

TECH FOUNDRY PORTUGAL – Deep Tech Edition

Terms & Conditions

Startup Portugal

1. Scope

These Terms and Conditions (hereinafter “Terms and Conditions” or “Terms”) govern the application, selection, and participation in the Tech Foundry Portugal – Deep Tech Edition programme (hereinafter referred to as the “Programme”) and constitute a legally binding agreement between:

- The Applicant (as defined in the Definitions below);
- Startup Portugal – Associação Portuguesa para a Promoção do Empreendedorismo – SPAPPE (“STARTUP PORTUGAL”), hereinafter referred to as the Organiser or STARTUP PORTUGAL, as the entity organising the Programme;
- The Operational Partner, to the extent of its involvement and intervention in the Programme.

The mere submission of an application to the Programme implies the full, express, and unconditional acceptance of these Terms and Conditions. If the Applicant does not agree with any of the provisions set out in these Terms and Conditions, it shall refrain from submitting an application to the Programme.

2. Definitions

- “Applicant”: any team that submits an application which designs, develops, manufactures, or offers technological solutions eligible under these Terms and that participates in the Programme.
- “Application”: the registration of an Applicant in accordance with these Terms and Conditions.
- “Confidential Information”: confidential information as defined in Clause 7 of these Terms and Conditions.
- “Project”: the Applicant’s deep tech business or technology venture.
- “Parties”: refers collectively to STARTUP PORTUGAL, the Operational Partner, the Applicant, and any other persons and/or entities involved or participating in the Programme, including but not limited to trainers, mentors, investors, and companies.
- “Selected Project(s)”: the Project(s) selected in accordance with Clause 5 of these Terms and Conditions.
- “Project Champion”: the team member designated as the primary point of contact and responsible representative throughout the Programme.

3. Conditions and Purpose of the Programme

The Programme is open to scientific and technological teams working on Deep Tech solutions at Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 4 to 5, across the following sectors: Biotech, Healthtech, Advanced Materials & Nanotech, Climate & Clean Tech, Ocean & Marine Tech, Advanced Computing & Electronics, Artificial Intelligence, Space & Aeronautics, Robotics & Autonomous Systems, Dual-use Technologies, and Gov Tech.

The Programme is operated by STARTUP PORTUGAL and takes place from September 2026 to December 2026 (hereinafter referred to as the “Duration of the Programme”). Applications to join

the Programme will be open from 16 June to 3 July 2026, and the selection announcement will take place on 29 July 2026.

The purpose of the Programme is to select teams (the “Selected Projects”) with a relevant Project that may benefit from the four-month intensive acceleration programme. Selected teams will be supported in moving from lab-stage technology to market validation, with access to a global network of deep tech investors and experts.

4. Applications

4.1 Applicant Eligibility Criteria

The Applicant must be a team or company that:

- Carries out its activity in the sectors listed in Clause 3;
- Has an innovative character and develops new and inventive technologies, processes, or services capable of market-validated economic application.

The Programme is particularly suited for:

- Researchers exploring a spin-off from a university or research institution;
- University-based or lab-originated projects;
- Early-stage Deep Tech teams with a validated technology seeking the next step;
- Teams that have demonstrated proof of concept for their technology.

A relevant connection to Portugal is also required. Priority will be given to companies with their registered office in Portugal (in cases where a legally incorporated entity exists) or to teams conducting Research & Development activities in Portugal. Priority will equally be given to Projects at Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 4 or 5 with demonstrated proof of concept or validation.

4.2 Submission Procedure

The Applicant shall submit its application exclusively via the Programme application platform, paper, other format, or alternative submission methods not being accepted, in accordance with the instructions provided (the “Application”). Submission is free of charge and without purchase obligation for the Applicant or the Organiser.

The deadline for submitting applications is 23:59:59 (WET) on 3 July 2026.

Upon submission, the Organiser shall perform a preliminary relevance check to verify that the information provided by the Applicant is consistent with the objectives of the Programme. Applicants who successfully pass this preliminary check may be invited to complement their Application through an alignment call or by providing additional information.

