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Panel on Commerce and Industry

Meeting on 15 January 2019

**Updated background brief on the initiatives for promotion of
innovation and technology under the Innovation and Technology Fund**

Purpose

This paper provides updated background information and a summary of the views and concerns expressed by members of the Panel on Commerce and Industry ("the Panel") on the following subjects: (a) the 14 funding schemes under the Innovation and Technology Fund ("ITF") (paragraphs 4 to 36), and (b) the research centres/laboratories and university technology transfer offices ("TTOs") funded under other support programmes of ITF (paragraphs 37 to 56).

Background

The Innovation and Technology Fund

2. ITF was established by Resolution passed by the Legislative Council on 30 June 1999¹ as a statutory fund under the Public Finance Ordinance (Cap. 2) to finance projects that contribute to innovation and technology ("I&T") upgrading and development in manufacturing and services industries in Hong Kong, thereby enhancing Hong Kong's economic development. As of 2018, the Finance Committee ("FC") approved a total of HK\$34 billion for ITF.²

3. According to the Administration, with the introduction of new programmes

¹ The Innovation and Technology Fund ("ITF") came into operation on 1 November 1999.

² The Finance Committee ("FC") approved injections of HK\$5 billion into ITF on 9 July 1999, a further HK\$5 billion on 27 February 2015, and another HK\$10 billion on 13 July 2018.

FC also approved the injection into ITF of: (a) HK\$2 billion as endowment capital to generate investment income to finance projects under the Midstream Research Programme for Universities on 10 June 2016; (b) HK\$2 billion to finance the Innovation and Technology Venture Fund on 12 July 2016; and (c) HK\$10 billion to provide financial support to establish two research clusters on 13 July 2018.

in recent years, there have been substantial increases in ITF spending. ITF's financial support for I&T development in Hong Kong has increased from about HK\$0.7 billion in 2013-2014 to over HK\$1.5 billion in 2017-2018.

Funding schemes under the Innovation and Technology Fund

4. Currently, there are 14 funding schemes under ITF, each having its own objectives, scope, and modus operandi. Details of the funding schemes are set out in the following paragraphs. The statistics of approved projects of the funding schemes are in **Appendix I**.

Innovation and Technology Support Programme

5. The Innovation and Technology Support Programme ("ITSP") supports research and development ("R&D") projects undertaken by institutions funded by the University Grants Committee ("UGC"), self-financing degree-awarding institutions registered under the Post-Secondary Colleges Ordinance (Cap. 320), the five R&D Centres under ITF, and other designated local public research institutions.³

6. Under the ITSP funding framework, there is a Guangdong-Hong Kong Technology Co-operation Funding Scheme⁴ which aims to enhance the level of collaboration on R&D between organizations in Hong Kong and Guangdong. To further encourage collaboration between Hong Kong and provinces of the Mainland in the area of scientific research, the Administration has been exploring with the State Ministry of Science and Technology ("MOST") the feasibility of setting up the Mainland-Hong Kong Joint Funding Scheme. In September 2018, the two sides signed the "Agreement on Commencing Jointly Funded Projects between the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Innovation and Technology Bureau of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government" which sets out the framework of the funding and the modus operandi of the funding scheme.

University-Industry Collaboration Programme

7. The University-Industry Collaboration Programme ("UICP") provides dollar-for-dollar matching fund for R&D jointly undertaken by private companies and local universities.

³ They are the Hong Kong Productivity Council ("HKPC"), the Vocational Training Council ("VTC"), the Clothing Industry Training Authority and the Hong Kong Institute of Biotechnology ("HKIB").

⁴ Depending on the nature of the project, the projects may be funded solely by the Innovation and Technology Support Programme ("ITSP") in Hong Kong or Guangdong/Shenzhen, or jointly by the authorities of two sides, i.e. Guangdong/Hong Kong or Shenzhen/Hong Kong.

8. The Administration briefed the Panel on 20 March 2018 on its plan to merge UICP and the collaborative stream of ITSP into a new Partnership Research Programme ("PRP") to achieve synergy and flexibility.⁵ Similar to ITSP, PRP will require 50% industry sponsorship for projects.

