Preamble

A Letter of Intent concerning the academic collaboration between Switzerland and Portugal was signed on October the 5th, 2007 by the Swiss State Secretary for Education and Research and the Portuguese Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education.

To establish this academic collaboration, the Instituto Superior Técnico (hereinafter IST) of the Universidade Técnica de Lisboa (UTL), with legal domicile in Av. Rovisco Pais, 1049-001 Lisboa (Portugal), represented by its President, Prof. Carlos Renato Matos Ferreira, and École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (hereinafter EPFL), with legal address EPFL PRES, CE 3 316 (Centre Est), Station 1, CH-1015 Lausanne, (Switzerland) represented by its President, Prof. Patrick Aebischer, hereby agree as follows:

Article 1 – Aim of the agreement

This agreement defines the framework conditions and mutual commitment of IST and EPFL in establishing a Joint Doctoral Initiative (hereinafter Initiative), developed and organized jointly by the parties.

Article 2 – The IST-EPFL Initiative

a) The participation of each student in the doctoral Initiative should not exceed four years. On the average, students shall spend half of their study time at each institution.

b) A number of four (4) calls for applications for the Initiative is foreseen.

c) A student enrolled in this Initiative will be registered as a doctoral student at both IST and EPFL. Students should comply with the rules established by each institution concerning its doctoral programs in general.

d) The Initiative is structured in terms of Focus Areas and includes between 20 and 30 ECTS credits of coursework in addition to the research component leading to the dissertation.

e) Each student will be supervised by advisors from both institutions, who will jointly define and supervise the PhD research project, as well as the educational curriculum.

f) After the final PhD examination process, students will obtain one doctoral diploma jointly awarded by EPFL and IST.
Article 3 – Dissertation

a) The dissertation shall be co-supervised by professors or researchers of both institutions (hereinafter the co-advisors), according to the existing rules at each institution.

b) The dissertation shall be written and defended in English.

c) There will be a single final examination process, held either at IST or at EPFL, as agreed by the thesis advisors.

d) The final examination jury shall include members from both institutions, in addition to external reviewers.

Article 4 – Student selection process

The student selection process is based on shared responsibility between both parties, as follows:

a) The selection process will involve representatives from both EPFL and IST, including the Focus Area Coordinators, who will jointly establish the criteria to be fulfilled by the students to be admitted into this Initiative.

b) The criteria for acceptance of a candidate will be based on the excellence of his/her academic record and motivation: the applicant’s academic and scientific curriculum, statement of purpose and letters of reference. Additionally, candidates may be invited for an interview, either in person or by telephone.

c) Final acceptance will be subject to approval by both institutions according to their respective rules and practices.

d) The selection process is detailed in Annex B.

Article 5 – The Focus Areas

The Initiative is organized in terms of the following Focus Areas:

1. Biological and Medical Imaging
2. Distributed and Cognitive Robotics
3. Computational and Stochastic Mathematics
4. Antennas and EM devices for Wireless Applications
5. Environmental Hydraulics
6. Architecture
7. Plasma Physics

These Focus Areas result from the identification of areas of mutual interest between EPFL and IST, as described in “Annex A – Technical assessment of the IST-EPFL Collaboration”. Although Annex A does not describe rights and obligations of the parties, it explains the methodology adopted to identify the proposed Focus Areas and the faculty members and researchers involved in this process. New Focus Areas may be defined and agreed upon by both institutions.
Article 6 – The Scientific Areas of the Doctoral Diplomas

The scientific areas of the doctoral diplomas are described in the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Focus Areas</th>
<th>IST</th>
<th>* EPFL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biological and Medical Imaging</td>
<td>Biomedical Engineering</td>
<td>EDIC-Computer, Communication and Information</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sciences, EDPY-Physics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Distributed and Cognitive Robotics</td>
<td>Electrical and Computer Engineering</td>
<td>EDPR-Manufacturing Systems and Robotics; EDIC-</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Computer, Communication &amp; Information Sciences,</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>EDNE-Neurosciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computational and Stochastic Mathematics</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>EDMA-Mathematics, EDIC-Computer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antennas and EM devices for Wireless Applications</td>
<td>Electrical and Computer Engineering</td>
<td>EDIC-Computer, Communication and Information</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sciences, EDPY-Physics, EDMI-Microsystems and</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Microelectronics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental Hydraulics</td>
<td>Civil Engineering</td>
<td>EDEN-Environment, EDEY-Energy, EDST-Structures,</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>EDIC-Computer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Architecture</td>
<td>Architecture</td>
<td>EDAR - Architecture, city, history, EDEN –</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Environment, EDEY-Energy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plasma Physics</td>
<td>Physics, Engineering Physics</td>
<td>EDPY-Physics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The mentioned ED (doctoral programs) are indicative. The final choice of the doctoral program will be made on the basis of the scientific orientation of the project.

Article 7 – Students rights and obligations (tuition and funding)

a) A set of doctoral scholarships will be awarded by Portuguese Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education, through the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT, Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology) to outstanding candidates.

b) The complete regulations applicable are available at www.fct.mctes.pt (Regulamento da Formação Avançada e Qualificação de Recursos Humanos/Fellowships and Grants Regulations for Advanced Training and Qualification of Human Resources). In case of discontinuation or annulment of this Initiative, the grant will allow the student to pursue his/her studies until the achievement of the PhD.

c) The scholarships referred in (a) will be awarded as follows: a maximum of 12 grants for the first call for applications of the Initiative and up to 20 grants in each subsequent call.

d) While carrying out his/her activities at one of the two institutions, the participating student will have the same rights and obligations as the other students of that institution.

e) Tuition, admission or registration fees are due at IST for the period of work at IST. Tuition, admission, incidental costs or registration fees are due at EPFL for the period of work at EPFL.

f) Students are responsible for covering travel and living costs during their stay, including accommodation, books, health and travel insurance and other personal expenses arising out of the Initiative.
Article 8 - Governance

Each institution will appoint a person responsible for the Initiative (hereinafter the Initiative Directors). The Directors will meet on a regular basis in order to:

- Monitor the execution of the program and ensure the highest possible quality standards
- Coordinate the candidate selection process
- Report on activity of the program.
- Propose new initiatives.

Both parties will designate Focus Area Coordinators who will ensure the proper coordination and development of the activities within each area and participate in the student selection process.

The parties may seek additional funding to increase financial support of the Initiative.

Article 9 – Conflict Resolution

In case of disagreement between the parties concerning the interpretation or the application of this cooperation agreement, the difference will be settled in good faith by mutual agreement, either between both presidents of IST and EPFL, or by their specially appointed representatives, towards a solution that respects the collaborative spirit of the agreement. At all times, the intentions of the parties and the interest of the students will be kept in mind.

Article 10 – Contract validity

The Initiative shall come into effect immediately after the signature of this Agreement and of the “Annex B: Detailed Procedures”.

The agreement shall be valid for five years and will automatically be renewed every year unless requested otherwise, by either party, three months before the term.

Either party may terminate the present agreement at any time with a written notice of six months. In the event of the agreement being terminated, any activities in progress shall be allowed to run to completion.

Article 11 – Applicable Law

Portuguese Law is applicable

Article 12 - Signature

Two originals of the present agreement shall be signed, one for each of the signatories of the contract. Each original shall have equal validity.
Signed at IST, Lisbon on June 20th 2008

For the Instituto Superior Técnico

The President,
Prof. Carlos Renato Matos Ferreira

For the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne,

The President,
Prof. Patrick Aebischer