

(Translation)

In case of any discrepancy in the meaning of wording between the English translation and the Chinese text, the Chinese text shall prevail.

Joint Policy Package for the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Co-operation Zone in the Loop

I. Introduction

1.1 Objective & Purpose

1.1.1 This policy package aims to, under the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (hereinafter “the GBA”) Development Strategy, give full play to the strengths of Shenzhen and Hong Kong, enhance the collaboration between the two places, and promote the synergistic development of “one zone, two parks” within the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Co-operation Zone in the Loop (hereinafter “the Co-operation Zone”), which comprises the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park (hereinafter “the HSITP”) at the Lok Ma Chau Loop and the Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Zone (hereinafter the “SZ I&T Zone”) along the north side of Shenzhen River and adjacent to the Loop. The purpose is to provide a foundation for supporting the policies and measures jointly launched by Shenzhen and Hong Kong, strengthen the collaboration between the two places in terms of project solicitation, talent cultivation and the provision of complementary services, etc., jointly attract international innovative resources, build hand in hand a pilot area for open collaboration in innovation and technology (hereinafter “I&T”)

in Shenzhen and Hong Kong, and facilitate the development of an international I&T hub in the GBA.

1.2 Support Targets

1.2.1 The major support targets of this policy package are top-notch international scientific research institutes, research and development (hereinafter “R&D”)-oriented enterprises, transfer and incubation platforms, and other institutions and talent based in Hong Kong (or with Hong Kong elements) or Shenzhen (or with Shenzhen elements). They should be in line with Cooperation Zone’s focused research areas and directions (the six major areas are healthcare technologies, big data and artificial intelligence (hereinafter “AI”), robotics, new material, microelectronics, and financial technology) and/or forward-looking in the exploration of advanced technologies.

1.2.2 Applicants shall meet one of the following requirements:

- (a) It shall be a separate legal person enterprise or organisation registered in the SZ I&T Zone, or a scientific research entity that is set up in the SZ I&T Zone through a separate legal entity and possesses relatively independent authorities over personnel and financial matters;
- (b) A public scientific research institute in Hong Kong, an R&D Centre established under the Innovation and Technology Fund (hereinafter “the ITF”), or an innovative entity such as an incubatee or I&T tenant of the public organisations in Hong Kong that support scientific research.

1.2.3 When a technology talent is employed by funded organisations and teams, upon signing of an employment contract, the talent

concerned can apply for the various talent support schemes of the Co-operation Zone in accordance with the relevant requirements.

1.3 The Overall Responsible Authorities

1.3.1 The Innovation and Technology Bureau of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (hereinafter “the HKSAR”) Government is the overall responsible authority of the Hong Kong side; the Shenzhen Steering Group Office for Development of the Co-operation Zone is the overall responsible authority of the Shenzhen side.

1.4 Application

1.4.1 Supported targets meeting the requirements set out in paragraph 1.2 can apply to the responsible authority in either the Shenzhen side or the Hong Kong side in accordance with the implementation details of the policies mentioned in parts II to V of this policy package.

II . Scientific Research Projects Jointly Supported by Shenzhen and Hong Kong

2.1 Joint Support

2.1.1 Shenzhen and Hong Kong will jointly support scientific research projects based on the arrangements under the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Joint Funding Projects (Category A) under the Shenzhen-Hong Kong-Macao Science and Technology Projects (name used by Shenzhen) / projects jointly solicited and funded by Shenzhen and Hong Kong (Category C2) under the Guangdong-Hong Kong Technology Cooperation Funding Scheme (hereinafter “the TCFS”) (name used in Hong Kong). Shenzhen can also support the projects in accordance with the *Support Measures for Scientific Research, Innovation and Startups in the Shenzhen Park of the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Co-operation Zone in the Loop* (hereinafter the “*Support Measures*”). Applicants from Shenzhen and Hong Kong shall submit separate applications for the same collaborative project to the relevant authorities on their respective sides and upon independent assessment by both sides, applications mutually supported by both sides will be approved for funds. Funding support will be given separately by both sides in accordance with: the TCFS for Hong Kong; and the Shenzhen-Hong Kong-Macao Science and Technology Projects, *Support Measures* and its supporting documents for Shenzhen. A database for projects jointly funded will be established by both sides in parallel to share information on the funded projects.

