

Promotion of Innovation and Technology: Innovation and technology (I&T) are drivers for economic growth and the key to enhance competitiveness of our industries. In November 2015, the Innovation and Technology Bureau was established to formulate holistic I&T policies, thereby fostering the development of I&T and related industries in Hong Kong, raising the competitiveness of Hong Kong and improving the quality of life of our citizens. The bureau was re-titled as the **Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau** (ITIB) in July 2022 to highlight new industrialisation as a standing policy function and work focus of the bureau, as part of its efforts in driving I&T development.

The ITIB promulgated the Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Development Blueprint (I&T Blueprint) in December 2022 to establish a clear development path and formulate systematic strategic planning for Hong Kong's I&T development over the next five to 10 years, charting Hong Kong in moving full steam towards the vision of an international I&T centre. The Government has formulated the I&T Blueprint from the perspective of top-level planning and design, and will take forward I&T development under four broad development directions, namely "to enhance the I&T ecosystem and promote new industrialisation in Hong Kong"; "to enlarge the I&T talent pool to create strong impetus for growth"; "to promote digital economy development and develop Hong Kong into a smart city"; and "to proactively integrate into the overall development of the country and consolidate our role as a bridge connecting the Mainland and the world", thereby accelerating the formation and development of new quality productive forces with Hong Kong's competitive edge.

New quality productive forces refer to productivity led by technological innovation that breaks away from the traditional mode of economic growth and development pathway. Adding technological content to productivity, it has the characteristics of high-end technology, high efficiency as well as high quality and quantity. Promoting the comprehensive development of upstream, midstream and downstream sectors to form an

extensive I&T ecosystem chain is the key to developing new quality productive forces.

The Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC)

under the ITIB implements related policies and measures as well as provides software and hardware support for key players to collaborate on research and development (R&D) and innovation activities. The approach in promoting I&T development is underpinned by five core strategies: providing world-class technology infrastructure for enterprises, research institutions and universities; offering financial support to stakeholders in the industry, academia and research sector to develop and commercialise their R&D results; nurturing talents; strengthening science and technology collaboration with the Mainland and other economies; and fostering a vibrant culture of innovation. The ITC also works closely with other government departments, the industrial and business sectors, tertiary institutions and industrial support organisations to promote applied R&D in different technology areas, as well as the upgrading of foundation industries.

The Digital Policy Office (DPO) under the ITIB is responsible for spearheading formulation of policies on digital government, data governance and information technology (IT), and promoting the opening up of data and co-ordination with departments to offer more digital and data-driven services.

The New Industrialisation Development Office was set up in February 2024 within the ITIB, with a view to building Hong Kong's new industrialisation industrial system on an industry-oriented basis, accelerating the transformation and industrialisation of R&D outcomes, and facilitating leading I&T enterprises or those with potential to develop in Hong Kong. While supporting the traditional manufacturing sector to upgrade and transform through the use of I&T, it also accelerates the development of strategic emerging industries and planning of future industries, with a view to forming a more resilient and diversified industrial structure to support Hong Kong's high-quality development.

Committee on Innovation, Technology and Industry Development (CITID): The CITID chaired by the Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry was established in March 2023 to advise the Government on the strategic development of I&T in Hong Kong.

Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF): The Government set up the ITF in 1999 with an injection of \$5 billion to support projects that help industries develop innovative ideas and upgrade their technological level. A number of injections totalling about \$53 billion were subsequently approved to implement new initiatives under the ITF and sustain the operation of various funding programmes.

There are various programmes under the ITF to support R&D, facilitate technology adoption, nurture technology talent, support technology start-ups, promote new industrialisation and develop new quality productive forces as well as foster an I&T culture. As at the end of April 2026, 83 291 projects with total ITF funding of \$58.3 billion were approved, of which 6 845 are R&D projects. Most of the funded R&D projects were related to IT (25%); electrical and electronics (16%); manufacturing technology (15%); and biotechnology (11%).

The Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC): Established in May 2001, the HKSTPC is a statutory body wholly owned by the Government to provide quality infrastructure facilities and support services for I&T development in Hong Kong.

The 22-hectare **Hong Kong Science Park (Science Park)** located in Pak Shek Kok provides state-of-the-art laboratories and shared facilities which help reduce the capital investment of technology companies in product design and development, enabling rapid entry of new products into the market at lower cost. Batch 1 of Stage 2 of the Science Park Expansion Programme, i.e. Building 18W, which provides about 13 000 square metres of gross floor area mainly for wet laboratories was completed in March 2025.