Enterprise Support Scheme

9. The Enterprise Support Scheme ("ESS") was introduced in 2015 as a major funding initiative under ITF to encourage the private sector to invest in R&D.⁶ It provides dollar-for-dollar matching of up to HK\$10 million for each approved project for private companies to carry out R&D projects.

Research and Development Cash Rebate Scheme

10. The Research and Development Cash Rebate Scheme was introduced in 2010⁷ to provide cash rebate⁸ to private companies for their expenses in ITF R&D projects or other contract R&D projects funded by these companies and undertaken by the six designated local universities,⁹ the five R&D Centres under ITF or other designated local public research institutions.¹⁰

Midstream Research Programme for Universities

11. The Midstream Research Programme for Universities ("MRP") was introduced in 2016 to encourage UGC-funded institutions to conduct more theme-based midstream research in key technology areas. The funding ceiling for each project is HK\$5 million. Priority will be given to projects involving collaboration across multiple disciplines or institutions, where a higher funding ceiling of HK\$10 million per project will be given. Two rounds of MRP applications under the theme of "Elderly Health and Care" have been completed.

⁵ Where the requirements of the two programmes differ, the more flexible arrangement will be adopted. For example, the maximum project duration for ITSP and the University-Industry Collaboration Programme are two and three years respectively. The Partnership Research Programme will adopt three years.

⁶ It replaces the previous Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme with improved features.

⁷ With FC's approval in February 2015, the Research and Development Cash Rebate Scheme was subsumed under ITF with effect from 1 April 2016.

⁸ The level of cash rebate was 10% in 2010, and was increased to 30% in 2012, then to 40% in 2016.

⁹ The six designated universities are The Chinese University of Hong Kong, City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Baptist University, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and The University of Hong Kong.

¹⁰ They are HKPC, VTC and HKIB.

Public Sector Trial Scheme

12. The Public Sector Trial Scheme ("PSTS") was introduced in 2011 to provide funding support¹¹ for public sector bodies (including government departments, public bodies, non-profit-making trade associations, charitable organizations, etc.) to try out new technologies or products developed in ITF projects.

13. In 2016, PSTS was extended to include incubatees/graduate tenants of the Cyberport and the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation ("HKSTPC") for trials of their technologies or products in the local public sector (including government departments, statutory bodies and/or Hong Kong Government subvented non-governmental bodies in the welfare sector). The funding ceiling for each project is HK\$1 million.

Technology Voucher Programme

14. The Technology Voucher Programme ("TVP") was introduced in 2016 to subsidize local enterprises¹² in using technological solutions to improve productivity, or facilitate the upgrading or transformation of their business processes. It provides cumulative funding of up to HK\$200,000 on a 2:1 matching basis for each eligible enterprise to carry out a maximum of three approved projects.

Internship Programme

15. The Internship Programme was launched in 2004 to support ITF projects as well as incubatees/I&T tenants of HKSTPC and Cyberport to hire local graduates as R&D interns. Each ITF project/eligible applicant company can engage up to two interns at any one time for a maximum internship period of 24 months for each intern. Starting from October 2017, the monthly allowances were increased to HK\$16,000 for interns with a Bachelor's degree and HK\$19,000 for interns with a Master's or higher degree.

Postdoctoral Hub Programme and Reindustrialisation and Technology Training Programme

16. In her 2017 Policy Address, the Chief Executive ("CE") introduced the Technology Talent Scheme ("TTS") to nurture and bring together more technology talents and encourage them to pursue a career in innovation and scientific research.

¹¹ In 2014, the funding ceiling for the Public Sector Trial Scheme was raised from 30% to 50% of the actual cost of the original research and development ("R&D") projects funded by ITF, and up to 100% for projects undertaken by the R&D Centres.

¹² As announced in the 2018-2019 Budget, the eligibility criteria for the Technology Voucher Programme have been relaxed to allow all local enterprises, irrespective of size and duration of operation to apply.

TTS, which comprises the Postdoctoral Hub Programme ("Postdoc Hub") and the Reindustrialisation and Technology Training Programme ("RTTP"), was launched in August 2018.

17. Postdoc Hub supports ITF projects as well as incubatees/I&T tenants of HKSTPC and Cyberport to recruit postdoctoral talent for R&D work. Each ITF project/eligible applicant company can engage up to two postdoctoral talent at any one time for a maximum engagement period of 24 months for each postdoctoral talent. The monthly allowance is HK\$32,000 for each postdoctoral researcher with a doctoral degree in a science, technology, engineering and mathematics-related discipline from either a local university or a well-recognized non-local institution.¹³

18. RTTP subsidizes local companies on a 2:1 matching basis (capped by HK\$500,000 for each company in each financial year) to train their staff in advanced technologies, especially those related to Industry 4.0.¹⁴

Technology Start-up Support Scheme for Universities

19. The Technology Start-up Support Scheme for Universities ("TSSSU") was launched in 2014 to support university faculties and students to start technology businesses and commercialize their R&D results. An annual funding of up to HK\$4 million is provided to each of the six universities¹⁵ on a reimbursement basis to fund the essential items for setting up and operating the start-ups; R&D; marketing of R&D deliverables, products and services. Subject to the said annual funding ceiling, there is no limit on the number of start-ups to be recommended by each university and each start-up may receive up to HK\$1.2 million each year for no more than three years.

20. TSSSU was initially set up in 2014-2015 for three years. At the Panel meeting on 20 December 2016, the Panel supported the Administration's proposal for continuing TSSSU for another three years up to 2019-2020. CE proposed in her 2018 Policy Address to increase the maximum annual funding for each university under TSSSU to HK\$8 million.

¹³ A well-recognized non-local institution refers to those that are among the top 100 institutions for related subjects in the latest publication of world university rankings tables, including the Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings, Shanghai Jiao Tong University (Academic Ranking of World Universities) or Times Higher Education World University Rankings.

¹⁴ It replaces the previous New Technology Training Scheme run by VTC.

¹⁵ They are The Chinese University of Hong Kong, City University of Hong Kong, The Hong Kong Baptist University, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and The University of Hong Kong.

Innovation and Technology Venture Fund

21. The Innovation and Technology Venture Fund ("ITVF") was rolled out in 2017 to co-invest with private venture capital ("VC") funds in local I&T start-ups with an overall matching ratio of approximately 1:2. It helps local I&T start-ups meet funding needs and provides them with professional management knowledge as well as business and marketing network through the support and participation of venture capitalists. Currently, there are six VC funds participating in ITVF.

General Support Programme

22. The General Support Programme supports non-R&D projects that help upgrade local industries and promote an I&T culture in Hong Kong.¹⁶ Organizations in Hong Kong such as non-profit making trade or industry associations or chambers of commerce, public bodies, charitable organizations, tertiary institutes, District Councils, or private companies are eligible to apply.

Patent Application Grant

23. The Patent Application Grant provides funding support to local companies and individuals in their first patent application to help them protect and commercialize their intellectual work. An approved application will be granted up to HK\$250,000 or 90% of the sum of the total direct cost of the patent application and the administration fee charged by the Hong Kong Productivity Council, whichever is the lower.

Previous discussions on the funding schemes under the Innovation and Technology Fund

24. At the Panel meeting on 20 March 2018, the Administration briefed the Panel on the work of ITF and sought members' support for the proposed enhancements and injection of HK\$10 billion to enable ITF to continue operation beyond 2018. Members' views and concerns are summarized in the ensuing paragraphs.

Vetting and approval procedure of the funding schemes

25. Members relayed the following long-standing concerns from the academia over the vetting and approval procedure for various funding schemes under ITF:

- (a) government officials did not have sufficient experience in R&D in conducting preliminary screening of funding applications;

¹⁶ Examples include conferences, exhibitions, seminars, workshops, promotional events, studies and surveys, youth activities, events or projects to support platform building / upgrading of industry, etc.

- (b) some members of the Innovation and Technology Fund Research Projects Assessment Panel were too subjective and critical, and there were suspected cases that some members of the assessment panel might have possible conflicts of interest; and
- (c) in respect of TVP, applicants were concerned about the requirement on obtaining price quotations from more than one supplier for selection.

They urged the Administration to enhance the vetting and approval procedure for the funding schemes under ITF.

26. Members also noted that owing to the long processing time of applications for the subsequent phase of a project, R&D professionals engaged in the project concerned were often left idle in the time between the completion of the previous phase and the commencement of the next phase of a project. These members suggested that the Administration should consider allowing applicants to submit funding applications for the next phase of a project before the end of the existing phase.

27. The Administration advised that a peer review approach had been adopted in vetting ITF applications. It would endeavor to enlist as many experts as possible to conduct the peer reviews on applications to ensure a more balanced view on selection of successful projects. The Administration also pointed out that a number of enhancement measures had been taken to streamline the application procedures. For example, samples of completed application forms were available on the website for reference by applicant enterprises.

28. As regards TVP, the Administration advised that there was a genuine need for obtaining more than one quotation for selection of supplier having regard to the advice of the Independent Commission Against Corruption and the Competition Commission. Nonetheless, quotations from two suppliers would suffice for expenditure items of lower value. To speed up the vetting process, TVP Committee meetings had been conducted more frequently, and applications might be considered by circulation of papers as and when appropriate.

29. Some members also urged the Administration to collaborate with industry organizations to boost the level of success of TVP and suggested that the scope of TVP be enlarged to cover funding support for the expenses incurred by the small and medium enterprises ("SMEs") in providing staff training on information technology. The Administration advised that it had been actively engaging with industry organizations to brief them on the latest progress of TVP, and was planning to promote TVP through electronic media. Moreover, TVP would cover training costs which were directly related to technology solutions.

Nurturing technology talent

30. Noting that some 70% of the 3 000 interns supported under the Internship

Programme indicated to pursue a career in I&T-related areas, members enquired whether the Administration had carried out any follow-up survey of the interns' career path to understand if they had eventually pursued an I&T-related career. The Administration advised that interns would be surveyed on their career plans at the end of internship. It would consider the feasibility of undertaking follow-up surveys by cost-effective means.

31. Members sought clarification on whether segregated funding quotas would be set for Postdoc Hub and RTTP so as to avoid competition for funding between the two programmes. The Administration advised that no funding quota would be set for Postdoc Hub and RTTP to allow flexibility and to support the recruitment/retention of as many postdoctoral talents as possible to undertake R&D work in Hong Kong.

32. In the course of discussion, members also suggested setting key performance indicators to evaluate the effectiveness of each funding programme under ITF; as well as setting up a centralized frontline office to promote the funding programmes and providing one-stop services to assist SMEs in submitting applications. After the meeting, the Administration submitted a follow-up paper (LC Paper No. CB(1)1189/17-18(01)) to respond to the above suggestions.

Council questions

Technology Voucher Programme

33. Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan asked an oral question at the Council meeting of 28 March 2018 regarding the vetting and approval procedures of ITF applications. He sought details on the processing time of TVP applications.

34. The Administration advised that it had taken an average of 80 working days (ranging from 14 to 175 working days) to process a TVP application. For cases requiring longer processing time, the main problem lied with complications such as the quotations mentioning different solutions, thus rendering a comparison not feasible and requiring supplementary information or even fresh quotations from service providers. The Administration further stressed that TVP applicants were not required to prepare proposals or even engage consultants for submitting applications.

Enterprise Support Scheme

35. At the Council meeting of 30 May 2018, Hon Charles MOK relayed in his written question the comments from the I&T industry on the complicated procedure, outdated criteria and the excessively long time taken for vetting and approving ITF applications. Mr MOK sought details on the appeal mechanism for ESS applications and enquired whether the Administration would inform ESS applicants of the reasons for their applications being rejected.

