

**15 June 2026
For Discussion**

**Legislative Council
Subcommittee on Matters Relating to the
Development of Artificial Intelligence and Robotics**

**Overview of the Development of Artificial Intelligence
and Robotics in Hong Kong**

Purpose

This paper aims to report on the development of artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics technology in Hong Kong.

Background

2. AI and robotics are driving global technological innovation, industrial upgrading and social development, and have become key engines for cultivating new quality productive forces. The development of AI has transitioned from large language models towards embodied intelligence capable of interacting with the physical world, and technological and application innovations across various platforms (such as robots) are constantly evolving, bringing about fundamental changes to production processes, business operations and even lifestyles.

3. The “Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Development Blueprint” (the Blueprint) advocates enhancing the innovation and technology (I&T) ecosystem and advancing Hong Kong’s “New Industrialisation” as key directions. It also identifies “AI and Data Science” and “Advanced Manufacturing and New Energy Technologies” as priority sectors for focused development. The Blueprint is currently guiding the setting of development strategies and policy directions, enabling Hong Kong to fully seize the opportunities presented by AI and robotics-related technological transformations, promote the wider integration of AI and robotics technologies into economic and social development, and thereby facilitate industrial transformation and the development of a smart city.

4. Since the establishment of the current-term administration, the Government has made systematic plans and proactive implementation strategies

for Hong Kong's AI development under a multi-pronged approach, encompassing policy, governance, scientific research and innovation, application scenarios, computing power infrastructure, talent cultivation and capital investment. Meanwhile, robotics technology as a key extension and practical application of AI is also gradually integrated into Hong Kong's industrial development. The latest developments regarding these efforts are outlined below.

Industries for AI and AI for Industries

5. The strategic focus of the local AI and robotics technology development lies in AI empowerment (AI+). On one hand, this creates conditions for the scientific research, transformation of outcomes and industrial development in local AI and robotics, driving AI as a core industry for Hong Kong's future development ("Industries for AI"). On the other hand, we promote the practical application of AI across various industries and public services ("AI for industries"), using industry-specific application scenarios to drive the development of AI+ and robotics technologies. This includes encouraging the wider adoption of smart equipment, automation systems and human-machine collaboration solutions in traditional industries and public services, thereby driving industrial upgrading.

6. The national "15th Five-Year Plan Outline" mentions leveraging the AI to drive economic and social development, promoting the deep integration of AI with scientific and technological innovation, industrial development and social governance. It also explicitly designates robotics as a strategic emerging industry, supports embodied intelligence as a new driver of economic growth, and encourages exploration of related technological innovation. The HKSAR Government's overarching approach to promote the development of AI+ and robotics technologies is closely aligned with the national framework.

7. Currently, the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTP) and Cyberport campuses are home to nearly 1 000 AI and robotics-related enterprises and start-ups, while more than 40% of the 80 companies currently based in the Hong Kong Park in the Loop are engaged in AI and robotics-related business or research. Furthermore, the Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau (ITIB) has to date facilitated over 200 AI and robotics-related enterprises to develop, set up or expand their businesses in Hong Kong. Hong Kong will continue to implement the development strategy of "promoting technology with talents, leading industries with technology, and attracting talents with industries" approach, to promote the development of local AI and robotics technologies.

Innovation, Research and Development, and Commercialisation

8. The foundation of AI and robotics development lies in research and development (R&D) and technological innovation. Through the InnoHK Platform, we nurture an ecosystem conducive to breakthrough in AI and robotics technologies and transformation of their applications. The platform has so far funded 16 AI and robotics-related R&D laboratories, driving scientific research and attracting around 1,200 world-class talents, including R&D centres focusing on robotics technologies for applications in sectors such as healthcare, logistics, smart manufacturing and construction. Among them, the multi-functional lunar rover developed by the “Hong Kong Space Robotics and Energy Centre” has entered the preliminary prototype testing phase for spacecraft. This technology is expected to be extended to terrestrial applications and may eventually contribute to the nation’s space missions.

9. In respect of transformation of R&D outcomes, the **“RAISe+ Scheme”** unlocks the potential for transformation and commercialisation of research outcomes from local universities and fosters collaboration among the Government, industries, universities and the research community. To date, the scheme has completed three rounds of applications, supporting a total of 73 projects, 22 of which are related to AI and robotics, covering AI applications in areas such as supply chain management, healthcare and visual sensors. Furthermore, the R&D Centres under the Innovation and Technology Commission have been conducting industry-led and market-driven R&D that addresses market needs. Through contract research or licensing arrangements, they transfer technologies to the industry to **facilitate the transformation of R&D outcomes**.

10. Meanwhile, the **Hong Kong Artificial Intelligence Research and Development Institute (AIRDI)**, wholly owned by the Government, has established its Board of Directors earlier this year and will commence operation in the second half of this year. It will advance frontier AI research in Hong Kong, promote the integration of AI technology in key industries and the transformation of research outcomes, and establish platform that facilitate the matching of AI solutions with industry needs, thereby driving the commercialisation of AI R&D results. Furthermore, the AIRDI will advise the Government on matters such as AI governance and infrastructure planning, whilst fostering international exchange and cooperation and attracting talent, thereby enhancing Hong Kong’s AI ecosystem in a more systematic manner.

