

Streamlining and consolidating funding schemes under Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF)

The following arrangements will take effect from 1 August 2025 at 00:00

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New Industrialisation Support Scheme

- The scheme consolidates the existing New Industrialisation Funding Scheme, New Industrialisation and Technology Training Programme (NITTP) and the soon to be launched Pilot Manufacturing and Production Line Upgrade Support Scheme. The objectives and modus operandi of the three schemes will remain unchanged.
- Regarding the relevant measures of NITTP, the following new arrangements will also take effect at the same time:
 - The matching ratio for subsidising local enterprises to train their staff in advanced technologies is revised from 2 (Government) : 1 (Enterprise) to 1 (Government) : 1 (Enterprise).
 - The funding ceiling under NITTP for each enterprise in each financial year at the course commencement date is adjusted from HK\$500,000 to HK\$250,000.
 - Each trainee is entitled to only one NITTP course per financial year.

Research and Development Cash Rebate Scheme

- Research and Development Cash Rebate Scheme (CRS) will cease accepting new applications. Details are as follows.
- CRS will cease providing cash rebates to enterprises for research and development (R&D) expenditure, except for ITF Projects submitted on or before 31 July 2025 and Partnership Projects pre-registered on or before 31 July 2025.
- Enterprises may continue to collaborate with R&D Centres¹ or designated local public research institutes² on applied R&D projects through Innovation and Technology Support Programme

¹ R&D Centres refer to (a) Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel; (b) Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute, designated as the R&D Centre for Information and Communications Technologies; (c) Logistics and Supply Chain MultiTech R&D Centre; (d) Nano and Advanced Materials Institute; and (e) Hong Kong Microelectronics Research and Development Institute.

² Designated local public research institutes refer to local universities (including all University Grants Committee-funded institutions), self-financing degree-awarding institutions registered under the Post Secondary Colleges Ordinance (Cap. 320), the Hong Kong Productivity Council, the Vocational Training Council, the Clothing Industry Training Authority and the Hong Kong Institute of Biotechnology.

(Collaborative) to receive funding support of up to 50% of the total project cost and own the intellectual property rights of the project.

- Applications for cash rebate of eligible ITF projects should be submitted within 6 months after ITC accepts the final audited accounts. Applications for cash rebate of eligible Partnership Projects should be submitted within 6 months after the completion of the project as certified by the relevant designated local public research institutions.

Patent Application Grant

- R&D Centres¹, designated local public research institutes² and enterprises could continue to receive funding support for patent registration fees through existing R&D-related funding schemes under the ITF (namely the Innovation and Technology Support Programme, the Mainland-Hong Kong Technology Cooperation Funding Scheme and Enterprise Support Scheme).

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