36. The Administration advised that the ESS Secretariat would notify the applicant of the reasons in writing in case the application was not supported by the ESS assessment panel. While there was no appeal mechanism under ESS, an applicant may revise and re-submit the application having regard to the ESS assessment panel's comments. There were precedents where re-submitted proposals were supported by the ESS assessment panel.

Support programmes of the Innovation and Technology Fund

37. In addition to the 14 funding programmes above, ITF also funds, in full or in part, the operation of various research centres/laboratories and university TTOs. Details of the entities supported are set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

Research and development centres

38. Since 2006, a total commitment of HK\$1,696 million (up to 31 March 2021) from ITF has been approved to fund the operation of four R&D Centres set up by the Government¹⁷ to drive and coordinate applied R&D in selected focus areas. The four R&D Centres are Nano and Advanced Materials Institute; Logistics and Supply Chain MultiTech R&D Centre; Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel; and Automotive Parts and Accessory Systems R&D Centre.¹⁸

State Key Laboratories

39. Currently, a total of 16 laboratories of universities in Hong Kong are recognized as State Key Laboratories¹⁹ ("SKLs") based on MOST's SKL scheme, all of which have gone through a vigorous admission process to demonstrate their research excellence in particular technology areas.

40. Starting from 2011-2012, each SKL in Hong Kong is provided with an annual funding up to HK\$2 million (increased to HK\$5 million since 2013-2014) through ITF on an annual reimbursement basis as an additional source of funding. It enables SKLs to map out a longer term development plan to strengthen their

¹⁷ The Government also set up Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute, designated as the R&D Centre for Information and Communications Technologies. Its operating expenditure is met separately from Government's annual recurrent subvention.

¹⁸ The Administration reports on the operation and performance of the R&D Centres to the Panel on Commerce and Industry on a yearly basis. See the latest report in June 2018 (LC Paper No. CB(1)1097/17-18(04)).

¹⁹ The Partner State Key Laboratories in Hong Kong has been renamed as State Key Laboratories ("SKLs") from 20 September 2018. It allows them more flexibility to collaborate with different R&D institutions.

research capability and to build up the necessary infrastructural support (manpower and equipment) for exploring new technology areas.²⁰

41. While the above funding support will expire after 31 March 2019, CE proposed in her 2018 Policy Address to increase the funding support for each SKL to HK\$10 million each year.

Hong Kong Branches of Chinese National Engineering Research Centres

42. While SKLs focus on carrying out innovative research taking into account the national I&T priorities, Hong Kong Branches of Chinese National Engineering Research Centres ("CNERCs(HK)") serve as major impetus in providing engineering research and consultancy support to the industries. Currently, there are six CNERCs(HK) officially recognized by MOST after vigorous assessment by a panel of overseas experts and local industrialists.

43. Starting from 2013-2014, each CNERC(HK) is provided with an annual funding up to HK\$5 million through ITF on an annual reimbursement basis for enhancing its R&D capabilities and collaboration with the Mainland.²¹ While the above funding support will expire after 31 March 2019, CE proposed in her 2018 Policy Address to increase the funding support for each CNERC(HK) to HK\$10 million each year.

Technology transfer offices of designated universities

44. Starting from 2013-2014, TTOs of six designated universities²² are each provided with an annual funding of up to HK\$4 million through ITF on an annual reimbursement basis to enhance their work, including technology transfer and realization of R&D results, building up the necessary professional support services such as contract negotiation, protection of intellectual property ("IP"), financial management and promotional and relevant marketing activities, etc., and facilitating liaison and collaboration with the research community and industry locally, in the Mainland and overseas.

45. While the above funding support will expire after 31 March 2019, CE proposed in her 2018 Policy Address to increase the funding support for TTO of each designated university to the ceiling of HK\$8 million each year.

²⁰ To better suit the needs of SKLs which have already passed the initial establishment stage and no longer need to purchase equipment every year, a maximum of 30% of the funding is allowed to be used for consumables starting from 2016-2017.

