



FCT/5951/22/11/2023/S

Carnegie Mellon University
Office of the President
Warner Hall 5000 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213 USA

20th November, 2023

Dear President of Carnegie Mellon University,
Professor Farnam Jahanian,

For more than 16 years the collaboration between FCT and the CMU has promoted the scientific and technological development encouraging researchers, students, and industry professionals from various disciplines to work together.

The CMU Portugal Program has been a facilitator in the exchange of knowledge, ideas, and perspectives, and this interdisciplinary approach has led to breakthrough innovations and solutions that have had a profound impact on a wide range of information and communication technology domains.

By leveraging the strengths of both CMU's and Portugal's academic and industrial ecosystems, the program had a transformative effect on the national educational landscape and has served as a catalyst for international cooperation and cultural exchange. We value the relationships and achievements that have been supported through our collaboration, and the opportunities it has provided for academic growth and cross-cultural understanding.

FCT is currently conducting a careful and deep assessment of its collaborations with several international partners, considering the natural evolution of the needs, the priorities and the capacity of Portuguese research and innovation ecosystem. Through this inclusive exercise, FCT will reflect and make sustainable decisions to reinforce and reshape FCT's international cooperation worldwide.

Considering the above and taking into account Point 2. of the Amendment No.8 of the Research and Collaboration Agreement signed between FCT and CMU, that extended (i) the Agreement (27th October 2006), (ii) the amendment by Amendment No.1 between FCT and CMU (February 28, 2007), (iii) the amendment No. 2 between FCT and CMU (October 16, 2010), (iv) the Extension to Research and Education Collaboration agreement (June 20, 2011), (v) the Amendment No. 4 between FCT and CMU (June 20, 2011), (vi) the Amendment No. 5 between FCT and CMU (July 1, 2012), (vii) the Amendment No. 6 between FCT and CMU (April 2013), (viii) the Amendment No. 7 between FCT and CMU (December, 2013), FCT notifies Your Excellency of its intention to terminate the contract in its current form with effect from December 31st, 2023, without prejudice to the continuity of the activities provided in point 4 to 10 of the Amendment No.8 to the Research and Collaboration Agreement.

We would like to explore with CMU the possibility of reshaping our long-term cooperation by establishing a new contract that should consider the following guidance principles:

- 1) A strong commitment to **advanced training** activities, not only by preserving the Dual Degree scheme for doctoral students, but also by analysing future scientific areas of co-operation of mutual interest to both entities, as well as reducing the number of years in which tuition fees are funded at the CMU.
- 2) The strengthening of **mobility schemes** by prolonging the existing Visiting Faculty and Researchers Program and the Visiting Students Program, the latter being limited to doctoral students as part of the dual doctoral degree. PhD students' mobility for a minimum duration of one academic year would be a pre-requisite for a Dual Doctorate degree. These mobility schemes would result in greater promotion of international cooperation between the academic and research communities of the two countries.
- 3) The launching of regular **bilateral calls for joint research and innovation projects**, funded by FCT (Portuguese teams) and CMU (United States Teams), to promote collaborative research between CMU and Portuguese universities, research institutes, laboratories and companies, fostering innovative high-impact ideas and research projects with the potential to address complex challenges of global and societal impact.
- 4) Provide **training activities in marketing and internationalization** of RTD-based products from the Portuguese infrastructures that link academia and the business sector, such as the Collaborative Laboratories (CoLABs) and the Technology and Innovation Centres (CTIs), as well as the creation and development of Deeptech start-ups, ideally with founders and funding entities from Portugal and the USA.
- 5) Discussion of a set of **future scientific areas** of common interest to both countries.

These are preliminary proposals that need further exploration and detailing, with the hope that they will contribute to strengthening our joint venture through a mindset of reciprocal obligations, thus consolidating our historical cooperation.

Portugal and CMU possess valuable expertise and resources that can be utilized in various ways to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes, preserving international cooperation beyond the termination of this specific agreement. We believe that by establishing a new agreement based on revised terms, we can create a more targeted and impactful collaboration that benefits both institutions, nevertheless and taking into account the current political situation in Portugal makes it impossible for the current government to take on any kind of responsibility, in particular the assumption of multi-annual responsibilities.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter. Once again, we express our deep interest in continuing to cooperate with you and our willingness to engage in further discussions.

Yours sincerely,



Madalena Alves
President of the Board of Directors

Cc:

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Annexes:

- Research and Education Collaboration Agreement signed between FCT and CMU dated as of 27th October 2006;
- Amendment No1 between FCT and CMU dated February 28, 2007;
- Amendment No. 2 between FCT and CMU dated October 16, 2010;
- Amendment No. 4 between FCT and CMU dated June 20, 2011;
- Amendment No. 5 between FCT and CMU dated July 1, 2012;

- Amendment No. 6 between FCT and CMU dated April 2013;
- Amendment No. 7 between FCT and CMU dated December 2013;
- Amendment No. 8 between FCT and CMU to be effective as 1st January 2018.