

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE CALL

TESTBED PROPOSALS UNDER THE MIT PORTUGAL PROGRAM

1. Objectives and Priorities

Within the MIT Portugal Program framework, a call for Testbed projects is opened, guided towards research projects with the potential to contribute towards the long-term objective of developing innovative products and services, demonstrating international competitiveness and innovative capacity in science and technology amongst public and private sectors and the entities of the National Scientific and Technology System (NSTS) under the following themes:

1. Sustainable Cities
2. Stem Cell Engineering & Regenerative Medicine
3. Design and Manufacturing Approaches in Mobility Industries

The testbed projects should address multi-disciplinary research and development competences amongst the entities of NSTS and other public and private partners for the development of new products and services with added value and potential global impact. To a feasible extent, the testbed project research projects should aim for piloting and scalability and the use of unique ecosystems and living laboratories.

The objective of the testbed projects is the development of research applications with high economic and social impact. Due to this complexity, the research topic should be approached in a holistic fashion through integrated, multi-disciplinary teams, and highly cooperative efforts between NSTS entities, public and private partners, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

All the applications have to fulfill the terms mentioned in the document [“Terms of Reference for the Call for Proposals”](#).

2. Criteria for Supporting Projects

This call is for funding of research and development projects applied to testbed proposals by entities of the NSTS, public and private partners.

The call is open to teams involving at least:

- a) Three research groups from the entities identified on section 3. Two of them need to belong to distinct higher education institutions, their institutes and research centers, from different Portuguese Universities;
- b) Two companies (In cases justified by the proponents, the participation of one of the companies may be substituted by one independent non-academic organization that may invest in the testbed like hospitals, foundations, private or public associations, municipalities, etc.);
- c) A multi-disciplinary research team at MIT, involving at least four Professors/ Researchers.

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

The scientific progress achieved by the team will be assessed by FCT in association with the MIT Portugal Program. A typical proposal should cover efforts for a period of up to 36 months, subject to a yearly interim review process.

Under this call, it is expected the funding of a maximum of 3 (three) testbed projects, one from each of the three areas identified above. The total funding available for Portuguese research institutions as part of this call may reach €3,260,000 (three million, two hundred and sixty thousand euros), allocated across the three areas as follows:

1. Sustainable Cities, up to €1,300,000 (one million three hundred thousand euros);
2. Stem Cell Engineering & Regenerative Medicine, up to €980,000 (nine hundred and eighty thousand euros);
3. Design and Manufacturing Approaches in Mobility Industries, up to €980,000 (nine hundred and eighty thousand Euros).

Eligible expenses under the testbed research call includes:

- a) Human resources;
- b) Missions (Travels and accommodations);
- c) Consultants;
- d) Acquisition of scientific and technical instruments and equipment;
- e) Acquisition of goods and services and other current expenses;
- f) Registration in Portugal and abroad of patents;
- g) Adaptation of building and facilities;
- h) Overheads.

The call will exclusively fund the participation of Portuguese research teams from entities of the NSTS or private non-profit institutions whose main objective is to carry out S&T activities. The present Call will not fund companies or other independent partners, public or private, which do not have as their primary goal the development Science and Technology activities.

3. Recipient 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 centers;
- Associated Laboratories;
- State Laboratories;
- Private non-profit institutions whose main objective is to carry out S&T activities.

4. Funding

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

5. Budgetary Appropriation

The total funding available for this research call is €3,260,000.

6. Application Submission

Applications must be submitted online, from November 14th, 2013 until January 20th, 2014 at 5 pm Lisbon time, through the FCT website following the Announcement of the Call for Proposals <https://concursos.fct.mctes.pt/projectos>.

All the requested information needs to be in English.

Applicants should fill in the on-line FCT form and the "Annex to Application" required for evaluation and according to the guidelines provided in the Section 9 of the "[MIT Portugal 2013 Call for Proposal Submission Guide](#)".

It is recommended to follow the [Guide for Application Submission](#) as well as the Regulations mentioned in the point 9 of this Announcement.

7. Eligibility Information

7.1. Principal Investigator

The Principal Investigator, responsible for the candidacy:

- Should hold a doctorate degree.
The degree certificate for the PhD should be enclosed as an annex to the application;
- 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.

7.2. Research team members

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

7.3. Principal Contractor

Applications will not be accepted from Principal Contractors that 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 or on returning due funds transferred to the proposing institution referring to previous projects with the same principal investigator.

8. Selection Method of Project to be Funded

The selection and ranking of the applications will be as described at the “[Terms of reference for MIT Portugal 2013 - call for proposals](#)”, based on the criteria of reference that are detailed in [Regulations Governing Access to Funding for Scientific Research and Technological Development Projects - 2010](#), namely:

- A. Scientific merit and innovative nature of the project from an international standpoint
(in the context of the testbed topics, as referred in section 1),
- 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 relevant materials and information, in particular the Regulations Governing Access to Funding for Scientific Research and Technological Development Projects - 2010, are available at FCT website (<http://www.fct.pt/apoios/projectos/concursos>).

Information on the scientific matters of the application form can be obtained from: testbeds2013@mitportugal.org.

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

Information on IT questions can be referred to the FCT webmaster at: webmaster@fct.pt.

Miguel Seabra

President, *Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia*