

Portugal Ventures launches Fourteenth Call For Entrepreneurship

Pre-registration for submissions to the Fourteenth Call for Entrepreneurship is now open. This dynamic initiative aims to facilitate the access of innovative scientific and technology-based projects in the seed and start-up phases to venture capital investment. Through its previous Calls For Entrepreneurship, Portugal Ventures has already invested in more than 55 start-ups with the ambition to become companies of excellence on the global market. Submissions start 1st February.

Submissions to the Fourteenth Call will run between **1st February and 3rd March 2016**. Projects in the sectors of Information and Communications Technologies, Electronics and Web, Life Sciences, Tourism and Endogenous Resources, Nanotechnology and Materials are eligible for investment through the Call For Entrepreneurship. Projects selected by Portugal Ventures will benefit from a capital investment of up to 750 thousand Euros, until a maximum of 85% of the total funding needs of each project.

Entrepreneurs can gain from the support and guidance of our partners in our Ignition Partners Network in the preparation of their projects, improving and focusing on the more relevant aspects of the projects to make them investment ready. All submissions are to be made through the Portugal Ventures website.

Projects submitted to the Call will be evaluated by specialised assessment panels, sorted by technological area and industrial sector, made up of both national and international experts, as well as investors from our Ignition Capital Network, business angels and other venture capital fund management firms, who may co-invest together with Portugal Ventures.

Portugal Ventures will select projects which show the greatest potential for growth and the ability to become start-ups of excellence, on a global scale.

The projects invested in will benefit from the monitoring and advice of specialists, preferentially international experts, with accumulated experience and a vast network of relevant contacts. These projects may also be given the opportunity to be incubated and accelerated at our international centres for the Portuguese technology-based entrepreneurship ecosystem in San Francisco, Boston, Austin and Berlin.

During the previous Thirteen Calls 2,750 entrepreneurs registered on the Portugal Ventures website, resulting in the submission of 910 projects. The support from and involvement of the Ignition Partners Network, made up of 48 national and international scientific and technology-based entities from the entrepreneurship ecosystem, has been key to this success.

The Call For Entrepreneurship is the entry point to Portugal Ventures' Ignition Programme. The objective of the Programme is to bolster the national technology-based entrepreneurship ecosystem and, thus, contribute to the development of a more modern and competitive economy, open to the world, based on knowledge, innovation and highly qualified human capital, with a strong entrepreneurial spirit. With this initiative, Portugal Ventures aims to invest around 20 million Euros per year.

Lisbon, 18th January 2016