2.2 “Calls for Project Topics” and “Bidding by Teams”

2.2.1 [Calls for project topics] Relevant responsible authorities in Shenzhen and Hong Kong will call key technology enterprises in both places for their major scientific problems and technical engineering difficulties that need to be addressed. The content of the call includes topic, academic discipline, keyword, problem description, as well as the background, latest progress and significance of the problem, etc. After assessing and transforming the selected topics into corresponding themes for basic and applied basic research projects, the relevant responsible authorities in Shenzhen and Hong Kong will make public announcements of the above in both places respectively.

2.2.2 [Bidding by teams] Scientific research teams in Shenzhen and Hong Kong may, according to their own merits and research interests and preferences, submit a bidding proposal (project application) to the relevant authority of the Shenzhen side pursuant to the requirements under the *Support Measures*. A bidder shall meet the following requirements:

- (a) It shall be a scientific research institute or R&D-oriented enterprise etc. that is legally registered in the SZ I&T Zone;
- (b) A scientific research institute, R&D-oriented enterprise or a scientific research team, etc., though yet to be registered in the SZ I&T Zone, undertakes to complete the registration and settle there within one year upon the announcement of its successful bidding.

The specific responsible authority of the Shenzhen side will assess the eligible scientific research teams in accordance with the *Support Measures* and its supporting documents, and provide funding support for the corresponding scientific research activities.

2.3 Complementary support to R&D projects

2.3.1 To encourage the R&D Centres established under the ITF in Hong Kong, and innovative entities such as the incubatees or I&T tenants of the public organisations that support scientific research, including the R&D laboratories set up under InnoHK Clusters etc., to establish such platforms as branch institutes or R&D laboratories in the SZ I&T Zone with a view to strengthening scientific research collaboration with Mainland organisations, for example the Shenzhen branch site of Hong Kong Science Park (hereinafter called “the HKSP”) that will be set up by Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (hereinafter “the HKSTPC”) in the SZ I&T Zone. The Shenzhen side will assess the projects in accordance with the “Basic and Applied Basic Study on the Internationalisation of Institute Construction Plan” and the “Basic and Applied Basic Study on Project under Funding Scheme”, etc. under the *Support Measures*. R&D spaces as well as funding support will be given to eligible projects so as to encourage scientific research talent with funding support from the Hong Kong side to set up R&D activities in the SZ I&T Zone.

- III. Joint Support from Shenzhen and Hong Kong for Scientific Research Talents
 - 3.1 Implementation of Facilitative Support Measures to Cope with the Demand for Talents and Jobs in the Co-operation Zone
 - 3.1.1 Programmes for attracting scientific research talent are available in both Shenzhen and Hong Kong, such as the Young Scientists Fostering Programme, Scientific Research Teams Award Scheme and Talents Joint Fostering Programme under the *Support Measures* of Shenzhen as well as the Technology Talent Admission Scheme and Quality Migrant Admission Scheme of Hong Kong, etc.. The two sides will jointly support scientific research talent in accordance with their respective existing programmes and conduct further studies on the talent and jobs that are in short supply in the Co-operation Zone and then put in place, with reference to the actual demand, facilitative support measures such as the provision of funding support, accommodation, office space and complementary services, etc., for eligible talent through corresponding channels. The two sides will also share relevant information.
 - 3.2 Establishment of *InnoAcademy* and *InnoExpress* in the GBA
 - 3.2.1 HKSTPC will set up the *InnoAcademy* in the SZ I&T Zone to provide I&T talent in both sides with comprehensive services and support covering three important functions, namely resource centre, training hub and exchange platform.
 - 3.2.2 HKSTPC will also set up the *InnoExpress* to support I&T enterprises' development, so as to assist Hong Kong and overseas enterprises to develop in the Mainland cities in the GBA and at

the same time, provide services for Mainland enterprises that are interested in tapping into overseas markets.

