

**Establishing the
ATLANTIC INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CENTER
(AIR CENTER)**

Florianopolis, Brazil, 20-21 November 2017

Following the conclusions of the “First High-Level Industry-Science-Government Dialogue on Atlantic Interactions”, held in Terceira island, Azores-Portugal, 20-21 April 2017, the signatories met during the “Second High-Level Industry-Science-Government Dialogue on Atlantic Interactions”, in Florianopolis, Brazil, 20-21 November 2017, and agree on establishing the **Atlantic International Research Center (AIR Center)**, making use of the terms and common understanding described below:

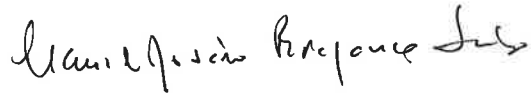
- The AIR Center should promote a holistic, integrative and systemic approach to knowledge on space, atmosphere, oceans climate-energy, and data sciences in the Atlantic, while fostering an inclusive perspective to science, technology and economic development;
- The AIR Center major goal is to become a knowledge and data driven network organization, enabling innovative work through bottom-up initiatives that will face new and greater challenges and R&D gaps;
- At this launching phase, the initial AIR Center Research Agenda is that adopted in the document “Atlantic Interactions - Towards an integrative approach to the Atlantic: Climate Change and Energy Systems, Space and Ocean Sciences, Data Sciences through North-South/South North cooperation” (August 2017);
- The establishment of the AIR Center, with its headquarters in the Azores, should take benefit of the strategic positioning of Atlantic islands and set up a network of existing or new research sites and infrastructures in the Atlantic islands of Azores, Madeira, Canary Islands, Cape Verde, Fernando de Noronha and S. Pedro-S. Paulo, among others, together with mainland research sites in India, Nigeria, Angola, South Africa, as in Europe and in the Americas , as well as others to follow, in order to optimize the appropriate use and sharing of research infrastructures and data, in order to increase their operational efficiency and output;

- The AIR Center should be conceived as open to the world through the establishment of different forms of scientific and technological collaboration with public and private entities across the Globe, thus providing a truly international shared environment. In this way, it shall benefit from the development of comparative studies and projects over our entire and unique ocean, including the interactions between Atlantic, Indian, Arctic, Southern Pacific and Mediterranean regions, promoting a sustainable management of common resources;
- The expected impact of the creation of the AIR Center includes the development of a new scientific and innovation platform at the best international level, offering a global-scale network of research sites, capable of attracting scientists and technology-based companies from around the world, as well as stimulating different forms of collaboration among European, North, Central and South American, Caribbean, African and Asian public or private entities within a wide range of areas including: Atmospheric Science and Climate Change, Energy Systems, Ocean Science and Technology, Data Science and Space Science and Technology, associated with research, education and technology-based businesses;
- The AIR Center governance should be implemented under the following guidelines:
 - Establish an international distributed scientific network organization, with an own and independent legal status, comprising an international network of science, technology and innovation organizations across Atlantic countries in association with other scientific and research organizations worldwide;
 - Consider a stepwise process with the following time-bound targets:
 - 2018, 1st semester: Setting-up an initial financial and investment plan for the AIR Center, as a network of research sites and infrastructures. The plan should include a forecast of expected investment for jobs and for expenditures and potential funding sources. A clear draft business plan is to be prepared and submitted to approval by founding partners;
 - 2018, 2nd semester: Conclude the launching phase, by establishing a non-profit Association, registered in Portugal, to lead the network of research sites and infrastructures in the initial phase of the AIR Center through a consortia of

- founding members (public and private institutions), aimed to deepen the governance model and to launch, anon, activities within the basic scientific program in targeted research areas;
- 2019-2020: Foster a development phase, with the completion of national processes regarding the acquisition of "Air Center" international legal status, at the same time as the multisite research and infrastructures in different countries is strengthened;
 - 2020-2022: Guarantee full institutional autonomy, with adequate institutional, legal and financial structure, together with fully scientific autonomy as a multisite research organization;
- Form a Steering Committee (SC) that will prepare the establishment of the AIR Center – Atlantic International Research Center, as described above, and will define an implementation and financial plan which at least should consider the following items:
 - A flexible international governance model, addressing staff, financial contributions, definition of the scientific program, headquarter agreement and extension to Member States;
 - A Basic Program, to be subscribed by all founding partners, together with Specific Target and Thematic Programs to accomplish specific goals considered in the AIR Center Research agenda;
 - The implementation plan for the AIR Center should consider a voluntary funding raising strategy and the identification of main sources of funding for a period of 5 to 20 years for the Basic Program and the Specific Target and Thematic Programs;
 - The Steering Committee meets every 3 months, and comprises an Executive Committee that meets twice a month. The meetings can be held trough video conferencing and other electronic means.
 - The countries interested in the launching of the AIR Center agree on designating their representative (s) to the Steering Committee no later than January 2018.
 - The next High-Level Meetings will be in Cape Verde, in May 2018, and in the Canary Islands, in November 2018.

The signatories, in Florianopolis

Governments



Maria do Rosário Sambo, Minister for Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, Angola



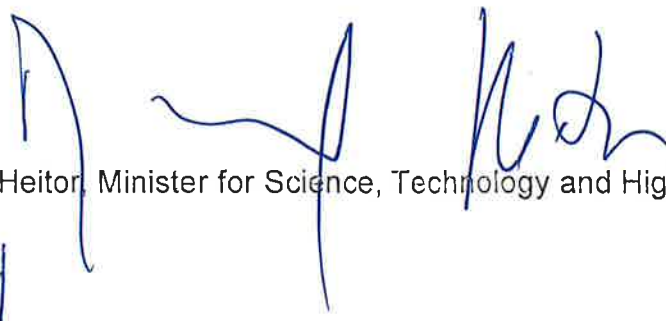
Gilberto Kassab, Minister for Science, Technology, Innovations and Communications, Brazil



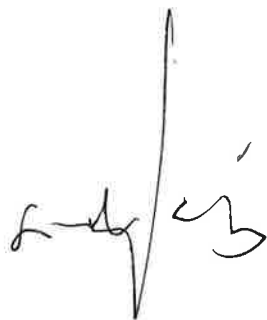
Maritza Rosabal, Minister of Education, Cape Verde, represented by Aquilino Varela



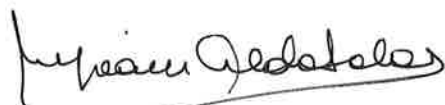
Ogonnaya Onu, Minister of Science and Technology, Nigeria, represented by Ekanem J. Udoh




Manuel Heitor, Minister for Science, Technology and Higher Education, Portugal



Juan Maria Vázquez Rojas, General Secretary for Science and Innovation, Spain



María Julia Muñoz Minister for Education and Culture, Uruguay, represented by Myriam Aldabalde

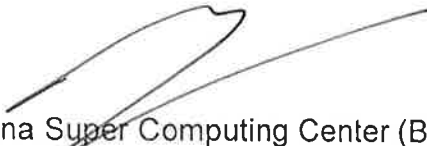


Gui Menezes, Azores Regional Secretary for Sea, Science and Technology, Regional Government of Azores

Initial Associated Research and Technology Organizations, RTOs:



Associação RAEGE, Azores, Gui Menezes, representative of the major shareholder



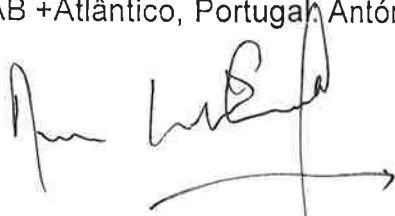
Barcelona Super Computing Center (BSC-CNS), Spain: Josep M. Martorell Rodon, Associate Director



CEIIA Engineering and Innovation Center, Portugal: José Rui Felizardo, CEO



CoLAB +Atlântico, Portugal: António Sarmento



CoLAB DTX – Digital Transformation, Portugal: António Cunha

EIT Climate-KIC Spain (Knowledge Innovation Community on Climate of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology), Spain José Luis Muñoz, Director General,

IB-S - Institute for Bio Sustainability, Portugal: António Cunha

IEO - Instituto Español de Oceanografía, Spain: Eduardo Balguerías, Director

INESC TEC, Portugal: Rui Oliveira, Member of the Board

INESC P&D Brasil: Vladimiro Miranda, President Director

PLOCAN, Spain: José Joaquín Hernández Brito, Chief Operating Officer



WavEc, Portugal, António Sarmento

Initial list of Industry



Deimos, Elecnor Group, Elsa Alexandrino, Business Developer


Lusospace Ivo Vieira, CEO



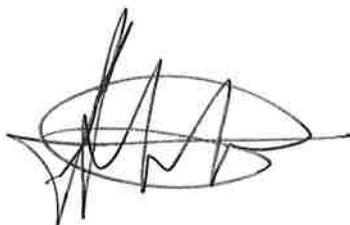
Tekever: Ricardo Mendes, CEO



Thales: Patrick Plante, R&D Technical Director

For Thales Portugal 

G.M.V. , Alberto de Lencastre, director and Portugal



Signatories of the Florianopolis Declaration

Governments

Olinto Daio, Minister for Education, Culture and Science, São Tomé and Príncipe



Associated Research and Technology Organizations, RTOs



Ciência Viva Agency, Portugal: Rosalia Vargas, President

CDTI - Centro para o Desenvolvimento Tecnológico Industrial: Spain, Francisco Marin, Director General



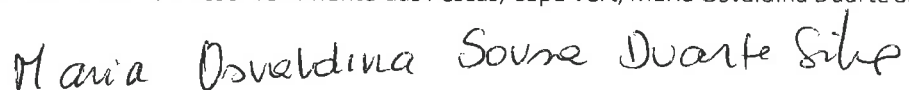
CSIC - Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Spain, ELENA DOMINGUEZ,
VICEPRESIDENT INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.



