THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

ITC Technology Start-up Support Scheme for Universities (TSSSU)

Guidelines

(Last updated: Sep 8, 2026)

1. Introduction

1.1. In 2014-15, the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) set up, under the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF), the Technology Start-up Support Scheme for Universities (TSSSU) to provide funding support to six local universities to encourage their students and professors to start technology businesses and commercialise their R&D results. To further strengthen the support for start-ups, in addition to the original component of the Scheme (which will be termed "TSSSU-O" hereunder and in related documents), an enhancement measure has been introduced starting from 2023-24 to provide dollar-to-dollar matching funds to those technology start-ups which have demonstrated good growth potential through securing investment from private sector[1] (which will be termed "TSSSU+" hereunder and in related documents). In other words, from 2023-24 onwards, TSSSU comprises TSSSU-O and TSSSU+.

1.2. As with other institutions under the scheme, TSSSU will be available to CUHK, on a reimbursement basis for expenses incurred in the corresponding Government financial year. From 2026-27 onwards, the maximum annual funding of TSSSU has been adjusted downward from $16 million to $12.8 million, with the annual funding ceiling for each of TSSSU-O and TSSSU+ correspondingly reduced to $6.4 million, to support technology ventures from the CUHK community.

1.3. At CUHK, TSSSU is administered by the Knowledge Transfer Office (KTO) and governed by the senior management of CUHK. The deadline for CUHK recommendation of companies, together with the relevant application forms and other documentation, to ITC is 15 January 2027 in this instant exercise. As between ITC and CUHK, in case there is any disparity between the ITC TSSSU Application and Reimbursement Guidelines and the Guidelines in this document, the former should prevail.

1.4. The Vetting Panel will include also representatives from Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC). Applicant teams will be evaluated independently by HKSTPC for admissions to HKSTP incubation programme in addition to the TSSSU programme. Successful applicant teams can decide whether to accept the offers from HKSTPC.

[1] Private investment should come from independent third parties including venture capitalists, angel funds, private companies, or individuals in the form of cash contribution received in return of shareholding in the start-ups. Please refer to ITC's TSSSU FAQ (August 2026 edition) for further details on the eligibility and calculation of private investment.

2. Funding Scope

2.1. A successful applicant ("Start-up") may be funded for not more than three years[2] under TSSSU-O and TSSSU+ respectively subject to the availability of the TSSSU funding. In any case, each annual funding must be applied with a separate application every year. The application submitted by an applicant receiving funding in a previous year will be re-evaluated along with applications from new applicants. For TSSSU-O, the funding is capped at HK$ 600K per year; For TSSSU+, the funding is capped at HK$ 1M per year. The operating budget ("Budget") and/or document proofs (e.g. agreement, letter of undertaking issued by the private investor, etc.) submitted along with the application must comply with the TSSSU funding criteria, with milestones approved by a Vetting Panel appointed by CUHK. The decision of the Vetting Panel is final and conclusive.

2.2. Items to be included in the Budget should be reasonable and proportionate and used in a proper manner in the following areas:

- Essential items for setting up and operating the Start-up (e.g. furniture and equipment, legal and accounting services, rental of necessary and suitable premises, manpower, etc.);
- Expenditure on R&D (e.g. manpower, equipment, licensing fees or royalties due to CUHK, other direct costs, etc.); and
- Promotional activities and marketing of their R&D deliverables, products or services.