The Organiser’s decision regarding late or non-conforming submissions is final. By submitting an application, the Applicant declares that the information provided is complete, correct, and accurate in all material respects, and acknowledges that its registration may be rejected or terminated if any registered information is found to be incomplete, incorrect, or inaccurate.

All Applications must be submitted in English.

The Organiser accepts no liability for applications submitted after the deadline, or for late, lost, damaged, incomplete, or misdirected entries, or for technical failures relating to the application platform.

4.3 Application Fields

When registering its application, the Applicant shall be requested to provide the following information:

General Information

- Company or team name
- Website (if available)
- Country of operation
- Elevator pitch (brief description of the project)
- Project Champion: first and last name, email address, and position

Team & Company

- Year of creation (or expected creation date)
- Team size
- Total funds raised to date (if any) and funding type
- Other signs of traction (awards, letters of intent, acceleration programmes, publications, etc.)

Solution

- Slide deck presenting the solution
- Video or article describing the product or technology (optional)
- Sector(s) of operation and target market
- Deep tech domain (from the list in Clause 3)
- Problem addressed and proposed solution
- Why the team is uniquely qualified
- Key team member LinkedIn profiles

Technology

- Description of the underlying technology
- Applicability to different industries or sectors
- Current TRL stage and supporting evidence
- Technology development objectives for the six months following the application date
- Production or prototype status (if applicable)
- Year work on the technology commenced
- Competitive landscape and differentiation from other operators

Intellectual Property

- Patent status (granted, pending, or not yet filed) with relevant details

Programme Expectations

- What the team expects to gain from the Tech Foundry Portugal programme
- Additional comments regarding the application

No confidential information should be communicated at the submission stage. The information shared in the Application and during the application phase is the sole responsibility of the Applicant. Any information communicated by an Applicant during this process will be considered non-confidential unless otherwise agreed in writing. Only complete Applications will be considered.

5. Selection Process and Evaluation Criteria

5.1 Selection Process and Evaluation Criteria

The review and selection of candidate teams will be carried out by STARTUP PORTUGAL from 3 July 2026.

The final decision on the selection of projects is taken by STARTUP PORTUGAL, having regard to the recommendation issued by the Selection Committee (see Clause 5.2). The Selection Committee's recommendation is not binding on STARTUP PORTUGAL, which reserves the right not to follow the recommendation in duly justified cases; the final decision remains the exclusive responsibility of STARTUP PORTUGAL.

The review and selection phase consists of assessing whether the Applicant and its Project generally fit with the conditions and purpose of the Programme.

Evaluation Criteria include, but are not limited to:

- Strength and originality of the underlying technology – 35%;
- Market potential and scalability of the solution – 25%;
- Team composition and relevant expertise – 25%;
- Project/startup maturity and alignment with the programme's focus areas (TRL 4 and 5) – 15%

Notwithstanding the foregoing, applicant startups that are beneficiaries of investment under the IFIC Deeptech & Tech Foundry programme of Banco Português de Fomento – which can be found at <https://www.bpfomento.pt/pt/catalogo/ific-deep-tech/> – are exempt from the selection process set out in this section. Their admission to the Programme shall be considered guaranteed, provided that all other eligibility requirements set out in section 4 are met.

The results of the selection process shall be communicated by 29 July 2026.

Applicants whose Application has not been selected will be informed by the Organiser.

The Organiser reserves the right not to select any Applicant if none meets the evaluation criteria defined by the Selection Committee.

Any Applicant that does not comply with these Terms and Conditions during the application phase or at any time during the Programme will be automatically disqualified without prior notice.

5.2 Selection Committee

STARTUP PORTUGAL shall constitute a Selection Committee, whose function is to review and evaluate the applications received and to issue a reasoned recommendation addressed to STARTUP PORTUGAL. The Committee shall be composed of no fewer than three members, appointed by STARTUP PORTUGAL based on at least one of the following criteria: (i) proven experience in technology entrepreneurship, innovation, or deep tech; (ii) knowledge in areas of technology transfer; (iii) experience in early-stage investment (angel investment, venture capital, or public funding instruments for startups); (iv) relevant training or professional activity in the scientific and technological sectors covered by the Programme; (v) experience in national or international entrepreneurship ecosystems.

