



Press Release
For Immediate Release

HKSTP and HSBC Launch SPRINTER 2 to Accelerate Innovation and Transformation in Hong Kong's Key Industries

A two-year programme connecting small businesses and mid-cap corporates with global tech ventures to co-create solutions for a more resilient future

(Hong Kong, 8 September 2020) – Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTP) and HSBC continue their strategic partnership to launch [SPRINTER 2](#), a programme which aims to accelerate innovation and transformation in Hong Kong's small businesses and mid-cap corporates across several key industries, including manufacturing, infrastructure and logistics, to build a more resilient future.

The two-year programme will run in two cohorts, each involving training, matching with tech ventures and opportunities to co-create suitable business solutions. Cohort 1 focuses on the manufacturing sector and runs between October 2020 and July 2021. Cohort 2, which starts in the second half of 2021, is tailored for infrastructure and logistics sectors. HSBC will proactively connect suitable commercial customers to these opportunities.

The partnership follows the first and highly successful SPRINTER, which accelerated the growth of technology companies and the investor community in Hong Kong. Running between 2017 and 2019, the programme has empowered close to 180 technology companies and 50 angel investors with expertise and networking opportunities. It also assisted selected technology companies to raise HKD138 million of investment.

Albert Wong, CEO of HKSTP, said: "HKSTP is excited to partner with HSBC again and help growing corporates build resilience by leveraging innovation and technology at SPRINTER 2. Future success will increasingly depend on companies being quick to position their businesses for a world of new challenges, and where I&T will create the most value. As Hong Kong's flagship international acceleration programme, our Global Acceleration Academy has been at the forefront of fostering rapid innovation through co-creation with our corporate partners and a deep pool of quality tech ventures from Hong Kong, and abroad. We look forward to working alongside many more of our partners to capitalise on the gains from innovation and advance into the new future."

Terence Chiu, Head of Commercial Banking, Hong Kong, HSBC, said: "Making the most of the opportunities offered by new technology will be increasingly crucial for businesses to navigate challenges and thrive in the new normal. We are pleased to deepen our collaboration with HKSTP and further foster innovation in Hong Kong. As a super-connector in the business community, we believe HSBC can help play a key role in bringing established companies together with new expertise, revitalising our key industries and boosting their organisational resilience for future growth."



SPRINTER 2 Cohort 1 will connect small businesses and mid-cap corporates in manufacturing with global tech ventures, aiming at revitalising this sector through three stages:

1. Discovery

Participating manufacturers will receive training and upskilling on major technology trends such as artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity, data analytics, Internet of Things (IoT) and 5G, as well as robotics and automation.

2. Matching

HKSTP will connect the participating manufacturers to market-proven innovative solutions that match their operational requirements. One-on-one meetings with technology companies will be arranged.

3. Co-creation

To further address specific pain points and business needs, HKSTP’s Global Acceleration Academy (GAA) will recruit local and overseas tech ventures to join the participating manufacturers in a three-month acceleration programme. Tech ventures and manufacturers together will co-create tailored solutions that meet the sustainable values of their businesses and the industry.

The selected tech ventures will receive mentorship, as well as opportunities to conduct proof-of-concept trials with their partnered manufacturers. Their achievements in corporate innovation will be showcased at a Demo Day when Cohort 1 concludes.

SPRINTER 2 Cohort 1 is now open and welcomes small businesses and mid-cap corporates with manufacturing operations primarily in Hong Kong. The deadline for application is 30 September 2020. Companies can apply here: <https://cutt.ly/sprinter2>

Important Date for SPRINTER 2 Cohort 1:

DATE	EVENT
STAGE 1: DISCOVERY (OCTOBER 2020 – NOVEMBER 2020)	
16 OCTOBER 2020	Orientation Day
OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2020	Training
STAGE 2: MATCHING (DECEMBER 2020)	
18 DECEMBER 2020	Solution Day
STAGE 3: CO-CREATION (JANUARY 2021 – JULY 2021)	
MAY 2021	Accelerator Launch
JULY 2021	Demonstration Day

* For the most up-to-date programme schedule, please visit: www.sprinter.hk



Photo Caption



Albert Wong, CEO, HKSTP (left); and Terence Chiu, Head of Commercial Banking, Hong Kong, HSBC (right) announced the launch of SPRINTER 2, a programme aiming to accelerate innovation and transformation in Hong Kong's key industries to build a more resilient future.

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About Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation

Comprising Science Park, InnoCentre and Industrial Estates, Hong Kong Science & Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTP) is a statutory body dedicated to building a vibrant innovation and technology ecosystem to connect stakeholders, nurture technology talents, facilitate collaboration, and catalyse innovations to deliver social and economic benefits to Hong Kong and the region.

Established in May 2001, HKSTP has been driving the development of Hong Kong into a regional hub for innovation and growth in several focused clusters including Electronics, Information & Communications Technology, Green Technology, Biomedical Technology, Materials and Precision Engineering. We enable science and technology companies to nurture ideas, innovate and grow, supported by our R&D facilities, infrastructure, and market-led laboratories and technical centres with professional support services. We also offer value added services and comprehensive incubation programmes for technology start-ups to accelerate their growth.

Technology businesses benefit from our specialised services and infrastructure at Science Park for applied research and product development; enterprises can find creative design support



at InnoCentre; while skill-intensive businesses are served by our three industrial estates at Tai Po, Tseung Kwan O and Yuen Long. More information about HKSTP is available at www.hkstp.org

About The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited is the founding member of the HSBC Group. HSBC serves customers worldwide from offices in 64 countries and territories in its geographical regions: Europe, Asia, North America, Latin America, and Middle East and North Africa. With assets of US\$2,923bn at 30 June 2020, HSBC is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations.