



Entrepreneurship

The experience in the development of innovative technological solutions, but above all, of practical utility, led Fraunhofer Portugal, inevitably, to promote technology transfer. In this context, Fraunhofer Portugal has recently launched its own entrepreneurship program.

Take a few minutes and get to know our entrepreneurial side.



Fraunhofer Portugal launches entrepreneurial program

On the 28th of September 2020, Fraunhofer Portugal launched the technology transfer, entrepreneurship and innovation program – AHEAD Portugal. The program was presented in an internal event, held virtually and led by Liliana Ferreira, Director at Fraunhofer Portugal, Pedro Almeida, Executive Director at Fraunhofer Portugal, Inês Campos Costa, Head of Fraunhofer Portugal Venture, and Thorsten Lambertus, Founder of the AHEAD program in Germany.



Read more



What is AHEAD Portugal?

In case you are wondering what the AHEAD Portugal is and how you can get involved, just take a look at [this video](#).

Also, on the [official website](#) you will find all the information regarding the first edition, including participating teams and ideas.



In order to promote technology-based ideas and their market uptake, in areas related to Artificial Intelligence, Nanotechnology and Information and Communication Technologies, AINanoTec is a national entrepreneurship program, led by Fraunhofer Portugal AICOS, in partnership with the International Iberian Nanotechnology Laboratory (INL) and the Rede de Inovação em Aveiro (Inova Ria).

Highlight_

Fraunhofer Portugal Venture is an initiative created by Fraunhofer Portugal to foster knowledge and technology transfer. Under its umbrella, and inspired in the German model, the AHEAD Portugal program has come to life!

In this video interview, Pedro Almeida, Executive Director at Fraunhofer Portugal, and Inês Campos Costa, Head of Fraunhofer Portugal Venture, explain what the program consists of and what its objectives are.



Play video



In the 3rd Person_



“Programs like AHEAD play an important role in highly scientifically gifted staff; allowing them to gain additional sensitivity to the market and the opportunities / challenges it presents. Only in this way will we generate disruption, evolve and become a more efficient and capable society.”

Benjamin Junior

Investment Manager @ SONAE IM



“AHEAD Program has marked a huge milestone in deep tech acceleration programs in Portugal. The program is a nest of knowledgeable people diving into the state-of-the-art of Fraunhofer deep tech technologies, taped into the power of co-creation.”

Clara Gonçalves

Head of Knowledge Transfer @ School of Medicine University of Minho

“AHEAD Portugal from Fraunhofer has been an extremely important initiative to bring knowledge from world-class R&D to the healthcare needs of today. It has been a pleasure to participate as a mentor and help the teams bring innovation to current healthcare hurdles.”



Nuno Afonso

Managing Partner @ Apogee Ventures and
CEO @ FASTinov

“At AHEAD I have witnessed passion, purpose, and meaningful technologies, which are crucial factors for kickstarting entrepreneurial careers. But more importantly, I saw a fully supportive community with a collaborative mindset vouching and helping researchers become founders.”



Sofia Santos

Partner @ Faber

Trends_

Scientific Entrepreneurship



Pedro Almeida
Executive Director of Fraunhofer Portugal

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The creation of technology-based companies is one of the great aims of the most evolved societies, as they are built on a scientific knowledge base and, as a general rule, on a highly qualified staff. The theme of scientific entrepreneurship is part of this great goal, but, as in all great goals, it is a very complex topic that requires a great deal of preparation and appropriate work methodologies in order to be a success.

Within this framework, Fraunhofer Portugal recently implemented an entrepreneurship program that aims precisely to foster scientific entrepreneurship among its employees. The name of this program is AHEAD Portugal, which is based on a model developed in Germany, the AHEAD program. AHEAD is part of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft universe of initiatives and over the past few years it has been an important tool for the promotion of scientific entrepreneurship among Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft researchers and collaborators.

The reasons that led to the implementation of this initiative are several, but the main objectives that are related to AHEAD Portugal are: to promote knowledge and technology transfer, to promote the training of Fraunhofer Portugal employees and to promote highly qualified employment.

These objectives are directly aligned with the operational strategy of Fraunhofer Portugal, since there is a need to enhance the commercialization of technologies that have a great market potential and by promoting their valorization through licensing to companies that sell products and / or high added value services.

In addition to these factors, it is also very important to give Fraunhofer Portugal employees the chance to better understand the vision of their main customers, i.e. companies from the most diverse sectors. As the AHEAD Portugal program incorporates a

set of training sessions that cover different aspects of the business world, whether in terms of understanding the markets, financial, management and marketing aspects, Fraunhofer Portugal employees can gain more knowledge that goes far beyond their technical capacity, thus allowing them to have a more elaborate critical spirit and better understand the questions / doubts that may arise on the side of the companies.

As mentioned, the AHEAD Portugal program is an ongoing initiative that is already beginning to bear some fruit and that has enabled Fraunhofer Portugal to have a more accurate view of the way entrepreneurship programs work and the Venture Capital mechanisms normally associated with it. It is expected that in the not too distant future, the first spin-offs with licensed Fraunhofer Portugal technologies may arise, which is naturally one of the contributions that the Association can make to the development of scientific entrepreneurship, to highly qualified employment and to the development of society in general!



Fraunhofer Portugal AICOS

Headquarters

Rua Alfredo Allen, 455/461 | 4200-135 Porto

Branch Office

Avenida Prof. Gama Pinto, 2 | 1649-003 Lisboa