



## ENGINews N° 21, 14th December 2011

### Awards

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#### **Jaime Rocha Gomes' research team wins BES National Innovation Competition**



Professor Jaime Rocha Gomes, Full Professor of the Department of Textile Engineering (DET) and researcher at the Science and Textile Technology Centre (2C2T) of the EEUM, and his research team were granted the grand prize of the BES National Innovation Competition, 7<sup>th</sup> edition.

The team suggested a new technology which allows a cleaner environment while keeping the colour of fabrics. This technology was named “Nanocor” (Nanocolour), as it derives from the development of coloured nanoparticles, and is meant to revolutionise the conventional textile dyeing process.

“The award will support the project as it will contribute to the dissemination of the technology and to evaluate its economic viability through market research”, states Professor Jaime Rocha Gomes.

The BES National Innovation Competition aims at rewarding excellence in research as well as contributing to a more competitive economy and promoting an innovation-oriented entrepreneurial culture.



#### **Researcher of the IPC wins natural resources' prize of the BES National Innovation Competition**



Manuel Gonçalves de Oliveira, researcher at the Institute for Polymers and Composites (IPC) of the EEUM, was granted the natural resources award of the BES National Innovation Competition, 7<sup>th</sup> edition. The research project, which is oriented by Professors Ana Vera Machado (DEP) and Regina Nogueira (DEB), proposes a new material which is capable of removing phosphorous without causing any harm to the ecosystem. The developed polymeric material, a hybrid nanocomposite, includes an agent in its structure which is capable of reacting with phosphorous, allowing to remove it without contaminating the water it is placed in.

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### DSI develops technology for public screens



The Department of Information Systems (DSI) of the EEUM has placed prototype screens in public areas of the district of Braga. “The screens we usually see in the streets distribute information to passers-by. One of the consequences of these screens is that they have little to do with the interest of the public.”, Professor Rui José, from the DSI, explains.

The displayed content is no longer imposed to the passer-by, but rather allows the interaction with the public. Further on, the screens will be connected in a network and some will greet people or even distribute coupons.

The prototypes are being developed under the project PD-Net, which started in May 2010 and will be concluded in September 2012. The consortium is led by the University of Lancaster (United Kingdom) and includes the Universities of Minho, Lugano (Switzerland) and Duisburg-Essen (Germany).

### Innovative treatment keeps chestnuts suitable for export



Researchers from the Group of Applied Mycology of the Centre of Biological Engineering (CEB) of the EEUM, along with the Micoteca da Universidade do Minho, the company Agroaguiar, the Polytechnic Institute of Bragança and the Nuclear and Technological Institute, are developing an alternative treatment for the conservation of chestnuts, through the irradiation of electron beams, in order to keep the product at an adequate quality for export.

The European Union has prohibited the chestnut disinfection with methyl bromide since 2010, which is not harmful to the human health but damages the ozone layer.



Universidade do Minho  
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Season's Greetings

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