

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE 2017 CALL FOR EXPLORATORY RESEARCH PROPOSALS UNDER THE CARNEGIE MELLON PORTUGAL PROGRAM

Under Article number 10 of the Regulations for Projects Exclusively Funded by National Funds, hereinafter designated by [FCT Projects Regulation](#), published by Regulation No. 999/2016, of October 31st, Scientific Research and Technological Development Projects are submitted under a tender procedure, with terms disseminated at the website of the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P. - FCT (www.fct.pt).

This Announcement for a Call for Proposals, hereinafter referred to as ACP, has been developed in accordance with the provisions of Article 11 of FCT Projects Regulation, and reads as follows:

1. AIMS AND PRIORITIES

In order to identify and assess emerging key strategic areas for a potential third phase, is opened within the scope of the [Carnegie Mellon Portugal Program \(CMU Portugal\)](#), the fourth Call for Proposals in Phase II, this time for Exploratory Research Projects.

Exploratory Research Projects are designed to assist teams of researchers from Portuguese institutions, Carnegie Mellon University and industry partners, to jumpstart high-impact potential research activities of strategic relevance for the Carnegie Mellon Portugal Program. The proposals should be high-risk/high-reward and show promise and a strategy for significant future expansion of project goals.

The projects must aim at stimulating and promoting Portugal's international competitiveness and innovation capacity in Science and Technology (S&T), in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) as such, or as enabling technologies in application sectors. The analysis of the societal, policy and managerial implications of ICT-enabled scientific and technological breakthroughs

naturally also fits within the scope of these projects.

In the scope of this Call, the projects will specifically be used to identify and assess emerging key strategic areas that could be considered in the design of a potential third phase for the Program. The submitted projects should preferably contribute to the scientific developments and objectives of the Atlantic International Research Center (AIR Center), as stated in the document “Towards a Science and Technology agenda for an integrative approach to the Atlantic: Climate Change and Energy Systems, Space and Ocean Sciences, through North-South cooperation”, available on [FCT website](#).

For this Call, the Program is seeking proposals in the following areas:

1. Integrative research based in the context of the [AIR Center](#);
2. Data Science and Engineering;
3. Computer Science;
4. Electrical and Computer Engineering;
5. Applied Mathematics;
6. Technology, Management and Policy.

All applications must fulfill entirely the terms of reference defined in the document Terms of Reference for the Exploratory Research Projects Call for Proposals 2017.

2. SUPPORTED ENTITIES

Only the following entities are eligible to receive funding from FCT through the present Call for Proposals:

- Higher Education Institutions, their institutes and R&D units;
- State or international Laboratories with head office in Portugal;
- Non-profit private institutions whose main objective is R&D activities;
- Other non-profit private and public institutions developing or participating in scientific research activities.

3. CRITERIA FOR SUPPORTING PROJECTS

This call is intended to fund proposals for research and development projects of exploratory nature, jointly developed by entities of the National Scientific and Technology System (NSTS), and public and private partners.

The funding to be granted under this ACP shall be non-reimbursable in accordance with Article 7 of [FCT Projects Regulation](#).

The submitted proposals must include:

- “projects in co-operation” carried out in consortia, in accordance with the established in point b) of item 1 of article 4 of [FCT’s Project Regulations](#), with a participation of at least two partner Portuguese research institutions from different entities as identified in section 2. One of them should belong to the category of Higher Education Institutions, their institutes and R&D units.
- One partner CMU faculty team.

In addition to the entities mentioned above, the consortia may include other public or private entities, profit or non-profit, that may also invest in the exploratory project and that may bring relevant competencies to the project.

Only resources and activities in Portuguese research institutions of the NSTS or private non-profit institutions whose main objective is to carry out S&T activities 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 or other independent partners, public or private, which do not have as their primary goal the development of S&T activities will not be funded by FCT.

The scientific progress achieved by the team will be assessed by FCT in association with the CMU Portugal Program.

A typical proposal should cover efforts for a period of up to 12 months, subject to mid-term report after the first semester, describing early outcomes and

contributing to a more effective design of a potential third phase for the Program. At the end of each exploratory project, a final report must be submitted, according to article 24 of FCT Projects Regulation

4. INDICATIVE FUNDING

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

Depending on the quality of the proposals, 7 to 10 new awards are expected to be financed.