3.2.3 The Shenzhen side will provide funding support, venue, manpower and other support, and offer training services in commerce, administration, customs, accounting, law and immigration, etc., to I&T talent in both Shenzhen and Hong Kong through the “e-Station” Access General Services Centre in the SZ I&T Zone and existing organisations such as the Blue Bay Incubator of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

3.3 Talent Accommodation in the Co-operation Zone

3.3.1 Shenzhen and Hong Kong will, in an orderly manner, roll out in batches talent accommodation in the Co-operation Zone with reference to the short-term, mid-term and long-term arrangements, conduct study and introduce the admission mechanism and declaration criteria mutually agreed by both sides, etc. and, subject to availability, provide accommodation services to eligible talent through relevant channels. While the Shenzhen side will provide in-kind accommodation or financial subsidy for eligible Hong Kong talent working in the SZ I&T Zone in accordance with the “Accommodation Service Programme” under the *Support Measures*, eligible Shenzhen talent working in the HSITP can apply to be accommodated in the InnoCell in HSITP that will be completed in future.

3.3.2 In addition, the Shenzhen side can provide talent accommodation for I&T talent working in the HSITP. Depending on the needs from the talent working in the SZ I&T Zone, the HKSAR Government will also actively explore the provision of housing support to eligible talent working for key enterprises of the SZ

I&T Zone, for example providing some of the InnoCell units of the HKSP, or offering HKSAR Government former staff quarters at favourable rent or discount packages for short-stay in Hong Kong hotels.

- IV. Support Measures to Jointly Enhance the Complementary Facilities in Shenzhen and Hong Kong
 - 4.1 Establishment of a Synergistic and Innovative Medical System in Shenzhen and Hong Kong
 - 4.1.1 [R&D of Biomedicine] To launch scientific research activities on biomedicine in the SZ I&T Zone leveraging the R&D resources of biomedicine in Hong Kong as well as the University of Hong Kong-Shenzhen Hospital Translational Medicine Research Centre, with a view to strengthening cross-boundary medical scientific research collaboration and encouraging the participating of Shenzhen and Hong Kong in international multi-center clinical trials.
 - 4.1.2 [Medical Services] To introduce advanced medical services institutions of Hong Kong into the SZ I&T Zone. According to *The 16 Policy Measures Benefitting Hong Kong and Macao Promulgated by the Central Government* and *The Work Plan on Regulation, Innovation and Development of Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area*, to permit the trial use in eligible and designated medical institutions in the SZ I&T Zone of: Hong Kong-registered drugs for clinical emergencies; as well as medical devices procured by and used in Hong Kong public hospitals and having advanced clinical applications, under the guidance of professional departments and with proper risk controls.

4.2 Sharing Technology Resources between Shenzhen and Hong Kong

4.2.1 The Innovation and Technology Commission in Hong Kong will collect, on a regular basis, lists of devices and equipment required for conducting scientific research from local universities and research institutions. Shenzhen and Hong Kong can jointly solicit the necessary support for such request lists so that necessary resources for the scientific research devices and equipment in the Co-operation Zone can be planned in advance. The approved technology resources are supported for inclusion into the Shenzhen Platform for Shared Use of Major Scientific Equipment (www.irshare.cn), allowing eligible support targets to apply for the shared use of these innovative technology resources, and publishing the relevant information on the websites of the authorities concerned in the two places.

