



NASA Space Apps Challenge Lisbon 2025



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Are you an adventurer? Ready to search for space solutions? If yes, this is your chance to fight for something bigger!

This is your opportunity to bring your projects to life, embrace the challenge, and make an impact on the world—or even the universe!

Welcome to the NASA Space Apps Challenge 2025 BioBook

This BioBook has been created to showcase and celebrate the remarkable participants, mentors, jury members, keynote speakers, and presenters of the NASA Space Apps Challenge 2025.

It provides an overview of the awards, highlights the expertise of our mentors and jury, and introduces the keynotes and guest speakers who make this event a truly inspiring experience.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Atlântica, Oeiras Valley, and all our partners for their invaluable support in making this event possible. Your commitment and collaboration help us foster innovation, collaboration, and scientific discovery.

About Atlântica...



Atlântica, founded in 1996 as an institution of public interest, has established itself as a reference dedicated to the creation, transmission and dissemination of knowledge, science and technology, through the articulation of teaching, research and practical development.

Atlântica's teaching model stands out for its quality and strong connection with the business world. The curricular offer thus ensures excellent training and significantly increases the employability of our students, differentiating us in the private higher education scenario in Portugal.

Atlântica's wide range of offerings encompasses areas such as **Engineering, Business Sciences, Nutrition and Information and Communication Technologies**. This diversity reflects our commitment to preparing students for interdisciplinary challenges and to excel in diverse industries.

Local Event and Schedule



Friday, October 3

18:30 Early check-in

20:00 Dinner box

21:30 Space cinema

Saturday, October 4

- 07:00 Breakfast (until 09:30)
- 08:30 Check-in
- 10:00 Opening session
- 10:45 NASA/ Atlântica - How to be successful at NASA Space Apps Hackathon?
- 11:00 Team working time
- 12:00 AVP- AI - synthetic reality
- 12:30 Time to work with mentors
- 13:00 Space Lunch (Free)
- 14:00 QSR - How to pitch?
- 15:00 Team working time
- 16:30 Time to work with mentors
- 17:00 VdA- Space Law
- 18:30 Break
- 19:00 Workshop - Space
- 19:30 Break
- 20:30 Space Barbecue (Free)
- 22:00 Atlântica Escape Room
- 23:15 Rocket Science Cinema

Sunday, October 5

- 02:00 Night Quiz /Games - Space (Surprise)
- 04:00 Night Quiz /Games - Space (Surprise)

- 07:00 Breakfast (until 11:00)
- 08:30 Team working time
- 09:00 Time to work with mentors
- 11:00 Unicorn Factory - Founder mentality!
- 13:00 Project submission (until 13:15)
- 14:00 Pitch Session / Project presentation
- 16:00 Break
- 16:30 Award Ceremony
- 16:30 NASA Space Cocktail (until 18:00)

 NASA Space Apps Challenge 2025 – Cosmic Awards & Prizes 



1st Place – Mission Commanders

- **Unicorn Factory:** 3 months of mentoring at their innovation hub to launch your ideas into orbit.
- **The Book Company:** A constellation of books to fuel your curiosity and knowledge.
- **Atlântica:** Academic scholarships to propel your learning to new heights.
- **Atlântica:** Commemorative medals – your own personal space medals of honour.
- **CMO (Câmara Municipal de Oeiras):** Present your pitch at the Oeiras Valley Science Festival – your mission broadcast to the world.
- **AED:** Share your project at a AED Conference – an interstellar stage for your innovation.
- **Ordem dos Engenheiros:** €100 scholarship per winner – fuel credits for your academic journey.
- **Atlântica Projects:** Featured interview in the Atlântica Global Newsletter – your mission report to the universe.
- **ML Analytics:** Summer internship on a space-related project – gain hands-on experience in the final frontier

1st, 2nd, and 3rd Places – Stellar Achievers

- **The Book Company:** Books to expand your knowledge galaxy.
- **Atlântica:** Scholarships to boost your academic orbit.
- **Atlântica:** Medals celebrating your achievement among the stars.
- **Charmiletras:** Educational kits

Partners:



The organisers of the **NASA Space Apps Challenge 2025** wish to express their profound gratitude to all partners and collaborators whose support has been indispensable to the success of this event.

