

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE CALL

CALL FOR THE EARLY BIRD PROJECTS OF THE CARNEGIE MELLON PORTUGAL PROGRAM - 2013

1. Objectives and Priorities

The Carnegie Mellon Portugal Program is an education, research, and innovation platform that connects Portuguese research institutions, universities and companies in cooperation with Carnegie Mellon University (CMU). The partnership was launched in 2006, and renewed in 2012 for five more years, to create new knowledge in key focused areas of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) by means of cutting-edge research, world-class graduate education, and a close connection with Portuguese industry, aiming at placing Portugal at the forefront of science and innovation. In order to support the emergence of new high-impact initiatives within its scope, the Program is establishing a line of funding for Early Bird Projects.

Early Bird Projects are designed to assist small teams of researchers from Portuguese institutions, Carnegie Mellon University and industry partners, to jumpstart high-impact potential activities of strategic relevance for the Program.

2. Criteria for Supporting Projects

This announcement is aimed at the funding of Exploratory Projects, called Early Bird Projects.

The proposals must have at least one partner Portuguese research institution and at least one CMU faculty team.

The scientific overseeing of the projects approved in this call will be provided by FCT in conjunction with the CMU Portugal coordination office.

The awards will be effective for projects lasting 18 calendar months or less. Priority will be given to projects lasting 12 calendar months or less. Five to ten new awards are expected to be financed. The maximum budget for Portuguese research institutions in each project will be € 30,000.00.

The following costs are considered eligible: human resources, missions, consultants, equipment, acquisition of goods and services and other current expenses, patenting, adaptation of buildings and facilities, and overheads.

Only resources and activities in Portuguese research institutions will be funded by this call. The participating researchers from Carnegie Mellon University may be funded by the Information and Communication Technologies Institute (ICTI), at Carnegie Mellon University. Companies will not be funded by FCT.

3. Recipient Entities

Researchers and research teams from the following organizations may apply:

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

4. Funding

FCT will support the projects with national funds through the Ministry of Education and Science.

5. Budgetary Allocation

The national budget allocation to this call is 150.000 €.

6. Application Submission

Applications should be presented to FCT, in English, between November 7 and 5pm (Lisbon time) of December 18, 2013, using a specific on-line form and should be submitted 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 [Guide for writing and submitting proposals for RS&TD projects](#), the [Guidelines for Early Birds Projects Proposals Writing](#), the [Terms of Reference for the Early Birds Projects Call for Proposals](#), 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:

- May be identified as PI in at most one proposal;
- Shall be dedicated to the project at no less than 10%;
- Cannot be in a situation of unjustified noncompliance with the regulatory requirements with respect to submission of scientific reports from previous completed projects.

7.2. Members of the Research Team

The remaining members of the research team shall be dedicated to the project, according to their participation, at no less than 5%.

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 with respect to submission of financial reports or return of unused balances from previous projects with the same Principal Investigator.

8. Selection Method of the Projects to be Funded

The evaluation will be carried out by international panels of independent reviewers.

The selection method and ranking of projects is based on a Project Merit Indicator using the following criteria, which are described in greater detail in the [Terms of Reference for the Early Birds Projects Call for Proposals](#), and also in the [Regulations governing access to funding for scientific research and technological development projects – 2010 \(with 2011 changes\)](#):

- 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 website of the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (<http://www.fct.pt/apoios/projectos/concursos>).

For inquiries of a scientific nature, please contact the Carnegie Mellon Portugal Program at inquiries@cmuportugal.org.

For specific information related to application submission, please contact projetosCMU@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.

Miguel Seabra

President, *Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia*