Momentum are joining forces to support the demonstration and deployment of climate technology innovations by offering a unique experimentation framework that contributes to the vitality of the ecosystem. Supported by a \$60,000 grant, this call for projects aims to identify innovative technological solutions from around the world to carry out pilot projects within the Port of Québec.



Pierre-Luc Gosselin

Director of Business Intelligence, Port of Québec

"Positioning the Port as a driver of innovation means creating a space where ideas come to life and accelerate, where collaborations become concrete levers of economic development, and where value is created. By partnering with ecosystem actors such as Cycle, we open the Port to new innovation networks. These collaborations allow us to welcome concrete projects on our territory, support participating companies, and maximize their chances of success. With Cycle, we broaden our horizons and advance our shared mission to innovate differently."



Patrick Gagné

CEO, Cycle Momentum

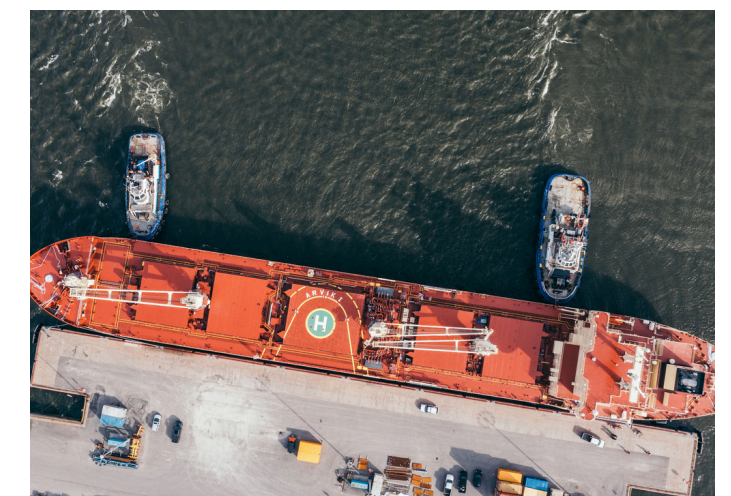
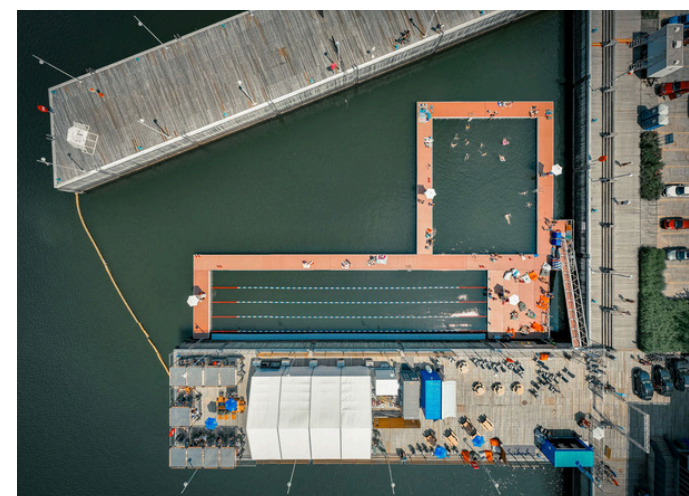
"For an innovative company, the ability to demonstrate its solution in real-world conditions is a decisive lever — it helps strengthen credibility and accelerate scaling. With the Port of Québec, we aim to foster this crucial stage of the innovation journey and support the commercialization of high-potential technologies for Canada."

OFFER INNOVATORS A UNIQUE TESTING GROUND IN THE HEART OF THE PORT OF QUÉBEC

The Port of Québec is reinforcing its role as a driver of economic development by supporting technological innovation and the experimentation of tangible solutions. In line with its Vision 2035, the Port is making its territory, infrastructure, and data available to enable companies to test and validate their technologies in a real port environment.

This international call for projects targets advanced technologies ($TRL \geq 6$). It aims to promote their experimentation within the Port and potentially their deployment in other Canadian industrial environments, thus contributing to innovation and the country's economic development.

The targeted solutions may address a wide range of priorities: environmental performance and water quality, sustainable waste and materials management, biodiversity and ecological integration, decarbonization and energy efficiency, intelligent logistics, and flow optimization.