Key-notes | 04 OCT 2025:

10:00-10:30 Opening Session

All

10:45-11:00 NASA/ Atlântica - How to be successful at NASA Space Apps Hackathon?

Patrícia Pinheiro (NASA Space Apps Local Lead/ Aeronautical Engineer)

14:00-14:20 AVP- AI - synthetic reality

Nuno da Câmara Manoel (AVP- Development Technician)

14:00-14:20 QSR - How to pitch?

Rita Fernandes (QSR- Career Development Specialist)

17:00-17:20 VdA- Space Law

Helena Mendonça (Vieira de Almeida - Principal Consultant of ICT practice and Aviation, Space & Defence sector)

Key-notes | 05 OCT 2025:

11:00-11:20 Unicorn Factory - Founder mentality!

João Nunes Rosado (Unicorn Factory - Head of Portfolio)

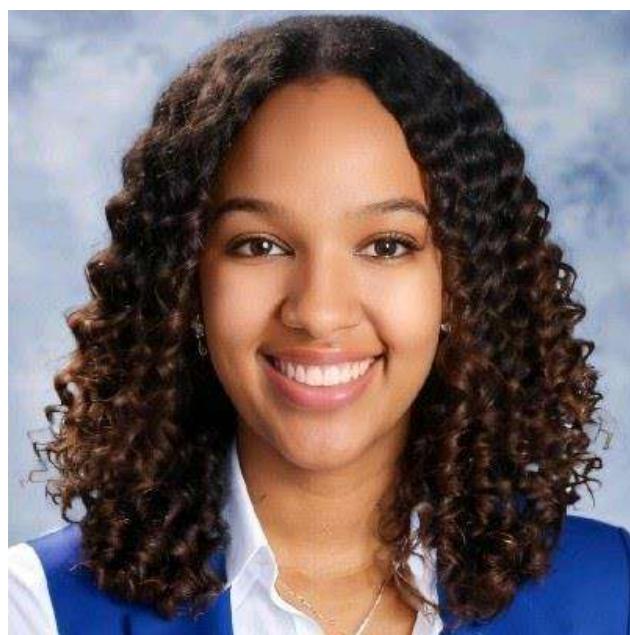
14:00-16:30 Pitch Session (Each team has 5minutes)

All

16:45-17:00 Award Ceremony

All

Speakers:



1 - Patrícia Pinheiro - NASA Space Apps Local Lead

With a degree in Aeronautical Engineering Sciences from the Instituto Universitário Atlântica, Patrícia Pinheiro was born on 12 August 2001 and is currently a Fellow in ERASMUS+ Scientific Research Projects, such as: CHART- Cultural Heritage Awareness for Regional Traditions, SOLARIS- Solutions to age related issues in education sector, DEED- Digital Environmental Education in VET, IHETP-Inclusive Higher Education Training Programme, FLIPPED VET, WWW- Wonder Women Works where she participated in the development of cultural maps, female empowerment sessions, social inclusion programmes and for professionals with disabilities, micro-credits in the field of environmental awareness and education, development of teacher maintenance measures in the field of professional education and mentoring and training programmes in the field of training.

She is currently studying for a Master's degree in Aeronautical Maintenance Engineering, Management and Technology, accompanied by a degree in Robotics and Automation.

She is also an ambassador for the "Engineers for a Day" programme related to the Women In STEM project, an ambassador for the "MAGMA Studios" programme, a representative on the Pedagogical Council for Masters and Doctoral Degrees, Vice-President and Coordinator of the Projects Department of the Atlantic Aeronautical Engineering Group (AeroATLA), Founder and Organiser of Lisbon Aeronautical Week, Student Ambassador of the Atlântica Institute, Portuguese Representative of the UNOOSA- United Nations Space4Women Programme with Astronaut Scientist Ana Pires as her monitor, member of the European Engineering community and founder of the "Women In Power" Project, and member of the OEIRAS Educa+ Project, Student Member of the Order of Engineers and currently works in flight operations.



2 - Rita Maio, QSR Specialist

With around 20 years of experience, she has built her professional career mainly in the Aerospace & Defence, Energy, and Maritime sectors, working in areas such as organisational design, talent management, career development, competency models, and performance evaluation. As a mentor in career management processes, she integrates both technical and behavioural skills to provide a holistic approach that better meets the needs of the labour market. She is currently responsible for leading the Career Development team at QSR Consulting.



3 - Nuno da Câmara Manoel, AVP

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In recent years, he has been engaged in activities related to emerging technologies, exploring fields such as Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, at the intersection of fundamental science and technological innovation.



4 - **Helena Correia Mendonça (VdA) | Principal Consultant of ICT practice and Aviation, Space & Defence sector**

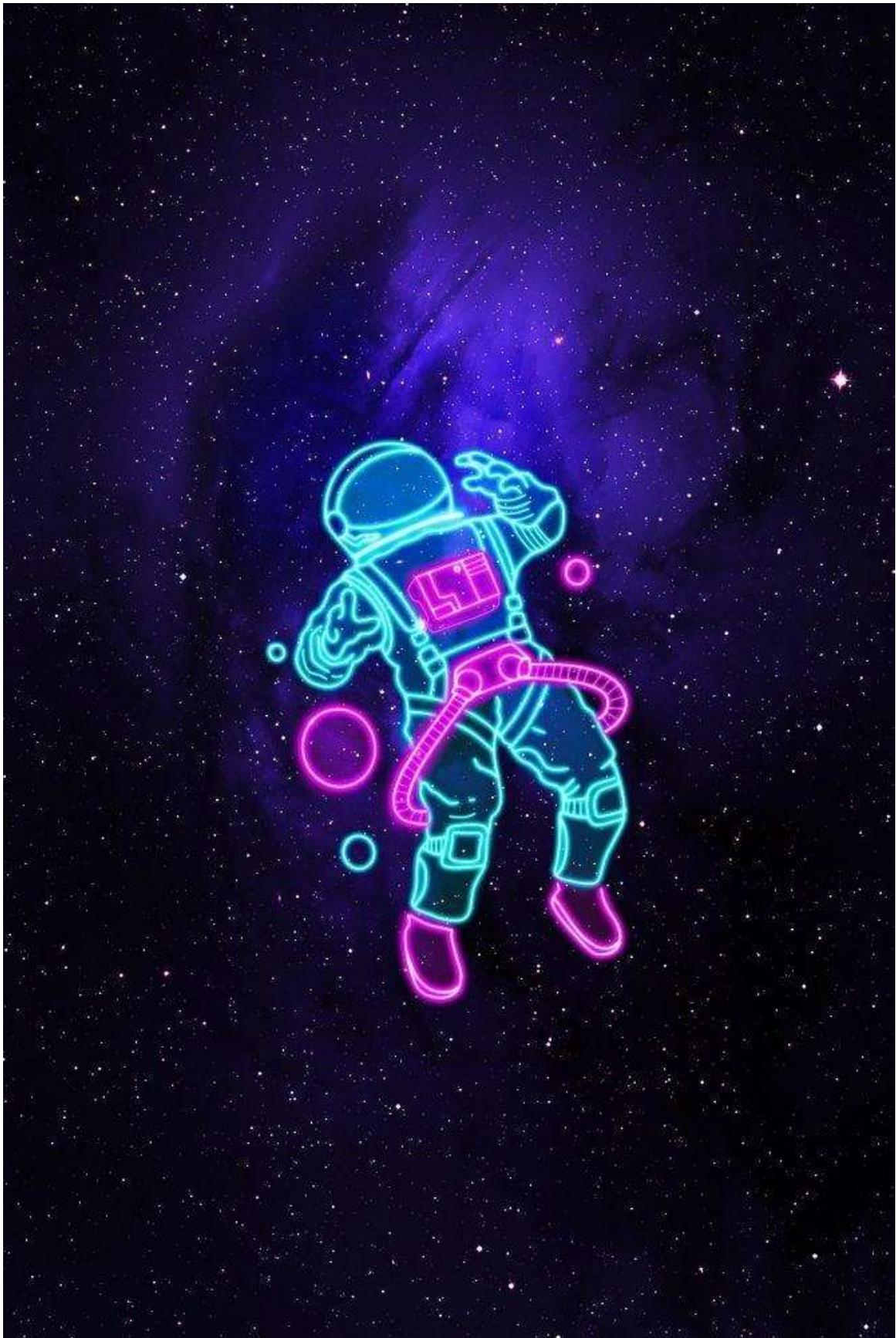
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5 - João Nunes Rosado é Head of Portfolio na Unicorn Factory Lisboa, onde gera mais de 300 startups entre Pre-seed e Series A. Com formação em Gestão (Iscte) e mestrado pela Católica-Lisbon SBE, estudou Digital Transformation na EDHEC, em França.

