



Press release

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## Tezos Foundation Issues Grants to Four Leading Research Institutions

**9 August 2018**

The Tezos Foundation is pleased to announce that it has issued grants to Cornell University (Emin Gün Sirer), the University of Beira Interior, Decet Consulting, and France-IOI.

The team at Cornell University, led by Associate Professor and Co-Director of the Initiative for Cryptocurrencies and Smart Contracts (“[IC3](#)”) [Emin Gün Sirer](#), will begin a two-year research effort on consensus algorithms, particularly focusing on sharding in blockchain protocols. Sharding is a potential scaling solution whereby parts of a blockchain’s state are split among validator sets so that each set only has to validate a subset of the transactions in a network. Following its research, the Cornell team will develop protocols that may be applied to Tezos.

The [University of Beira Interior](#), a premier research institution based in Portugal, will receive a grant from the Tezos Foundation to support two projects. The first project, which will fund two master's theses, will involve research on the implementation of Tezos for event logging of robots in factory environments. The second project, which will include two Ph.D. theses, will explore tools for the static analysis of smart contracts in programming languages such as Michelson, as well as focus on formal verification techniques and support for machine-checked smart contracts using proof assistants like Why3 and Coq.

Decentralized Et Consulting, LLC. (“[Decet](#)”) is a research institution founded by Gordon Speagle of the College of Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2017 to actively research new methods for decentralization and provide blockchain solutions for such opportunities. With this two-year grant, the Decet team will build a robust, clear, and accessible online developer documentation resource for the Tezos ecosystem. This documentation will include technical specifications, tutorials, and instructional guides for both developers and non-developers to better understand Tezos and how to build on top of it.

In an additional effort to empower the Tezos community, [France-IOI](#), in partnership with the Institut Mines-Télécom, the Blaise Pascal Foundation, and others will develop educational tools, content, and activities to help a growing number of students learn about programming, high-level algorithmics, and the technology underpinning Tezos. Both the Decet and France-IOI grants will support the education and training of current and future Tezos developers.

The grants described above reinforce the Foundation’s commitment to support premier research institutions and educational initiatives in their efforts to advance the Tezos protocol and ecosystem. The Foundation will hold a formal call for research grant proposals later this month. Prospective grantees from research institutions needing immediate consideration for a grant may apply through the interim [grantmaking form](#).

The Tezos Foundation’s core mission is to support the long-term success of the Tezos protocol and ecosystem. By funding projects imagined by scientists, researchers, entrepreneurs, and enthusiasts,

the Foundation encourages decentralized development and robust participation. All parties are invited to submit grant proposals and contribute to Tezos.