²¹ Similar to SKLs, a maximum of 30% of the funding is allowed to be used for consumables starting from 2016-2017.

²² See footnote 9 above for the list of designated universities.

Research clusters at the Hong Kong Science Park

46. In July 2018, FC approved an injection of HK\$10 billion into ITF to provide funding support for setting up two research clusters at the Hong Kong Science Park, namely "Health@InnoHK" that focuses on healthcare technologies and "AIR@InnoHK" that focuses on artificial intelligence/robotics technologies. The two research clusters aim to attract top research institutions and technology enterprises to come to Hong Kong and pool technology talent from different places. The aforesaid HK\$10 billion will provide financial support on the capital expenditure, operation costs and R&D activities of the research centres/laboratories established by non-profit-making institutions and universities in the research clusters.

47. The Administration intended to admit around four to five research centres/laboratories in each cluster in the first year, gradually increasing to around 10 in the following few years. The first batch of research institutions may move into the two clusters in the second half of 2019.

Previous discussions on the support programmes of the Innovation and Technology Fund

48. At the Panel meeting on 19 January 2016, the Administration sought members' support to continue the funding support for TTOs, SKLs and CNERCs(HK) for three years up to 2018-2019. Members' major views and concerns are summarized in the ensuing paragraphs.

Expenditure of the funded research centres/laboratories and university technology transfer offices

49. Members enquired about the amount of R&D expenditure and overall expenditure of TTOs, SKLs and CNERCs(HK) covered by the ITF funding. The Administration advised that the constitution of ITF funding of the overall expenditure of a TTO ranged from 15% to 60%. As for SKLs and CNERCs(HK), the precise percentage constituted by the ITF funding was not available because R&D projects in these institutions might be funded by Research Grant Council ("RGC") and ITF, etc. In a past exercise, it was found that the annual operating expenditure (excluding R&D expenditure) of a SKL amounted to approximately HK\$8 million. The Administration thus considered the annual funding of HK\$5 million to each SKL substantial.

Control mechanism

50. In response to members' concern on the control mechanism on granting funding support to SKLs and CNERCs(HK), the Administration advised that a stringent control mechanism on the use of funding was in place. Finance Offices

of the hosting universities of SKLs and CNERCs(HK) would certify the claims of expenses and submit them to the Innovation and Technology Commission ("ITC") for verification before funding was released by reimbursement.

51. As for TTOs, members were concerned whether the Administration was informed about their use of ITF funding, and whether their performance was assessed. The Administration advised that TTOs were required to submit information to ITC annually, including the expenses on and number of patent applications filed, number of patent applications granted, number of patents licensed, income generated from IP rights of patents licensed, and the number of spin-off companies of universities set up as a result of technology transfer outcomes, etc.

Use of profit from commercialization of research and development results

52. Some members further enquired whether the Administration had any guidelines for TTOs regarding the use of profit from commercialization of R&D results such as licensed patents. As the ITF funding to TTOs was public money, members held that the Administration should be well informed of how the profit from funded projects was used and that the relevant information should be made public.

53. The Administration advised that the universities were not required to return the profit generated from R&D results to the Government. While the use of such profit varied from universities, the universities had drawn up their own requirements on how much of the profit should be invested back to the universities, the related R&D team and personnel.

Assessment mechanism for State Key Laboratories and Hong Kong Branches of Chinese National Engineering Research Centres

54. Some members sought clarification on whether the inclusion or removal of Hong Kong laboratories and research institutions from the lists of SKLs and CNERCs(HK) were solely decided by MOST. They particularly asked whether an assessment mechanism was in place to assess the capabilities of Hong Kong laboratories and research institutions before they could be recognized as SKLs or CNERCs(HK).

55. The Administration advised that while MOST made the final decision on which Hong Kong laboratories and research institutions would be designated as SKLs and CNERCs(HK), MOST would first consider the recommendations prepared by an assessment panel in Hong Kong (consisting of local and overseas experts) set up with the assistance of RGC.

