Innovation, Technology and Industry

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. It is led by the Commissioner for Industry (I&T) and adopts an industry-oriented approach to promote new industrialisation, facilitate leading I&T enterprises or those with potential to develop, set up or expand their businesses in Hong Kong, assist the traditional manufacturing sector in upgrading and transformation by making use of I&T, and provide support for the growth of start-ups.

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 September 2025, 81 054 projects with total ITF funding of $54.8 billion were approved, of which 6 556 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 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 related to the pilot production facilities in the MEC and the works are expected to be completed within 2025-26).

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. InnoHK has cumulatively funded the set-up of 30 research centres, involving seven local universities and research institutions as well as over 30 institutions from 12 economies, and pooling over 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 research centres under the cluster will be set up progressively starting from the first half of 2026.

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 is at its final stage, with a view to 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; nanotechnology and advanced materials; 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 September 2025, 2 261 projects from the R&D Centres were supported under the ITF at a total project cost of about $12.4 billion. Besides, the Hong Kong Microelectronics Research and Development Institute (MRDI) has been 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 will install two pilot lines at the Microelectronics Centre in Yuen Long, anticipating its operation in 2026 to support the 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 re-structuring exercise of State Key Laboratories (SKLs) in Hong Kong was completed in July 2025. Hong Kong currently has 15 State Key Laboratories (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 October 2025, the programme has provided funding support for around 15 500 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 was launched under the ITF in 2020 to subsidise undergraduates and post-graduates taking STEM-related programmes in local universities to enrol in short-term internships, with a view to fostering their interest in pursuing a career in I&T after graduation. To further expand 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 October 2025, the Scheme has subsidised over 19 000 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 October 2025, the NITTP has approved about 19 730 training grant applications to fund trainees in attending about 52 430 training sessions with total funding of about $690 million.

The Government implements a $3 billion **Frontier Technology Research Support Scheme** in November 2025 to assist local 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 October 2025, 1 326 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. Up to November 2025, these programmes received applications from over 1 000 schools and approved over $800 million of funding.

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 14th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development of the People’s Republic of China and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035” (“the 14th Five-Year Plan”) and the “Recommendations of the CPC Central Committee for Formulating the 15th Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development” (“Recommendations for the 15th Five-year Plan). The Recommendations for 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 the 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 on 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 October 2025, about 450 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 $1.15 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. With a total floor area of up to 1 million square meters, the first phase of the Hong Kong Park will be made up of different functional zones which primarily include Life and Health Technology zone, the Artificial Intelligence and Data Science zone and the New Technology and Advanced Manufacturing zone. 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 gauged market interest on the development of the selected sites, with a view to leveraging market forces to press ahead the efficient development of the Hong Kong Park. Analysis of the replies is underway. Furthermore, detailed planning for Phase 2 development has been completed. 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. Under the National 14th Five-Year Plan and the recommendations for the 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 and consent-based 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 Chinese Mainland cities of the GBA to access public services online. Hong Kong residents who have registered for a "Unified Identity Authentication Platform of Guangdong Province" account can log in directly to the Guangdong

Government Service Network, , “Yue Sheng Shi” and “iShenzhen” through “iAM Smart” to enjoy a wide range of Guangdong’s and Shenzhen’s public services in a more convenient and efficient manner. In addition, a Hong Kong self-service kiosk commenced operation in Macao at the end of 2025.

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.

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 October 2025, a total of 530 projects with a funding amount of around $1,024 million were supported.

The Second City I&T Grand Challenge was launched in March 2024 under the theme “Hong Kong’s Got I&T” in “I&T for Nature (Yama)” and “I&T for Community (Community Wellness)”. A series of workshops and other activities were held to promote a fervid I&T atmosphere in the community. The Grand Pitch was held in August 2024. Prototypes of the winning solutions were displayed during the Showcases for the public to try out the solutions in person. Winners of the Open Group and University/Tertiary Institute Group have received support from ITC to refine their I&T solutions and produce prototype for trials at over 50 designated venues, including government departments and social communities.

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 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, at least 100 research teams in the eight universities funded by the University Grants Committee (UGC) which have good potential to become successful start-ups to transform and commercialise their R&D outcomes. Funding support from $10 million to $100 million will be provided to each approved project. For the first batch of 24 projects supported by the RAISe+ Scheme, the total funding amounts to over $1 billion. The second batch of 25 projects supported by the Scheme, with total funding over $1 billion, was announced in June 2025. For the third solicitation exercise, assessment on the applications received is underway.

The ITC also provides annual funding to six designated universities through the Technology Start-up Support Scheme for Universities to support their teams in starting technology businesses and commercialising their R&D results. The annual funding amount for each designated university in 2025-26 is $16 million, and an annual subsidy of up to $12.8 million 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, 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 HK$300 million to HK$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 (Company) to local manufacturing sector, with a view to encouraging them to introduce technology solutions for smart production to upgrade and transform production lines.

Furthermore, to date, we have facilitated nearly 500 representative 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 encouraging the traditional manufacturing sector to upgrade and transform by making use of I&T and strengthen the support for relevant professional services, so as to expeditiously propel "new industrialisation" in a manner that manifests Hong Kong's competitive edge.

The HKSAR Government has revamped our approach in I&T industries investment and is preparing to set 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 I&T and new industrialisation-related industries in Hong Kong. The "Innovation and Technology Industry-Oriented Fund" is planned to commence operation in 2026-27 and investments will be made progressively.

Life and Health Technology Research Institutes: The Government is implementing a $6 billion subsidy programme to provide subsidies to local universities to set up life and health technology research institutes to foster cross-university/institutional and multi-disciplinary co-operation. The institutes would focus on basic research, translational research and transformational of R&D outcomes related to life

and health technology. The top-notch scholars and scientists worldwide so attracted to Hong Kong will help build a research ecosystem in Hong Kong by leveraging the complementary strengths across different institutions and disciplines to bring benefits to society. The preparatory work for the establishment of LHTRI will be completed within 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 further promote the R&D and application of AI in Hong Kong, the Government will establish the Hong Kong AI Research and Development Institute in 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 efficiency, the Government has set up an AI Efficacy Enhancement Team, chaired by the Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration, to promote the application of AI technology within the Government, enhance work efficiency, and foster technological reform in departments.

E-Government: All licences, government services involving application and approval and forms have been 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 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), the one-stop portal of government information and e-services, provides single access to an array of personalised e-Government services. The GovHK portal adopts responsive web design with continuous service improvements to further enhance 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 5 600 datasets were available on the Portal as of November 2025.

The Development Bureau launched the Common Spatial Data Infrastructure portal (portal.csdi.gov.hk) in December 2022 for free use by the public. Over 1 000 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 compiles 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 end-2025, over 4 million people were registered users for access to more than 1 300 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:*** Over 400 smart lampposts are installed in urban locations with higher pedestrian and vehicular flow 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. Smart lampposts will also be installed in new development areas (including the Northern Metropolis).

- ***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 530 digital government services and over 20 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 2025, over 20 types of government licences and certificates were launched.

- ***Digital Corporate Identity (CorpID) Platform:*** The Government will launch the CorpID 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.

- ***Digital Transformation Support Pilot Programme***: To accelerate digital transformation of SMEs, the Government has commissioned Cyberport to run 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.

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 42 000 "Wi-Fi.HK" hotspots in town as of December 2025.

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.

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 cybersecurity awareness activities and programmes, including the Cybersec One Programme and the Cybersecurity Vendor Connect Programme. Public and private organisations can also obtain latest cybersecurity 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 in need 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.