MIT Portugal Program—MIT 2018 Call for Seed Funding Proposals

Summary
The MIT Portugal Program (MPP), a multi-year education and research collaboration between MIT and leading universities in Portugal, is inviting proposals for one-year seed funding in 2018 as part of its second program phase. Applications can be submitted as a single-principal-investigator proposal (maximum budget of $85,000) or, in certain research areas, as a multiple-principal-investigator proposal (involving 2–3 MIT Principal Investigators with a maximum budget of $250,000). Proposals that meet one or more of the following criteria will be considered:

- Carry out early-stage research or exploratory studies within the scope of one of the following two groups of research areas (groups A and B):
  - **A.** The four existing MPP focus areas: (i) Bioengineering Systems, (ii) Sustainable Energy Systems, (iii) Engineering Design and Advanced Manufacturing; and (iv) Transportation Systems (all eligible for single-principal-investigator awards only).
  - **B.** Potential future research areas of MPP, including the following areas: (i) climate science, (ii) earth observation and monitoring related to climate through the oceans, land, atmosphere, or near space; and (iii) data and systems sciences (all eligible for single- or multiple-principal-investigator awards).
- Engage in synergistic program activities that increase the impact, sustainability, and visibility of MPP. In particular, proposals aimed at advancing innovation and entrepreneurship activities beneficial to Portugal; engaging potential industry partners and networks; supporting synergistic research grant applications beyond MPP (e.g., NSF, NIH, or Horizon 2020); developing educational materials or tools suitable for distance learning, e.g., MITx; hosting and/or mentoring of MPP PhD students; disseminating MPP’s impact and results to broader audiences; as well as organizing and supporting workshops and research meetings (all eligible for single-principal-investigator awards only).

Eligibility
The call is open to all MIT Principal Investigators (PIs) from any School, Department, Laboratory, or Center. Preference is given to faculty and PIs involved in MPP, especially if involved with visiting student supervision, teaching, or participating in ongoing research activities. Junior faculty and faculty who have not had previous collaborations with Portugal are also encouraged to apply. **Only MIT PIs are eligible to receive funding, and PIs are discouraged from being listed on multiple seed grants.** We strongly encourage collaboration with other MIT and Portuguese colleagues. **Preference will be given to applications coordinated with funded research in Portugal, especially through the 2017 Call for Exploratory Projects** [The list of approved exploratory project awards is expected to become available in December 2017 and can be requested by MIT PIs by emailing to mppseedprojects@mit.edu].

Application Process
Applications must be submitted using the application form (see next page).

The submission deadline for seed fund applications is January 26, 2018, 5:00 pm EST.

Funding decisions will be made by February 15, 2018.

Awarded funds must be spent by January 15, 2019.

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

Single-PI proposals are limited to three pages, multiple-PI proposals should not exceed five pages.

Proposal Title:

Category: Please indicate if this an application for a single- or multiple-PI project

Principal Investigator(s): (name and department, laboratory, or center)
In case of a multiple-PI project, please list all PIs and indicate the corresponding PI.

Project dates: January 16, 2018–January 15, 2019 (Awarded funds must be spent by January 15, 2019. The official start date of funding, if awarded, will be January 16, 2018.)

Project Description: (no more than 1,000 words for single-PI and 1,500 words for multiple-PI proposals)
Describe how the project would support the goals of MPP and how it addresses the aforementioned categories and research area groups. 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 strongly encouraged, especially if involving Portuguese collaborators. If your collaborator in Portugal is involved in one of the Portuguese 2017 exploratory project grants, please provide the grant and project name.

Budget allocation:
Describe the intended allocation of the resources (by PI in the case of multiple-PI projects; Budget categories should be Personnel, Equipment, Travel, 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 a single-PI project is $85,000 and up to $250,000 for a multiple-PI one. Awarded funds must be spent by January 15, 2019.