Fundou a sua primeira startup aos 18 anos e foi COO da Musicasa, com foco em produto, marketing e vendas. É ativo no ecossistema empreendedor, colaborando com iniciativas como Startup Grind e WeFunder. Leciona temas de empreendedorismo no ISEG MBA e no Lisbon MBA.

NASA Space Apps Mentors:





6 - Patrícia Pinheiro - NASA Space Apps Local Lead

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7 - Mauro Barbosa Franqueira - PhD in Aerospace Engineering at the University of Florida (UF)

Mauro Barbosa Franqueira is a 26-year-old Fulbright Scholar currently pursuing a PhD in Aerospace Engineering at the University of Florida (UF) and is recognized as one of the Global Rising Stars of the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC). He holds a master's degree in Space Engineering from Politecnico di Milano. Mauro's research interests focus on astrodynamics, space mission design, trajectory optimization, and planetary science investigations.

Mauro further expanded his expertise during the Space Studies program at the International Space University, where he and his team developed a project to study the surface of Enceladus, supervised by Dr. Jacob Cohen, Chief Scientist at NASA Ames Research Center.

In addition to these academic milestones, Mauro served as a space engineer in an analog astronaut mission in Poland, experiencing extreme conditions that could simulate extraterrestrial environments. Remarkably, he became the first Portuguese to win a Grand Award at Intel ISEF, a distinction earned at the National Science Fair - Young Scientists and Researchers, organized by Fundação da Juventude, for his astrophysics projects on Wolf-Rayet stars, exoplanets, and galaxy evolution while still in high school.



8 - Luana Miranda - DevOps Infrastructure Engineer

*Luana Miranda*Luana Miranda is a DevOps Infrastructure Engineer in IT and has participated in the NASA Space Apps in Recife, Brazil, for the past three years. The first year as a participant and the last two as a mentor. In the most recent edition, she was a mentor of the winning team.



9 - William Bella – Entrepreneur & Technology Director

Award-winning entrepreneur and technology leader with over 10 years of experience transforming critical systems in the banking, healthcare, and government sectors across Brazil, Angola, and Europe. Currently serving as Platform Director at the German healthtech company m.Doc, where he leads a team of 47 professionals rebuilding hospital platforms that serve thousands of European patients. Achieved annual savings of US\$16 million at Santander Brazil through pioneering microservices architecture, later adopted internationally. Founded Experientalgoritmo LDA, which grew by 47.3% and served Fortune 500 clients including ING Bank, KPMG, and Accenture. Winner of the 2018 Innovathon Award for developing an AI solution within 30 hours. Proven expertise in AI, microservices, data analysis, and crisis management in regulated environments. Founded the social impact programme Programando o Futuro, transforming 35 lives with a 60% employment rate. Brings tri-continental experience in modernising legacy infrastructures, implementing AI-driven solutions, and leading international teams under pressure. An IEEE member with advanced certifications in AI engineering and agile methodologies, ready to guide teams in creating innovative solutions with social purpose.



