

CALL FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

(AE2026-0172)

INESC TEC is now accepting grant applications to award 1 Research Grant (BI) within the scope of the Multiannual Funding of R&D Units 2025-2029, with the reference UID/50014/2025, Funded by national funds through the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), I.P.

1. GRANT DESCRIPTION

Type of grant: Research Grant (BI)

General scientific area: ENGINEERING

Scientific subarea: Electrical engineering

Area of Work: Electricity Markets

Grant duration: 5 months, starting on 2026-08-01, with the possibility of being renewed until the end of the project.

Scientific advisor: Tiago André Soares

Workplace: INESC TEC, Porto, Portugal

Maintenance stipend: € 1359.64, [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:

- Analyse existing methodologies for the quantification, coordination and activation of distributed flexibility in energy and ancillary services markets;
- Develop energy management models for distributed flexible resources, including energy storage systems, electric vehicles and flexible loads;
- Develop methodologies for flexibility aggregation in renewable energy communities and aggregators for participation in ancillary services markets;
- Develop mechanisms for the validation and secure activation of flexibility considering electrical network constraints;
- Implement the proposed models and methodologies in Python using representative case studies;
- Prepare technical and scientific documentation of the developed activities.

3. BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME AND TRAINING:

The increasing integration of distributed energy resources, namely energy storage systems, electric vehicles, flexible loads and renewable generation, has increased the need for advanced mechanisms for flexibility management and coordination. The participation of these resources in energy and ancillary services markets represents an important opportunity to improve power system efficiency, reduce operational costs and support the secure operation of electrical networks. However, the quantification, aggregation and coordinated activation of distributed flexibility still represent significant challenges, particularly regarding the coordination between consumers, aggregators, energy communities and network operators.

The work to be carried out within the scope of this grant includes:

- Study in detail the state of the art related to energy management systems, distributed flexibility and ancillary services markets;
- Develop optimization models for the management of distributed flexible resources considering multiple services and tariff structures;
- Develop flexibility aggregation methodologies for aggregators and renewable energy communities;
- Assess coordination mechanisms between network operators and aggregators for the secure activation of flexibility;
- Develop and implement computational models in Python;
- Perform case studies and comparative analysis of the proposed methodologies;- Prepare a scientific report on activities and write scientific articles.

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 in modelling and optimization of energy systems;
- Experience in energy markets, flexibility or ancillary services;
- Knowledge of Python programming;
- Experience in scientific research and data analysis;
- Knowledge of energy storage systems, electric vehicles or energy communities.

Minimum requirements:

- Basic knowledge of the energy and flexibility market problems;
- Basic knowledge of optimization;
- Knowledge of the Python programming language;
- Fluency in English (written and spoken);

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 (90%) and EI (10%).

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: Tiago André Soares

Full member: Filipe Joel Soares

Full member: José Villar

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 2026-05-28 to 2026-06-28

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

