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New acceleration program “Azores Accel” opens applications for companies and startups in the Agri-food sector

After the official launch of the program, in October last year, TERINOV - Parque de Ciência e Tecnologia da Ilha Terceira, DRCT - Direção Regional da Ciência e Tecnologia and BGI - Building Global Innovators announce the **opening of applications for the “Azores Accel” program**, which will accelerate and empower companies and startups of scientific and technological base, in the Agrifood and Bio-Economy sectors. From July to November 2021, participants will have access to an ideal ecosystem for testing and implementing pilot projects in the Azores. Applications for the program open today and interested entrepreneurs will be able to apply by the end of May.

With the aim of introducing new solutions and knowledge in the fields and promoting the endogenous resources of the region, the new Azorean acceleration program will promote talent and knowledge, supporting entrepreneurs in the development of pilots, market gain and in the search for investment. This initiative will be promoted **from the Azores to the World and from the World to the Azores**, aimed at startups, SMEs, universities and specialists from different sectors of the innovation ecosystem belonging to two groups: (i) local entrepreneurs with the goal of internationalizing the "traditional businesses" and (ii) international founders who want to be located in the Azores. To make this possible, a unique and favorable ecosystem will be provided, in which companies incorporated in the Azores will benefit from special regional tax regimes: IRC 20% lower and IRS up to 30% lower.

Selected candidates will have access to a wide range of technical and practical business support activities, including two Bootcamps. The first Bootcamp will be held in July, in Terceira, and will last for 5 days. The second will take place in Lisbon in October. In addition, the participating teams will have personalized

mentoring sessions, through a hybrid program (on-site and online) that will run from July to September 2021. In these sessions, innovators will receive support on the following topics: business model validation; pilot or proof of concept preparation; development of marketing and sales strategies; creation/improvement of the investment plan and transfer of new technologies to the global market.

Also, throughout the program, participants will have access to the TERINOV and BGI network, through which they will be able to develop corporate commercial and investment partnerships that transcend geographical boundaries.

Thanks to BGI's close relationship with the United States - being itself a spin-out of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) - entrepreneurs will have open doors to international markets and unlocked access to global customers. For André Glória, co-founder and CTO of Genviot, one of the main benefits of working with BGI was access to its network of contacts. "The meetings with the mentors are being phenomenal and networking and knowledge exchange are one of the main things we are doing" - says the former BGI Accelerator participant. The startup accelerator BGI, with 11 years of experience in the entrepreneurship ecosystem, already has several success stories in its portfolio, including seven exits and the latest Portuguese unicorn: Feedzai.

Applications for the Azores Accel must be made through the [F6S](#) platform, by the 31st of May, 2021.

For more questions, please contact:

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