**NOTICE NO. 72/2025**

**COMPETITION FOR THE AWARD OF A GRANT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE RESEARCH GRANT REGULATIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALGARVE**

Title: One (1) Research Grant – Master

A competition is open for the award of **one (1) Research Grant – Master** within the scope of the R&D project/institution ALGARVE-FEDER-02964500, Ref. 24298 – AI. INSIGHTS – "AI-Powered Real-Time Anonymous User Echo Monitoring", G1 - PT2030-SIID -I&D Empresarial – Copromoção, under the following conditions:

1. **Scientific Area**: Computer Engineering.

2. **Admission Requirements**: Master's degree in Computer Engineering or Electrical Engineering or Systems Engineering or Physics Engineering or Applied Mathematics or related courses. Preference is given to candidates with experience and knowledge in the area(s) of Computer Vision and Artificial Intelligence, as well as knowledge of programming languages and libraries such as Python, OpenCV, PyTorch, TersorFlow or similar.

3. **Project Objectives**: The work to be carried out consists of supporting the implementation of the work foreseen in the IA project: INSIGHTS – "AI-Powered Real-Time Anonymous User Echo Monitoring" (https://sites.google.com/view/aiinsights-scientificmicrosite) The objectives of this work consist of: (a) Develop and implement an innovative multi-sensor fusion architecture for the robust extraction of satisfaction and behavioural metrics on EdgeAI devices. (b) Design and validate advanced AI models for the analysis of group dynamics and behaviours in limited physical spaces, such as in "trade fair stands", "exhibition kiosks", or "event exhibitors". (c) Develop privacy-preserving trait extraction techniques in compliance with GDPR and EU AI law. (d) Create and validate a multimodal and annotated reference dataset to create and validate the satisfaction and behaviour models in physical spaces referred to in (b).

4. **Applicable Legislation and Regulations**: Research Fellow Statute, approved by Law No. 40/2004 of August 18, as amended by Decree-Law No. 65/2024 of October 1, and the University of Algarve Research Grant Regulations (https://files.dre.pt/2s/2021/10/210000000/0013700149.pdf).

5. **Workplace:** The work will be developed at the Research Center NOVA LINCS – UAlg, Visual Computing Lab (https://sites.google.com/view/visual-computing-lab/), Instituto Superior de Engenharia, University of the Algarve, Penha Campus, Faro, under the scientific supervision of Professor João Rodrigues.

6. **Duration of grant(s):** The fellowship will last for 12 months, starting on January, 2026. The fellowship contract may be renewable until 30/09/2028, taking into account the Regulation of Research Grants of the University of Algarve (https://files.dre.pt/2s/2021/10/210000000/0013700149.pdf).

7. **Monthly maintenance allowance amount**: The monthly maintenance allowance is €1.309,64. The maintenance allowance will be paid monthly by bank transfer. (https://www.fct.pt/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Tabela_valores_SMM_2025.pdf).

8. **Candidate evaluation**: In accordance with the provisions of number 2 from article 11 of the Regulation of Research Grants of the University of Algarve, the evaluation of candidates focuses only on the following criteria:

(a) Curricular and academic merit of the candidate (0-20; 45%), (b) Demonstrated experience or work motivation in the area of Artificial Intelligence and/or Computer Vision (0-20; 35%) and (c) Interview (0-20; 20%). The Jury reserves the right not to award the scholarship to candidates who do not present a declaration of commitment that the candidate will enrol for the first time in a doctoral program and that the doctoral program in which he or she will enrol will be at the University of Algarve in the area of Computer Engineering. The Jury also reserves the right not to admit to the interview candidates with a curricular evaluation lower than thirteen (13) points (0-20 points), as well as the right not to award the scholarship to candidates with a final score less than or equal to thirteen (13) points (0-20 points).

9. **Composition of the Application Evaluation Board**: The Application Evaluation Board is composed of three full members and one alternate (all PhDs):

- João Rodrigues (Presidente), Professor Coordenador Principal, Instituto Superior de Engenharia;

- Pedro Cardoso (Vogal efetivo), Professor Coordenador, Instituto Superior de Engenharia;

- Jaime Martins (Vogal efetivo), Professor Adjunto, Instituto Superior de Engenharia;

- Joel Guerreiro (Vogal Suplente), Professor Adjunto, Instituto Superior de Engenharia.

