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**ISR-Connected 3.0 issue #10**

**December 2019**

*Dear ISR members,*

*This is ISR-Connected last issue of the decade!*

*This was a fast-evolving decade, including a massive economic crisis, political changes across the globe, the Arab spring, the migration crisis and geopolitical instability in several areas. The world seems more challenging than a decade ago. We also celebrated great achievements: 30 years of the fall of the Berlin wall, the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing, the European Football Championship for Portugal. This was also the birth decade of Netflix, in which the God particle was eventually confirmed and when data privacy became a major societal concern.*

*The next decade will most probably evolve at an even greater pace, full of new challenges and opportunities, and where climate and environment will most probably be top priorities.*

*It is time to meditate about (y)our past achievements and y(our) objectives for the new decade. As actors in education, science and technology, it is also y(our) role to raise responsible citizens with critical minds, and help shape the future for the betterment of our society.*

*I wish you all a very happy new year and wish that all your dreams (powered by hard work and ambition) will come true for this brand New Decade!*

**José Santos-Victor**

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**What's New**

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## Distinguished Visitors

We had the pleasure of welcoming a number of distinguished visitors this month: from members of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, to Jodi Forlizzi of CMU, Silvia Rijmer for a talk on the intersection of Art&Science and Raja Chatila, the Director of the Institute of Intelligent Systems and Robotics (ISIR) who was at Técnico to talk about ethical and societal issues related to human-robot interaction. A thank you note to everyone who was involved in making these guests feel welcomed at ISR



## Escola Azul

Escola Azul representatives gathered in the Azores, to welcome a new school to their ocean literacy program. Escola Básica e Secundária de Santa Maria will be developing a project with the small vessel “Maurick”, which is integrated into the Educational Passages PT project, a partnership between Escola Azul and ISR-Lisboa. A workshop by Luís Sebastião also helped to integrate the teachers of Santa Maria to the upcoming activities. Even the Portuguese Minister of the Sea, Ricardo Serrão Santos, was curious to learn more about the already well-traveled mini boat. Learn [more](#)



## ASEM DUO Fellowship

Congratulations to Professor António Pascoal who has been attributed an award by the ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme. The DUO-India Fellowships for Professors were established in 2019 with the aim of promoting the exchange of people between India and Europe, in a balanced and permanent basis. It aims to fund, every year, 50 professor-pairs for exchanges for one month, providing mobility between Indian and European research institutes. A recognition and aid in further exchanges with Indian universities. [More](#)



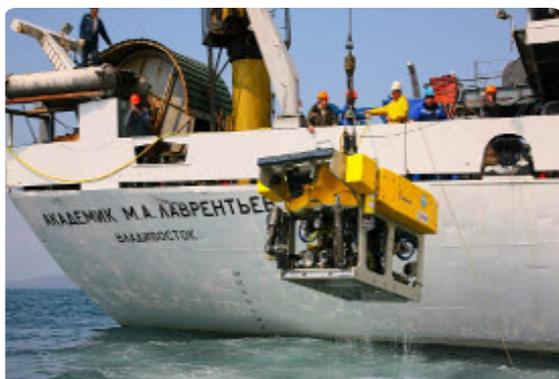
## ISR Christmas Celebrations

Everyone gathered in the Mobile Robotics Laboratory for the lively event of the 2019 celebrations of Christmas/Winter Solstice, on Thursday, December 19. This year's activities included the ISR Xmas Quiz and even though the winning team “DSORIUM” took home a coveted prize, it was quite a close call, as every team showcased a great competitive spirit and grasp of the 40 questions in completely different fields. After the quiz, the traditional ISR Gift exchange took place and, as always, it was a joyous display of creativity, with plenty of unusual (yet useful) gifts. More on the event [here](#)

# Opportunities & Events

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## Joint Master Programme

The MIR Master innovatively combines Robotics and Artificial Intelligence in the context of advancing marine and maritime science and their technological applications. This Master program aims at building the capacity of future engineers to enable advancements in the development and operation of new robotics systems, with far-reaching impact on techniques necessary for ocean exploration and exploitation. Learn more [here](#) to apply until January 9



