Press Release

May 5th 2014

SISCOG launches a staff planning challenge to mathematicians

- **SISCOG launches today a staff planning optimization challenge to mathematicians participating in ESGI101 - European Study Group with Industry, who have a week to come up with a solution**

- **ESGI101, which bridges academia and industry, takes place with the support of the Mathematics Department of The Science and Technology Faculty of Lisbon Nova University between the 5th and 9th of May**

SISCOG, the software company specialized in solutions for the optimised planning and management of resources in transportation companies, challenges ESGI101 to improve an optimisation algorithm used to plan personnel in railways and metro companies.
SISCOG has chosen a problem that should be quite strenuous for the group: to produce and adjust plans of duties that are even more optimised than the ones achieved with the current algorithm used in the company's CREWS product.

Mathematicians involved in this initiative may help the company improve an already proven powerful algorithm, and that may be used in SISCOG's railway and metro clients. This way, the outcome of the collaboration may have an impact on the work plan of over 20,000 drivers and conductors spread across the Netherlands, Norway, Denmark, Finland, United Kingdom and Portugal.
The participants of ESGI101 have a week to analyse the problem and present their results to SISCOG, which may be an immediate solution or a proposal to further the collaboration beyond the ESGI101 event.

ESGI, European Study Group with Industry, a program intended to bring the academia and industry closer, allows for a group of mathematicians, including both students and teachers, to come face to face with "real world" issues that distress companies from diverse industries, and giving them a chance to overcome these obstacles in one week.
The event, which has taken place in different countries such as Australia, Mexico and Canada, has already taken on problems raised by companies like Boeing, ESA (European Space Agency) and even LEGO.

About SISCOG

Tens of thousands of people in different European countries have their daily work planned and managed by SISCOG´s systems. Founded in 1986, SISCOG is a software company that provides decision support systems for optimised resource planning and management, using a combination of Artificial Intelligence and Operational Research technologies. It currently offers three products: ONTIME (timetables), FLEET (rolling stock) and CREWS (staff).

Amongst its customers are renowned companies, such as the Dutch, Finnish, Danish and Norwegian railways, the Suburban Trains of Copenhagen and the Portuguese State Freight Railways, besides London Underground and Lisbon Metro.

SISCOG has a team of about 120 people and ended the 2013 fiscal year with a turnover around € 7.400.000. The results obtained are reinvested in the company's internationalization and innovation activities.

SISCOG was awarded in 1997, 2003 and 2012 with the innovation award by the "Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence", the world's most prestigious scientific organization in its field, and received in 2006 the merit award from the "Computerworld Honor Program". In 2010 its CREWS Real-time Dispatcher product received an Honorable Mention at "COTEC-Unicer Innovation Product" Awards. Due to its innovative character and for being an example of value creation for the country, SISCOG is member of the COTEC SME Innovation Network since 2006, and obtained in the last 3 years the SME Leader and SME Excellence statutes. SISCOG is certified in Quality (NP EN ISO 9001), and in Management of Research, Development and Innovation (NP EN 4457:2007).

More information at www.siscog.pt

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