

Senior Postdoctoral Researcher – Research Manager

The ETRO.RDI research group at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) is seeking a Senior Postdoctoral Researcher – Research Manager to support the coordination, growth, and outreach activities of a dynamic research group of over 20 researchers led by Prof. Nikos Deligiannis, with a strong focus on innovation-driven research around artificial intelligence for autonomous systems, cooperative autonomous ground and aerial vehicles, intelligent sensing, and healthcare AI.

The selected candidate will contribute to the management of the research group and to the further development of the research agenda around the ERC Consolidator Grant IONIAN (<https://erc-ionian.github.io>) and national projects. The candidate will act as a senior right hand to the PI, combining research support, project and team coordination, proposal development, and outreach support. The goal is to enable strong research execution, continued acquisition of external funding, and broader visibility and impact of the group's activities.

This is a senior, long-term position with opportunities for growth, depending on performance and the further development of the research programme and funding portfolio.

Main responsibilities

Project management:

- Contribute actively to the coordination and management of ongoing research projects, including managing project timelines, milestones, and deliverables, coordinating research teams, monitoring research quality, and supporting grant management and reporting.
- Contribute to the financial and administrative follow-up of projects, including budget monitoring, procurement follow-up, and practical support in project execution.

Proposal development and funding acquisition:

- Identify and prepare opportunities for competitive funding at regional, national, European, and innovation-oriented levels.
- Contribute actively to the development of new project proposals and funding applications, including drafting, consortium building, and support for external funding acquisition.

External representation and outreach:

- Facilitating collaborations with academic, industrial, and public-sector partners, and supporting the broader strategic development of collaborations.
- Assist in preparing and organizing outreach and dissemination activities, such as scientific events, visits, and promotional activities around the group's research.

Additional/Side responsibilities

Teaching, mentoring, and scientific support:

- Provide limited teaching to Master's students in areas such as project management, reporting, and professional research and innovation practice, in the context of the 3 ECTS course "Soft Skills for Applied Computer Scientists".
- Contribute, where relevant, to senior technical and scientific support in ongoing research projects and help support the supervision of junior researchers.

Profile

Required Qualifications:

- PhD degree in a relevant discipline (computer science, electrical engineering, AI, machine learning, signal processing, robotics, autonomous systems, or a related field), with at least 3 years of postdoctoral or equivalent research experience.
- Demonstrated experience with funding acquisition, project coordination, and collaboration with external partners.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English. The successful applicant must have a C1 level in English or be willing to obtain it as soon as possible.

Nice to Have:

- Experience in scientific project writing and proposal preparation is a strong asset.
- Fluency in Dutch is preferred. Good knowledge of French is a plus.
- The ability to combine scientific maturity with strong organizational and coordination skills.
- Interest in innovation, outreach, and strategic research development.
- Experience in mentoring or supervising junior researchers is a plus.

What we offer

We offer you an employment contract for a full-time equivalent (100% FTE), extendable annually (subject to a positive evaluation of your work) at least until May 2030, with a projected start date of 01-10-2026 (or as early as possible thereafter). The position is mainly on-site, with the main work location at Pleinlaan 9, 1050 Brussels, while limited remote work can be considered per week, depending on the group activities.

The successful candidate will join a leading research ecosystem combining scientific excellence (ERC and Horizon Europe projects), strong industrial and societal collaborations, and high visibility in innovation and valorisation. The group is embedded in imec (www.imec.be) and part of FARI (<https://www.fari.brussels>), FACT (www.fact-vub.be), and the Flanders AI Research program (www.flandersairesearch.be). This position is conceived as a long-term opportunity with room to grow in responsibility, visibility, and strategic impact as the research program and funding portfolio continue to expand.

As an employee of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel you will work in a dynamic, diverse and multilingual environment. Our green campus is located in the centre of Brussels, the lively capital of Belgium and Europe. In accordance with your experience and academic merits, you will receive a salary according to the official pay scales. Hospitalisation insurance and free public transport for travel to and from work are standard employment benefits. We have extensive sporting facilities and the VUB nursery is within walking distance. More information is available at the VUB jobs website.

Application deadline: 31 July 2026

Expected start date: 1 October 2026