

MIT Position Description

Job Title: Research Scientist	Position Title: Research Scientist 3
Pay Grade: 12	% Effort or Wkly Hrs: 80%
Department: MIT Sloan – IDE	

Position Overview

We are seeking a Research Scientist to drive high-impact research at the intersection of open source innovation, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and firm strategy. This role will involve formulating and executing research programs that advance the field, collaborating with industry partners and academic peers for research and funding, and mentoring junior researchers. The successful candidate will play a key role in shaping the research agenda of the Initiative on the Digital Economy (IDE), contributing to scholarly literature, and engaging with policymakers and practitioners to translate findings into real-world impact.

If you are passionate about digital innovation, open ecosystems, and how AI is reshaping work and strategy, we encourage you to apply.

Principal Duties and Responsibilities

- Lead and conduct original, high-impact research in AI, digital innovation, firm strategy, and open source software by designing appropriate research methodologies and analyzing and managing relevant data, resulting in contributions to top-tier academic publications.
- Develop and manage research projects that examine the strategic implications of AI-driven work transformation, collaborative digital ecosystems, and open source access.
- Secure external funding by developing, writing, and managing research grant proposals.
- Collaborate with industry, government, and nonprofit partners to translate research into actionable insights for firms and policymakers.
- Analyze large-scale data sources to uncover patterns in firm contributions to the impact of AI on productivity, the evolution of digital ecosystems, and open source,.
- Mentor and supervise graduate students, research staff, and visitors, including reviewing and critiquing their work, serving as a thesis committee member, managing visitors, and fostering a collaborative and intellectually rigorous research environment.
- Present findings at major academic conferences and industry events to enhance research visibility and impact.
- Contribute to MIT Sloan committees, professional organizations, editorial boards, and policy discussions on open innovation, AI, and digital transformation including performing peer review for top-tier publications and conferences.
- Other duties as needed or required.

Supervision Received

This position will report to Professor Sinan Aral. The role requires a high degree of autonomy, with the expectation that the Research Scientist will independently lead research projects while collaborating closely with the broader research team at the IDE.

Supervision Exercised

The successful candidate will be expected to supervise and mentor undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral researchers, provide guidance on research methodologies, data analysis, and publication strategies, lead collaborative projects, and facilitate cross-disciplinary partnerships.

MINIMUM REQUIRED EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

- PhD in Strategy, Economics, Information Systems, Computer Science, or a related field.
- Minimum 7 years of research experience.
- Established record of original or collaborative scholarship in open source software, AI, digital ecosystems, and related areas.
- Strong experience in designing and executing empirical research, including working with large datasets and applying advanced analytical methods.
- Demonstrated ability to secure external research funding and manage research grants.
- Proven ability to mentor and supervise researchers at various career stages.
- Experience in presenting research at top conferences and publishing in high-impact journals.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills.
- Deals with confidential information and/or issues using discretion and judgment.

PREFERRED EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

- Experience working with industry, government, or nonprofit organizations on research initiatives.
- Familiarity with open source community dynamics and firm engagement strategies.
- Leadership roles in academic societies, editorial boards, or conference organizing committees.
- Experience in policy advisory roles related to digital infrastructure, open innovation, and AI governance.

** To comply with regulations by the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), the principal duties in position descriptions must be essential to the job. To identify essential functions, focus on the purpose and the result of the duties rather than the manner in which they are performed. The following definition applies: a job function is essential if removal of that function would fundamentally change the job.