2.3. Following expenses are NOT funded under TSSSU:

- Rental expenses that are irrelevant to the operation of the Start-up;
- Manpower expenditure on bonus, contract gratuities, voluntary contributions to Mandatory Provident Fund, annual salary increment as well as general fringe benefits and allowances such as expenses on housing (including nominal rental for quarters), education, training, passage and travelling, food, medical, dental, insurance, severance pay, overtime and untaken leave, etc.;
- Expenses on mass production activities;
- Expenses on offering gifts (e.g. cash coupons) for marketing and/or promotion purposes;
- Expenses incurred as matching fund for other schemes of ITF;
- Costs of forming associations or membership subscriptions;
- Investment of any kind except for normal deposit of funds in the bank accounts of the Start-up;
- Repayment of any loan (including but not limited to student loan) taken out by the Start-up and/or its members and employees, and/or any member of the Start-up team;
- Any trip that is unnecessary or irrelevant to the operation of the Start-up;
- Entertainment expenses that are unnecessary or irrelevant to the operation of the Start-up;
- Fees charged to the Start-up arising from general services (e.g. office administrative services, etc.) provided by CUHK;
- Any expenditure item that is unnecessary or irrelevant to the operation of the Start-up;
- Any events or activities inconsistent with the laws or regulations of Hong Kong or other applicable jurisdictions.

[2] The three-year period should count consecutively from the first year that a start-up is approved for TSSSU funding. For example, if a start-up is first approved for funding in 2026-27 (Year One) and only applies for continued funding in 2028-29 (Year Three), it will not be eligible for seeking further funding in 2029-30 (Year Four).

The above examples are not exhaustive, Start-ups should consult KTO if they have any doubt on whether an item could be charged under TSSSU. Activities of the technology start-ups funded under TSSSU should primarily be conducted within the territory of Hong Kong. However, given the objective of TSSSU to support technology start-ups, up to 50% of the TSSSU funding provided to each technology start-up in each Government financial year can be incurred outside Hong Kong.

2.4. Funding will be allocated through payment in three instalments to the bank account of the Start-up (see 3.4). The first and second instalments (50% and 37.5% of total funding respectively) will be disbursed upon successful achievement of agreed milestones and compliance with the Budget, including the receipt of the corresponding amount of private investment for Start-ups funded under TSSSU+. The last instalment (12.5% of total funding) to cover the remaining unpaid expenditure will be reimbursed, after all the receipts and invoices for the entire financial year are submitted and verified, as well as the approval of reimbursement is given from ITC. All TSSSU-funded Start-ups must return all unused balance at the end of the financial year. For Start-ups funded under TSSSU+, if the amount of private investment eventually received is less than that as pledged at the time of application, the reimbursable amount for that Start-up will be adjusted downward to an amount not more than the private investment received or the approved amount, whichever is lower.

2.5. If the Start-up has made reasonable progress in its R&D work and/or business performance in the funded year, CUHK may recommend the Start-up for continued funding under TSSSU for the application of the next Government financial year upon the availability of funding from ITC. The Company will be assessed by the entrepreneurship consultant who has been providing mentorship to the Start-up during the reimbursable period. The steering committee will endorse the decision of the Vetting Panel and recommend whether this company should be nominated for the TSSSU funding.

2.6. Any expenditure item or part thereof already funded by the Government, a Government subvented body/institution, CUHK or third parties will NOT be funded by TSSSU (i.e. no double payment is allowed for the same part of an expenditure item). Applicants must declare any application submitted to or funding received from other ITF funding schemes (e.g. the Research, Academic and Industry Sectors One-plus (RAISe+) Scheme) in the application form. For Start-up (or the related team) that have been recommended or approved for other funding schemes under the ITF (for example, the RAISe+ Scheme), ITC reserves the right to decline such applications under TSSSU. ITC also reserves the right to adjust downwards the funding amount approved to the Start-up under TSSSU if any application for other funding schemes under the ITF lodged by it (or the related team) is subsequently recommended for approval before the end of the reimbursable period.

2.7. Subject to the conditions of approval as set out in 3.10, TSSSU fund can be used to reimburse for the time cost of a CUHK full-time non-teaching employee (e.g., research assistant, postdocs, etc.) to the CUHK's "appointment funding source" of the employee concerned if he or she will support a TSSSU startup during the University's usual office hours. If a TSSSU Start-up chooses to use TSSSU fund to pay for the time cost, the cost can be labelled as "contract service" and listed as an item under "Other Direct Costs" in the Budget. The Company should obtain the level of reimbursement from Finance Office through KTO.

