

Message from the CEO

(GRI 102-14)

2018 was a time of consolidations for the UFRJ Science Park. Amid political uncertainties and economic turbulences in Brazil, the Project of the Park was renewed and revalidated by the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, ensuring the formalization of all its activities and reinforcing the actions defined as priorities in its Strategic Planning for the coming years. For this reason, governance was selected as the most representative topic of 2018, when we also started to expand our actions into other fields of knowledge and beyond the Park's current geographical boundaries. For example, in the end of the year, the Park started to manage the UFRJ Biotechnology Hub. 2018 was also when Ambev opened its research and development center in the Park, bringing new connections with UFRJ research groups to our environment. Strategic partnerships were also built, such as the one established with the *Atlantic Interactions Research Centre* (AIR Centre), for the development of technologies for the Brazilian coast. In the interview below, the UFRJ Science Park CEO, José Carlos Pinto, tells how the institution progressed along the path during this period of time, which were the accomplishments made and what is the anticipation for 2019.

WHY WAS GOVERNANCE THE TOPIC SELECTED AS THE MOST REPRESENTATIVE FOR 2018?

In November 2018, the statutes of the park were renewed and revalidated during the UFRJ University Council meeting and, therefore, we formalized all the practices developed by the Park along the last 20 years in the University's rules of procedure. Among them, the Committee for the Management of Articulations, which assesses the relationship of the companies with the university and the projects; the Committee for Performance Assessment, which gives opinions about the Park's performance; and the Committee for Assessment of Applications, which is responsible for assessing the quality level of the companies as well as their potential for a relationship with UFRJ. In 2018 the relationship of the Park with the support foundation which holds the Park's project, the Coppetec Foundation, was also formalized. The operation of the Foundation as the manager of the Park had already been scheduled and, now, we have the formalization of how this management will take place. This reduces paper work and allows the Park to safely operate with the government bodies, state-owned enterprises and other commercial and institutional entities.

THE NEW STATUTE MATERIALIZES THE EXPANSION TOPIC, SCHEDULED AS AN OPERATION FOCUS IN THE STRATEGIC PLANNING OF THE PARK. WHAT IS THE RELEVANCE OF THIS TOPIC FOR THE INSTITUTION AND HOW DID IT HAPPEN IN PRACTICE?

The new statute materializes a basic principle in the innovation areas, which means they are not limited by geographical boundaries. These areas are defined by the interests of the institutions to which they belong and where there is an opportunity of relationship between the academy and the companies. And this is a particularly important item since UFRJ has different campi in the state of Rio de Janeiro and it is extremely relevant that the Park operates in all these areas. UFRJ has potential interests in places of the world where there are professors, projects, graduate students, and the Park can also represent UFRJ in these multiple actions that the university has in different places. A real proof of this was that, in the end of December 2018, the Rectory published an ordinance assigning responsibility to the Park to manage the UFRJ Biotechnology Hub, in view of the end of the agreement between the university and the Bio-Rio Foundation. In addition, we will start to operate in Macaé in a near future.

**IN YOUR OPINION,
WHICH WERE
THE OTHER
ACCOMPLISHMENTS
OF THE PARK IN
2018?**

The number of institutions in the Park continued to increase in 2018 and we reached the end of the year with 70 residents. The opening of the Ambev research center was very important since it more strongly incorporates into the Park topics such as biotechnology, food engineering, materials chemistry, reinforcing a path recommended in our planning, i.e. the path of diversity and of multiple connections with UFRJ research groups. In 2018, we also observed diversity both in the sizes and nature of the projects and not only in the topics. Although the Park is known for housing important research centers, the great majority of our residents consist of small and medium-sized companies. Last year we organized the second round of the acceleration program called CrowdRio together with Telefonica *Open Future*. Also, the role of the Science Park in the promotion of the interaction between large and small entrepreneurial initiatives was highlighted by the launching of innovation projects, such as the one developed by Vallourec.

**ALTHOUGH 2018 WAS
A YEAR OF POLITICAL
AND ECONOMIC INS-
TABILITY, THERE WAS
A SLIGHT INCREASE
IN THE INVESTMENTS
MADE IN THE OIL
AND GAS FIELD, FOR
WHICH THE PARK IS
RENOWNED. WHAT
CAN ONE EXPECT FOR
THIS FIELD IN 2019?**

After the difficult years of 2015, 2016, 2017 and most part of 2018 due to the financial crises of Petrobras and of the state of Rio de Janeiro, we are now seeing a change fueled by the successful pre-salt reservoir auctions. In November 2018, the Park actively participated in the largest fair in the oil and gas field (Rio *Oil & Gas*) and realized that there was more dynamics of people and companies as well as opportunities and businesses in this field when compared to the scenario of a couple of years ago. The best news was that, by the end of 2018, several large companies active in the oil and gas field, including the Park, hired projects and researchers, this signaling that a more promising future was just around the corner.

Most companies do not expect 2019 to be a great year, but we believe that it will provide a good transition from 2018 to 2020 and relaunch several drilling and production activities. 2019 will most likely be a good year for regulating, documenting and

qualifying the wells and for the analysis and preparation of the increasing production that 2020 will bring. We are very optimistic about the trajectory of the resident companies active in the oil and gas field and we hope to welcome other new companies in the Park.

Another very important topic in the innovation area, due to the relevance of Petrobras in the Brazilian innovation system, is the beginning of the simplification process of regulations established by the National Petroleum Agency (ANP), which involves consulting local experts about the best ways of making projects flow more easily. There is a positive anticipation by the local community that the procedures become simplified in 2019, which would then stimulate joint partnerships between the University, private agents in the oil field and other service companies.

**BROADLY SPEAKING,
WHICH ARE THE MAIN
OPERATION FOCUSES
FOR THE PARK IN
2019?**

We sincerely hope that we can report a greater number of resident companies active in the oil and gas field by the end of 2019. What is more, the university's Biotechnology hub can help us attract a significant number of companies acting in the biotechnology field to our innovation environment by the end of 2019. However, this is also a year fraught with uncertainties. The Federal University of Rio de Janeiro is welcoming a new rector and a different approach to science and technology may be taken by the federal government.

Another scope of activity that is ongoing corresponds to the effort of including all areas of the University in the Park's project. Our goal is to develop not only the research area but also other entrepreneurial initiatives coming from different knowledge areas. This way, we expect that the Park becomes, in 2019, a living lab, a place where not only innovation and experimenting occur but also becomes, itself, an object of innovation and experimenting. Several relevant partnerships have already

been formed, such as the *Atlantic Interactions Research Center* (AIR Centre) for solutions and actions in the Guanabara Bay. As a result, a project funded by the state of Rio de Janeiro for monitoring sea currents will be made publicly available at the Park as a pilot project.

In addition, we hope that we can sign an agreement with the government of the state of Rio de Janeiro for transforming the Park in an environment for the validation and approval of technologies that are eventually bought by different governmental agents. We hope that the Park can consolidate its integrated activity in the city, by being of service to different governmental agents as well as to the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, so as to stimulate studies, projects and services that ultimately benefit the society of Rio de Janeiro.