The total funding available for Portuguese research institutions, as part of this research call, will be up to €700,000.00 (seven hundred thousand euros). The maximum budget for Portuguese research institutions in each project will be €100,000.00 (one hundred thousand euros).

The participating researchers from Carnegie Mellon University may be funded by ICTI, at Carnegie Mellon University. Approximately \$500,000.00 (five hundred thousand dollars) will be available to support complementary activities at Carnegie Mellon University.

5. ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Considering the provisions of Article 8 of [FCT Projects Regulation](#), the following expenses are eligible:

a) Direct Costs:

- Human resources dedicated or associated with the development of R&D activities related to the implementation of the project;
- Missions in Portugal and abroad;
- Acquisition of scientific and technical tools and equipment, indispensable to the project if used within the project during their useful life time;

- Amortization of scientific and technical tools and equipment indispensable to the project and of which the useful life time falls within the execution period, but does not end within that;
- Expenses related to the national and foreign record of patents;
- Expenses with the demonstration, promotion and disclosure of project's outputs;
- Acquisition of other goods and services directly related to the project execution, including costs with consultants that do not establish subcontracts.

b) Indirect Costs, with a flat rate of 25% of eligible costs, excluding subcontracting and resources provided by third parties.

Non-eligible expenses under the Exploratory Research call are indicated in Article 9 of [FCT Projects Regulation](#).

6. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Applications should be presented to FCT, in English, between February 17 and 5pm (Lisbon time) of April 12, 2017, using a specific on-line form and should be submitted through the [FCT platform](#) following the Announcement of the Call for Proposals.

Applications to this call include the on-line FCT form and the following documents, also submitted electronically:

- "Annex to Application" (according to section 2.5 of the Terms of Reference for the Exploratory Research Projects Call for Proposals 2017);
- The document that certifies the PhD degree of the lead Portugal Principal Investigator;
- Written agreement between the lead Portugal Principal Investigator and the Proposing Institution (if applicable);

- A statement from the PI at CMU confirming that he/she will be the lead PI from CMU and that he/she holds a faculty appointment at CMU.

Before submitting a proposal, applicants are advised to read the Regulations mentioned in section 9 of this announcement, namely: the Guidelines for Exploratory Research Projects Proposals Writing, the Terms of Reference for the Exploratory Research Projects Call for Proposals 2017, and the [FCT Projects Regulation](#).

7. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

7.1. Principal Investigator

The lead Portugal Principal Investigator (PI):

- May be identified as PI in at most one proposal in this call;
- Shall be dedicated to the project at no less than 30%;
- Should have a doctoral degree. The document certifying the doctoral degree should be attached to the application;
- Should also be a professor or have a research position in the Proposing Institution. In the absence of such a link, a written agreement between the parties must be submitted attached to the application, according to point c) of item 1 of article 6 of [FCT's Project Regulations](#).
- Proposals will not be accepted from lead Portugal PIs affiliated with institutions on a situation of unjustified fault with FCT requirements regarding the delivery of scientific and/or financial execution reports from previous financed projects.
- Proposals will also not be accepted from lead Portugal PIs who were PI of any project with a final scientific report rejected within two years before the opening of the Call, for reasons attributable to them.

The lead PI at CMU must hold a faculty appointment at CMU. A confirmation statement should be attached to the application.

7.2. Members of the Research Team

The remaining members of the Portugal research team shall be dedicated to the project, according to their participation, at no less than 15%.

Researchers may be listed as co-PIs or senior researchers in multiple proposals.

7.3. Principal Contractor

Applications to projects of which the Principal Contractors are in unjustified default related to the refund of loans transferred to the said Principal Contractor related to previous projects with the same Principal Investigator are not accepted.

8. SELECTION METHODOLOGY

The evaluation will be carried out by an international panel 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 CMU Portugal 2017 Call for Proposals - Guide for Peer Reviewers and in the Terms of Reference for the Exploratory Research Projects Call for Proposals 2017:

- A. Scientific merit and innovative nature of the project, preferably within the scope of the priorities developed by the Atlantic International Research Center ([AIR Center](#)) initiative;
- 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 COMPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

This Announcement and other relevant materials and information, in particular the

Regulations for Projects Exclusively Funded by National Funds, are available at [FCT website](#).

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

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

Paulo Ferrão

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