

CENTEC classified by FCT as an EXCELLENT Centre

Following the periodic External Evaluation of the Portuguese Research Centres by foreign specialists, the **Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT)** has announced at the end of December 2014 the results of the evaluation and CENTEC have been classified as **EXCELLENT** having a total of 23.5/25 points.

Selected Evaluation Panel comments:

CENTEC is a relatively small (42 IRs in 2012) and focused research unit in maritime engineering and technology. The application details an **excellent level and intensity of publication**.

The Centre makes a significant contribution to the research field through **conference organization**.

There was evidence of a **very high degree of internationalization** with PhD and postdoc members attracted from a wide range of countries.

The unit has a unique position in Portugal and is **one of the leading centres** in its field worldwide. It has contributed very significantly to the high international ranking of IST. It has participated and coordinated a number of **European projects** contributing about 40% of its budget, which is a remarkable achievement for a unit with such a limited number of permanent staff but with a **high scientific productivity** that compares very favourably with that of the world leading centres.

The proposed **strategic programme** offers eleven thematic research areas to be conducted within the four research groups of the Unit. There is evidence of **good planning, forward thinking and innovation** within the thematic areas. The topics selected are very timely and relevant. In particular, there is a focus on the **maritime needs of Portugal and Europe** and this should ensure that CENTEC retains its position as an internationally recognised research centre.

The Centre demonstrates a **high scientific impact** and is **highly relevant to economic development**. The Centre occupies a well-defined and unique role in the Portuguese technological landscape. This places the Centre in an excellent position to bid for national and international contracts. Benchmarking confirms that this is an **internationally competitive centre**. It is clear that the centre is **well-run and has clear strategic goals**. The site visit confirmed that the culture of the centre is **forward-thinking and supportive of its members**.

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CENTEC, the **Centre for Marine Technology and Ocean Engineering**, is a multidisciplinary Centre affiliated to the FCT areas of “Mechanical Engineering & Engineering Science” and of “Marine Sciences & Technologies”.

Comparing the classification of CENTEC with other Portuguese Research Centres shows that:

- CENTEC obtained the **3rd highest classification among all Centres of Instituto Superior Técnico (IST)**, being the first and second best classified Centres from Physics and Mathematics respectively
- CENTEC was classified **1st among the 14 Centres of Portugal in Mechanical Engineering & Engineering Science**
- CENTEC was classified **3rd among the 63 Centres of Portugal in Engineering Sciences** (which includes Mechanical Engineering & Engineering Science)
- CENTEC was classified **2nd among the 6 Centres of Portugal in Marine Sciences & Technologies**
- CENTEC was classified **2nd among the 45 Centres of Portugal in Natural & Environmental Sciences** (which includes Marine Sciences & Technologies)

These results reflect the work done during the last 5-year period and are valid for the next 5 years.