2.8. As in most start-up companies, founding members of the start-up company are financially rewarded primarily by the value of the company that they grow. While TSSSU fund can be used to pay salaries for founding members as well as employees of a company, a salary cap is set for the founding members who are granted shares.

- Monthly salary for a founding member who has no degree: up to $12,000
- Monthly salary for a founding member who has a bachelor degree: up to $16,000
- Monthly salary for a founding member who has a postgraduate degree: up to $22,000

3. Eligibility

3.1. For TSSSU-O & TSSSU+ applications, preference will be given to those who are entitled to exploit technology owned or licensed from CUHK (excluding those technology developed from InnoHK Centres incorporated by CUHK). As part of the application process, the applicant company under TSSSU-O scheme is required to complete the declaration form prior to assessment. The applicant company under TSSSU-O scheme must fulfill such requirement and declare its company is in full compliance with below conditions:

(a) the intellectual property ("IP") to be used under the TSSSU-O application must arise from work undertaken in CUHK;

(b) the applicant company under the TSSSU-O application must not be related to InnoHK Centres incorporated by CUHK. For example, the applicant company must not be a spin-off of any InnHK Centre.

Preference is given to the applicant company with CUHK technology where a patent application has been filed. If a patent application has not been filed at the time of submission of a TSSSU-O or TSSSU+ application, the applicant should consider submitting an Invention Disclosure Form or a Copyright Disclosure Form and Assignment to the KTO IP and Technology Licensing Team, as appropriate. CUHK will exercise its discretion to determine on the eligibility requirement for TSSSU applicant and the decision of the Vetting Panel is final and conclusive.

3.2. The applicants shall demonstrate that they have obtained, or will obtain, the necessary rights, approvals, authorisations or agreements to use all IP, including creative ideas, innovations, technologies, products and services, proposed in the application. Where any proposed IP belongs to a third party (including, but not limited to, CUHK), the inventor(s) and/or IP owner(s) shall be identified in the application form, and documented approval, authorisation or agreement for the use of such IP shall be provided. The Vetting Panel reserves the right to disqualify any applications that, in its sole judgement, violate the rules and principles of the Scheme.

3.3. The technology involved in the application must reach the required Technology Readiness Level (TRL). Physical Science and Engineering technology must reach TRL 4 or above and HealthCare technology must reach TRL 3 or above.

3.4. The applicant company under TSSSU-O must be a company already registered under the Companies Ordinance for no more than two years before the date specified by ITC[3]. For the applicant company under TSSSU+, it must be a company already registered under the Companies Ordinance for no more than seven years before the date specified by ITC[3]. Either the two-year or seven-year eligibility requirement does not apply to an applicant company which is recommended for the TSSSU funding for the second or the third year.

3.5. The applicant company must comprise at least two team members and can include CUHK alumni and individuals external to the CUHK community. Active members of CUHK (current full-time students, full-time professors, or alumni graduated within the last 36 months (the 36 months eligibility requirement for alumni does not apply to the Company which applies for the second or the third year of funding) should be the effective majority of shareholders of the Company[4]. For the applicant companies under TSSSU+, CUHK reserves the final decision right on the effective majority of shareholders for the CUHK active members. Such decision will be made on a case-by-case basis and the decision of the Vetting Panel is final and conclusive.

3.6. An applicant team may have any mix of the following CUHK members:

(a) Undergraduates/graduates/postgraduates;
(b) Full-time professor(s) or other faculty members to serve as consultant(s), providing technical expertise and direction of the R&D work; and/or
(c) Business-savvy university alumni, giving business and management advice, etc.

For CUHK, the eligible status is defined automatically at the time when the application is submitted. A team member who is a staff member and also an alumnus/alumna will be considered a staff member, instead of an alumnus/alumna.