The HKSTPC also manages three **InnoParks**, located at Tai Po, Yuen Long and Tseung Kwan O, which provide 217 hectares of land in total. The specialised multi-storey industrial buildings in the InnoParks include the GMP Centre (commenced operation in 2001), Precision Manufacturing Centre (refurbished in 2017), Data Technology Hub (commenced operation in 2020), Medical Accessory Resilience

Supplies Centre (commenced operation in 2021), Advanced Manufacturing Centre (commenced operation in 2022) and Microelectronics Centre (installation works of specialised systems has been largely completed).

InnoHK Research Clusters (InnoHK): InnoHK is a \$10 billion major initiative of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government to develop Hong Kong as the hub for global research collaboration. Two research clusters have been set up, namely Health@InnoHK, focusing on healthcare technologies, and AIR@InnoHK, focusing on artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics technologies. Under these two research clusters, InnoHK has cumulatively funded 30 research centres, involving seven local universities and research institutions as well as over 30 institutions from 12 economies, and pooling around 3 000 researchers locally and from all over the world. In addition, the Government is expediting the development of the third InnoHK research cluster, namely SEAM@InnoHK, focusing on sustainable development, energy, advanced manufacturing and materials. The ITC announced in March 2026 that eight research centres have been approved for admission to the third cluster. Preparatory work for the relevant research centres is now in its final stage and they will come into operation progressively, expanding Hong Kong's international scientific research collaboration network.

Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited (Cyberport): Cyberport is home to over 2 300 information and communications technology (ICT) enterprises and talents. Through offering all-round incubation and accelerator programmes, financial and professional support, market promotion and business networks, Cyberport is committed to nurturing digital technology start-ups, unicorns and strategic enterprises.

Cyberport established the Artificial Intelligence Supercomputing Centre (AISC) in December 2024, providing computing power of 3 000 PFLOPS. It supports the local demand for computing power, enhances Hong Kong's R&D capabilities in various research and application fields, and promotes industry development of AI.

The Cyberport Expansion Project has been completed, providing approximately 66 000 square metres of additional space and facilities, including a high-tier data services platform.

The Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC): The HKPC provides integrated support services to help Hong Kong's industrial and commercial enterprises achieve a more effective use of resources and increase the value added content of products and services, thereby enhancing productivity and competitiveness. Anchored on its core competence in manufacturing technologies, information technologies, new energy and green technologies and management systems, the HKPC has been helping Hong Kong's industrial and commercial enterprises in technology and process upgrading, promoting new industrialisation for local enterprises to harness new quality productive forces and helping innovative industries move up the value ladder and tap new business opportunities.

R&D centres: The R&D centres drive and co-ordinate applied R&D in various focus areas, namely information and communications technologies; logistics and supply chain multi-tech; and textiles and apparel. The centres have been working closely with the industries in conducting industry-oriented R&D and promoting commercialisation of R&D results. As at the end of April 2026, 2 353 projects from the R&D Centres were supported under the ITF at a total project cost of about \$12.9 billion. Besides, the Hong Kong Microelectronics Research and Development Institute (MRDI) was established in September 2024 to promote microelectronics development in Hong Kong, aiming to become one of the leading organisations for supporting microelectronics development in the Asia-Pacific region. MRDI is installing two pilot lines at the Microelectronics Centre in Yuen Long, anticipating its operation in end 2026 to support product development and trial production. It will strengthen collaboration with universities, R&D centres and the industry and expedite the "1 to N" transformation of technological outcomes. This will help pool Mainland and overseas talents in particular fields and strengthen the nurturing of local R&D talents, thereby further enhancing the I&T ecosystem.

To align with the overall national development plan, the restructuring exercise of State Key Laboratories (SKLs) in Hong Kong was completed in July 2025. Hong Kong currently has 15 SKLs and six Hong Kong Branches of Chinese National Engineering Research Centres.

