



FCT/5950/22/11/2023/S

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Office of Sponsored Programs
Building NE18-901
77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge
MA 02139 USA

20th November, 2023

Dear Director of the
Office of Sponsored Programs at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology,

Following our written interactions last July, and as a result of several internal and external consultations included in the assessment exercise of FCT's international collaborations, we would like to explore with MIT 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, by introducing a **Dual Doctorate** degree, offering the possibility for Doctoral students to conduct their studies both in Portugal and in the United States, co-advised by faculty from MIT and from the Portuguese partner higher education institution, thus allowing PhD students to obtain a degree conferred both by the MIT and the affiliated Portuguese University.
- 2) The creation of a dedicated **mobility program** to be jointly built between FCT and MIT. Mobility from Portugal to the United States, and from the United States to Portugal would result in greater promotion of international cooperation between the academic and research communities of the two countries. The program would involve two sub-programs: one for staff and another for PhD students. 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 MIT (United States Teams), to promote collaborative research between MIT 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) The launching of a **training program on marketing and internationalization** of RTD-based products developed by the Portuguese infrastructures that link academia and the business sector, such as the Collaborative Laboratories (CoLABs) and the Technology and Innovation Centers (CTIs). Support to the creation and development of Deeptech start-ups, ideally with founders and funding entities from Portugal and the USA, would further extend the scope of the training program.
- 5) Establishment of a set of future **scientific areas of focus** of common interest to both countries.

These are preliminary proposals that should be further explored and detailed, with the hope that they will contribute to the continuation of our joint venture through a reciprocal obligation mindset, thereby consolidating our historical cooperation.

Portugal and MIT hold valuable expertise and resources that can be harnessed in different ways to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes, preserving the international cooperation beyond the termination of this specific agreement. We believe that by forging a fresh 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.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Madalena Alves
President of the Board of Directors

Cc: General Counsel, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Building 7-206, 77 77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139 USA