

Industrial Associations join MIT-Portugal Program as Affiliates

The AIP (Portuguese Industrial Association), the AEP (Portuguese Association of Companies), the FAE (Forum for Business Managers) and the Proforum – Association for the Development of Engineering will join the MIT-Portugal Program as Institutional Affiliates, promoting the connection of the Program to Portuguese companies and its social and economic impact. The ceremony will take place during a dinner on 26 March during the MIT-Europe Conference (25-27 March), during which the Presidents of the Associations, and the President of the Portuguese Science and Technology Foundation (FCT), João Sentieiro, will sign the affiliation agreement between the Associations and the MIT-Portugal Program.

The ceremony will be attended by the Prime Minister, José Socrates, the Minister of Economy and Innovation, Manuel Pinho, the Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education, José Mariano Gago, the Dean of the School of Engineering of MIT, Subra Suresh, as well as the Directors of the MIT-Portugal Program, Paulo Ferrão and Dan Roos.

The involvement of these Associations in the MIT-Portugal Program will help reinforce the connection of Portuguese and MIT research groups to Portuguese industry, launching a new collaboration with three main objectives:

- The organization of a series of Thematic Workshops in collaboration with the MIT-Portugal Program and with business associations, which will bring together various international experts to promote “A vision for the Future” regarding various important themes for the Portuguese economy;
- Raise the awareness and stimulate Portuguese industry to invest in research and development;
- Stimulate the enhancement of highly qualified human capital in the associated companies through the involvement of their staff in Executive Masters offered within the context of the MIT-Portugal Program, as an exclusive means of advanced education for engineers who are leaders in their companies. The Executive Masters series will include:
 - Executive Master in Sustainable Energy Systems;
 - Executive Master in Transportation Systems;
 - Executive Master in Technology Management Enterprise

The MIT-Portugal Program was launched in October 2006, with financing from the Portuguese Science and Technology Foundation totaling 65.5 million Euros from public funds for five years, of which approximately 32.5 million Euros will go to Portuguese universities and research institutions. The Program was created in

the context of a series of initiatives developed by the Government as part of its Technological Plan, which is intended to strengthen scientific and technological cooperation with internationally recognized institutions, in order to create innovative projects which directly reinforce scientific capabilities and higher education in Portugal. The Program involves a consortium of Portuguese research institutions, universities, and companies, which support international-level programs as well as the recruitment of faculty and researchers. The Program also has the objective of stimulating economic growth through scientific innovation, attracting new talents and high value added activities, as well as promoting access to new markets for Portuguese technology companies.

Information at: <http://www.mitportugal.org>