Talent: Human resources are essential to the promotion of I&T in Hong Kong. The Research Talent Hub under the ITF provides funding support to each eligible company or

organisation to engage up to four research talents to conduct R&D work. As at the end of June 2026, the programme has provided funding support for around 16 700 research positions. Funding support is also provided on a matching basis for companies under the New Industrialisation Acceleration Scheme to engage additional research talents and/or technical personnel. Moreover, the STEM Internship Scheme under the ITF subsidises undergraduates and post-graduates taking STEM-related programmes in designated local universities to take up short-term internships, with a view to fostering their interest in pursuing a career in I&T after graduation. To further enlarge the pool of I&T talents, the STEM Internship Scheme has been expanded to cover the internship opportunities offered by government-funded R&D centres and the HKPC to STEM students of local and non-local universities (including campuses at the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) established by designated local universities). As at the end of May 2026, the STEM Internship Scheme has subsidised over 20 100 internships. The Government also launched the Global STEM Professorship Scheme in 2021 to attract more world renowned scholars to engage in I&T-related teaching and research activities in Hong Kong.

The Government also launched the New Industrialisation and Technology Training Programme (NITTP) to subsidise local enterprises on a 1:1 matching basis to train their staff in advanced technologies, especially those related to new industrialisation. As at the end of June 2026, the NITTP has approved about 20 030 training grant applications to fund trainees in attending about 53 550 training sessions with total funding of about \$710 million.

The Government implemented the \$3 billion **Frontier Technology Research Support Scheme** in November 2025 to support local publicly-funded universities, on a matching basis, in enhancing basic research facilities and conducting frontier technology research led by international top-notch talents.

The Government has launched the Technology Talent Admission Scheme (TechTAS) to provide a fast-track arrangement for the admission of Mainland and overseas technology talents to undertake R&D work in Hong Kong. As at the end of June 2026, 1 450 quotas were approved.

The “IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools” Programme and “Knowing More About IT” Programme were launched in 2020 and 2021 respectively to provide funding support to secondary and primary schools for organising IT-related extra-curricular activities. These programmes received applications from over 1 000 schools and approved over \$1 billion of funding.

The Government launched the “AI for All” Inclusive Programme in 2026 to subsidise participating public organisations (i.e. Cyberport, the HKSTPC and the HKPC) in the 2026-27 and 2027-28 financial years to organise, in collaboration with technology enterprises and tertiary institutions, activities such as AI application courses and competitions, with a view to enhancing different target groups’ AI awareness and application skills; cultivating AI literacy; and fostering a culture of responsible use of AI.

I&T co-operation with the Mainland: All along, our country has been placing I&T at the core of its overall development and indicated clear support for Hong Kong to develop into an international I&T centre in the “Outline of the 15th Five-Year Plan for the National Economic and Social Development” (“the 15th Five-year Plan”). The 15th Five-year Plan also highlighted that our country should expedite the achievement of high-level technological self-reliance, enhance the overall performance of the national innovation system, develop new quality productive forces, and that in pursuing economic growth, the country must focus on the real economy and develop a modernised industrial system. In the I&T Blueprint, “to proactively integrate into the overall development of the country and consolidate our role as a bridge connecting the Mainland and the world” was one the four broad development directions, while “to deepen I&T co-operation with the Mainland for better integration into the overall national development” was one of the eight major strategies.

The Central Government has implemented a number of measures benefitting Hong Kong’s I&T development. For instance, regarding opening up more national-level science and technology programmes to Hong Kong, certain special projects under the “National Key Research and Development Programme” and the “National Science and Technology Major Project” have been opened up to designated R&D institutions in Hong Kong for applications. The HKSAR Government will continue to facilitate effective flow of innovative elements. For example, in terms of funding, universities and research institutions in Hong Kong can apply for science and technology

funding of the Central Government as well as relevant government agencies at provincial and municipal level in the Mainland, and use the funding in Hong Kong, which enables cross-boundary remittance of research funding thereby injecting impetus into the city’s research sector. In addition, education institutions, hospitals and branches established by Hong Kong’s universities and scientific research institutions in the Mainland, upon meeting specific requirements, would be allowed to lodge applications for exporting human genetic resources to Hong Kong independently under a trial scheme. The HKSAR Government signed with the Ministry of Science and Technology the “Arrangement between the Mainland and Hong Kong on Expediting the Development of Hong Kong into an International Innovation and Technology Centre” in March 2023 to deepen technology and innovation exchanges and co-operation between the two places, and to foster the development of Hong Kong into an international I&T centre.

