

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE CALL FOR EXPLORATORY PROPOSALS UNDER THE UTAUSTIN PORTUGAL PROGRAM - 2017

Under the Article number 10 of Regulations for Projects Exclusively Funded by National Funds, herein after designated by [FCT Projects Regulation](#), published by Regulation No. 999/2016, of October 31st, the 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, IP (www.fct.pt).

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

1. AIMS AND PRIORITIES

Within the UT Austin Program - International Collaboratory for Emerging Technologies, CoLab framework a call for Proposals for Exploratory Research in the scientific areas specified by this ACP.

The objective of the call is to promote exploratory scientific projects proposed by teams of experts and researchers in areas related to:

- **Colab Emerging Technologies Research**
 - *Digital Media*
 - *Advanced Computing*
 - *Applied Mathematics*
 - *Nanotechnology*
- **Scientific Areas defined in the context of AIR Center**
 - *Space Science*
 - *Clean Tech Energy*
 - *Environment, Atmospheric Science, and Climate Change*
 - *Ocean Science*
 - *Data Science, Cyber Infrastructure, e-Science*

The projects developed should, preferably, contribute to the Atlantic International Research Center (AIR Center) scientific developments and objectives, 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 at [FCT website](#).

2. SUPPORTED ENTITIES

Only the following entities are eligible to receive funding from FCT through the present call for proposals:

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

3. CRITERIA FOR SUPPORTING PROJECTS

This ACP is intended for exploration projects directed to original and relevant scientific issues, with reference to international standards that contribute significantly to the advancement of knowledge and that produce indicators of achievement in the project’s course. This call is intended to fund research and development projects applied to Exploratory Research proposals by entities of the NSTS, public and private partners.

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

The proposals submitted must include:

- “projects in co-operation” carried out in a consortium, in accordance with the established in Article 4 Point 1 (b) of the [FCT Projects Regulation](#), with a participation of two research teams from different entities identified in section 2 of this ACP;
- Faculty member or research scientist affiliated to UTAustin.

The participation of doctoral students and companies based in Portugal and / or in Austin will be valued.

This call does not finance companies participating in the project, and is intended exclusively for the financing of Portuguese research teams.

4. INDICATIVE FUNDING

Under this call, a maximum of 14 (fourteen) exploratory projects are expected to receive funding. The actual number of exploratory projects funded will depend on the scale and scope of the proposed initiatives and the quality of the proposals submitted.

The total funding available for Portuguese research institutions, as part of this research call, will be up to €1,400,000 (one million, four hundred thousand euros), depending on proposal design and budget justifications. Each of the 14 (fourteen) exploratory projects should have a maximum budget of € 100,000 (one hundred thousand euros) for the entire funding period of up to 1 (one) year by project.

The approved projects under this call may commence from June 1st 2017, in accordance with the provisions of Article 18 Point 5 of the [FCT Projects Regulation](#).

5. ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Considering the provisions of Article 8 of the [FCT Regulations](#), 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 equipment, essential to the project, if they are used throughout their lifetime in the project;
 - Amortization of instruments and scientific and technical equipment;
 - Registration of national and international patents by Portuguese units of the national scientific and technological system;
 - Demonstration, promotion and dissemination of project's results;

- Acquisition of goods, services and current expenses directly related to the execution of the project, including consultant's costs which do not constitute 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 the [FCT Projects Regulation](#).

6. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Applications must be submitted online, in English, from January 25th, 2017 until March 23th, 2017 at 17:00 Lisbon time, through the [FCT website](#) following the Announcement of the Call for Proposals. All sections from [FCT's Form](#) must be duly filled.

The applicants should fill in the electronic attached the following documents, also submitted electronically:

- "Annex to Application", described in Point 9 of the [UT Austin | Portugal Guidelines for Proposal Writing](#) document. The annex to the application should contain a summary of the application, mentioning how the objectives of the project will be fulfilled and highlighting the results and expected benefits of the collaborative work. This annex should also mention the objectives of the project's research team and the specific role of each team member in meeting those objectives and clearly identify which research activities will be the responsibility of the UT Austin research team Austin;
- Attachment of the "letter of collaboration" by at least an UTAustin faculty or Research Scientist at UTAustin describing their scientific responsibilities in the project;
- Statement of commitment of the participating company(ies) in the project - when applicable;
- Attachment of the document that certifies the PhD of the PI and the institutional affiliation;
- Include the CV and publication list of the Principal Investigator(s) and all the other investigators;
- A statement of the attribution of intellectual property rights to the project results;

- Attachment (if applicable) of written agreement between the Principle Investigator and the proposing institution.

Applicants should read carefully the documents identified in section 9 of this ACP.

7. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

7.1. Principal Investigator

The Principal Investigator, responsible for the candidacy:

- Should hold a PhD. The degree certificate for the PhD should be enclosed as an annex to the application;
- 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 in the annex to the application, according to point c) of point 1 of article 6 of the [FCT Project Regulations](#);
- Can only submit one proposal as a Principal Investigator;
- The formal commitment of the Lead Principal Investigator in Portugal to the project shall be no less than 35%;
- Will not be eligible to serve as Principal Investigators if they are in a situation of unjustified fault with FCT requirements regarding the delivery of the scientific and/or financial execution reports from previous financed projects;
- Applications to projects of which the Principal Investigator has been Principal Investigator of projects of which the final scientific report was rejected for reasons attributable to them within the two previous years before the tender opening are not accepted.

7.2. Research Team Members

All other Research team members have to participate at no less than 15% of their time.

7.3. Proposing Institution

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

8. SELECTION METHODOLOGY

The selection and ranking of the applications will be as described at [Guide for Peer Reviewers – UTAustin Portugal Call for Exploratory Projects](#) and [Terms of Reference for the 2017 Call for Exploratory Projects UTAustin Portugal](#), namely:

- 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 work plan and reasonability 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](#).

Information on the scientific matters of the application form can be obtained from: cc@fct.unl.pt

Information on the contents of the application form can be obtained from: projetosUTA@fct.pt.

Paulo Ferrão
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