10 - Mariano Gonçalves - AMSAT-CT

Mariano Gonçalves, a native of the parish of Barcarena, aged 73. Author and co-founder in 1987 of the Environmental League for Youth Education and Marine Sciences, author and founder of the CS1MAR Environmental Observatory for Atmospheric Remote Sensing and Aerospace Communications, author and coordinator of the SIMSAT programme (simulation of satellites in sub-orbital stratospheric flight) developed in 1999 in partnership with ESTG (Leiria School of Technology and Management);

Radio amateur qualified in telegraphy since 1967, CAN certification of the Broadcasting Service of Amateur and Amateur Satellite Stations, Class A (1) by the ITU, with CAN certification (CEPT and ANACOM); Coordinator of AMSAT-CT as an OVPC Civil Protection Volunteer Organisation, scopes B, C and Emergency Radiocommunications in Civil Defence and Protection; Vice-President of the Portuguese Centre for Underwater Activities, an environmental NGO;

Retired engineer in the field of engineering and R&D dedicated to telecommunications systems, Hertzian beams, multiplex FDM and PCM, tactical and aerospace radiocommunications, in the industrial and defence fields;

Author of projects to develop and manufacture ground stations dedicated to tracking low-altitude polar satellites (LEO) since 1972. Coordinator of the engineering and manufacturing projects for the PoSAT-1 tracking stations destined in 1993 and 1996 for the Portuguese missions of ONUMOZ Mozambique, UNAVEM Angola and IFOR Bosnia-Herzegovina, co-author of the R&D and manufacturing project for the ground stations of the Es'hail-2 geostationary satellite (QO-100), used in the SIRESP BootCamp Madeira March 2023 exercise. Main-CEP of IST-Tagus - Author and Founder of the Portuguese Space Centre, the Sea League's failed partnership with IST-Tagus (2003-2015).



11 - Alexandra O'Neill - Phd in Management, specialization in Strategy and Entrepreneurship

Alexandra O'Neill holds a Phd in Management, specialization in Strategy and Entrepreneurship from Instituto Superior de Ciências do Trabalho e da Empresa, Master's Degree in Management, General from Instituto Superior de Ciências do Trabalho e da Empresa, Executive Master's Degree in Business Management from INDEG-IUL ISCTE Executive Education, a Specialization in Geotechnics for Civil Engineering from Instituto Superior Técnico | Universidade Nova de Lisboa | LNEC, Bsc (5 year licenciatura) in Mining & Geo-resources, specialization in Petroleum, from Instituto Superior Técnico, and is a Senior Member of the Order of Engineers.

Certified Trainer in Petroleum & Gas, European financing programs and Aeronautics, Co-Author (Book on Proactivity Published by Lidel Group - SEJA PROATIVO! ASSUMA O CONTROLO), Management consultant, with 20-year experience as a Team and Project leader, Program Director and Invited Lecturer for ISCTE Executive Education on Leadership and Team Management (MGA), Change Management (EMBA), Planning and Management Control, Taxation, Internal Auditing, Corporate Strategy and Corporate Valuation at ISG (Management Degree and Pos-Graduate courses in Financial Management, Management and HR Management), Human Resource Management and Operations and Safety Management, for Aeronautical Transport Management Degree at Atlântica.

With a track record of international assignments in finance, audit, sales, production, project and general management up to corporate Head of Planning and Management Control responsibilities for a major multi activity Group (Construction, Real Estate, Road and Hospital Concessions – average of 4.000 workers – over 500 Million € Year Revenue).

Alexandra is also a certified fATPL(A) aircraft pilot (CPLA, ATPL theory, MCC, MEP LAND, SEP LAND, IR / PBN, UPRT, ICAO Eng. Level 6) and a mother of one.



