Goals of the competition:

- Stimulate a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship
- Emphasize the value of the Perfect Pitch speech
- Stress importance of oral communication and (virtual) public speaking
- Stimulate good performance under pressure
- Stimulate students to think about the bigger picture and application areas
- Empower students to lead

Who can apply:

- Students currently enrolled in any of the doctoral programs of IST that have submitted their application for the Pitch Competition until November 15th through the Application Form found at the event’s web site.

General framework of the competition

- A selection process will choose up to 20 participants that will compete, based on the evaluation of each submitted abstract
- The selected participants will be announced before November 22nd
- The selected participants must be on location at least 15 minutes before the competition starts
- The Pitch Competition presentation rules are:
  - Slides presentation
  - 3 minutes pitch duration
- The pitch should cover the:
  - Problem/Opportunity: what is the real-life problem addressed?
  - Proposed Solution: what is unique in the proposed approach?
  - Impact: what will be the impact of this work if successful?

Evaluation criteria

- A panel of judges will evaluate and judge the pitches on the basis of:
  - Slides quality and information content
  - Substance: clarity and persuasiveness of the argument presented
  - Delivery: attention to tone, volume, pronunciation and pace
  - Non-verbal communication
  - Timing: pitches will be cut off after 180 seconds
- The judgment will be expressed in a scale of 1 to 4, as follows:
  - 4 = Excellent presentation on all counts
  - 3 = Very good presentation with minor issues in one or more evaluation areas
  - 2 = Pitch can be significantly improved but is satisfactory overall
  - 1 = Pitch is incomplete and severely lacking in one or more evaluation aspects
- Judges will complete their scoring after the last contestant delivers the pitch
The final score for each contestant is calculated by summing up each individual score attributed by the judges.

The winner of the Pitch Competition is the contestant that receives the higher final score.

In case of a draw between several contestants, the lowest score received by each of these contestants is sequentially removed until the draw has been eliminated.

The winner, second and third places will be announced at the end of the Pitch Competition Session.

**Prizes**

- First place: 500 €, equivalent to the administrative cost of the thesis submission at the Post-Graduation Area, plus 250 € credit to be used on Técnico+ courses (5 years validity).
- Two honourable mentions: 250 €, equivalent to 50% of the administrative cost of the thesis submission at the Post-Graduation Area, plus 250 € credit to be used on Técnico+ courses (5 years validity).

**Date, time and location of the competition**

- November 29th, 15h00, Assembly Hall of IST (Salão Nobre)