



AI4SafeMines – Expanded Student FAQ

What is the AI4SafeMines competition?

AI4SafeMines is a student innovation competition focused on developing AI-powered solutions that improve mining safety, human well-being, hazard detection, equipment reliability, and training processes.

Who is eligible to participate?

Any student team (Team of 3) from any academic institution may apply. Interdisciplinary teams are welcome. As this is an international competition, all students worldwide are invited to participate. High school students are eligible to enter as well.

What are the main deadlines?

EOI due Feb 26, 2026; Top 10 announced Mar 10, 2026; Preliminary pitch to select Top 3 Mar 31, 2026; Prototype development by Top 3 - April to September, 2026; Final pitch by Top 3 Sept 24, 2026.

Do we need a working prototype for the EOI?

No. The EOI focuses on your concept, development plan, and adoption pathway.

Can teams participate remotely?

Yes. Teams outside Saskatoon may deliver the March preliminary pitch remotely.

What must be included in the EOI?

Team details, problem statement, AI solution, development plan, adoption pathway, and expected impacts. See Expression of interest form [AI4SafeMines-Expression-of-Interest.docx](#)

How do we submit the EOI?

Email the proposal to AI4SafeMines@imii.ca.

What challenge categories can we choose from?

Environmental Hazard Awareness, Human Health & Well-being, Equipment & Safety, Training & Performance. These categories are provided to guide the development of ideas, but EOI submissions need not conform to these categories provided the concept addresses mine safety.





What makes a strong EOI?

Innovation addresses safety need in mining industry, leverages 'AI', ease of use & worker friendly (leverages AI as a coach - not watchdog), ease of adoption, scalability and cost, available both online and offline, development plan and impact/outcomes are achievable.

Do teams receive development funding?

Up to \$4,000 (in Canadian dollars) of seed funding will be made available to each of the three finalist teams for development expenses for use between April and September, 2026.

What is meant by “pathway to adoption”?

Explains how workers and companies will adopt your idea, including trust, training, integration, and benefits.

Can first-year students or non-technical students join?

Yes—teams are encouraged to be multidisciplinary. Design, communication, and business skills are valuable in addition to technical skills.

Are international students allowed to participate?

Yes. Students from any country may apply.

Do teams need to travel to Saskatoon, Canada?

March pitch can be remote; final presentations in September are expected to be in-person. The competition cannot support travel costs, but if you inquire at your academic institution, many have programs to support student travel to competitions and conferences.

Does the competition support visa applications?

Visa arrangements must be handled by international participants.

Can international teams use the \$4,000cad seed funding?

Yes, regardless of country.

Do we need mining experience?

No. Mining knowledge can be learned during the project.





Does it matter if the solution is for a producing mine or closed mine?

The AI safety solution can be for either a producing mine or closed mine. 'Mine' in this case is not restricted to underground mining activities only. It can be either underground mining or surface/mill processing related. The important caveat is that the solution must address safety as well as mining.

Do you have to have 3 team members or would a 2 member team be allowed?

Teams are encouraged to have 3 team members but teams of 2 can also enter.

Does the EOI form need a specific format (spacing/size/font)?

Please use a legible font size and try your best to stick to three pages (if you go over 3 pages by 1-2 sentences this is not a problem, but your submission should be 3 pages, not 4).

Can your submission be something existing or does it have to be totally new?

Your innovation concept should be novel in some way. A new technology, new approach, or new application would all be acceptable. A proven and commercial product is not a new innovation and would not be eligible.

In Section 2) a) of the EOI are we to describe a single safety challenge or multiple (in the application details we check all that apply)?

If your innovation addresses more than one safety challenge, describe all safety challenges that would be addressed by your innovation in section 2) a).