12 - Fernando Simoes

Active in Space

Fernando Simoes received the B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees in physics from Instituto Superior Tecnico, Lisbon, Portugal, in 1992 and 1996, respectively, and a Ph.D. degree in planetary sciences from Universite Pierre et Marie Curie (Paris 6), Paris, France, in 2007.

He worked at the European Space Research and Technology Centre, European Space Agency (ESTEC-ESA), Noordwijk, The Netherlands, in space instrumentation, and at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (NASA/GSFC) in space weather.

He has been with Active Space Technologies and Active Aerogels, Coimbra, Portugal, since 2013, where he leads the innovation department. Among other research topics in the field of Earth and planetary sciences, he has an interest in the Sun-Earth connection, namely aeronomy and electromagnetic wave propagation in the ionosphere.



13 - Ana Pires

Investigadora INESC TEC, Astronauta-Análoga

Ana Pires is a Researcher at INESC TEC's Centre for Robotics and Autonomous Systems. She is involved in several sustainable sea/marine mining projects, geotechnologies, geoengineering, and georesources. Her research is focused on Space-Earth-Sea interaction, Space Resources, Space Mining, geotechnics, geophysics, and the development of geo-technologies or geo-robotics for Space exploration. She was also the first Portuguese woman to successfully finish the Scientist-Astronaut Program under the Project "Polar Suborbital Science in the Upper Mesosphere" supported by NASA's Flight Opportunities. Ana Pires is passionate about exploring extreme environments and is a Fellow Member of The Explorers Club. She is a Specialist Diver (SSI Certification), and she was the Crew Scientist of the team "Pegasus" (Crew 281) carrying out a 2-week analog mission in May 2023 at the Mars Desert Research Station (MDRS), located in Utah (USA), owned, and operated by the Mars Society. Since 2018, she has made efforts to promote human space flight, astrogeology, technology, robotics, and STEAM outreach activities in Portugal. She was the leader and commander of the project CAMões (Caving Analog Mission: Ocean, Earth, and Space), the first Lunar analog mission in Portugal in Terceira Island (Azores region), that took place in November 2023.



14 - **Rita Maio, QSR Specialist**

With around 20 years of experience, she has built her professional career mainly in the Aerospace & Defence, Energy, and Maritime sectors, working in areas such as organisational design, talent management, career development, competency models, and performance evaluation. As a mentor in career management processes, she integrates both technical and behavioural skills to provide a holistic approach that better meets the needs of the labour market. She is currently responsible for leading the Career Development team at QSR Consulting.



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For over a decade, he was a researcher in the Department of Mathematics at the University of Évora, focusing on Computational Astrophysics. During this period, he collaborated with the Lisbon Astronomical Observatory and the Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research, contributing to the study of Venus's atmosphere using data collected by the Venus Express space probe.

In recent years, he has been engaged in activities related to emerging technologies, exploring fields such as Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, at the intersection of fundamental science and technological innovation.



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Helena has 15-year plus experience in ICT, working extensively on Space Policy and Law matters. She has been involved in several national and international projects and transactions related to the space sector, notably in Europe and Africa, including for governments, international organisations such as ESA, and the private sector. She has assisted in the drafting of space policies, strategies and laws and the setup of space governance structures, further advising space companies on compliance matters such as licensing space operations and registering space objects, and in the drafting and negotiation of contracts and partnership agreements. She also regularly works on artificial intelligence, intellectual property, cybersecurity and data matters.



17 - Natália Espírito Santo

General Manager at ATLÂNTICA HEI and ESSATLA, Portugal

29 years of experience in higher education, which began in 1996 with planning academic activities and advising the Rector, went on to become General Secretariat, which I still hold, and for the last 9 years General Manager. The area of funded European projects has been a recent and interesting discovery, which I am particularly pleased to be working on at Atlântica. Internationalization, recruitment of international students and establishing national and international partnerships has been a constant objective, besides developing the ESG goals in Atlântica.