Guangdong and Hong Kong have all along maintained close partnership in I&T and achieved fruitful results. The ITIB and the Department of Science and Technology of Guangdong Province signed in March 2023 the “Co-operation Agreement on Technology and Innovation Exchange between Guangdong and Hong Kong” to further deepen technology and innovation exchanges and co-operation between the two places, as well as to promote the development of an international I&T centre in the GBA. In addition, as of June 2026, 480 projects under the “Mainland-Hong Kong Technology Cooperation Funding Scheme (Guangdong-Hong Kong and Shenzhen-Hong Kong joint projects)” implemented by the HKSAR Government, the Department of Science and Technology of Guangdong Province and the Science, Technology and Innovation Bureau of Shenzhen Municipality were supported by the Innovation and Technology Fund, involving a funding amount of around \$1.18 billion.

The Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone is one of the major co-operation platforms in the GBA under the “14th Five-Year Plan”. The Co-operation Zone consists of the 87-hectare Hong Kong Park (i.e. the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park, which will be referred as HSITP below) and 300-hectare Shenzhen Park. Hong Kong and Shenzhen have been discussing the future development of the Co-operation Zone through the Joint Task Force on the Development of the HSITP in the Loop, which was established in 2017.

The Government promulgated the Development Outline for the Hong Kong Park of the Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone in 2024, setting out the key development directions, strategies and targets of the Hong Kong Park and leading its development through top-level design. The Hong Kong Park will be developed in two phases from west to east, providing a total gross floor area of about 2 million square meters. Phase 1 is divided by function into Life and Health Technology zone, the Artificial Intelligence and Data Science zone and the New Technology and Advanced Manufacturing zone, together with talent accommodation and commercial support facilities. With the completion of the first three buildings of Phase 1, the Hong Kong Park has officially entered into its operational phase by end-2025. As for the remaining sites of Phase 1, the HSITP Limited has already launched the first two rounds of public tender in June to July 2026 to accelerate and enhance the efficiency of the Park's development by leveraging private market forces. Meanwhile, apart from taking forward hardware construction, cross-boundary innovation elements including personnel, materials, data, etc. are key to the Co-operation Zone's vision of "one river, two banks", "one zone, two parks". As such, the HKSAR will continue our active collaboration with Shenzhen, thereby promoting the synergistic development of the two parks of the Co-operation Zone.

The Government promulgated the Conceptual Outline of the Development Plan for the Innovation and Technology Industry in the San Tin Technopole (Conceptual Outline) in 2025. The Conceptual Outline provides a top-level design for the 210 hectares of new I&T land in the San Tin Technopole in terms of development vision, objectives and positioning, industrial spatial layout, and development model, thereby setting a clear development strategy for the San Tin Technopole. The new I&T land around San Tin and the Hong Kong Park will together form a crucial node for the integrated development of upstream, midstream and downstream industries, offering full-chain support to I&T industries by providing space for offices, prototyping, test and pilot production, as well as manufacturing. The Government established the San Tin Technopole Company Limited in June 2026 to press ahead with its development. Under the National 15th Five-Year Plan, Hong Kong as an international I&T centre and a platform for the nation to expand into the international market with a view to maintaining close connectivity for Mainland and the world, Hong Kong will develop its niche industries under the new industrial layout of a South-North dual engine (finance-I&T) in the

future. The San Tin Technopole, as an indispensable key part of Hong Kong's I&T development, will become a stronghold for the future development of emerging technology industries in Hong Kong and an important base for developing new quality productive forces.

The DPO actively facilitates exchange and collaboration between the ICT industries of Hong Kong and the Mainland. These include co-organising the Hong Kong Chapter of the national global contest "Maker in China" SME Innovation and Entrepreneurship Global Contest and the Hong Kong/Shanghai Co-operation Open Data Challenge, as well as leading delegations to take part in major ICT exhibitions in the Mainland, thereby providing opportunities for local ICT companies especially small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to showcase their innovative products and services and tap into the Mainland market.

The Hong Kong/Guangdong Expert Group on Co-operation in Informatisation was set up to strengthen co-operation in promoting the development and adoption of new generation digital technologies such as 5G, big data and AI in both places, hence deepening the collaboration between the two governments and facilitating the exchanges among the industry, academia and research sectors. The Hong Kong/Guangdong Expert Group on Co-developing a Smart City Cluster was also set up to jointly promote the development of a Guangdong-Hong Kong smart city cluster. For example, a mutual recognition scheme of electronic signature certificates between Hong Kong and Guangdong is in place to help enhance security and reliability of cross-boundary e-commerce.

