

## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CALL**

### **CALL FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FOR THE UT AUSTIN | PORTUGAL PROGRAM - 2014**

#### **1. Objectives and Priorities**

In the Framework of the “International Collaboratory for Emerging Technologies, CoLab”, UT Austin|Portugal Program, the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) opens a call for the funding of joint research and development projects in the subject areas specified below.

The objective of the call is to support combined teams of specialists and researchers in Digital Media and/or Emerging Technologies areas, with Advanced Computing and Mathematics areas.

All the applications are required to fulfill the terms mentioned in the document [“Terms of Reference for the Call for Research and Development Projects”](#).

#### **2. Typologies of Projects to Support**

The call supports two types of projects, Exploratory and Scientific Research and Technological Development Projects (SR&TD). Applicants are advised to carefully develop their proposals in accordance with the conditions described in this announcement.

##### **2.1. Exploratory projects**

Project configuration intended for the exploration of ideas or concepts considered as having great originality and/or innovative potential.

The maxim funding for each exploratory projects is € 30 000 and a maximum of five projects are expected to be funded.

The proposal should include:

- at least one national institution (identified in section 3), with the participation of PhD students being highly valued;
- the University of Texas at Austin.

The expected duration of each project shall not exceed 12 months, with a maximum extension of 6 months.

## 2.2. SR&TD Projects

Correspond to research projects addressing scientifically relevant and original issues, with reference to international standards, that contribute significantly to the advancement of knowledge and produce identified outcomes within the duration of the project in terms of scientific production and taking into account priority research areas defined by public policies.

For the SR&DT projects the maximum funding for each project is € 200 000 and a maximum of five projects are expected to be funded.

In assembling a proposal for Strategic R&D projects, applicants should note the need to include:

- at least two Portuguese Institutions (identified in section 3), with the participation of PhD students being highly valued;
- the University of Texas at Austin;
- participation of companies, in particular companies based in Portugal or/and in Austin, and preferably industrial affiliates of the UT Austin|Portugal Program.

The expected duration of each project should be between 24 and 36 months, with a maximum extension of 12 months.

The present Call will not fund companies, and will exclusively fund the participation of Portuguese research teams

Eligible expenses are:

- a) Human resources;
- b) Missions;
- c) Consultants;
- d) Acquisition of goods and services and other current expenses
- e) Registration of patents;
- f) Acquisition of scientific and technical instruments and equipment, up to 25% of total funding;
- g) Overheads.

### 3. Recipient Entities

Researchers and research teams from the following organisations may apply:

- a) Institutions of higher education, their Institutes and R&D Centres;
- b) Associate Laboratories;
- c) State Laboratories;
- d) Private, not-for-profit institutions whose main objective is to carry out science and technology;
- e) Other public and private not-for-profit institutions which carry out or participate in scientific research activities.

### 4. Funding

The projects will be funded in total by national funds through the Ministry of Education and Science (MEC).

### 5. Budgetary Allocation

The total funding available for this call is € 1 150 000.

### 6. Application Submission

Applications should be submitted to FCT, in English, between 24th April and 5 pm (Lisbon time) 24th June 2014, using a specific on-line form, through the website: <https://concursos.fct.mctes.pt/projectos/>.

Applications to this call include the on-line FCT form and the "Annex to Application", both equally relevant for evaluation.

Applicants are advised to read the [UT Austin Portugal Guidelines for Proposal Writing](#), the [Terms of Reference for the Call for Research and Development Projects, UT Austin Portugal Program](#), and the [Regulations](#) mentioned in section 9 of this announcement, before submitting an application.

## 7. Eligibility Information

### 7.1. Principal Investigator

The lead Portugal Principal Investigator:

- Should hold a PhD degree  
The PhD degree certificate should be enclosed as an annex to the application;
- May only submit one application as Principal Investigator;
- Shall have at least 35% time allocation to the project;
- Cannot be in a situation of unjustified noncompliance with the regulatory requirements of submission of scientific reports of previous completed projects.

### 7.2. Members of the Research Team

The remaining members of the research team shall be allocated to the project at no less than 15% of their time, according to their involvement.

### 7.3. Principal Contractor

No applications will be accepted in which the Principal Contractor is in a situation of unjustified noncompliance with the regulatory requirements of submission of financial reports or return of unused balances from previous projects with the same Principal Investigator.

## 8. Selection Methodology for Projects to Be Funded

Evaluation will be carried out by an international panel of independent reviewers.

The selection method and ranking of projects is based on Project Merit using the following criteria, which are described in greater detail in the [“Guide for Peer Reviewers- UT Austin Portugal Calls for Projects”](#) and in the [Terms of Reference for the Call for Research and Development Projects](#), and also in the [Regulations Governing Access to Funding for Scientific Research and Technological Development Projects -2010](#):

- A. Scientific merit and innovative nature of the project from an international standpoint;
- B. Scientific merit of the research team;
- C. Feasibility of the plan of work and reasonableness of the budget;
- D. Contribution to the body of knowledge and competence of the National Science and Technology System;
- E. Potential economic value of the technology.

## 9. Publication and Further Information

This announcement and other pertinent items and information, in particular the [Regulations Governing Access to Funding for Scientific Research and Technological Development Projects - 2010](#), are available on the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia website (<https://concursos.fct.mctes.pt/projectos/>).

Information on any scientific issues relating to the application can be obtained from [utaustinportugal@fct.pt](mailto:utaustinportugal@fct.pt).

Information on the contents of the application form can be obtained from [projetosUTA@fct.pt](mailto:projetosUTA@fct.pt).

For information regarding questions related to the technical aspects of the website, please contact the webmaster by e-mail at [webmaster@fct.pt](mailto:webmaster@fct.pt).

**Miguel Seabra**

President, Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P.