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31st Edition of Contacto Programme

SONAE OFFERS INTERNSHIPS TO MORE THAN 50 "GAME CHANGERS"

- **The paid internships will begin between September and November**
- **The 2017 Edition received over 1500 applications from 51 nationalities**
- **Programme to attract and develop young talents for Sonae Companies has attracted the interest of more than 40 thousand undergraduate and masters' finalists since its creation**

Today, Sonae Companies welcome more than 50 young talents who stood out for their "Game Changer" profile, within the 2017 edition of the Contacto Programme. The selected candidates, undergraduate and masters' finalists, of different nationalities, academic backgrounds and life experiences, will now have the opportunity to carry out paid internships, which will begin between September and November this year.

The young talents were selected among over 1500 applications, of 51 nationalities, based on how they faced the challenges presented throughout the process, which aimed to find "Game Changers": young adults who question the way things are done, who build and use a learning network to change their course and of those around them, in a positive and constructive manner.

Maria Antónia Cadilhe, director of Talent Management at Sonae, says: "As a pioneer initiative to recruit young talents in Portugal, the Contacto Programme has had a remarkable evolution throughout its 31 years of existence. Every year we exceed our expectations in terms of the amount and the quality of applications and we are surprised by the growing diversity of nationalities and profiles. We believe that these results are brought upon by the enriching experiences of personal and professional development we provide at Sonae Companies every year, which have already resulted in the incorporation of a few hundred "Contacto" employees following the internship periods."

In 2017, the main study areas of the trainees selected are Management, Information Systems and Engineering, from several national and international schools. The high level of interest in the Contacto Programme translated the work developed towards attracting and fostering talent at a global level. Sonae is recognised by several institutions as the best school of leaders in Portugal and was recently considered by AMBA as the best company in the world for young MBA finalists to develop their careers.

Since its creation by Sonae, the Contacto Programme has already received more than 40 thousand applications, which led to the selection and participation of over 4,500 young people from different fields of expertise and nationalities, of whom hundreds eventually joined Sonae Companies' teams.

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