The ITIB and the Cyberspace Administration of China signed the "Memorandum of Understanding on Facilitating Cross-boundary Data Flow within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area" in June 2023, and announced in December 2023 the facilitation measure on "Standard Contract for the Cross-boundary Flow of Personal Information Within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Mainland, Hong Kong)", which facilitate cross-boundary flow of personal information from the Mainland cities in the GBA to Hong Kong and streamline relevant arrangements. Starting from November 2024, all sectors may adopt the facilitation measure voluntarily for cross-boundary personal data flow. The processing and export of personal data from Hong Kong will continue to be

governed by the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance of Hong Kong.

In November 2023, the ITIB signed the “Co-operation Agreement between Guangdong and the HKSAR on Cross-boundary Public Services” with the Guangdong Provincial Administration of Government Service and Data to deepen collaboration in public services between the two places. Thematic websites and self-service kiosks have been launched to facilitate residents and enterprises in Hong Kong and Mainland cities of the GBA to access public services online. Relevant services have been extended to the Macao Special Administrative Region and Shanghai since December 2025 and June 2026 respectively. Besides, Hong Kong residents can log in directly to the Guangdong Government Service Network, “Yue Sheng Shi” and “iShenzhen” and also Shanghai’s “Suishenban” mobile application and “Government Online-Offline Shanghai” government services platform through “iAM Smart” to enjoy a wide range of public services in a more convenient and efficient manner.

The HKSAR Government and the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology signed the “Co-operation Agreement on the Development of New Quality Productive Forces and the Promotion of New Industrialisation” in September 2024. The subject agreement aims to support Hong Kong in developing new quality productive forces and promoting new industrialisation according to local conditions. Moreover, it strengthens exchanges between the two sides in the fields of industry and IT, promoting co-operation and joint development in industries where both places have clear advantages. It has been proposed in this year’s Budget to reserve about \$220 million to support establishing in Hong Kong the first national manufacturing innovation centre outside the Chinese Mainland.

The ITIB and the Cyberspace Administration of China signed the “Memorandum of Understanding on Co-operation in Innovation and Technology Development” in April 2026, covering key areas including promotion of AI, cross-boundary data flow and blockchain, aiming to deepen the implementation of the National 15th Five-Year Plan, to develop Hong Kong into an international I&T centre and promote a new real economy driven by technological innovation. The two places will jointly propel new quality productive forces development, deepen co-operation in cybersecurity, and strengthen international exchanges and promotion.

Fostering an I&T Culture: The ITC organises the InnoCarnival which comprises exhibitions, workshops and talks regularly to arouse interest of the general public in I&T. The ITC also supports I&T-related competitions such as the Hong Kong Student Science Project Competition and the Joint School Science Exhibition. Besides, the Government launched the General Support Programme (GSP) in 1999 to support non-R&D projects that contribute to the upgrading and development of our industries, the fostering of an I&T culture in Hong Kong as well as promoting popular science. As of end of June 2026, a total of 561 projects with a funding amount of around \$1,084 million were supported.

InnoEX is an annual signature event hosted in Hong Kong every April to promote Hong Kong as an international I&T centre. The event showcases Hong Kong’s technological achievement and innovative solutions. Together with the World Internet Conference Asia-Pacific Summit held in the same period, the events bring together global innovation and technology talents to Hong Kong.

The DPO collaborates the local ICT industry in organising the Hong Kong ICT Awards to recognise outstanding achievements, and will continue to support local delegations to take part in international events, providing opportunities for the industry (including start-ups and SMEs) to showcase their innovative ideas and technology solutions in the international arena.

The Smart Government Innovation Lab assists bureaux and departments (B/Ds) in the adoption of innovative IT products and solutions, thereby improving public services and creating more business opportunities for local start-ups and SMEs.

Encouraging Local R&D Activities: To encourage enterprises to invest more in local R&D and promote local R&D activities, the Government provides enterprises with enhanced tax deduction for their expenditure incurred in qualifying R&D activities. The deduction will be 300% for the first \$2 million spent on qualifying R&D and 200% for the remaining amount. There is no cap on the amount of enhanced tax deduction. The deduction is applicable to qualifying R&D expenditures incurred on or after April 1, 2018.

Promoting transformation of R&D Outcomes: To unleash the potential of local universities in transforming and

commercialising R&D outcomes, and to facilitate relevant collaboration among the Government, industry, academia and research sector, the Government launched the \$10 billion Research, Academic and Industry Sectors One-plus (RAISE+) Scheme in October 2023 to fund, on a matching basis, research teams in the eight universities funded by the University Grants Committee (UGC) which have good potential to become successful start-ups. Funding support from \$10 million to \$100 million will be provided to each approved project. In the first three rounds of application, a total of 73 projects were supported, involving a total Government funding commitment of over \$3 billion.

