No.1   Q.   Are there any specified formats or requirements (word count, items, content) for the proposal?

A.   You are required to fill out the proposal form according to the "NineSights" platform. However, there are no strict limitations on how to describe your idea. Please present your idea in a way that fully conveys it. You may also submit supplementary materials, and if you are unable to attach them via the platform, we also accept proposals via email.

No.2   Q.   Is there a limit on the number of ideas that can be submitted?

A.   There is no limit to the number of ideas you can submit. If you or your team have multiple ideas, you can submit each one, and we will evaluate them individually.

No.3   Q.   Is joint proposal submission with other organizations possible? If so, who should submit the proposal?

A.   Joint proposals from multiple organizations are welcome. Please mention the joint proposal in the submission and make sure to indicate the names of all organizations involved. Any representative can submit the proposal, but it is recommended that a researcher submit it to ensure the technical feasibility and features are clearly described.

No.4   Q.   Are there any limitations on the size or number of participants in the team involved in the activity?

A.   There are no restrictions on the size of the team when submitting, and joint proposals from multiple organizations are allowed. However, if selected, further discussions will be held on how collaboration with Isuzu will take place.

No.5   Q.   In what languages are proposals accepted?

A.   Proposals can be submitted in English or Japanese. We have a website for Japan (https://www.isuzu.co.jp/innovation/)
and a global website (https://www.isuzu.co.jp/world/innovation/),
so you can apply in your preferred language. If you need help deciding, please contact us.

No.6   Q.   Are there any specific areas of focus or areas that are excluded? I'm unsure if the technology I possess will qualify.

A.   We are seeking highly innovative proposals that have the potential to make a significant impact, and we are deliberately not setting any focus areas. Proposals from any field may be considered for selection. If you are unsure whether your proposal fits, feel free to contact NineSigma.

No.7   Q.   Are there any specific regions of focus or regions to pay attention to in terms of business areas?

No.8 Q. Does the proposal need to relate to Isuzu's existing business (automobiles or transportation)? Would proposals that dramatically transform the vehicle industry also be acceptable?

A. Proposals that do not relate to our existing business or that challenge the status quo are also welcome. We are looking for opportunities to create new value beyond our current framework, and the impact of the proposal will be a key evaluation criterion. Such proposals are highly encouraged.

No.9 Q. What scale of business are you envisioning for the proposal?

A. We do not limit the scale of the project. Of course, we welcome ideas of all sizes, as they can become large businesses with a social impact, but they can also be small in scale and have a large technological impact.

No.10 Q. Is the proposal limited to ideas or conceptual stages? Does it require a finished solution or a prototype for PoC?

A. While we are seeking ideas, we expect ideas that have a theoretical basis or supporting evidence, or that are based on data. However, it is not necessary that the technology is already implemented or established. We welcome proposals that suggest "This could theoretically be possible" or "There is room for development here." If available, specific solutions, prototypes, simulations, and financial projections can be very useful in evaluating the proposal, so we encourage you to include them.

No.11 Q. Are there any restrictions or preferences based on position? Are academic institutions, startups, or companies eligible to apply?

A. There are no specific restrictions or priorities in terms of position. Anyone with new ideas utilizing AI is welcome to apply. Applications from individuals and employees of Isuzu's affiliate companies are also accepted.

No.12 Q. After a proposal is selected, what kind of collaboration will occur with the proposer, and what deliverables are expected?

A. After selection, we will first conduct a PoC (Proof of Concept) based on the proposed idea. Afterward, we may explore various possibilities with the proposing organization, including joint development, investment in the proposing organization, or joining the Isuzu Group.

No.13 Q. Who will own the intellectual property and outcomes of the collaboration?

A. The intellectual property and research equipment obtained as a result of the collaboration after the program will be subject to a separate agreement following selection. In addition, intellectual property included in proposals submitted for the program will belong to the proposer. For more information, please see the terms and conditions of application.

No.14 Q. Will there be opportunities to revise proposals between submission and selection, or feedback from NineSigma or Isuzu?

A. During the proposal preparation stage, you can modify the proposal even after submission as long as it is before the deadline (November 30th). If you have any concerns during preparation, NineSigma can provide answers to your queries within feasible limits. Feedback on the content will be shared before the interview assessment, after discussions between the secretariat and judges during document screening.

No.15 Q. Will we be able to access Isuzu's internal data or case studies to better understand the challenges Isuzu is currently facing?

A. Please note that Isuzu's internal information will not be disclosed within the scope of this contest. However, if your proposal is selected for PoC (Proof of Concept), we anticipate that internal data may be provided under a separate contract. If specific data is required for the PoC, please include details in your proposal.

No.16 Q. What is the estimated timeline for PoC validation?

A. The timeline will be determined based on discussions about the content of the proposal, but Isuzu envisions a maximum duration of about one year. For technical verification, considering the rapid changes in AI technology, multiple rounds of testing may be conducted over a few months. If the verification requires an extended period, the timeline, content, and necessary costs may be divided into phases and conducted accordingly.

No.17 Q. Please tell me how the proposal contents will be handled after the contest ends.

A. Regardless of whether an idea is selected or not, it will only be used within the scope necessary for this program (for tasks such as evaluation, selection, and subsequent communication), and will not be used without the prior consent of the applicant. For more details, please refer to the program's application guidelines.

No.18 Q. Will there be financial support for the proposed content?

A. Depending on the proposed content, we will discuss the provision of research and PoC funds individually. There is also the possibility of continuing the initiative based on the results of the PoC.