

Semapa NEXT launches startup acceleration program with Techstars

- **Partnership with the Global Accelerator Leader reinforces Semapa Group's commitment with innovation;**
- **Program is expected to accelerate 30 startups in the first three years;**
- **Applications start today and run through November 11.**

Lisbon, July 23 – Semapa NEXT, the venture capital business unit of the Semapa Group, and Techstars today announced a partnership for an acceleration program at Lisbon.

"Through Semapa NEXT, Semapa aims to develop a position in the venture capital space, as part of a broader development strategy. The partnership with Techstars aims to accelerate this process by launching an international program that combines the strong industrial background and expertise of the Group with the track record and capabilities of startup acceleration of Techstars. Through this initiative Semapa aims to position Semapa Next in the startup and VC space and to bring into the broader Group the culture, dynamism and energy from the world of startups", says João Castello Branco, President of Semapa's Executive Committee.

"Techstars as one of the world's largest accelerators has a successful approach based on a unique capacity for screening, selection and mentoring of the startups that are accelerated on its programs. Techstars is very excited about this partnership and launching a successful international program that leverages and strengthens the Portuguese startup ecosystem", said David Brown, co-founder and CEO of Techstars.

The acceleration program will last 3 years and is part of a broader investment strategy that Semapa NEXT will be carrying out in the coming years. In the first year the program will invest and accelerate International and Portuguese startups on the Industrial and Environmental Tech, Smart Transportation, and Travel & Leisure Tech verticals.

"We will select global and ambitious startups. We want startups with tech solutions that aim to have a positive and sustainable impact on society. Semapa NEXT will offer startups the best mentors, sand boxes, access to distribution channels and local and international network of partners of the Group. This will allow the acceleration process to be an enriching and inspiring experience", said Ricardo Pires, CEO of Semapa NEXT.

The acceleration of startups will take place in Lisbon, where they will be subject to an intensive program of 13 weeks focused on the development and acceleration of the technological solutions of the startups. The program will also ensure access to more than 10,000 entrepreneurs, experts, mentors, investors and leading organizations from the global Techstars network.

"The intensity of the Techstars acceleration program is comparable to shrinking 2 years of work into 13 weeks. For example, in the first 3 weeks we will have 150 mentors sharing their experience with startups. A significant part of these mentors will be international and they will be selected to fit with the startups that will be invested", says Hugo Augusto, Managing Director of Techstars Lisbon in partnership with Semapa NEXT.

Applications start today and end on November 11. Startups can apply at <https://www.techstars.com/programs/lisbon-program/>

About Semapa NEXT:

Semapa Next is the Venture Capital arm of Semapa, a Portuguese industrial holding company. Semapa Next benefits from decades-long experience in investing in and managing global companies and aims to allocate capital to VC funds and startups with significant growth potential.

About Semapa Group:

Semapa is a public company, with head office in Lisbon and shares admitted to trading on the regulated Euronext Lisbon market. Semapa is one of Portugal's largest industrial groups, with a workforce of more than 6,000 and a presence on several continents, with more than three quarters of its turnover generated on foreign markets through its subsidiaries in the area of Paper and Pulp (The Navigator Company), Cements and Derivatives (Secil Group) and Environment (ETSA Group).

About Techstars:

Techstars is the global network that helps entrepreneurs succeed. Techstars founders connect with other entrepreneurs, experts, mentors, investors, community leaders and corporations to grow their businesses. Techstars operates in four divisions: Techstars Startup Programs, Techstars Mentorship-Driven Accelerator Programs, Techstars Corporate Innovation Partnerships, and the Techstars Venture Capital Fund. www.techstars.com