The Selection Committee may, whenever it deems appropriate, consult external experts of recognised technical, scientific, or business competence to support the review and evaluation of applications, without prejudice to the final recommendation remaining the exclusive responsibility of the Committee.

All members of the Selection Committee are required to immediately and in writing declare to STARTUP PORTUGAL any relationship – direct or indirect – of a personal, economic, professional, or any other nature with any applicant or member of a candidate team that may compromise their independence or impartiality. Following such declaration, the person concerned shall abstain from participating in the evaluation of the application in question.

All members of the Selection Committee are equally subject to confidentiality obligations regarding all information to which they have access in the exercise of their functions, including internal deliberations, in accordance with the terms set out in Clause 7 of these Terms and Conditions, with the necessary adaptations.

The Selection Committee operates with the attendance of a majority of its members. The Committee's deliberations are adopted by a majority of those present, are confidential, and are based on the evaluation criteria defined for the Programme, without prejudice to the margin of technical appreciation inherent in the qualitative assessment of Applications.

Should any member of the Selection Committee be unable to participate in the process, STARTUP PORTUGAL shall proceed to their timely replacement.

6. Participation Conditions

Each selected team must comply with the following obligations and conditions throughout the Duration of the Programme:

- Each team must designate a “Project Champion”, who is responsible for attending every session, handling all follow-up, and acting as the main point of contact throughout the Programme. For each session, the “Project Champion” may be accompanied by one additional team member, chosen from a maximum of two subject-matter experts depending on the topic covered.
- The Programme is delivered entirely in English. All participating team members must be sufficiently fluent to engage actively in workshops, mentorship sessions, and networking activities.
- Access to Demo Day, and to any benefits (perks) that may be awarded to the Programme participants, is conditional on participation in all programme moments, with the exception of the corporate visit to a national industry player and the networking event (see programme brochure on the Programme's official page).
- All legally incorporated entities participating in the Programme, or incorporated during the course of the Programme, that have not yet obtained the startup status, shall submit – while the Programme is still ongoing – an application for the legal recognition of startup status, under the terms of Law no. 21/2023 of 25 May, which can be initiated at <https://startupportugal.com/pt/estatuto-startup/> or via <https://www2.gov.pt/pt/inicio/espaco-empresa/balcao-do-empendedor/pedido-de-certificacao-de-startup-e-scaleup>. This process is managed and operated by STARTUP PORTUGAL. Participation in the Programme does not automatically confer or guarantee recognition of startup status. The startup status recognition applies exclusively to legally incorporated entities.

7. Confidentiality

7.1. "Confidential Information" means any information, whatever its nature (including but not limited to know-how, methods, technical data, processes, software, business information, and future development plans), which was, is, or will be communicated by any of the Parties (the Disclosing Party) in the context of the Programme to any of the other Parties (the Receiving Party), whether in oral, written, graphic, electronic, or other form and on any medium, provided that it is identified as confidential or that, by its nature or the circumstances of its disclosure, it should be regarded as confidential. Technical, strategic, and commercial information shared by Applicants in the context of the Programme, including in mentorship sessions, workshops, and follow-up meetings, shall be treated as Confidential Information.

7.2. The protection of Confidential Information does not extend to any information which: (a) is in the public domain at the time of disclosure; (b) was lawfully obtained by the Receiving Party from a third party with full rights of disclosure; (c) is independently developed by the Receiving Party without use of Confidential Information; or (d) is disclosed with the prior written consent of the Disclosing Party.

7.3. During the Duration of the Programme and for a period of five (5) years after its end, the Receiving Party undertakes to: (a) not use the Confidential Information communicated to it for any purpose other than participation in the Programme; (b) take all reasonable measures necessary to protect it; and (c) not disclose the Confidential Information communicated to it to any third party, except to other members of its own team.

7.4. The Organiser may disclose Applicants' information to their respective parent companies, subsidiaries, or group companies, as well as to the International Partner and to service providers acting on their behalf and in their name, to the extent strictly necessary for the performance and management of the Programme.

7.5. At the end of the Programme, or following non-selection, the Applicant undertakes, as promptly as possible, to return or destroy all Confidential Information received, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Organiser and without prejudice to applicable legal retention obligations.