3.7. The applicant team must appoint a Person-In-Charge ("PIC") among its members who should be active members of CUHK as specified in 3.5 above and be a Director of the Company with authority to sign on behalf of the Company and legally bind the Company, and to engage in the Company's business. The PIC is responsible for (a) overseeing the operations of the Company, and (b) liaising with KTO on matters relating to the funding under TSSSU. According to ITC, the PIC is required to hold a senior position with savvy knowledge of the technology start-up and can be reached by CUHK during normal business hours. The PIC MUST also be either a full-time professor or student/graduate. A visiting professor whose contract with CUHK is scheduled to expire before the end of the current TSSSU financial year can serve only as a member but not a PIC. A non-teaching staff member (e.g. Research Associate, Research Assistant, Postdoc) can serve only as a member but not a PIC. Also, a full-time CUHK employee, according to the terms of employment at CUHK, cannot work full-time for the company.

For the avoidance of doubt, the PIC CANNOT join other concurrently active teams funded by TSSSU.

[3] The relevant date for 2027-28 is 15 January 2027.
[4] Effective majority of shareholders are shareholders who have direct or indirect holding of the company's shares for more than 50%.

3.8. Since a TSSSU applicant company must be a registered company, all CUHK full-time staff members who participate in the operation of the Company will be in a situation of engaging in Outside Practice ("OP") for their Outside Business Activity ("OBA"). They should therefore acquaint themselves with the relevant University regulations on OP (Staff Handbook Chapter B7) and OBA (Staff Handbook Chapter B17), particularly with respect to apparent/potential conflict of interests and commitment situations. While pursuing a full-time employment at the University and a business initiative under company registration at the same time, the PIC and team members of the TSSSU Start-up who are CUHK full-time staff members will have ongoing dual/multiple roles to play. To avoid being challenged for conflicting roles, the PIC and team members should avoid and/or make proper declaration in such situations. For instance, a way to manage this in the daily operation is to segregate the time and the place of work for the Start-up from University duties.

3.9. When TSSSU was first launched in Government financial year of 2014-15, the University has approved a special arrangement to enable CUHK full-time staff members to engage in their TSSSU-OBA in accordance with the following regulations governing OP:

(a) Teaching appointees engaging in TSSSU-OBA conducted locally in Hong Kong within the approved time limit of not more than 1 day per week for all remunerative outside professional activities are not required to take their own accrued leave provided that the time release will not cause any inconvenience to the respective Department/Unit. However, they shall apply for their own accumulated leave for activities conducted outside Hong Kong.
(b) Non-teaching appointees, including research appointees, may conduct TSSSU-OBA outside of the appointee's normal working hours and the University's usual operating hours (UOH), or during their own accumulated leave.

3.10. Beginning the Financial year of 2016-2017, the Committee on Advancement of Student Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CASIE) has extended a further special arrangement to enable a non-teaching staff team member to engage in TSSSU-OBA during the University's UOH (Monday to Friday), subject to the below conditions:

(a) The parent Department/Unit and the Faculty of the staff member concerned are agreeable to the expected beneficial outcome of the proposed TSSSU-OBA and confirm that proper arrangements can be made to cover the staff member's University duties.
(b) The Start-up should arrange to reimburse the CUHK's "appointment funding source" of the corresponding staffing cost (see 2.7).
(c) The non-teaching employee should not receive any extra income from the Start-up by supporting the Start-up during office hours. However, the Start-up may offer shares to the CUHK employee as long as the shares will not be converted to cash during the TSSSU funding period.
(d) At the end of the TSSSU funding period, the CUHK non-teaching employee shall cease to support the Start-up during the University's UOH.

3.11. Notwithstanding the special arrangements as set out in 3.9 and 3.10 above, CUHK full-time staff members who will be/are involved in a TSSSU Company should acknowledge that their work for the Start-up is <u>not</u> part of the duties for their employment with the University per se.