TYPES OF SOLUTIONS SOUGHT

TYPES OF SOLUTIONS EXPECTED

This call for projects seeks to identify the best available technological solutions worldwide to develop pilot projects within the Port of Québec — testing, validating, and deploying high-impact solutions in a real and complex port context, such as:

- **Sediment and contaminated soil management:** reducing the costs and environmental footprint of dredging; promoting local valorization of sediments (construction materials, backfill, ecological uses).
- **Environmental monitoring and water quality:** moving toward continuous and intelligent monitoring of water discharged into the river; improving regulatory compliance and responsiveness in case of anomalies.
- **Soil and groundwater contamination monitoring:** understanding groundwater dynamics and anticipating pollutant dispersion; automating measurement and modeling to identify long-term trends.
- **Stormwater management: preventing contamination:** optimizing collection and treatment.
- **Water quality in the marina and internal basins:** improving water quality and automating maintenance.
- **Energy performance and decarbonization:** reducing emissions and increasing energy efficiency for the Port and vessels; exploring new local energy loops.
- **Intelligent logistics and flow efficiency:** improving planning and operational traceability.
- **Biodiversity and ecological integration:** strengthening the Port's integration within its natural environment.

WHO CAN APPLY?

PROFILE OF TARGET COMPANIES

(LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL)

- Startups, small, medium, or large companies with more than two (2) years of existence.
- The solution must have a technology readiness level (TRL) of 6 or higher, applicable to a real port environment.
- The company must be interested in participating in pilot projects with the Port of Québec.
- The company must have at least two employees.
- Spoken languages: French or English.
- The company must comply with industrial, environmental, and maritime safety requirements.
- The company must be able to share performance data and integrate with the Port's digital ecosystem.

APPLY NOW

SELECTION PROCESS

NEXT STEPS

1. Pre-selection based on applications

An initial selection will be made upon receipt of applications. These will be analyzed according to the evaluation criteria indicated (page 7). You will receive confirmation of your pre-selection around February 2, 2026.

2. Interviews with pre-selected candidates

During the week of February 2, we will organize an interview to learn more about you, your team, and your company, as well as the product or service you offer, your market, the competitive landscape, and your interest in the program.

3. Presentation before a jury

Pre-selected candidates will be invited to make a remote presentation of about 10 minutes, followed by a Q&A session on February 5 or 6. The jury will consist of representatives from the Port of Québec, Cycle Momentum, and external experts selected according to the technology category and relevant industry sector.

4. Final selection

Candidates selected for the final presentation will be invited to give another presentation focused on specific questions shared in advance.

5. Pilot project selection

Finalist companies will receive targeted support to assess their ability to carry out a pilot project within the Port of Québec.

