CALL FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

(AE2026-0213)

INESC TEC is now accepting grant applications to award 1 Research Grant (BI) within the scope of the on the scope INESCTEC.OCEAN with reference 101136903 funded by the European Commission under the Horizon Europe program for the period 2021-2027.

1. GRANT DESCRIPTION

Type of grant: Research Grant (BI)

General scientific area: ENGINEERING

Scientific subarea: Computer engineering

Area of Work: Underwater robotics

Grant duration: 6 months, starting on 2026-09-01, with the possibility of being renewed until the end of the project.

Scientific advisor: Nuno Cruz

Workplace: INESC TEC, Porto, Portugal

Maintenance stipend: € 1090.98, **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:

The training associated with the scholarship will enable the scholarship holder to gain experience in the development of marine robotic systems, hardware integration, the preparation of experimental trials, data analysis, and the production of technical-scientific documentation within an applied research context.

3. BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME AND TRAINING:

Study of robotic systems at the Center for Robotics and Autonomous Systems;

Design of electromechanical devices for marine environment applications;

Sizing of mechanical and electromechanical components;

Selection of off-the-shelf components and support for the fabrication of custom components;

Mechanical, electrical, and functional integration of the devices;

Participation in experimental testing in laboratory, tank, and marine environments;

Support for the validation of developed solutions, including test preparation, experimental operation, and data collection;

Analysis and processing of data obtained during tests;

Production of technical and scientific documentation, including technical reports, scientific papers, and materials to support the dissemination of results;

Collaboration with the Center for Robotics and Autonomous Systems team on the project's technical and scientific activities;

Preparation of the Grant activity report.

4. REQUIRED PROFILE:

Admission requirements:

Currently pursuing a Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Mechatronics Engineering, Naval Engineering, Robotics, Automation, or related fields.
The awarding of the fellowship is dependent on the applicants' enrolment in study cycle or non-award courses of Higher Education Institutions.

Preference factors:
Motivation for experimental work in robotics, marine systems, and underwater platforms;

Knowledge of the analysis and design of underwater vehicles or structures, including aspects of buoyancy, stability, hydrodynamic loads, and behavior in the marine environment;

Ability to work in a multidisciplinary team;

Ability to analyze and process experimental data;

Good oral and written communication skills;

Proficiency in English (spoken and written) sufficient for reading technical documentation and producing reports;

Experience in producing technical reports, scientific papers, or project documentation.

Minimum requirements:
Prior experience with robotics projects or mechatronic systems for underwater environments;
Knowledge of materials, sealing, connectors, and system integration for marine environments;
Experience with CAD design and technical drafting (e.g., SolidWorks, Fusion 360, Inventor, or equivalent);
Experience in the manufacturing, prototyping, assembly, and integration of mechanical or electromechanical systems.

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, 60%), Scientific Publications (PC, 0%), 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: Nuno Cruz
Full member: Bruno Miguel Ferreira
Full member: Nuno Miguel Abreu
Substitute member: José Carlos Alves

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 2026-07-23 to 2026-08-05

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

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