

Evaluation Panel: ENGINEERING SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGIES - Electrical and Computer Engineering

Referência: UID/00066/2017

R&D Unit: Centro de Tecnologias e Sistemas (CTS)

Coordinator: Luis Manuel Camarinha-Matos

Integrated PhD Researchers: 39

Base Funding for (2020-2023): 701 K €

Recommended Programmatic Support

PhD Fellowships: 3

Programmatic Funding: 295 K €, including for 1 (Junior) new PhD Researcher Contract.

Overall Quality Grade: Excellent

Evaluation Criteria Ratings

(A) Quality, merit, relevance and internationalization of the R&D activities of the Integrated Researchers in the R&D Unit Application:	5
(B) Merit of the team of Integrated Researchers:	5
(C) Appropriateness of objectives, strategy, plan of activities and organization:	5

Comments for errors detected:

The complaint concerned the fact that the R&D Unit was not assigned the maximum rating on criterion A (Quality, merit, relevance and internationalization of the R&D activities of the Integrated Researchers in the R&D Unit Application) and a Very Good and not Excellent Overall Quality Grade. One of the main concerns expressed by the panel was that focusing most of the work on TRL4-TRL 6 efforts may negatively affect the capacity of the Unit of developing long-term basic research initiatives. In its report after the rebuttal the Panel stated that "With respect to internationalization the panel considered that although there is a significant participation in European projects, the leadership in terms of fundamental research is not strong enough to claim being a scientific international reference and thus the qualification of 4."

We believe that the opinion of the evaluation committee is too biased towards basic research: the claim that a unit that does not perform good basic research will not get that many project in the future appears not justified and arbitrary. Also when motivating the grade given to criterion A, the panel refers again to a lack of leaderships in projects on fundamental research. The emphasis put on basic research by the panel finds no justification in FTC evaluation guidelines. Hence it is our opinion that the grade for criterion A should be 5 and the overall grade should be excellent.

Comments for absence of errors:

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