

CALL FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS (AE2025-0548)

INESC TEC is now accepting grant applications to award 2 Research Grant (BI) within the scope of the ATE funded by IAPMEI with reference 56 Co-financed by Component 5 - Capitalization and Business Innovation, integrated in the Resilience Dimension of the Recovery and Resilience Plan within the scope of the Recovery and Resilience Mechanism (MRR) of the European Union (EU), framed in the Next Generation EU, for the period 2021 - 2026.

1. GRANT DESCRIPTION

Type of grant: Research Grant (BI)

General scientific area: ENGINEERING

Scientific subarea: Electrical engineering

Area of Work: Automation and Operation of Electric Power Systems

Grant duration: 5 months 16 days, starting on 2026-01-15.

Scientific advisor: Justino Miguel Rodrigues

Workplace: INESC TEC, Porto, Portugal

Maintenance stipend: € 1040.98 or 1309.64, [according to the table of monthly maintenance stipend for FCT grants](#), paid via bank transfer. Grant holders may be awarded potential supplements, according to a quarterly evaluation process (Articles 19, 21 and 22 of the [Regulations for Grants of INESC TEC](#) and Annex II), up to a maximum limit of 50% of the monthly maintenance stipend.

INESC TEC supports costs with registration, enrolment or tuition fees, during the grant duration, under the terms established in the internal document: "[Payment of Tuition fees to grant holders](#)".

The grant holder will benefit from health insurance, supported by INESC TEC.

2. OBJECTIVES:

Within the scope of the ATE (Alliance for the Energy Transition) project, one of the major ambitions is to establish a collaborative laboratory with international reach, capable of offering a range of services to industrial clients in the field of research and innovation. This collaborative laboratory brings together several laboratories from different national research institutes, where diverse skills and infrastructures complement each other to provide a coordinated response to industry needs. One of the laboratories involved is the x-Energy Lab – SmartGrids and Electric Vehicles Laboratory, part of INESC TEC's Centre for Power and Energy Systems. It is in this context that INESC TEC offers the opportunity to collaborate on this ambitious project, namely by contributing to technical capacity building, tool development, and the strengthening of the x-Energy Lab's laboratory infrastructure. More specifically, this research grant aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Expand scientific and technical knowledge in the field of real-time simulation, SCADA systems, human-machine interfaces (HMI), and industrial-grade communication protocols for automation in electric power systems.
- Develop and adapt a test network — a simulation model or a replica of a real network — for DlgSILENT PowerFactory.
- Develop and implement the interface between the test network (simulation model or real-network replica) in DlgSILENT PowerFactory and the SCADA software for real-time measurement acquisition.
- Validate the developed interfaces, using as a reference case the remote training of grid operators in power system operation scenarios with high renewable energy penetration, one of the services to be offered by the collaborative laboratory currently under construction.

This research grant offers a unique opportunity to join a leading research team in the field of future smart power grids. If you aspire to be part of this transformation and leave your mark on the future of power networks, join us!

3. BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME AND TRAINING:

- Literature review on real-time simulation, SCADA systems, human-machine interfaces (HMI), and industrial-grade communication protocols for automation in electric power systems.
- Develop and adapt a test network — a simulation model or replica of a real network — for DIgSILENT PowerFactory.
- Develop and implement the interface between the test network (simulation model or real-network replica) in DIgSILENT PowerFactory and the SCADA software for real-time measurement acquisition.
- Validation of the developed models and interfaces, using as a use case one of the potential services to be offered to industrial clients by the x-Energy Lab / collaborative laboratory currently being developed within the ATE project.
- Preparation of the research grant activity report.

4. REQUIRED PROFILE:

Admission requirements:

The awarding of the fellowship is dependent on the applicants' enrolment in study cycle or non-award courses of Higher Education Institutions.

Preference factors:

- Experience with computational simulation models, such as MATLAB/Simulink and DIgSILENT PowerFactory
- Knowledge of industrial-grade communication protocols (Modbus TCP, IEC 61850, etc.).

Minimum requirements:

Educational background in Electrical Power Systems and/or Automation.

5. EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS AND SELECTION PROCESS:

Selection criteria and corresponding valuation: the first phase comprises the Academic Evaluation (AC), based on the criteria referred to in Article 12 of the [Regulations for Grants of INESC TEC](#), while the second phase comprehends the Individual Interview (EI). All factors are evaluated on a scale of 0 to 100, taking into account the applicants' merit, suitability and conformity with the preference factors.

The weight of the AC factors are as follows: Academic Qualifications (FA, 50%), Scientific Publications (PC, 10%), Experience (EX, 30%) and Motivation Letter (CM, 10%).

Candidates who score less than 50 points in the AC average will be considered excluded on absolute merit. The top five candidates approved on absolute merit will be qualified for the individual interview. The Final Grade (CF) is obtained by the weighted average of AC (80%) and EI (20%).

DISABILITY INCENTIVE

Candidates who present a degree of disability equal to or greater than 90% will benefit from an incentive (20) in the score of the CV Assessment.

Candidates who present a degree of disability equal to or greater than 60% and less than 90% will also benefit from an incentive (10) in the score of the CV Assessment.

Said score may, in these cases, exceed 100 points.

Candidates must demonstrate the degree of disability during the application, namely through the submission of the Multi-Purpose Medical Certificate of Disability, issued in accordance with Decree-Law no. 202/96, of October 23 - currently in effect.

Candidates must declare, in the application form, the type of disability used throughout the selection process, in order to proceed with the required adaptations.

The Selection Jury is composed of the following members:

President of the Jury: Justino Miguel Rodrigues

Full member: Clara Sofia Gouveia

Full member: João Peças Lopes
Substitute member: Ricardo Jorge Bessa

Release of results and prior hearing: the results of the selection process, as well as the terms and procedures for prior hearing, will be released to the applicants by email, under the terms referred to in Article 13 of the Regulations for Studentships and Fellowships of INESC TEC.

6. FORMALISATION OF APPLICATIONS:

Application Documents:

1. Motivation letter;
2. Curriculum Vitae (must include the list of previous fellowships, their type, beginning and end dates, funding entities and host institutions);
3. Certificate or diploma degree;
4. Proof of enrollment in a degree awarding study cycle or in a non degree awarding Higher Education program.
 - The proof of enrollment may be presented just during the grant hiring stage.
5. Signed declaration stating the infringement of the grant holder's duties (article 14, no. 4)
6. Documental evidence to support the country of residence, residence permit or other legally equivalent document, in cases where the applicant is a foreigner or non-resident in Portugal - valid until the beginning of the grant.
7. Other supporting documents relevant to the final assessment.

Failure to deliver the required documents within the 90-day period after the date of the notice of the conditional awarding of the grant implies its cancellation.

Application period: From 2025-11-27 to 2025-12-19

Submission of applications: the application will be formalised by submitting the form available in the *Work With Us* section of INESC TEC website.

7. BINDING LEGISLATION AND REGULATION

The hiring process shall comply with the current legislation regarding the Research Grant Holder Statute, approved by Law no. 40/2004 of August 18, in its current wording, as well as by the [Regulations for Grants of INESC TEC](#) and for [FCT Grants Regulation in force](#).

For more information, please check the [Regulations for Grants of INESC TEC](#) and relevant annexes at www.inesctec.pt/bolsas