The ITC also provides annual funding to designated universities through the Technology Start-up Support Scheme for Universities to support their research teams in starting technology businesses and commercialising their R&D results. The annual funding amount for each designated university in 2026-27 was \$12.8 million. Besides, an annual subsidy of up to \$12.8 million was made available to the Technology Transfer Office of each of the eight UGC-funded universities to enable them to strengthen technology transfer and marketing services.

Promoting development of new industrialisation: In order to support enterprises in developing new quality productive forces, we have introduced enhancement measures in January 2024 to the “New Industrialisation Funding Scheme” (NIFS) to encourage local manufacturers to switch to smart manufacturing. Under the NIFS, each eligible enterprise may receive a maximum funding of \$15 million on a matching basis for a smart production line project established in Hong Kong. A total of three projects under each enterprise can be funded at any one time, i.e. an enterprise can receive a maximum funding of \$45 million in total.

In addition, we have launched the \$10 billion “New Industrialisation Acceleration Scheme” in September 2024. Enterprises engaging in the life and health technology, artificial intelligence and data science, as well as advanced manufacturing and new energy technologies will each be provided with funding support of up to \$200 million on a 1 (Government): 2 (enterprise) matching basis to set up new smart production facilities in Hong Kong. The application threshold for the scheme has been relaxed in November 2025 by lowering the minimum total project cost from \$300 million to \$150 million.

To further promote smart manufacturing, we have launched the two-year Pilot Manufacturing and Production Line Upgrade Support Scheme in November 2025 to provide funding on a matching basis of 1 (Government) : 2 (Enterprise) to enterprises carrying out manufacturing operations or running production lines in Hong Kong, with a view to encouraging them to introduce technology solutions for smart production to upgrade and transform production lines.

Furthermore, as of June 2026, we have facilitated over 650 leading I&T enterprises or those with potential to develop, set up or expand their businesses in Hong Kong, so as to continually construct and consolidate relevant industry chains and drive new industrialisation.

To further promote the development of new industrialisation and I&T in Hong Kong, it was mentioned in the 2024 Policy Address that we would facilitate the establishment of the Hong Kong New Industrialisation Development Alliance so as to strengthen a closer collaboration among the Government, industry, academia, R&D research and investment sectors. The Alliance was officially established in March 2025.

We commenced in December 2025 a study on the medium to long-term development of new industrialisation in Hong Kong, with a view to accelerating new industrialisation and the development of new quality productive forces in the city, enabling us to integrate into our country's overall planning of modernised industrial system and injecting new impetus into the economy.

We launched the New Industrialisation Elite Enterprises Nurturing Scheme in June 2026, focusing on supporting high-growth enterprises that contribute to the development of new industrialisation in Hong Kong, with the goal of nurturing emerging and future industry enterprises.

The HKSAR Government has revamped our approach in I&T industries investment and is setting up the “Innovation and Technology Industry-Oriented Fund” to form a fund-of-funds to channel more market capital to invest in specified emerging and future industries of strategic importance, including life and health technology; AI and robotics; semi-conductors and smart devices; digitalisation, upgrading and transformation; as well as future and sustainable development, with a view to building up the I&T ecosystem in a systematic manner. The

Government's total contributions to the funds will be capped at \$10 billion, with the goal that the total contributions from the market will make the overall target size of the funds at least \$40 billion. We hope that market forces can be fully harnessed to support the growth of "patient capital" and scale up investment with the focus placed on specified industries of strategic importance, thereby promoting the sustainable development of new industrialisation in Hong Kong. We are currently pressing ahead with the relevant work, with a view to commencing operation within the year.

Supporting technology enterprises: We have launched the \$180 million Pilot I&T Accelerator Scheme in January 2026 with a view to attracting overseas and local professional start-up service providers with rich experience to set up accelerator bases in Hong Kong. Through their business networks and expertise, these accelerators will provide more comprehensive and targeted support for the development and needs of start-ups. Subsidy is provided through a matching ratio of 1 (Government) : 2 (service provider) up to a ceiling of \$30 million.

