PRESS RELEASE



Maia, 26 April 2016

Contacto Programme received about 1,500 applications from around the world

INTERNSHIPS AT SONAE COMPANIES CAPTURE THE INTEREST OF YOUNG TALENTS FROM 38 COUNTRIES

- **Programme to recruit young talents for Sonae Companies captured the interest of about 1,500 undergraduate and master's finalist students from different academic backgrounds and geographies**
- **Assessment Day welcomed the selected 80 candidates from 7 countries**
- **30th anniversary edition may offer over 50 internships to young "gyroscopers"**
- **Sonae strengthens its position as school of leaders**

Sonae Companies welcomed 80 young talents with high potential in the Assessment Day of the Contacto Programme, an initiative that intends to attract and integrate young talents, selecting the ones that will be granted one of the several internships Sonae Companies will be offering this year. Participants were selected among the more than 1,400 undergraduate and master's finalists who were interested in the young talent recruitment programme of Sonae Companies, this year breaking the record with 38 nationalities represented.

Maria Antónia Cadilhe, director of Talent Management at Sonae, says, "The internationalisation strategy of Sonae Companies has contributed to boost its recognition on a global scale, not only in the development of sustainable businesses, but also in the implementation of the best people management practices. Sonae Companies are nowadays considered a benchmark as a school of leaders, contributing to the personal and professional development of its employees, thus becoming attractive for young talents with high potential who wish to build successful careers at a global level".

For the Assessment Day, which took place at the Sonae Learning Center, in Maia, young students were selected from 7 countries and different academic backgrounds. Among the

For more information, contact:
RITA BARROCAS
External Communication / Sonae
T. +351 22 010 4745 // E. rfbarrocas@sonae.pt
DIOGO SIMÃO
Director / BAN Corporate & Media Relations
M. +351 93 652 86 39 // E. ds@ban.pt



most represented courses were Economics, Management, Finance, Engineering, Information Systems and Textile Design. Among the several represented schools, it is worth mentioning *Universidade Nova de Lisboa*, ISEG, *Católica Lisboa*, *Católica Porto*, FEP, FEUP, *Instituto Superior Técnico de Lisboa*, *Universidade do Minho* and the Spanish *Instituto Empresa Business School.*

Candidates put to the test may secure over 50 internships

Sonae Companies are looking for over 50 young talents, undergraduate and master's finalists from several areas of training. The Contacto Programme, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, is a pioneer initiative in Portugal for recruiting young people with high potential, through which Sonae Companies offer paid internships for nine months, providing young students with the opportunity of developing their skills and entering the job market.

Sonae Companies are looking for 'Gyroscopers', seen as open-minded talents with a global perspective. These soft skills were evaluated during the Assessment Day, when participants were challenged to discover Sonae and prove their competencies and values by facing several challenges and dynamics related with the topic of "having world". The activities included innovation challenges, one-to-one interviews, pitch presentations and group dynamics, searching for young people with an ambitious, creative and entrepreneurial profile, who were intellectually curious, flexible and focused on excellence.

Following the Assessment Day, Sonae will match the candidates' preferences with those of the mentors in order to then invite the selected young students to undertake a nine-month internship at Sonae Companies.

30 years creating leaders

Created in 1986, the Contacto Programme remains faithful to its mission to attract and integrate, in the different Sonae Companies, young talents with diverse academic backgrounds, who aspire to have access to the best leaders and wish to develop ambidextrous competencies, while also cultivating an extensive business network.

Part of the Programme's mission is also to, year upon year, strengthen the long and strategic



partnership Sonae has established with Universities, thus contributing to an effective relation between the academic world and the job market.

Throughout these 30 years, the Contacto Programme has received more than 40 thousand applications. This has led to the selection and participation of over 4,500 young people of different fields of expertise and nationalities in the Contacto Day, of whom hundreds eventually became part of Sonae Companies' teams and even reached leadership positions.