3.12. The PIC or team members who are full-time CUHK staff members should discuss their TSSSU-OBA with their respective Department Chairpersons/Faculty Deans the soonest possible to ensure that the engagement is in alignment with the strategic development and manpower plan of the Department/Faculty. To facilitate staff engagement in TSSSU, the PIC and team members should set out at the application stage their roles and nature of involvement in the Company, and their estimated time involvement in the "Application Form for Staff Engagement in TSSSU Company". The account will facilitate consideration and endorsement of their applications by the Department Chairpersons/Faculty Deans.

3.13. As part of the terms of approval, the PIC and each team member of a TSSSU-OBA Company who are CUHK full-time staff members will be required to review and re-affirm the nature and extent of their commitment in the TSSSU initiative in a TSSSU-OBA Document. The PIC and each team member will undertake the Start-up as per the terms of approval, including inter alia, reporting changes/actual operation in an adjustment/annual report, and filing an end-of-term report in due course.

3.14. If the PIC withdraws from the Start-up team, the replacement must also be an active member of CUHK as specified in 3.5 and 3.7 above for the Company to remain eligible under TSSSU.

3.15. Subject to the endorsement of the Department Chairperson and the Faculty Dean/Supervising Officer and pursuant to the enhanced regulations governing OP and OBA effective 1 July 2021, teaching appointees may submit a fresh application via the 'Form for Reporting Outside Business Activity' to take OP time release to continue their professional engagement in the Company after the end of the TSSSU funding period. The time involved in an OBA that fosters knowledge transfer and commercialization of the University's research and innovation during the University's UOH will be recorded in the Integrated OP Administration System (IOPAS).

4. Screening Criteria

The Vetting Panel will take the following into account during assessment of applications.

4.1. 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).

4.2. 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;

4.3. Team expertise and commitment [25%]

- R&D work proposed and management capabilities of the team;

- Drive and commitment of team members;
- Incentive in equity for core team members;

4.4. 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;

4.5. Notwithstanding the above screening criteria, priority will be given to those younger Start-ups in need of start-up capital when assessing applications for TSSSU-O.

5. Application Procedures

5.1. The Applicant is required to complete an application form according to the template in **Annex A**.

5.2. The Applicant is required to state clearly concrete project milestones and a budget showing all expenditures and justifications in association with the milestones. The budget must be consistent to the Funding Scope as stipulated in Section 2.

5.3. The Applicant is required to complete the online application form and upload Annex A and all supporting documents specified in Section C of Annex A on or before **1 November 2026**[5]. Where applicable, the "Endorsement Form from the Relevant Department and Faculty" (for Student PIC) and/or the "Application Form for Staff Engagement in a TSSSU Company" (for PIC or team members who are CUHK full-time employees) shall be duly completed and uploaded as part of the online application. Applicants should allow sufficient time for obtaining the necessary endorsements and approvals, which may normally take at least two weeks. Incomplete applications will not be processed.

5.4. All applications will be reviewed by the Vetting Panel. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend an interview to give a short presentation and answer questions in front of the Vetting Panel, including external assessors, no later than early December 2026.

6. Result Announcement

6.1. Results will be announced **by mid-December 2026**. Applicants will receive a confirmation email from KTO. Successful applicants are required to confirm whether they accept that the application would be recommended to ITC for further examination within THREE calendar days after result announcement.

6.2. Revised budgets, if required, must be submitted to KTO via email within a week after result announcement as the level of funding for the successful applicants may be adjusted according to the allocation approved by the Vetting Panel.

7. Rules and Conditions for Awarded Start-ups

[5] Late submission will NOT be accepted. Company Registration document should be ready before submission to ITC by 15 January 2027.

7.1. All awarded Start-ups are required to enter into an Award Agreement with CUHK upon confirmation from ITC of their eligibility and applications.

