

## Meetings at ZILS: Sines Tech, EU-Atlantic Data Gateway Platform

# Geostrategic aspects of the digital ecosystem at Sines within the scope of the European and global digital transition

Hugo Santos Mendes, Assistant Secretary of State and for Communications, opens the second conference "Meetings at ZILS: Sines Tech, EU-Atlantic Data Gateway Platform" on **11 January at 11am** in Sines, to be broadcast online. The Sines Industrial and Logistics Zone (ZILS) is the largest business hosting area in Portugal and is managed by aicep Global Parques - Gestão de Áreas Empresariais e Serviços S. A., which also promotes this event and which you can attend here: <https://bit.ly/meetupatZILS-SinesTech>

**New announcements are expected during the conference**, as well as a **practical reflection on the current role and potential of ZILS in implementing the European data strategy** and in creating a single data market that meets the European Union's goals for global competitiveness in this area by **creating the EU-Atlantic Data Gateway Platform**.

The first part of the programme includes a round table discussion on **"Regulation and National Licensing"** with the presence of various entities that form part of the **working group for streamlining procedures and bureaucracies for projects in these areas**, key aspects for the **competitive positioning of Portugal**. Participants include Augusto Fragoso, Director-General of Information and Innovation at ANACOM; José Carlos Simão, Director-General of the Directorate-General of Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services; and Nuno Lacasta, Chair of the Portuguese Environment Agency.

The second part will be dedicated to **"Submarine Cable Stations and Data Centres in Sines"**, with the presence of **all the players in the submarine cable area** (Philippe Dumont, CEO of EllaLink; Norman Albi, CEO of Medusa Submarine Cable System; and Alberto Passos, business director at IP Telecom), and of the **European submarine cable manufacturer** (Enrico Banfi, Alcatel Submarine Networks VP EMEA & APAC), who will present his vision of the European market and Sines. On the **data centre** side, one of the **top construction companies** responsible for the study that **certified Sines** as an ideal location for this type of structure will be present (Olivier Labbe, general manager of CAP DC). Also participating is **START Campus** (Afonso Salema, CEO), which is currently **preparing the ground for the construction of the first mega data centre building** in Sines, a project that will employ some 1,200 people.

With recent investments, ZILS has clearly positioned itself as a preferred location from a geostrategic point of view with regard to digital strategy. This includes a €150M project to moor the Ellalink fibre-optic data cable (<https://ella.link>), co-financed by the European Union and connecting Europe (Sines, Portugal) to South America (Fortaleza, Brazil). In addition to this transport infrastructure, another project in the field of data storage which is complementary to this strategy of creating a digital ecosystem is the installation by ZILS of the largest data storage campus powered by renewable energy in Europe, the START Campus (<https://www.startcampus.pt>), representing an investment of €3.5 billion.

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Sines Tech (<https://sinestech.pt>) offers a **competitive location for the development of this ecosystem for tech companies**: a high-voltage electricity grid; renewable energy; water reservoirs (for cooling); the connectivity of the deep water port (for the mooring of data cables from anywhere in the world); communication routes, geographical location and safety.

The **Sines Tech - Innovation & Data Centre Hub** community has been recently founded by various public and private entities for the creation of an information and communication technology cluster, including Sines Municipal Council, aicep Global Parques, the EllaLink group, Fast Fiber, the National Scientific Computing Unit of the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT/FCCN Unit), IP Telecom, REN Telecom, Sines Tecnopolo and START - Sines Transatlantic Renewable @ Technology Campus. The members of this community share a vision to **create an open digital ecosystem where data can be made available and shared securely, respecting European regulations**.

This initiative is organised under the Invest in Alentejo programme, led by ADRAL – Alentejo Regional Development Agency, and co-funded by Alentejo 2020.

## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

### 11:30 - Welcome

Filipe Costa, CEO of aicep Global Parques and non-Executive Board Member of ADRAL

### 11:35 - Keynote

Hugo Santos Mendes, H. E. the Secretary of Communications at the Ministry of Infrastructure

### 12:00 - Panel #1 “Portuguese Regulation and Licensing”

Moderator: TERESA RIBEIRO, aicep Global Parques

AUGUSTO FRAGOSO, Portuguese Telecom NRA (ANACOM) DG Information and Innovation

JOSÉ MANUEL MARQUES, PORTUGUESE DG NATURAL RESOURCES, SAFETY AND MARITIME SERVICES

NUNO LACASTA, CHAIR OF THE PORTUGUESE ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY (APA)

### 12:30 - *Networking Lunch*

### 14:45 Panel #2 “Sines CLSs & DCs ecosystem”

MODERATOR: GONÇALO EIRAS, AICEP GLOBAL PARQUES

AFONSO SALEMA, CEO OF START - SINES TRANSATLANTIC RENEWABLE & TECHNOLOGY CAMPUS

ALBERTO PASSOS, TELECOM BUSINESS DIRETOR AT IP TELECOM

ENRICO BANFI, ALCATEL SUBMARINE NETWORKS VP EMEA & APAC

NORMAN ALBI, CEO OF MEDUSA SUBMARINE CABLE SYSTEM

OLIVIER LABBE, GENERAL MANAGER OF CAP DC

PHILIPPE DUMONT, CEO OF ELLALINK

### 15:45 Closing remarks

EURICO BRILHANTE DIAS, H. E. the Secretary of Internationalization at the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs

### 16:00 - *End Coffee & Networking*

For more information and to confirm your attendance, please contact:

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