



INFORMATION SESSION FOR TSSSU 2026-2027

*Presented by Knowledge Transfer Office (KTO)
on 25th September 2025*

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Introduction of
TSSSU Program



HR related
matters (inc. Q&A)



Evaluation Criteria
& Reminders



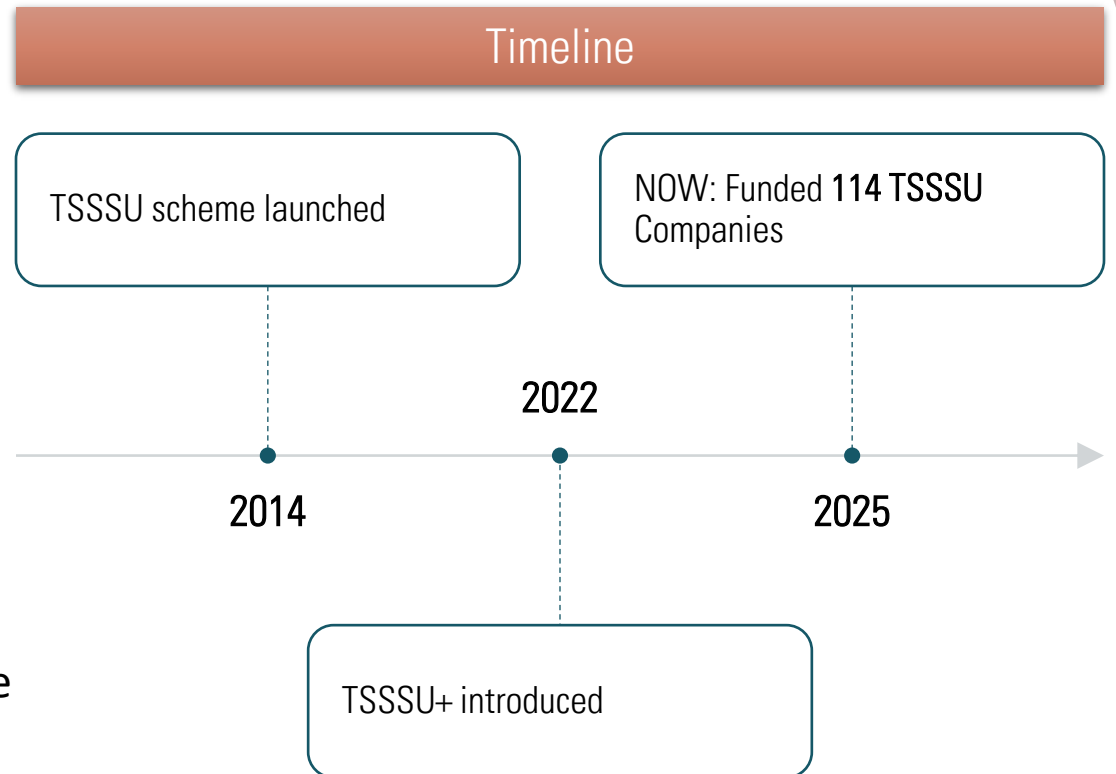
Q&A session



TSSSU OBJECTIVES

- 1) To support **CUHK teams** in starting technology businesses through **commercializing their research and development (R&D) results** for tangible economic and societal impact
- 2) To support CUHK start-ups that have secured private sector investments

*TSSSU companies are **not owned by CUHK** but they facilitate the **applications of CUHK technologies** for tangible economic and societal impact.



IMPORTANT UPDATE OF TSSSU

- From 2026-27 onwards, the maximum annual funding for each participating university will be adjusted downward from \$16 million to **\$12.8 million**,
- and the annual funding ceiling for each university under TSSSU-O and TSSSU+ will be correspondingly adjusted downward to **\$6.4 million**.

FUNDING CHARACTERISTIC

The TSSSU Reimbursable period is
- from 1 Apr 2026 to 31 Mar 2027

* To support the new CUHK start-up, the
renewal teams may have significant reduction
of the funded budget.

