

# **PRESS RELEASE**

**NSERC and Axelys join forces to build stronger bridges between federal research investments and the valorization of Québec's public research.**

**Montréal (Québec), November 19, 2025** — The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and Axelys today announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at accelerating the transformation of public research into concrete innovations that benefit Canadian society.

## **A strategic partnership between the federal government and Québec**

This agreement establishes a new and unprecedented collaboration framework between the two organizations. It is grounded in a shared vision: strengthening the link between public research and its potential application (innovation) by removing gaps and barriers along the valorization continuum, from early-stage research funding to technology maturation and transfer to market. These efforts will help maximize collective impact by increasing the complementarity and alignment of federal and Québec initiatives.

In this spirit, the approach is fully aligned with the mission and priorities of the Fonds de recherche du Québec (FRQ), which supports research and scientific excellence across the province. Together, these actors help strengthen the continuum between funding, research, valorization, and societal impact within an integrated public-innovation framework.

## **A strengthened continuum between research and societal impact**

This collaboration builds on the strengths of the Québec model, where the FRQ supports upstream research while Axelys works downstream to accelerate maturation, valorization, and the transfer of innovations emerging from public institutions.

By combining their respective expertise, federal research funding on one side, and technology transfer and valorization on the other, NSERC and Axelys join forces to break down the barriers between research and innovation. The goal is straightforward: ensure that discoveries emerging from laboratories translate more rapidly into sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits.

This partnership will also make it possible to better measure research outcomes, assess the innovation potential of NSERC-funded projects, mobilize key stakeholders from the earliest stages of research, and strengthen the culture of valorization across academic environments.

## **Toward a coordinated innovation approach in Canada**

This collaboration is part of a broader effort to enhance Canada's competitiveness and economic sovereignty by reducing fragmentation across research and innovation ecosystems. It reflects a shared

commitment to bringing research, industry, and society closer together, and to assessing the impact of science through its academic, economic, social, and environmental contributions.

## Quotes

*« National competitiveness, federal as much as provincial, depends on our ability to transform knowledge into innovative products and services that benefit businesses, organizations, and society. Aligning our policies and pooling our research programs means maximizing the return on public investments and strengthening our economic sovereignty. Valorization and innovation do not happen by chance: they result from a shared willingness to act, and a rigorous coordination of efforts dedicated to research, maturation, intellectual property management, and knowledge transfer to market and societal actors ». - **Jesse Vincent-Herscovici, President and CEO, Axelys***

“NSERC is proud to partner with Axelys to strengthen coordination between federal and provincial innovation eco-systems and to help ensure that our investments are working towards realizing Canada’s innovation potential. As a federal organization, part of our role is to connect world-class expertise with committed partners so discoveries can move from the lab into our economy and society. This collaboration will ensure that scientific excellence, especially the remarkable talent found in Quebec, translates into meaningful benefits for Canadians.” - **Professor Alejandro Adem, FRSC, President, NSERC**

*“Research is the essential starting point for any valorization process. To maximize its impact, we need not only strong partnerships, but also broad dissemination of results across all relevant sectors, including businesses and the public. We all share the same goal: fully recognizing the value of our research, distinguished by its excellence. The agreement between NSERC and Axelys, following the one concluded with the FRQ, demonstrates our shared commitment to showcasing discoveries made across Canada. Together, we go further—for the benefit of all.” - **Carole Jabet, Vice-President, Research, Health Sciences, Fonds de recherche du Québec***

## About Axelys

Axelys is Québec’s public research innovation and technology transfer organization. It contributes to the province’s economic and social prosperity by accelerating the maturation and deployment of high-potential inventions, expertise, and processes to transform them into innovations capable of improving the world we live in. Axelys also supports the creation of science-based startups emerging from Québec’s public research system.

## About NSERC

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada funds visionaries, explorers and innovators who are searching for the scientific and technical breakthroughs that will benefit our country. We are Canada’s largest supporter of discovery and innovation. We work with universities, colleges, businesses and not-for-profits to remove barriers, develop opportunities and attract new expertise to make Canada’s research community thrive. We give Canadian scientists and engineers the means to go further because we believe in research without borders and beyond frontiers.

## About FRQ

Reporting to the Minister of Economy, Innovation and Energy, the Fonds de recherche du Québec (FRQ) is responsible for ensuring the coherent and strategic development of Québec research and for providing financial support to researchers, training, partnerships, knowledge mobilization, and the promotion of

research and science in French. The FRQ operates across the natural sciences and engineering, health sciences, and social sciences, humanities, arts, and literature.

Source : Axelys

For more informations : [www.axelys.ca](http://www.axelys.ca)

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