7.6. Breach of the confidentiality obligations set out in this Clause constitutes a breach of these Terms and Conditions, without prejudice to any other rights provided by law, and may result in the immediate disqualification of the Applicant.

8. Communication

For the purposes of promoting and communicating the Programme and its results, Selected Teams expressly authorise STARTUP PORTUGAL and the Operational Partner to disclose, free of charge, worldwide and without time limitation, their identity, namely company name, business activity, project description, and team composition, in any materials and communication channels related to the Programme, including future initiatives and institutional communications regarding previous editions of the Programme.

The above authorisation is granted expressly at the time of submitting the Application. Each Applicant is responsible for obtaining the necessary authorisations from the relevant members of its team for the use of their names, images, and other identifying information for the aforementioned purposes of communicating and promoting the Programme.

9. Use of Personal Data

9.1. Within the framework of this Programme, the Organiser and the Operational Partner undertake to comply with all applicable data protection legislation, including Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR) and other applicable national legislation.

9.2. For the purposes of this Clause, STARTUP PORTUGAL acts as the Data Controller in respect of personal data processing carried out in the context of the Programme.

9.3. Personal data collected during the Programme includes:

- Name
- Email address
- Company name
- Position in the company

9.4. Such personal data is collected and processed for the following purposes: (i) administering and managing the Programme; (ii) enabling the Selection Committee to perform its evaluation; and (iii) communicating publicly on the results of the Programme.

9.5. Personal data will be retained for the duration of the Programme plus a maximum additional period of three (3) months following its conclusion, after which it will be deleted or anonymised, unless otherwise required by law.

9.6. Data subjects have the right to access, rectify, erase, restrict processing, and object to the processing of their personal data, in accordance with applicable legislation. Data subjects may exercise these rights by contacting the Organiser. Data subjects also have the right to lodge a complaint with the relevant supervisory authority.

10. Intellectual Property

10.1. Nothing in these Terms and Conditions will give the Organiser or the Operational Partner any rights, title, or interest in or to the Applicant's pre-existing intellectual property.

10.2. All prototypes, documentation, drawings, databases, software, or multimedia content presented by the Applicant remain the sole property of the Applicant, its company, and/or its team. Applicants declare, upon submission, that they have produced all submitted materials themselves or that they hold the necessary rights, licences, and authorisations for their use and submission in the context of the Programme.

10.3. Neither the Organiser nor the Operational Partner can be held liable for any infringement of an Applicant's intellectual property rights by third parties in relation to submitted content.

10.4. By uploading content to the application platform, each Applicant declares and warrants that its submission does not infringe any third-party intellectual property rights, personality rights, or applicable legal or regulatory provisions, including principles of public order. A breach of the foregoing may result in the removal of content and the immediate disqualification of the Applicant from the Programme without prior notice.

10.5. The provision of any information in the context of the Programme does not, unless otherwise agreed in writing, imply any assignment, licence, authorisation for exploitation, or transfer, whether total or partial, of intellectual or industrial property rights.

11. Programme Benefits for Selected Teams

Selected Teams gain access to a comprehensive four-month training and acceleration programme, which includes, in particular:

- Seven structured training and acceleration modules covering: value proposition design, business model development, technology de-risking and scaling strategy, intellectual property and regulatory framework, go-to-market strategy, fundraising readiness, strategic partnership development, and pitch training;
- 10 hours of dedicated 1:1 mentorship with international deep tech experts;
- Continuous support from a dedicated programme manager;
- Access to a global deep tech network comprising investors, corporates, and other ecosystem partners;
- Online training sessions (in a “matchmaking” environment);
- A corporate visit to a national industry player;
- Peer-learning opportunities with other Portuguese deep tech founders;
- Participation in a final startup showcase session (“Demo Day”) at the conclusion of the Programme.

The specific allocation of programme resources and activities between selected teams will be determined by the Organiser in conjunction with the Operational Partner, based on each team’s stage of development and needs. The programme modules are indicative and subject to change.

