Chief Executive Officer - OPAL Initiative

The OPAL (OPen ALgorithms) initiative is seeking a CEO to lead the organization through a period of strategic growth.

OPAL aims to enable public-private data collaboration at scale in lower and middle income countries through its unique secure and privacy-preserving data processing approach. The initiative is a collaboration between international universities (Imperial, MIT), telecommunication operators (Orange, Sonatel, Telefonica), and International Organizations (World Economic Forum) and NGOs (Data Pop Alliance).

Together, they have developed and implemented an innovative model and platform for data to be used to generate key insights while preserving people’s privacy. The platform is now deployed in Senegal and Colombia where platform users include national statistical agencies as well as numerous local and international partners. Deployed algorithms allow for real-time analysis of population density or inter-city mobility. A local governance body (CODE) has been deployed in each country alongside the platform. The initiative has already been funded as a consortium by organizations including the World Bank, the French Development Agency (AFD), the Digital Impact Alliance.

After a very successful first phase, OPAL is looking to recruit a CEO to lead its scaling phase.

The CEO will provide strategic vision and management of day-to-day operations, including:

- Scaling the OPAL platform and philosophy with new partners, sectors and countries by leveraging existing technology
- Leading the transition of OPAL towards economic growth and sustainability developing new collaborative business models
- Designing and implementing a strategic plan to support OPAL’s global impact through platform development, domain-specific use cases, deployment in new countries, and building an ecosystem of users, algorithm developers and suppliers to foster demand and new use cases.
- Recruiting and leading the team
- Supporting the Board to fulfill its governance and oversight functions
- Engaging with a variety of partners to promote the work and possibilities of OPAL

The ideal candidate would:

- Be passionate about contributing in “Data for Development” and eager to make a difference in the world
- Have significant “C- Suite” management experience including leading technical multi-partners projects (e.g. consulting or IT background)
- Have a proven track record as an entrepreneur with the ability to navigate complex business, legal and technical issues across multiple constituencies
- Have strong business and financial management abilities
- Be easy to work with, with a demonstrated ability to attract,grow and retain talent
- Be based in or willing to relocate to Barcelona (preferred), Paris, London, or Brussels and legally work in one of these cities.
- Fluent in English with French and/or Spanish being a plus
- Able to travel significantly when required (up to 50% of the time)

Start date: December

What we offer:

- Competitive salary
- Unique opportunity to leverage cutting-edge research and technology for development
- Interactions with senior key stakeholders across governments, industry, and NGOs
- Opportunity to work closely and collaborate with technical academic researchers and development practitioners

Contact:
Nicolas de Cordes: nicolas.decordes@orange.com
Yves-Alexandre de Montjoye: YvesAlexandre@deMontjoye.com