

**RNS REACH / RNS  
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**Frontier IP Group Plc  
("Frontier IP" or the "Group")**

**Frontier IP part of pan-European project to boost marine and coastal economies by maximising research impact**

Frontier IP, a specialist in commercialising intellectual property, today announces it has been selected as a partner in a major project to maximise the value of academic research to Europe's marine and coastal economies – the European Blue Economy.

The project, called Emporia4KT, aims to build bridges between academia, business and government to develop ways to transfer academic knowledge and innovation to boost activities such as fishing, shipbuilding, tourism and ocean energy.

It brings together 14 partners from Portugal, Ireland, France, Spain and the United Kingdom, and is being coordinated by one of Frontier IP's partner universities in Portugal, NOVA University Lisbon, NOVA School of Science and Technology ("FCT NOVA"). Frontier IP's critical role will be to develop tools to help partners assess risks, judge cost effectiveness, and understand the most appropriate routes for commercialising their IP.

Emporia4KT is backed by approximately €2.2 million funding from the European Union's INTERREG Atlantic Area European Regional Development Fund. Frontier IP will receive fees for its involvement in the project.

**Frontier IP chief executive officer Neil Crabb said:** *"We are delighted to be involved in this high-profile project, which gives us the opportunity to support institutions from across Europe as they seek to help the European Blue Economy benefit from the work they do."*

**FCT NOVA Prof. António Grilo and Emporia4KT coordinator said:** *"Our motivation is to create social-economic impact from academic research activities within the blue economy sectors, while also transforming the relationship between the triple helix actors for innovation - academia, business and government."*

The full statement from INTERREG Atlantic Area funding programme is below:



**New project launched to boost European marine and coastal economies by maximising research impact - EMPORIA4KT**

**Press release:** April 2019

An exciting new project from the European Union's (EU) INTERREG Atlantic Area funding programme will focus on assisting academics to transfer knowledge from their research in order to create value in the European Blue Economy. The Blue Economy represents all economic activities related to oceans, seas and coastal areas and includes industries such as fishing, shipbuilding, tourism and ocean energy. This growing sector is hugely important to Europe, and currently provides jobs for nearly 3.5 million people.

The project, EMPORIA4KT, will work to forge links between academia, business and government through tailored activities such as workshops targeting the needs of all key stakeholders.

António Grilo, EMPORIA4KT coordinator, states "Our motivation is to create social-economic impact from academic research activities within the blue economy sectors, while also transforming the relationship between the triple helix actors for innovation - academia, business and government."

The project will train researchers to use the project's knowledge transfer methodology to identify specific potential users of their research outputs and connect directly to them in a productive and effective way. It is expected that these connections will strengthen innovation and competitiveness in the Atlantic Area Blue Economy, with high potential for increasing growth and generating jobs. This will in turn provide a greater return on research investment both for public and private bodies.

The EU's Blue Economy has been consistently growing over the last decades, and its future is promising. However, investments in innovation are needed to create new business opportunities and manage our ocean and sea resources in a sustainable manner. Investment in projects such as EMPORIA4KT will bolster this growth while helping to protect the ocean and its resources.

The kick-off meeting was held on Monday April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in Lisbon (Portugal), gathering 14 partners from 5 countries. More information will be made available online via social media, and via a project website which is currently in development; [www.emporia4kt.com](http://www.emporia4kt.com).

For press enquiries, please contact Communications and Press Officer Rebecca Doyle at [Rebecca@aquatt.ie](mailto:Rebecca@aquatt.ie), or contact coordinator António Grilo at [emporia4kt@campus.fct.unl.pt](mailto:emporia4kt@campus.fct.unl.pt) for more information on the project.

Statement Ends

**ENQUIRIES**

**Frontier IP Group Plc**

T: 020 7332 2338

Neil Crabb, Chief Executive

Andrew Johnson, Communications & Investor Relations

M: 07464 546 025

Company website: [www.frontierip.co.uk](http://www.frontierip.co.uk)

**Allenby Capital Limited (Nominated Adviser and Broker)**

T: 0203 328 5656

Nick Athanas / Nicholas Chambers (Corporate Finance)

Amrit Nahal (Equity Sales)

#### **ABOUT EMPORIA4KT**

The EMPORIA4KT project will run from 2019 – 2022 with an overall budget of approximately €2.2 million. EMPORIA4KT is funded by the European Union's Interreg Atlantic Area European Regional Development Fund.

EMPORIA4KT is coordinated by Universidade Nova de Lisboa –Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia (Nova School of Science and Technology). AquaTT is the project communication and dissemination partner. The project involves partners from Portugal, Ireland, France, Spain and the United Kingdom. Working collaboratively across these countries will enable the share of resources and knowledge by five countries with significant interest in the sustainable exploitation of marine resources.

#### **ABOUT FRONTIER IP**

Frontier IP unites science and commerce by identifying strong intellectual property and accelerating its development through a range of commercialisation services. A critical part of the Group's work is involving relevant industry partners at an early stage of development to ensure technology meets real world demands and needs.

The Group looks to build and grow a portfolio of equity stakes and licence income by taking an active involvement in spin-out companies, including support for fund raising and collaboration with relevant industry partners at an early stage of development.

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