**10. Publication/Notification of Results:** The final results of the evaluation will be published through an alphabetically ordered list, by final grade obtained posted in a visible and public place, at the door of the Visual Computing Laboratory, room 172, of the Higher Institute of Engineering of the University of Algarve, and the approved candidate will be notified by e-mail.

**11. Application Deadline and Submission Method:** The competition is open from **17/11/2025 to 12/12/2025.**

**12. Applications must be accompanied by the following documents:**

a) Official identification document (simple copy or legal equivalent). Applicants of non-Portuguese nationality must present a residence permit, permanent residence certificate, or long-term resident status, valid on the scholarship start date. Any of these may be replaced, in its absence, by a declaration of honour by the candidate. However, this must be submitted during the scholarship contracting phase, under penalty of forfeiture of the scholarship award;
b) Curriculum Vitae;
c) Copy of the qualification certificates for the academic degrees held, specifying the final grade and, if possible, the grades obtained in all courses taken;
d) Declaration of commitment that the candidate will enrol for the first time in a doctoral program and that the doctoral program in which he or she will enrol will be at the University of Algarve in the area of Computer Engineering.
e) Other documents deemed relevant due to the type and modality of the scholarship.
f) The Application for the Competition, accessed in https://www.ualg.pt/sites/default/files/documentos/2022-12/anexo-iii-requerimento-para-candidatura-bolsa-pt.pdf, dated and signed, must be addressed to the President of the Competition evaluation panel, and may be sent by post to the following address: Attn: Prof. João Rodrigues, University of Algarve, Instituto Superior de Engenharia, Penha Campus, 8005-139 Faro, Ref.ª (AI. INSIGHTS_B#2) or by **email to jrodrig@ualg.pt** (preferred method). Also in the aforementioned request, and if the candidate submits his application by e-mail, he must expressly consent to all notifications regarding the competition procedure being sent to the indicated e-mail address.

**13. Documents to be submitted for the scholarship agreement:**

a. Individual Taxpayer Registry (INV) information, if the applicant is a nationality other than Portuguese, must be submitted during the scholarship agreement process, under penalty of forfeiture of the scholarship award;

b. Documents proving that the applicant meets the requirements for the respective type of scholarship, namely, proof of enrollment and registration and the study cycle or course that does not confer an academic degree;

c. Declaration of the advisor(s) assuming responsibility for supervising the work plan, in accordance with Article 5-A of the Research Scholarship Statute, as well as guaranteeing the necessary conditions for the successful development of the work and compliance with the duties set forth in Article 13 of the Research Scholarship Statute;

d. Declaration of Commitment to the Exclusive Dedication Regime.

**14. Deadlines and Procedures for Complaints and Appeals:**

Candidates may, if they so wish, comment on the draft decision to award the requested scholarship, at a hearing for interested parties within 10 business days, under the terms and for the purposes set forth in Article 121 of the Code of Administrative Procedure.

Candidates have the right to complain to the evaluation panel within 10 business days regarding the commission or omission of any act.

An appeal may be filed against the final decision of the application evaluation panel to the Rector within 10 business days of notification.

**16. Scholarship Contract:**

After receiving all required documentation, a scholarship contract will be signed with the selected candidate in accordance with the attached template.

**17. Evaluation of Fellow(s):**

At the end of each fellowship contract period, the advisor will evaluate the fellow(s)' work by applying the following criteria, in accordance with the attached template:

(a) Compliance with working hours and attendance;
(b) Fulfilment of the work plan, specifically the development and implementation of the multi-sensor fusion architecture for the robust extraction of satisfaction and behavioural metrics on EdgeAI devices, as well as the design of AI models for the analysis of group dynamics and behaviours in limited physical spaces, namely "stands at fairs", "exhibition kiosks", or "event exhibitors";
(c) Validation of the developed platform through real-time testing.

The University of Algarve reserves the right to cancel the fellowship award process, within the scope of the Project in question, whenever funding is not awarded.

University of Algarve, 04 of November of 2025

The Principal Investigator

Prof. Doutor João Miguel Fernandes Rodrigues