Dr. José Franca co-founded "CHIPIDEA Microelectrónica, S.A." in February 1997, and became **Chairman of the Board and CEO**. From a small analog design team he led Chipidea to eventually become a world leader in analog/mixed-signal Semiconductor Intellectual Property with over 340 engineers in design centers in Portugal, China, Poland, Belgium, France and Norway. He eventually left the company in September 2008 after its acquisition by MIPS Technologies Inc. in August 2007.

Before that, in 1987, he founded the Integrated Circuits and Systems Group at IST and, in 1994, the IST Centre of Microsystems. He was a member of IST's **Executive Council** between 1987 and 1991, **Vice-President of ITEC** (Technology Institute for the European Community), between 1988 and 1991, and a member of the **Senate of the Technical University of Lisbon** between 1990 and 1992. In June 2000 he became a **Full Professor of the Department of Electrical and Computer engineering of IST**.

While in Academia, Dr. Franca has supervised **32 graduate projects** (12 Ph.D. and 20 M.Sc.) and actively participated in over **30 R&D projects** in the area of mixed analog-digital integrated circuits and systems, particularly in the context of pan-European cooperative efforts involving both Universities and companies. He has also had direct research contracts with some leading European and US companies, including Nokia Mobile Phones, Siemens, Austria Microsystems, British Telecom, Rockwell Semiconductors and Atmel. The main results of his research have been published in over **60 journal papers**, **200 conference papers**, and several **research books and monographs**. He is co-author of a Chapter on Analog-Digital Conversion in the *Wiley Encyclopedia of Electrical and Electronics Engineering*, and of five **international patents** on switched-capacitor networks.

Among the various international and national academic and industry honors Dr. Franca has received was being named **Fellow of the IEEE** in 1997, for "contributions to Multirate Analog Signal Processing and Engineering Education", and being the recipient of the **Golden Jubilee Medal** of the IEEE Circuits and Systems Society in 1999. He was made **Doctor Honoris Causa in Science** by the University of Macao in 2006 and honored with the **IEEE Circuits and Systems Society Industrial Pioneer Award in 2010** for "pioneering contributions to the development of Analog/Mixed-Signal Integrated Circuits and to their widespread use in the semiconductor industry by starting up an Analog IP design company". In 2006, the President of the Republic of Portugal bestowed upon him the high distinction of "**Grande Oficial da Ordem do Mérito**". He received the **2006 Entrepreneur of the Year Award** established by the Alumni Association of the prestigious INSEAD Business School and the **2007 Ernst & Young International Entrepreneur of the Year Award**, and in 2008 was the recipient of the prestigious **Universidade de Coimbra Award**.

Dr. Franca was a member of the **Board of Governors** of the IEEE Circuits and Systems Society between 1997 and 1999 and of the **Executive Council** of the European Circuits and

Systems Society between 1998 and 2001. He served in various consulting assignments to the European Commission Scientific and Technology Programs, namely the **Information Society Technologies Advisory Group** (ISTAG) of the European Commission in 2008 and 2009, and was member of the **Steering and Technical Program Committees** of several International Conferences. He was **General Chair** of the International Electronics Conference of the IEEE Circuits and Systems Society (Lisbon, 1998), General Chair of the Design, Automation and Test in Europe (DATE) Conference (Paris, 2002), and General Chair of the ESSCIRC/ESSDERC Conferences (Lisbon, 2003).

Dr. Franca holds a **degree in Electrical Engineering** from Instituto Superior Técnico (IST) of the Technical University of Lisbon (UTL) (1978), a **Ph.D. degree** from Imperial College of Science and Technology in London (1985) and the degree of "**Agregado**" from UTL (1992). In 1992, he also completed an Executive Education program at MIT on "Management of Research and Technology based Innovation".

He is affiliated with Universities in Portugal and abroad, namely CUHK (Hong Kong) and FEUP (Porto, Portugal), and is a member of the Advisory Board of the Department of Engineering and Industrial Management of IST, the Strategic Board of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering of IST and the General Council of the Business and Management School of Universidade Lusófona.

Dr. Franca was **State Secretary for Education of the Government of Portugal** in 1991/92.

He was a **non-executive Director of Banco Espírito Santo S.A**., in 2008-2011, and of a few technology-based start-ups, both in Portugal and abroad.

In February 2012, the Government of Portugal appointed Dr. Franca **Chairman of the Board and CEO** of the 3 government Venture Capital and Private Equity companies – Inov Capital, Turismo Capital and AICEP Capital Global. These have now been consolidated into a single, new company - Portugal Ventures, of which he is Chairman of the Board and CEO.

Also by the appointment of the Government of Portugal, Dr. Franca is **non-executive Chairman of the Board** of PME Investmentos, the investment society for SMEs, and **Member of the National Council for Entrepreneurship and Innovation**, advising the Prime Minister and the Government of Portugal. He is also non-executive Director of PVCi (Portuguese Venture Capital Initiative), a fund of funds co-invested by the European Investment Fund, the Government of Portugal and the Portuguese banking industry.