Summary

The MIT Portugal Program (MPP), a multi-year education and research collaboration between MIT and six leading universities in Portugal, is inviting proposals for short-term seed funding in 2016 as part of its second five-year program phase. Proposals that meet one or more of the following criteria will be considered:

- Carry out early-stage research synergistic with existing test-bed projects submitted under the first Call for test-bed research proposals (closed Jan 31, 2014) in the focus areas of Sustainable Cities, Stem Cell Engineering & Regenerative Medicine, or Design and Manufacturing Approaches in Mobility Industries. The applicants must demonstrate how the seed grant would benefit existing test-beds.
- Carry out early-stage research in areas targeted in the second Call for test-bed research proposals that will open by early 2016. Research areas will include the fields of Biomedical Engineering & Medical Devices, Sustainable Energy, and Transportation Systems.
- Engage in synergistic program activities that increase the impact, sustainability, and visibility of the Program. In particular, proposals aiming at synergistic research grant applications beyond MPP (e.g., NSF, NIH, or Horizon 2020) are encouraged; limited-scope follow-on research to previous MPP projects; activities in innovation and entrepreneurship beneficial to Portugal; outreach to industry partners; the development of educational materials or tools; hosting and/or mentoring of Portuguese PhD students; dissemination of results to broader audiences; as well as workshops and research meetings.
- Carry out early-stage research or other preparatory work that synergistically connects to ongoing or potential future research activities of MPP, e.g., research in the context of Portugal’s renewed emphasis on the importance of oceans.

Eligibility and Funding

The Call is open to all MIT Principal Investigators from any School. Preference is given to faculty and Principal Investigators involved with the MIT Portugal Program, especially if involved with visiting student supervision, teaching, or participating in ongoing research calls. Junior faculty and faculty who have not had previous collaborations with Portugal are also encouraged to apply. The maximum funding for each seed project will be $80,000. We strongly encourage collaboration with other MIT and Portuguese colleagues.

Application Process

Applications must be submitted using the below application form (see next page). All applications are limited to three pages.

The submission deadline for seed fund applications is December 30, 2015, 5:00 pm EST.

Review of the proposals will be conducted by experts in the field in conjunction with MIT MPP Leadership to ensure both high quality as well as compatibility with program goals and ongoing activities. Funding decisions will be made by January 15, 2016.

Awarded funds must be spent in calendar year 2016.

All proposals and questions regarding the call should be submitted to mppseedprojects@mit.edu.
Application for Support from the
MIT Portugal Program (MPP) Research Seed Fund Program

Proposal Title:

Principal Investigator (name and department, laboratory, or center):

Project dates: January - December 2016 (Awarded funds must be spent in calendar year 2016.)

Project Description (no more than 1000 words):
Describe how the project would support the goals of MPP and how it addresses one or more of the aforementioned categories. Please describe the opportunity you see for this project and your approach. Clearly state the objectives and deliverables for the period of work and their expected impact, and the proposed activity’s relation to longer-term goals of MPP.

Research Team and Collaborations:
List the names and titles of members of the research team and describe their roles in the project. Collaborations and multidisciplinary projects are not required, but strongly encouraged, especially if involving Portuguese collaborators.

Budget allocation (estimate):
Describe the intended allocation of the resources (people, equipment, and materials) required to complete the project. This preliminary budget estimate will be used to assess the overall feasibility of the project. No detailed budget is required at this point. The maximum funding for each seed project will be $80,000. Awarded funds must be spent in calendar year 2016.