Life and Health Technology Research Institute: The Government has allocated \$6 billion to set up Life and Health Technology Research Institute (LHTRI) to foster cross-university/institutional and multi-disciplinary co-operation among universities and research institutions from Hong Kong, the Chinese Mainland and overseas. The LHTRI will drive basic and translational R&D activities and transformation of R&D outcomes related to life and health technology, and attract top-notch scholars and scientists worldwide to help build a vibrant life and health technology ecosystem in Hong Kong and bring benefits to society. The LHTRI Headquarters will be set up at the Hetao Hong Kong Park, focusing on "artificial intelligence + life science/medicine". We will also subsidise three LHTRI branches led by local universities, leveraging their unique strengths and capabilities in life and health sciences. Preparatory work for the establishment of the LHTRI will be largely completed in 2026.

AI Research and Application: To support the AI ecosystem development in Hong Kong, the Government implements a three-year, \$3 billion AI Subsidy Scheme to subsidise eligible users of Cyberport's AISC to leverage computing power for scientific breakthroughs.

To further promote the R&D and application of AI in Hong Kong, the Government has established the Hong Kong AI Research and Development Institute and will commence operation in the second half of 2026, which will spearhead and support Hong Kong's innovative R&D and industry applications of AI, facilitate upstream R&D, midstream and downstream transformation of R&D outcomes, and expand application scenarios in industries.

The DPO promulgated the "Hong Kong Generative AI Technical and Application Guideline" in April 2025 to balance relevant considerations of AI innovation and development, application and responsibility, thereby constructing a governance framework with local characteristics that is suitable for Hong Kong's context for the AI ecosystem.

AI Efficacy Enhancement Team: To enhance government efficacy, the Government has set up an AI Efficacy Enhancement Team, led by the Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration, to coordinate and steer government departments to apply AI technology effectively to their work, explore process re-engineering, and promote technological reform in departments.

E-Government: All licences, government services involving application and approval and forms are fully digitalised. If in-person submission or collection of documents is required by law or international practice, applicants only need to visit the government office concerned no more than once. In addition, electronic payment options are provided for all government fees, with some 80 government services commonly used by Mainland visitors also support payment made through Mainland e-wallets.

The GovHK portal (www.gov.hk) offers a one-stop platform for convenient access to information and e-services provided by Government bureaux and departments. The GovHK portal adopts responsive web design with continuous service improvements to further enhance the user experience.

All B/Ds endeavour to release their data for free public use. The Open Data Portal (DATA.GOV.HK) releases free government open data in machine-readable format. User-friendly tools such as visualisation of multiple datasets on a map and city dashboards are provided to visualise dynamic city data. Over 5 700 datasets were available on the Portal as of June 2026.

The Development Bureau launched the Common Spatial Data Infrastructure portal (portal.csdi.gov.hk) in December 2022 for free use by the public. Over 1 100 spatial datasets from various government departments/ organisations are made available. It also includes a 3D Digital Map covering the whole territory of Hong Kong. Framework spatial data themes are also available on the portal to provide location references for other datasets.

The DPO developed the Consented Data Exchange Gateway (CDEG), which provides option for citizens to authorise government departments to share their personal information across government systems and facilitate their use of digital government services. The CDEG was linked up to the Commercial Data Interchange of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority in end-2023 and became available for government's internal adoption in mid-2024.

The ITIB and DPO published the "Policy Statement on Facilitating Data Flow and Safeguarding Data Security in Hong Kong" in December 2023, setting out 18 action items in five areas to promote the consolidation, application, opening up and sharing of data, while enhancing safeguards for data security and planning of related infrastructural facilities. The DPO also launched a thematic web page on data governance in December 2024, covering the Government's data governance principles in a one-stop manner.

To further promote the opening up and sharing of data among B/Ds, the DPO has compiled the departmental data catalogues.

Smart City Development: More than 130 initiatives set out in the "Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong 2.0" have been completed or are ongoing to develop Hong Kong into a more advanced and livable smart city. Some other key smart city infrastructure include:

- **One-stop personalised digital services platform "iAM Smart":** The one-stop personalised digital services platform "iAM Smart" was launched in December 2020. As at mid-2026, over 4.6 million people were registered users for access to more than 1 400 services and electronic forms provided by the Government, public and private organisations and to conduct online transactions and perform digital signing,

with a single digital identity in a simple and secure manner.