56. As for the key difference in the roles of SKLs and CNERCs(HK), the Administration advised that SKLs engaged in upstream R&D while CNERCs(HK) focused on downstream R&D and technology application.

Latest position

57. The Administration will brief the Panel on 15 January 2019 on the progress of ITF, and seek members' support for enhancing the funding support for TTOs of designated universities, SKLs, CNERCs(HK), and TSSSU under ITF.

Relevant papers

58. A list of relevant papers is shown in the **Appendix II**.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
11 January 2019

Innovation and Technology Fund
Statistics of Approved Projects (as at 31 October 2018)

	Funding scheme¹	Approved projects	Funds approved (HK\$ million)
1	Innovation and Technology Support Programme	2,603	9,145.5
2	University-Industry Collaboration Programme	347	424.8
3	Enterprise Support Scheme ("ESS")	61	192.4
4	Research and Development Cash Rebate Scheme (Since April 2016)	209 ²	241.0
5	Midstream Research Programme	8	33.6
6	Public Sector Trial Scheme	189	310.3
7	Technology Voucher Programme	827	113.7
8	Internship Programme	3,628	844.0
9	Postdoctoral Hub Programme	205	96.4
10	Reindustrialisation and Technology Training Programme (as at 15 October 2018)	34	0.68
11	General Support Programme	204	300.9
12	Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme (replaced by ESS since 2015)	412	503.6

¹ As for the Technology Start-up Support Scheme for Universities, there are a total of 169 approved applications with a total funding amount of about HK\$65.57 million (from 2014-2015 to 2016-2017). The above table does not include statistics of approved projects for the Innovation and Technology Venture Fund and the Patent Application Grant.

² It refers to the number of partnership projects only.

List of relevant papers

Date of meeting	Meeting	Paper
19/1/2016	Panel on Commerce and Industry	<p>Administration's paper on "Continuing the Funding Support for Technology Transfer Offices of Local Universities, Partner State Key Laboratories and Hong Kong Branches of Chinese National Engineering Research Centres through the Innovation and Technology Fund after 2015-16" (LC Paper No. CB(1)436/15-16(06))</p> <p>Background brief on the funding support for Technology Transfer Offices of local universities, Partner State Key Laboratories, and Hong Kong Branches of Chinese National Engineering Research Centres through the Innovation and Technology Fund prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (LC Paper No. CB(1)436/15-16(07))</p> <p>Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. CB(1)665/15-16)</p>
20/12/2016	Panel on Commerce and Industry	<p>Administration's paper on "Technology Start-up Support Scheme for Universities" (LC Paper No. CB(1)311/16-17(07))</p> <p>Background brief on the Technology Start-up Support Scheme for Universities prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (LC Paper No. CB(1)311/16-17(08))</p> <p>Administration's follow-up papers on "Technology Start-up Support Scheme for Universities" (LC Paper No. CB(1)979/16-17(01))</p> <p>Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. CB(1)462/16-17)</p>

Date of meeting	Meeting	Paper
20/3/2018	Panel on Commerce and Industry	<p>Administration's paper on "Injection into the Innovation and Technology Fund" (LC Paper No. CB(1)684/17-18(05))</p> <p>Updated background brief on the initiatives for promotion of innovation and technology under the Innovation and Technology Fund prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (LC Paper No. CB(1)684/17-18(06))</p> <p>Administration's follow-up papers on "Injection into the Innovation and Technology Fund" (LC Paper No. CB(1)1189/17-18(01))</p> <p>Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. CB(1)1098/17-18)</p>
28/3/2018	Council	Question No. 1 on "Technology Voucher Programme" raised by Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan (Hansard) (page 7836 – 7846)
30/5/2018	Council	Question No. 20 on "Vetting and approval of applications for the various funding schemes under the Innovation and Technology Commission" raised by Hon Charles Peter MOK (Hansard) (page 11110 – 11113)
7/7/2018 & 13/7/2018	Finance Committee	Administration's paper on "Innovation and Technology Fund and Capital Investment Fund" (FCR(2018-19)38)