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## **HSBC WELCOMES THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF COMMERCIAL DATA INTERCHANGE IN HONG KONG**

### **DEVELOPS END-TO-END SOLUTION TO STREAMLINE SME CREDIT ASSESSMENT WITH AUTOMATED DECISIONING**

HSBC announced today it will connect to the Commercial Credit Reference Agency (CCRA) through the Commercial Data Interchange (CDI) of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority to streamline the credit assessment process for small- and medium- enterprises (SMEs) in Hong Kong.

The connection to CCRA by the end of October represents another major fintech development of the Bank.

CCRA provides lending institutions with the credit history of Hong Kong-registered businesses, including non-listed SMEs with an annual turnover of up to HKD100 million, unlimited sole proprietorships and partnerships. For business loan applications within HKD10 million, HSBC has developed an end-to-end solution to obtain credit records directly from CCRA through CDI on a consent basis. The solution will also enable automated loan decisioning and help ensure data accuracy.

**Frank Fang, General Manager, Head of Commercial Banking, Hong Kong and Macau, HSBC** said, “Commercial Data Interchange has broken new paths to enhance SMEs’ access to bank finance and advance financial inclusion in Hong Kong. HSBC was an active participant during CDI’s pilot phase. We are pleased to be among the first group of banks to connect to CCRA from start. We will continue to work with different data providers to explore new use case and support the growth of Hong Kong’s fintech ecosystem along the way.”

Previously, banks had to request credit rating reports of commercial customers by email when evaluating or renewing credit facilities. The CDI connection to CCRA will allow banks to reduce the request processing time significantly.

HSBC has partnered with different third-party data providers to participate in the CDI pilot initiative of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority. In May 2022, HSBC became the first banking partner of Octopus to utilise commercial data to streamline SME loan application and approval process for the payment system's small- and medium-sized merchants and retailers.

In 2021, HSBC introduced a digital merchant finance programme in partnership with HKTVMall that leveraged commercial data for credit assessment, making digital trade finance more accessible for e-commerce merchants.

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**Note to editors:**

**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 63 countries and territories in its geographical regions: Europe, Asia, North America, Latin America, and Middle East and North Africa. With assets of USD2,985bn at 30 June 2022, HSBC is one of the largest banking and financial services organisations in the world.

*ends/all*