EUROcean: Ned Dywer, Executive Director

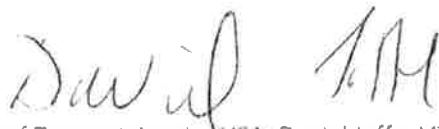


INDP/Instituto Nacional de Desenvolvimento das Pescas, Cape Vert, Maria Osvaldina Duarte Silva,
President





Universidade de Cabo Verde, Cabo Verde: Judite Medina do Nascimento, Rector



University of Texas at Austin, USA: Daniel Jaffe, Vice President for Research

Industry

EDP Inovação: António Vidigal, Presidente e Luís António, Executive Diretor

Annexes:

1. Initial list of research institutions, sites and infrastructures considered "**Poles of the AIR Center**", in the launching phase
2. Members of the **Steering Committee** of the AIR Center

Annex 1

Initial list of research institutions, sites and infrastructures considered "**Poles of the AIR Center**", in the launching phase

1. Cape Verde Ocean Observatory, in collaboration with GEOMAR - Helmholtz Center for Ocean Research Kiel and the National Institute for the Development of Fisheries (Contact: tbd)
2. Cape Verde Atmospheric Observatory Humberto Duarte Fonseca, CVAO, (Contact: tbd)
3. CoLab +Atlântico, Portugal (contact: António Sarmento, Member of the board)
4. INPE – National Institute for Space Policies, S José dos Campos, Brazil (contact: Ricardo Galvão, Director)
5. Nigerian National Institute of Oceanography, Lagos, Nigeria (contact: tbd)
6. PLOCAN, Canary Islands, Spain (contact: Octavio Llinas, Director)
7. Santa Maria satellite tracking unit (Contact: tbd)
8. South Africa National Center for Ocean Research, tbd (Contact: tbd)
9. Texas Advanced Computing Center, TAAC, University of Texas at Austin, USA
10. RAEGE (Rede Atlântica de Estações Geodinâmicas e Espaciais/Atlantic Network of Geodynamic and Spatial Stations), Spain and Azores (contacts: Pablo de Vicente, Director / Luís R. Santos, Assistant Director)

Annex 2

Members of the **Steering Committee** of the AIR Center

1. Angola: tbd
2. **Andrei Polejack**, Deputy Secretary for Policies and Programs, Brazil
3. **Aquilino Varela**, Director of Science, Technology and Innovation, Cabo Verde
4. **M.A. Atmanand**, Former Director National Institute of Ocean Technology , Chennai, India
5. **Ekanem Udoh**, Director of Science and Technology Promotion, Nigeria
6. **António Sarmiento**, CoLab +Atlântico, Portugal (**Chair**)
7. São Tomé and Príncipe: tbd
8. **Stewart Bernard**, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, South Africa
9. **José Joaquín Hernández Brito**, PLOCAN, Spain
10. **David González**, Director of Science and Technology, Uruguay
11. **Marco Bravo**, University of Texas at Austin, USA
12. **Carolina Rêgo Costa**, Portuguese Science and Technology Foundation, Portugal (Executive Legal Officer)
13. **Rui Oliveira**, INESC TEC - Universidade do Minho, Portugal
14. **Tony Lewis**, Emeritus Beaufort Professor & Co-PI MaREI Centre Environmental Research Institute
15. **Francisco Wallenstein Macedo**, Azores Mission Structure for Space, Azores
16. **Bruno Pacheco**, Regional Director of Science and Technology, Azores
17. **Claire Durkin**, Head of Global Science and Innovation in BEIS- Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, United Kingdom (Observer)

Executive Board of the Steering Committee of the AIR Center

1. **António Sarmiento**, CoLab +Atlântico, Portugal (**Chair**)
2. **Andrei Polejack**, Deputy Secretary for Policies and Programs, Brazil
3. **Stewart Bernard**, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, South Africa
4. **José Joaquín Hernández Brito**, Chief Operating Officer, PLOCAN, Spain
5. **Carolina Rêgo Costa**, Portuguese Science and Technology Foundation, FCT, Portugal (Executive Legal Officer)
6. **Bruno Pacheco**, Regional Director of Science and Technology, Azores