7.2. The awarded Start-ups will be continually monitored and assessed by KTO. Awarded Start-ups are required to complete and submit to KTO the following documents:

- An annual reimbursement request (**Annex B**) submitted before 31 May for the expenditure incurred during the reimbursable period[6] of the previous Government financial year ended 31 March, when the related activities have been conducted and the related services and goods have been delivered.
- (Applicable for awarded Start-ups under TSSSU+ only) Bank statement(s)[7] and return(s) to Company Registry on its latest capital status, and/or allotment of company shares, if applicable, showing the amount of private investment it received during the recognised matching period[8].
- Auditors' reports and statement of expenditures (see **Annex C** Notes for the Auditors) submitted before 31 May. Technology start-ups should handle the keeping of books and records, etc. to facilitate auditors to conduct a reasonable assurance engagement in accordance with the requirements stipulated in Annex C.
- Reports on the progress of the business submitted semi-annually before 31 October and annually before 30 June to KTO and Bursary for assessment.
- Reports on matters such as new IP generation, incomes and revenues of the business, etc. in **Annex D(ii) submitted** before 30 June.

7.3. CUHK may appoint an Entrepreneurship Consultant to assist and monitor the commercialisation of the awarded Start-ups. The Entrepreneurship Consultant and any authorised person acting on behalf of the Government shall be allowed to perform random checks of documents, records, etc. of the awarded Start-ups to ensure their compliance with the guidelines and requirements relevant to TSSSU.

7.4. If any CUHK IP is involved, the companies should make necessary licensing arrangement according to CUHK IP Policy. If any non-CUHK IP ownership is involved, the companies are responsible to conduct all necessary due diligence and clear all IP related issues prior to the application.

7.5. CUHK reserves the right to own a certain percentage of shares in an awarded Start-up. Such arrangement will be made on a case-by-case basis.

[6] Unless otherwise specified, the reimbursable period refers to the period from the date of ITC's funding approval to the technology start-up, to the end of the relevant Government financial year (i.e. 31 March).

[7] The bank account should be opened with a bank in Hong Kong with the name of the account holder identical to that of the name of the awarded Start-up.

[8] The recognised matching period refers to the Government financial year immediately before the TSSSU+ reimbursable period. For example, for start-up which would like to have its expenses in 2027-28 be funded under TSSSU+, the recognised matching period for receiving private investment should be the 2026-27 financial year (i.e. 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027). Start-ups and investors should avoid arranging injections of the private investments at the last minute of the required timeframe, so as to allow greater flexibility and manoeuvrability in the event of unforeseen circumstances.

7.6. Any material modification to the recommended business proposal of a start-up (including but not limited to change of PIC and key team members of the start-up, cancellation of milestones, change of business scope, etc.) should be reported in **Annex E(ii)** when seeking the prior approval from CUHK.

7.7. Any material modification to the budget within the reimbursable period including adding a new budget item and expected overspending on any broad category of the budget should be reported in **Annex E(i)** when seeking the prior approval from CUHK.

7.8. The Commissioner for Innovation and Technology and any authorized person acting on behalf of the Government may conduct random checks of the documents, records, etc. of the company to ensure their compliance with the ITC Application and Reimbursement Guidelines for TSSSU, this document, and requirements relevant to the funding support.

7.9. Awarded Start-ups shall be responsible for collecting and submitting outcome data within five years following the completion of the funding scheme. This may include information on revenue status, fund raising status, survival status, etc.

8. Risk Assessment

8.1. Once an application is approved for TSSSU, the Entrepreneurship Consultant may conduct a risk assessment to determine the overall risk level of the Company.

8.2. The result (risk level) of this assessment does not determine eligibility for funding but will affect, among other things:

(a) The frequency of progress reporting;
(b) How often the instalments can be provided to the Company;
(c) The amount of funds to be held back (holdback);
(d) The frequency of site visits; and
(e) The need to submit documents and proofs for supporting claims.