4.3 Provision of Support for Professional Services

4.3.1 To support renowned lawyers, accounting firms, dispute resolution institutions, financial institutions, and other professional services bodies in Hong Kong to set up branches in the SZ I&T Zone. According to the Legal Services Support Scheme for Intellectual Property (hereinafter “IP”) Rights under the *Support Measures*, subsidy and support such as settlement allowance will be provided to top-notch international or domestic organisations or institutions setting up businesses and engaging in the actual provision of legal services, such as IP arbitration, mediation and litigation, in the SZ I&T Zone.

- 4.4 Setting Up of an Online Belt and Road Arbitration and Mediation Platform
 - 4.4.1 To encourage enterprises and organisations in the Co-operation Zone to use Hong Kong's Electronic Business Related Arbitration and Mediation (eBRAM) Platform. Shenzhen and Hong Kong can collaborate with each other to promote the online platform, so as to offer convenient and cost-effective online dispute resolution services for enterprises in the countries and regions along the Belt and Road.
- 4.5 Provision of Matching Investments/Funding Support for Eligible Shenzhen and Hong Kong I&T Start-ups
 - 4.5.1 Shenzhen and Hong Kong will provide funding support for eligible I&T start-ups in the Co-operation Zone with their own I&T funds and bring in social/private capital. The governments will co-invest with social/private capital on a matching ratio of no more than 1:1. Hong Kong's Innovation and Technology Venture Fund can invest in eligible Hong Kong I&T start-ups in the SZ I&T Zone. Eligible Hong Kong I&T start-ups in the SZ I&T Zone start-ups can also apply for support from Shenzhen's Innovation and Pilot Test Fund and "RMB10 Billion+ Fund for Excellent Research" concurrently. Both places will provide, in their respective ways, funding support for the projects separately and share with each other information on the funding support provided for a project.

- V. Support for Facilitating the Flow of I&T Elements between Shenzhen and Hong Kong
 - 5.1 Measures to Facilitate the Movement of Overseas Technology Talents
 - 5.1.1 To enforce the *Implementation Plan (2020-2025) for Comprehensive Pilot Reform in Shenzhen to Build the City into a Pilot Demonstration Zone for Socialism with Chinese Characteristics* to facilitate the processing of R Visa applications for “high-level, elite, top-notch, and urgently-needed” foreign talent recognised by Shenzhen municipality to work in the Cooperation Zone, and to explore the feasibility of optimising the vetting procedures for foreigner’s work permit in China and work-type residence permit.
 - 5.2 Streamlining the Import and Export Clearance of Scientific Research Samples, Experiment Reagents and Genetic Resources
 - 5.2.1 To streamline the import and export clearance of scientific research samples, experiment reagents and genetic resources. The import and export clearance of scientific research samples, such as human tissues and blood, and laboratory reagents will be administered through risk-based categorisation and classification, with a view to optimising the procedures for risk assessment and quarantine examination and, on the premise that biosecurity is assured, facilitating customs clearance for low-risk special articles. Seeking to arrange the import and export clearance of scientific research samples, experiment reagents and genetic resources through the support of the branches set up in Shenzhen by Hong Kong scientific research institutes.

5.3 Expanding Cross-boundary Investment and Financing Channels in the Co-operation Zone

5.3.1 To support I&T enterprises in the SZ I&T Zone to finance through Hong Kong in multiple channels, and to engage Hong Kong financial services when conducting mergers and acquisitions in Hong Kong.

5.4 Facilitating Shenzhen-Hong Kong Sharing of Data Resources in the Co-operation Zone

5.4.1 To promote the development and co-operation in respect of AI and data analysis between Shenzhen and Hong Kong, and to explore how to facilitate safe cross-boundary data flow.

VI. Support for Special Issues

6.1 An “one discussion over one issue” approach will be adopted by both sides for significant issues that require special support. The specific responsible authority of the both sides will submit the issues for vetting and approval. Corresponding support will be given to those having been approved.

VII. Supplementary Article

7.1 The validity period of the specific policy documents involved in this guide shall follow the concerned documents.