1:1 matching fund maybe provided to start-
ups which have received at least the same
amount of private investment during the
recognized matching period (i.e. from 1 Apr
2025 to 31 Mar 2026).

	TSSSU-0	TSSSU+ [#]
Funding ceiling for each start-up (HK\$)	0.6M*	1M*
Maximum number of funding years for each start-up	3 consecutive years	3 consecutive years

OUR SUPPORT TO TSSSU COMPANY



Consultancy & Mentorship
- With CUHK Entrepreneurship consultant



Training & Workshops
- By industry experts & practitioners Online and Offline Resources



Fast Track - To startup Incubators & funding preparation and Investors plus media strategy and exposure



Networking Opportunities
- Successful Entrepreneurs, business partners & industry experts



CUHK Start-up Community
- Member of our CUHK Start-up community (> 200 companies)



Talent Pool

ELIGIBILITY

	TSSSU-0	TSSSU+
PIC	1. Full-time Students (either UG or PG) or 2. Full-time Professors or 3. Alumni graduated within the last 36 months <small>(not applicable for renewal application)</small>	
*Endorsement is needed!		
Team Mix	Number of team members (Include PIC) ≥ 2 Team member can be Research Staff, Part-time student, Non-CUHK individuals	
Intellectual Property (IP)	Preference will be given to those using CUHK-related technology. Please prepare a CUHK patent.	
Technology Readiness Level (TRL)	Physical Science and Engineering Technology: \geq TRL 4 HealthCare Technology: \geq TRL 3	
Company Registered	Registered for ≤ 2 years (i.e. 15 Jan 2024) <small>(not applicable for renewal application)</small>	Registered for ≤ 7 years (i.e. 15 Jan 2019) <small>(not applicable for renewal application)</small>
Shareholder Structure	CUHK member(s) should hold more than 50% of the shares	the effective/influential shareholder(s) must be Active members of CUHK
Private Investment	Not required	It should come from independent third parties in the form of cash contribution received in return of shareholding in the start-ups.



TSSSU+ PRIVATE INVESTMENT

- Recognizing matching period
 - 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026
 - (NOW, one year before TSSSU+ support)
- Independent third parties
 - NO connection with the start-up or team members
 - Venture Capitalists / Angel investors / Private Individuals / Private companies
- CASH contribution
 - NO Convertible bonds/ shares/ loans
- Supporting Document as the proof
 - Agreement AND Bank transaction record

Please **review TSSSU FAQ Q8–11** thoroughly before signing the investor agreement!



*TSSSU HR
RELATED
MATTERS
(INC. Q&A)*



EVALUATION CRITERIA

1. Innovation and technology content of the business [40%]

- Potential for knowledge transfer;
- Intellectual property position, including patents, copyrights, trademark, know-how, etc.;
- Stage of technology development and readiness for application (Technology Readiness Level);
- Preference given to the innovation and technology that has synergy with CUHK Strategic Areas (i.e. China: Tradition & Modernity; Innovative Biomedicine; Information & Automation Technology; Environment & Sustainability)

2. Commercial viability of the business [30%]

- Well-defined business and budget plan;
- Well thought-out market analysis (e.g. opportunities, entry barriers, competitions, etc.);
- Viable and realistic milestones and deliverables;
- Whether the Start-up has secured other sources of funding apart from the TSSSU;

3. Team expertise and commitment [25%]

- R&D and management capabilities of the team;
- Drive and commitment of team members;
- Incentive in equity for core team members;

4. The social and/or community impact of the start-up's R&D project(s) [5%]

- Products and services that improve the quality of human life;
- Positive social impact to the society;

NOTES FOR MILESTONES & BUDGET

- Milestones to be achieved from **1/4/2026 to 31/3/2027**
- Budget in categories of **Manpower, Equipment** and **Other Direct Costs** has to be matched with the milestones
- Maximum allowable manpower remuneration for **founding members**
 - HK\$12,000/month for a member without a Bachelor degree
 - HK\$16,000/month for a member with a Bachelor degree
 - HK\$22,000/month for a member with a Master degree or above
- Up to **50% of the Fund** can be incurred in **Mainland China and/or other countries**





SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

Application Form
(Annex A)

PIC Endorsement form

Business Proposal

Copy of CI & BR

CV of all team members
(max. 4 pages each) &
Declaration form (for team
members working in
InnoHK)

Agreement on royalties or
IP rights with
collaborating party (if any)

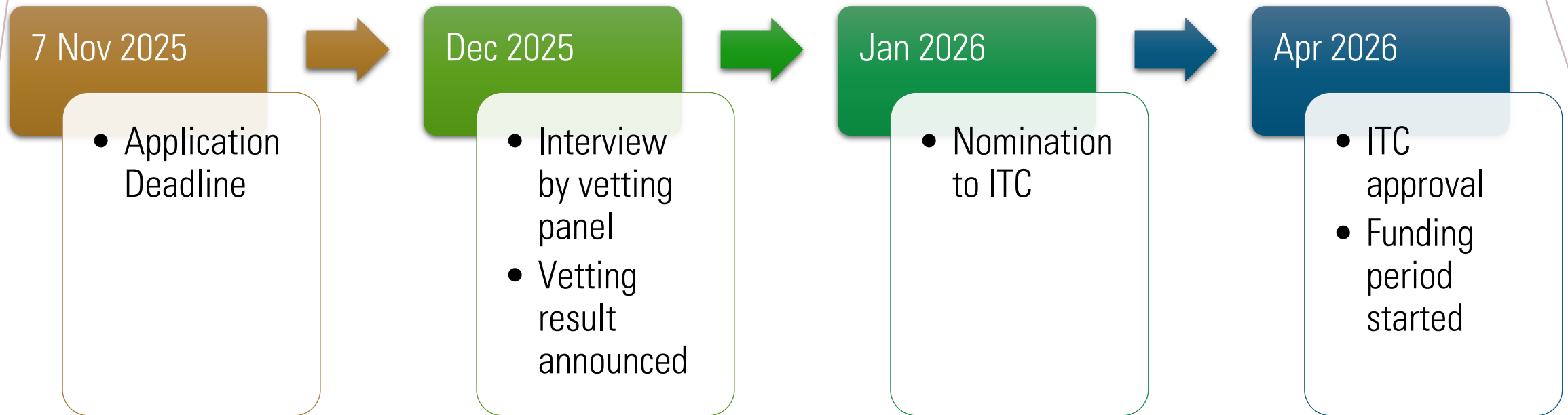
Investment Agreement/
undertaking issued by the
private investor(s) on
details of the cash
contribution

Returns to Company
Registry showing the
latest shareholding
position of the start-up

Proofs of cash injection

Specially For TSSSU+

IMPORTANT DATES



Hard Copies Submission **IN PERSON** to KTO & Online Submission by **7 Nov, 2025 (Fri) 5pm**

Unit 1B, InnoPort, The Inter-University Hall, CUHK, Sha Tin, New Territories

LATE or INCOMPLETE Submission will **NOT** be accepted

REMINDERS

1. PIC CANNOT join concurrently other active teams funded by TSSSU
2. CANNOT apply for TSSSU-O & TSSSU+ simultaneously during the same funding year
3. After successfully obtained funding under TSSSU+, start-up CANNOT revert to apply for TSSSU-O
4. If the technology has not yet filed IP under CUHK, the applicant should submit an Invention Disclosure Form or a Copyright Disclosure Form and Assignment to KTO IP and Technology Licensing Team before the application deadline.
5. Enquiries regarding to Copyright Disclosure Form, please contact KTO IP and Technology Licensing Team (Ms. Fei Fei MIU at 3943 9398/ miufefei@cuhk.edu.hk).

Applicants are strongly advised to review the Programme Guide and FAQ in detail.

CONTACT

VENTURE ACCELERATION TEAM (FOR TSSSU PROGRAM)

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Acceleration

Dr. Ka Yee CHEUK,
Manager

Ms. Sandy TUNG,
Assistant Manager

Mr Billy WONG,
Community
Engagement Officer



THANK YOU

Venture Acceleration Team, Knowledge Transfer Office