9. Intellectual Property

9.1. A TSSSU-funded company is encouraged to adopt existing CUHK IP. In doing so, the company should contact KTO to obtain a proper license before using the CUHK IP to develop a product. Likewise, if the company shall adopt non-CUHK IP, the company must obtain proper licenses from the relevant outside parties before using such IP.

9.2. CUHK does not automatically claim ownership rights on new IP that is conceived and developed independently by students and alumni during the operation of the Start-up. However, if new IP is conceived by a CUHK professor or researcher, is related to his or her employment with CUHK and is conceived by using CUHK resources, the IP belongs to CUHK.

9.3. For CUHK postgraduate students who have been granted graduate assistantships or research assistantships and may have signed a patent/copyright release at the time of appointment, the IP of their invention during the course of the operation of the Start-up may belong to CUHK.

9.4. New IP jointly conceived and invented by a company with a CUHK employee in a TSSSU funded Start-up shall belong jointly by the company and CUHK. Such jointly invented new IP must be reported to KTO of CUHK as soon as the IP is conceived.

9.5. Other IP issues can be found in CUHK's "*Policy on Research" and "Policy on Intellectual Property"* ("CUHK IP Policy").

10. Publicity and Acknowledgement

10.1. As requested by ITC, acknowledgment of ITF support should appear on all equipment, facilities, publications, publicity and media events related to a TSSSU-funded Start-up.

10.2. Similarly, acknowledgment of CUHK should also appear on the list of materials listed in item 10.1.

10.3. The following disclaimer should be included in any publications and media events related to an ITF-funded start-up –

> 'Any opinions, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material or publication (or by members of this company) do not reflect the views of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region or the Innovation and Technology Commission.'

11. Handling of Information

11.1. Subject to the provisions below, information provided by the Start-ups and the universities in their applications and reports will be kept by ITC in confidence and all personal data will be handled in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486). In this regard, the Government shall have the right to disclose, without further reference to the Start-ups and the universities, whenever it considers appropriate, Discloseable Information[9] to other Government bureaux/departments, statutory bodies or relevant third parties for the purposes as prescribed in the application forms/reporting templates or other related purposes. Relevant information will also be posted on the ITF website for public access. In submitting the application/report, the Start-up and the university irrevocably and unconditionally authorise the Government to make and consent to the Government making any of the aforesaid disclosure.

11.2. By submitting the application/report, the Start-up and the university are regarded to have agreed to, and to have obtained from the entities and each individual whose information (including personal data) is provided in the relevant document, their consent for the disclosure, use and further disclosure by the Government of the information (including personal data) for the purposes set out above.

12. Important Note

[9] " Discloseable Information" means any information provided by the start-ups and the universities to the Government in their applications and reports including without limitation, information in connection with, their applications under the TSSSU, the names and addresses of and other information on the start-ups including past applications, other ITF projects they are undertaking / proposes to or will undertake, details of the applications and the projects, the project costs and the TSSSU funding, and any other information provided by the start-ups and the universities to the Government.

12.1. The funded Start-ups shall conform in all respects with all legislation (including the Laws of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region), regulations and by-laws of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

12.2. The Government may at any time and with immediate effect, revoke the agreement to provide TSSSU funding, revoke the related reimbursement requests, withhold the payment and require refund of any funding disbursed under the TSSSU funding to ITC on occurrence of any of the following events –

(a) The Start-up has engaged or is engaging in acts or activities that are likely to constitute or cause the occurrence of offences endangering national security or which would otherwise be contrary to the interest of national security;

(b) The continued provision of TSSSU funding to the Start-up is contrary to the interest of national security; and

(c) The Government reasonably believes that any of the events mentioned in (a) or (b) above is about to occur.

13.Enquiries

Knowledge Transfer Office, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Address/ Mailing Address:	Unit 1B, 1/F, Innoport, The Inter-University Hall, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, New Territories, Hong Kong
Tel:	(852) 3943 1558 / 3943 0638
Email:	vateam@cuhk.edu.hk
Website:	https://kto.cuhk.edu.hk/en/