## EPFL Internships

Until February 1st, 2020, Bachelor and Master students who are top of their class and want to pursue a PhD, may apply for the EPFL Program for Excellence in Engineering. This program offers an intensive research training opportunity to students interested in careers in any field of engineering, science, and technology. The selected successful students will have their internship funded to up to three months. Check the program or learn about application [here](#)



## MIT Seed Programme

The MIT Portugal Partnership 2030 is inviting submissions of project proposals for one-year seed funding at MIT, with a maximum budget of \$90,000.00 USD. Eligible proposals must be submitted by an MIT Principal Investigator by February 14, 2020. The 2020 Seed Project Proposals should target one or more of these fields: Climate Science & Climate Change; Earth Systems: Oceans to Near Space; Digital Transformation in Manufacturing and Sustainable Cities. Find out [more](#)



## King's College Openings

The CDT in Smart Medical Imaging at King's College London is accepting applications for fully-funded PhD studentships beginning September 2020: more [here](#). There's also a fully funded 3.5 years full-time PhD studentship available to start January/April 2020 (info [here](#)) a PhD project to develop EEG-fMRI at 7T ([more](#)) and another PhD project available as part of the newly opened CDT in smart imaging ([here](#)) They're welcome applications from EU/EEA/Swiss and International Applicants



## Faculty Opportunities

The Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto is recruiting two Assistant Professors, to work in their department of Electrotechnical and Computer Engineering. These vacancies will be open until January 9, 2020. Learn more about both how to submit an application, [here](#)



## CIÊNCIAVITAE Platform

Have you made sure to upload your CV in the National scientific *curriculum* system CiênciaVitae? It was designed to facilitate the management of your cv, enhancing your work visibility. It can be personalized and used to connect with other researchers. Explore it [here](#)

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## Media & Culture



## Sociedade Civil Contribution

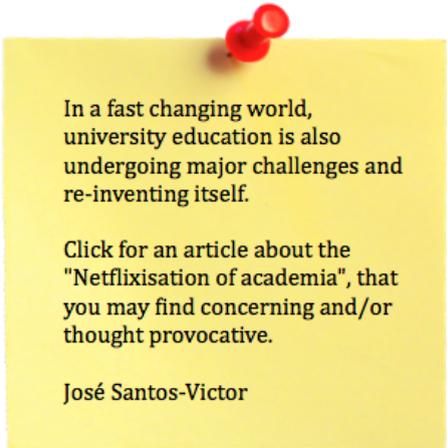
Portugal celebrated 'Semana da Ciência e Tecnologia' with activities all over the country, which were the focus of an episode of the show Sociedade Civil. The RTP program meant to showcase examples of research and science communication, which included coach robot Nao. The robot is being developed by students Laura Santos, Paul Schydlo and Noa Hedrich, tutored by José Santos-Victor and Alessandra Pedrocch of Politecnico di Milano, and represented Técnico during the program. Watch the episode [here](#)



## Opinion Article in Sapo

Are you concerned about the impact that having robotic help could have in our daily lives? If ethical issues matter to you don't miss this article by Professor Pedro Lima who shares his informed opinion on why the public perception of the technology being developed by research centres and companies is a meaningful sign of its impact in society. Read to join the current discussion about the significance of having robots collaborate with humans, more and more closely. [More](#)

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In a fast changing world,  
university education is also  
undergoing major challenges and  
re-inventing itself.

Click for an article about the  
"Netflixisation of academia", that  
you may find concerning and/or  
thought provocative.

José Santos-Victor



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Instituto Superior Técnico,

Torre Norte – 7º Piso

[Av.Rovisco Pais, 1](#)

[1049-001 Lisboa, Portugal](#)

**Our mailing address is:**

[isr-connected@isr.ist.utl.pt](mailto:isr-connected@isr.ist.utl.pt)