- **Multi-functional Smart Lampposts:** In addition to the 400 smart lampposts installed in urban locations, smart lampposts have been progressively deployed in various new development areas (including Tung Chung New Town and the Northern Metropolis) in recent years, with over 900 smart lampposts now installed across Hong Kong to collect real-time city data such as air quality and traffic flow, enhance city management, and support the development of digital infrastructure for 5G services.
- **Government Cloud Infrastructure Services and Big Data Analytics Platform:** The launch of the Next Generation Government Cloud Infrastructure Services and the Big Data Analytics Platform in September 2020 facilitate system connectivity and data interchange within Government and assisted B/Ds in implementing projects using innovative technologies such as AI and big data analytics. Over 580 digital government services and over 30 projects for conducting big data analytics had been supported so far.
- **Shared Blockchain Platform (SBP):** A shared platform was rolled out in June 2022 to facilitate the development of blockchain applications by B/Ds more conveniently. Besides, the Government developed the "e-Proof" as a common service in 2023, using blockchain technology to support B/Ds in issuing licences and certificates by electronic means. As of June 2026, over 40 types of government licences and certificates were launched.
- **Digital Corporate Identity (CorplD) Platform:** The Government will launch the CorplD Platform by end-2026 and progressively expand its application to facilitate corporations in Hong Kong to undergo corporate identity authentication and corporate signature verification when they use e-government services or conduct online business transactions in a secure, convenient and efficient manner. The DPO, in collaboration with Cyberport, launched the CorplD Sandbox Programme in end-2025 to provide simulated environment for service providers interested in adopting CorplD to conduct proof-of-concept testing and develop their applications.

- **Digital Transformation Support Pilot Programme:** To accelerate digital transformation of SMEs, the Government has launched in 2024 the Digital Transformation Support Pilot Programme to subsidise, on a matching basis, SMEs in the food and beverage, retail, tourism and personal services industries in adopting ready-to-use and basic digital solutions including e-payment systems. The Government will launch an enhanced version of the Programme by including AI and cybersecurity digital solutions after consulting the Legislative Council in the second half of 2026.

Wi-Fi Connected City: The Government has been collaborating with the private sector to promote free public Wi-Fi services at both public and private premises under the common brand “Wi-Fi.HK” since 2014. There are around 43 000 “Wi-Fi.HK” hotspots in town as of June 2026.

Data Centres: The Government champions initiatives and measures to develop Hong Kong as a prime location for high-tier data centres in the region by putting up land for sale and encouraging conversion of industrial buildings to data centres and use of industrial lots for high-tier data centre development. The Data Centre Facilitation Unit of the DPO provides information and one-stop support to assist enterprises interested in setting up data centres in Hong Kong.

Sandy Ridge Data Facility Cluster: The Sandy Ridge Data Facility Cluster site was awarded in March 2026 for developing into an advanced data facility cluster for data centres and related industries. It is expected to commence operations by 2029 and provide 180 000 PFLOPS computing power by 2032.

Cybersecurity: The Government adopts a robust management framework, maintains a comprehensive set of information security policy and guidelines with regular testing and audits, strengthens staff training on core digital skills, as well as organises annual cyber security attack and defence drills, with a view to continuously enhancing information

system and data security in the Government and public organisations.

A dedicated governmental computer emergency response team (GovCERT.HK) handles information security incidents in the Government in an effective and co-ordinated manner.

In collaboration with key partners such as Hong Kong Computer Emergency Response Team Coordination Centre (HKCERT), Hong Kong Police Force and Hong Kong Internet Registration Corporation Limited (HKIRC), the DPO promotes awareness of cyber security in the community and industry and provides practical advice to guard against cyberattacks through various channels and means, including the Cyber Security Information Portal (www.cybersecurity.hk), seminars, contests and school visits.

To further enhance the overall responses and defence capabilities against cyberattacks in the community, the DPO organises or supports a series of cyber security awareness activities and programmes, including the Cybersec One+ Programme and the Cybersecurity Service Providers Connect Programme. Public and private organisations can also obtain latest cyber security information via Cybersec Infohub and information portal of HKCERT.

Digital Inclusion: In order to allow different members of society to enjoy the benefits of digital technology, the DPO promotes under the “Smart Silver” programme various digital inclusion measures including outreach programme, regular and fixed-point training on digital technologies and technical support, enriched ICT training and a web based learning portal, thereby assisting elderly and other people in need (including ethnic minorities) to understand and use digital technology products and services safely for integration into the digital society. The DPO has also launched the Digital Accessibility Campaign for promoting the adoption of accessibility design by government departments, private and public organisations on their websites and mobile applications to facilitate persons with disabilities to access online information and services.