18 - Luís Simões, ML Analytics

Luís F. Simões is an Artificial Intelligence specialist with extensive experience in applied research across various industries. He holds a PhD from Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, where he focused on meta-learning in evolutionary computation.

Currently, he serves as the Lead Data Scientist and co-founder of ML Analytics, Portugal's first family-run data science company. ML Analytics collaborates with international partners, including the European Space Agency (ESA), to develop AI solutions for complex challenges in space exploration, robotics, and optimization.

Dr. Simões has contributed to multiple ESA missions, notably the Ariel mission, focusing on exoplanet research. His work encompasses machine learning, multi-objective optimization, and complex systems analysis.

He has authored over 45 publications and has been involved in more than ten national and international projects.



19 - Jorge Correia – Multidisciplinary Creator & CEO, Puzzle Room Lisboa

*Jorge Correia is a multidisciplinary creator with over 20 years of experience in digital communication, technology, and immersive experiences. He is the founder and CEO of **Puzzle Room Lisboa**, the oldest Escape Room company in Lisbon, where he leads commercial operations, brand strategy, and the development of interactive games and experiences, with a particular focus on gamification, storytelling, and technological integration (Arduino, sensors, audio, etc.).*

With a career that spans programming, sales, digital marketing, construction, and experience design, Jorge brings a unique perspective on transforming complex problems into engaging challenges. He has collaborated with international brands, spoken at global events, and is passionate about inspiring teams to think “outside the box”—literally.

Pitch Session Juri:





20 - Carlos Viegas, Bold Robotics

Carlos Viegas holds a PhD in Mechanical Engineering, specialising in Management and Industrial Robotics, from the University of Coimbra. He is currently a researcher at ADAI, specifically at its Wildfire Research Centre (CEIF), where he leads the Field Technology Laboratory, dedicated to the development and implementation of technological solutions in the areas of mobile and autonomous robotics, remote sensing, unmanned aerial vehicles, satellite data, intelligent systems, and fire engineering, in close collaboration with international industrial partners.

He is also an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Coimbra. Carlos is the author and co-author of over 50 international publications, holds 4 European patents, and has presented his work at numerous conferences and seminars worldwide.

Additionally, he is the co-founder of two technology startups: Bold Robotics, Lda. and Hazred, Lda. He currently coordinates three national projects and participates in more than ten national and international projects in the fields of robotics and forestry.



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Event Location & How to Get There

Event Venue:

Instituto Universitário Atlântica

Address:

Fábrica da Pólvora de Barcarena

2730-036 Barcarena, Oeiras, Portugal

For any questions or assistance before or during the event, please contact:

Patrícia Pinheiro

 patriciap@u-atlantica.pt

Getting to the Venue

By Train:

- **From Lisbon Oriente or Lisbon Sete Rios stations:** Take the **Cascais Line (until Caxias)** or **Sintra Line (until Massama-Barcarena)**

By Bus:

- **From Lisbon (various points):** Several urban and suburban buses serve the Oeiras/Barcarena area.

From Massamá / Monte Abraão:

- Take local buses towards **Caxias** These routes connect suburban areas directly to the university vicinity.
- Approximate journey time: **5 minutes** depending on traffic.

From Caxias:

Take local buses towards **Monte-Abrâao**. These routes connect suburban areas directly to the university vicinity. Approximate journey time: **15 minutes**, depending on traffic.

By Car / Taxi / Uber:

- **From Lisbon city centre:** ~20–25 minutes depending on traffic.
- **From Lisbon Airport:** 20 minutes by taxi or Uber.
- Parking is available on site.



Practical Tips:

- Plan your journey in advance, particularly if arriving on Friday evening or during peak traffic hours.
- If using public transport, allow extra time for connections and walking from stations or stops to campus.
- For late arrivals, the campus team can assist; contact **Patrícia Pinheiro** in advance to coordinate access.

We hope this information helps all participants reach **Instituto Universitário Atlântica** safely and on time for an exciting and productive NASA Space Apps Challenge 2025