Artificial Intelligence
Recreating Environments

IARA

Project Description

MCTIC (Ministry of Science, Technology, Innovations and Communications), in partnership with FAPESP (São Paulo State Research Support Foundation) and the CGI.br (Internet Steering Committee in Brazil), launched a call for the creation of four Artificial Intelligence Research Centers (http://www.fapesp.br/13896). The proposals contemplated will receive R$ 1 million per year, for 5 years, renewable for another 5 years. Each proposal should include counterparts from one or more companies that add at least the same amount (R$ 1 million per year). From these 4 proposals, 2 have to be based in the state of São Paulo and 2 in other Brazilian states.

The proposal of a Network of Centers IARA (Artificial Intelligence Recreating Environments) has the confirmed participation of several companies, among them: Intel, TIM, Ericsson, SAAB, Eldorado Institute, Inova Institute, Splice Group, Ball Group and Vale. Talks with many other companies are being conducted. New additions are allowed within the first year of the project so the number of partners will grow a lot.

The IARA network already has several international partners, including universities from several countries, such as the University of Maryland Baltimory County (USA), University of Bordeaux (France), University of New South Wales (Australia), University of Harvard (USA), University of Exeter (UK) and University of Porto (Portugal), as well as research and entrepreneurship centers such as the Fraunhofer Institute (Germany) and ConceptionX (UK). These last partnerships are in accordance with one of IARA's goals, which is to support the creation of Startups in the theme of Smart Cities.

The IARA project aims to coordinate a national research network, based at USP, São Carlos, which will be the central hub, but with a shared governance, coordinated by a rotation of the poles. The proposal is to have a network of centers in the states of São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Espírito Santo, and the Brazilian Northeast AI-Network – IANE (comprised of over 20 institution from the nine States of the region).

The main objective of the center is the development of research and technology in the areas of Artificial Intelligence and Internet of Things of 5th generation (but already aiming at the 6th generation) that increase the quality of life of Brazilian citizens, making their cities smarter. The projects to be developed will focus on the following axes: communication, energy, mobility, sanitation, cybersecurity, health, education and leisure.

The center will also have pilot cities, which will then be deployed in other Brazilian cities. The first cities targeted by the study will be: Alcântara (MA), Canaã dos Carajás (PA), Niterói (RJ), Recife (PE), São Carlos (SP), Vila Velha (ES), Juazeiro do Norte (CE), and Recife (PE). As expected, each city will have a specific demand in relation to the set of priority axes and will share their experience with cities in other regions of their respective states.