12. Liability

12.1. The Organiser shall not be liable for any breakdown or dysfunction of telecommunications networks used to submit applications, whatever the cause, which may prevent identification of or access by the Applicant to the platform.

12.2. Participation in the Programme implies acceptance of the characteristics, limitations, and risks of internet technologies, including data security risks. The Organiser and the Operational Partner shall not be liable for any damages suffered by the Applicant arising from such accepted limitations.

12.3. Neither the Organiser nor the Operational Partner shall be liable for any damage arising from late or defective delivery of an Applicant’s Project, or from an inability to connect to relevant websites or upload materials during the Programme.

12.4. The Organiser shall not be liable for total or partial modification, suspension, or cancellation of the Programme for reasons beyond its control, as set out in Clause 15.

12.5. Neither the Organiser nor the Operational Partner shall be liable for the consequences of an Applicant’s disqualification resulting from a breach of these Terms and Conditions.

12.6. By participating in the Programme, each Applicant agrees to indemnify the Organiser and the Operational Partner and their respective affiliated entities, employees, representatives, and service providers against any damages, losses, costs, or claims arising from: (i) the Applicant’s breach of these Terms and Conditions; (ii) infringement of

third-party intellectual property rights or other third-party rights in connection with the Application; or (iii) any unlawful or negligent conduct attributable to the Applicant in the context of the Programme.

13. Independence

13.1. Registration and participation in the Programme shall not create any employment or corporate relationship between the Organiser and/or the Operational Partner and the Applicant.

13.2. STARTUP PORTUGAL and the Operational Partner will perform their respective roles under this Programme with complete independence, and each entity shall be responsible for its own obligations, costs, and responsibilities.

13.3. Nothing in these Terms and Conditions shall be construed as creating between the Parties a partnership, joint venture, mandate, agency, commission, or any other legal relationship distinct from that arising from participation in the Programme.

14. Claims

14.1. Any claim by the Applicant must be sent in writing within a maximum period of thirty (30) days after the end of the Programme, to the email address techfoundry@startupportugal.com.

14.2. Any claim must contain: the full contact details of the Applicant; identification of the Programme; and a clear and detailed presentation of the grounds for the claim. Claims that do not meet these requirements may be rejected.

15. Cancellation and Suspension of the Programme

15.1. The Organiser reserves the right to cancel, shorten, or suspend the Programme without prior notice in cases of force majeure, including but not limited to natural disasters, fires, strikes, government decisions, epidemics or pandemics, armed conflicts, acts of terrorism, or any other events beyond its reasonable control, as well as in the event of fraud, misuse of the Programme, or the occurrence of the circumstances set out in Clause 6.

15.2. The Organiser shall not be liable for the cancellation, modification, or suspension of the Programme pursuant to this Clause , and no allowance, compensation, or reimbursement will be due to the Applicant team.

16. Amendments

16.1. The Organiser reserves the right to amend these Terms and Conditions at any time.

16.2. Applicants will be informed of any relevant amendments, as well as their date of entry into force, through appropriate means, including via the application platform or by electronic communication.

16.3. Continued participation in the Programme following the entry into force of any amendments constitutes full and unconditional acceptance of the updated Terms and Conditions.

17. General Provisions

17.1. If any provision of these Terms and Conditions is found to be invalid, unlawful, or unenforceable, such invalidity shall not affect the validity, legality, or enforceability of the remaining provisions, which shall remain in full force and effect.

17.2. Any communication made in connection with the performance or fulfilment of these Terms and Conditions may be effected by electronic means, including email, or through other contact details provided by the Applicants or available on the application platform.

17.3. These Terms and Conditions are available to all applicants on the application platform and shall be communicated to any person who makes such a request by email to the programme contact address.

17.4. These Terms and Conditions are drafted in both Portuguese and English. The Portuguese version shall always prevail for purposes of interpretation and application.

18. Governing Law and Jurisdiction

18.1. These Terms and Conditions are governed by Portuguese law.

18.2. For the resolution of any disputes, the territorially competent court shall be the Court of Lisbon, with express waiver of any other jurisdiction.

19. Contact

For any questions relating to these Terms and Conditions:
techfoundry@startupportugal.com

Version: 1.0

Date of entry into force: 15.06.2026