KEY DATES

SELECTION PERIOD: NOVEMBER 24, 2025 – FEBRUARY 26, 2026



**NOVEMBER 24
TO JANUARY 19**

Call for
applications



**JANUARY 20
TO JANUARY 30**

Selection
process



**FEBRUARY
5-6**

Semi-final
interviews



**THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 26**

Final phase
interviews

WEEK OF MARCH 2 FINAL DECISION



PILOT PROJECT SELECTION AND LAUNCH

MARCH 9 TO END OF SEPTEMBER



MARCH & APRIL

Selection of
pilot projects



APRIL & MAY

Launch of pilot projects /
Experimentation phase

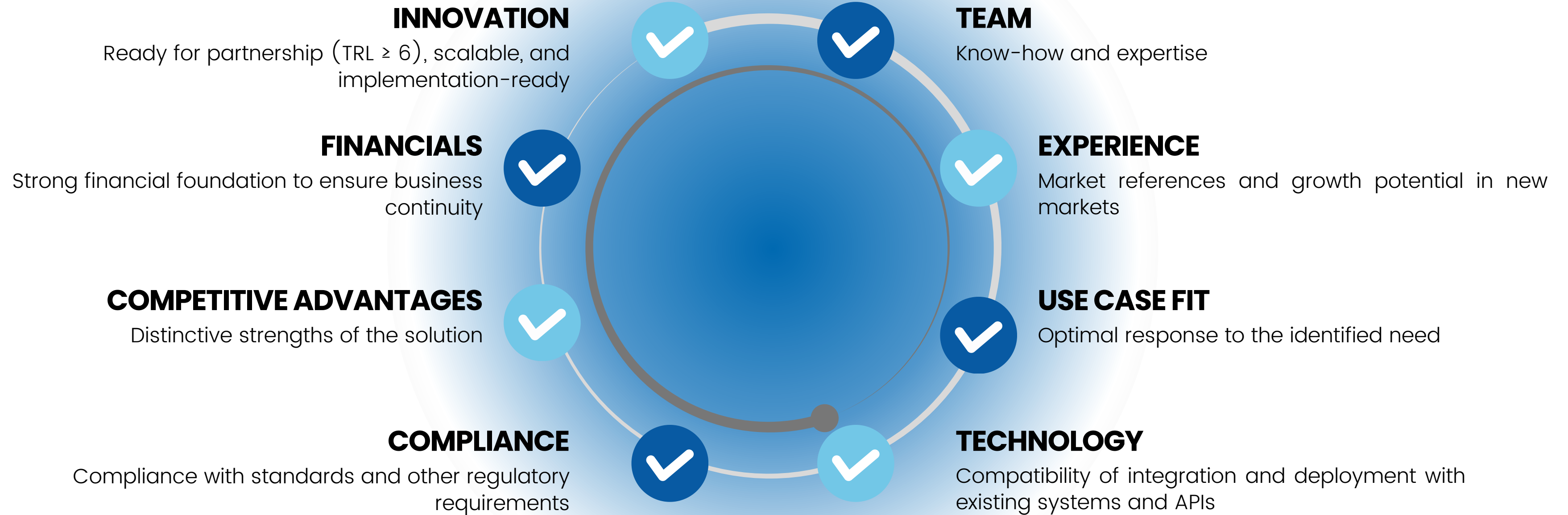
WHY APPLY TO THIS CHALLENGE?

- ▣ Visibility and access to a network of port partners within the Port of Québec territory.
- ▣ Access to a port environment to test, validate, and demonstrate your solution.
- ▣ Access to infrastructure, data, permits, and necessary HSE protocols.
- ▣ Access to a total grant of \$60,000, distributed among the three selected laureates to support the realization of pilot projects.
- ▣ Direct access to Port of Québec experts.
- ▣ Tailored support from Cycle Momentum experts.
- ▣ Increased visibility through a communication campaign on social media.
- ▣ Participation in the Port Innovation Day, gathering key stakeholders from the port environment.
- ▣ Opportunity to present your company and technology before a jury of experts.

APPLY NOW



SELECTION CRITERIAS



ABOUT THE PORT OF QUÉBEC

Strategically located 1,100 km from the Atlantic Ocean, near the Great Lakes market, the Port of Québec is the last deep-water port along the St. Lawrence corridor, with a water depth of 15 meters. This unique position enables Canadian companies to achieve significant economies of scale in their trade operations, both in imports and exports.

Connected with more than 40 partner countries, the Port of Québec and its collaborators handle an average of over 26 million tons of goods each year, representing a trade value of more than 15 billion dollars.

The Port is also recognized as the most important cruise port on the St. Lawrence and, together with Québec's maritime industry partners, generates 2 billion dollars in economic benefits while supporting approximately 12,000 jobs nationwide.

Ranked 4th among Canada's 17 port authorities in terms of revenue, the Québec Port Authority (QPA) stands out not only for its economic dynamism but also for its contribution to the urban and social fabric through the development of port spaces such as the Agora and the Oasis.

ABOUT CYCLE MOMENTUM

Cycle Momentum is an international acceleration and innovation platform whose mission since 2015 has been to identify and support the development of cutting-edge technologies to address the major ecological challenges facing humanity. A member of the Cycle Capital platform, Cycle Momentum offers acceleration and open innovation programs to support entrepreneurs' growth, financing, and the commercialization of climate technologies. We foster essential collaborations between industry leaders and startups to accelerate the market deployment of their solutions. We also provide investment opportunities through our Origo program and our extensive network of investors.