Industry Applications and Enterprise Support

11. Various local R&D and supporting organisations are encouraging enterprises to adopt AI and robotics technologies in their operations. For example, the Hong Kong Industrial AI and Robotics Centre under the **Hong Kong Productivity Council** (HKPC) focuses on the development of industrial AI and robotics technologies and commercialisation, developing projects covering logistics, automated assembly and product quality inspection, thereby enhancing enterprises' production capacity and data-driven management capabilities. Meanwhile, the **Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute** (ASTRI) focuses its R&D efforts on AI and big data, as well as intelligent perception and control. Its research outcomes span areas such as smart city, advanced manufacturing and intelligent equipment, helping enterprises strengthen their capabilities in key technologies such as visual inspection, predictive maintenance and autonomous system control, thereby further broadening the depth of AI and robotics applications within local industries.

12. To accelerate downstream industrial development, the “**New Industrialisation Acceleration Scheme**” (NIAS) provides matching grants for enterprises engaging in industries of strategic importance (including AI) to set up new smart production facilities in Hong Kong. This aims to introduce advanced manufacturing technologies and expertise for relevant products, thereby driving the development of Hong Kong's new industries and the diversification of the real economy. The application threshold for the NIAS was relaxed in November 2025, with the minimum total project cost requirement reduced from \$300 million to \$150 million. It also provides matching grants for the recruitment of research talent and relevant technical personnel.

13. In terms of enterprise support, the Government has consistently supported enterprises in conducting R&D and technology transfer for AI-related applications through the **Innovation and Technology Fund**. As of end-April 2026, the Fund had funded over 390 AI-related projects involving a total funding of around \$1.1 billion, driving R&D and technology transfer in AI, including support for the application of robots, automated equipment and smart systems across various industries, thereby promoting the upgrading of production processes and the adoption of human-machine collaboration. We also plan to launch the \$10 billion “**Innovation and Technology Industry-Oriented Fund**” within the year to actively guide market investment into emerging and future industries of strategic importance, including AI.

14. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are a vital pillar of Hong Kong's economy. The Government plans to launch an enhanced version of the

“Digital Transformation Support Pilot Scheme” (DTSPP), with a budget of \$300 million, after consultation with the Legislative Council this year. The DTSPP will focus on supporting SMEs in utilising off-the-shelf AI and cybersecurity solutions to help them upgrade, transform and enhance their competitiveness in the AI era. Meanwhile, the Digital Policy Office (DPO), in collaboration with the Hong Kong Internet Registration Corporation Limited, will launch the **“Safe AI@Workplace Empowerment Programme”** in mid-2026 to proactively assist local SMEs and public and private sector organisations in applying AI more safely in the workplace. The programme will also provide practical information such as case studies and assessment checklists to enhance security awareness regarding AI applications across all sectors of society.

15. Furthermore, the Government is moving forward with the establishment of the **“Committee on AI+ and Industry Development Strategy”** to formulate strategies for AI-driven industrial transformation and development, and to create favourable conditions. Initially, the focus will be on embodied intelligence and life sciences. The Government is currently carrying out preparatory work with a view to commencing the Committee’s work as soon as possible.

Computing Infrastructure

16. Robust digital infrastructure and computing resources are essential for driving the R&D and practical application of AI and robotics technologies. Currently, the **total computing power** in Hong Kong has reached 5 000 petaflops per seconds (PFLOPS), including that of Cyberport’s Artificial Intelligence Supercomputing Centre (AISC). The Sandy Ridge Data Facility Cluster, which has entered the construction phase, is expected to provide 180 000 PFLOPS of computing power by 2032, equivalent to 36 times Hong Kong’s current computing capacity, providing vital support for the key elements required for the development of AI and robotics in Hong Kong such as data and computing power.

17. In addition, in October 2024, the Government launched a \$3 billion **“Artificial Intelligence Subsidy Scheme”**, primarily to subsidise eligible users such as local universities, R&D institutions and enterprises in accessing the computing power of the AISC to drive scientific breakthrough. To date, the AISS has approved over 30 projects led by local universities, R&D institutions, technology or start-up enterprises and Government departments, covering areas such as local large language models, new materials, synthetic biology, medical large models and embodied AI, thereby providing support for AI R&D and application.

Governance and Regulation

18. While promoting the widespread application of AI technology (including the related robotics technology) across various sectors, the Government is committed to **establishing a robust governance and regulatory framework** to ensure that technological development progresses under the premise of safety and compliance, in a bid to safeguard the interests of AI users and promoting the sustainable development of AI.

19. The DPO has already developed “**Ethical Artificial Intelligence Framework**” and the “**Hong Kong Generative Artificial Intelligence Technical and Application Guideline**” to provide guidance for projects involving the development and application of AI technologies. These documents cover ethical principles, governance frameworks and risk assessment for AI, assisting in the identification and management of potential risks and key considerations in AI projects (such as system security and robustness, personal privacy, data security and management, etc.). As AI forms the foundation of intelligent robots and embodied intelligence technologies, most of the core principles and ethical standards on AI are applicable to AI robotics technology projects.

20. In light of the continuous evolution of AI technology and the increasing diversity of application scenarios, the Government regularly **examines key issues such as AI risks, safe application and governance standards to enhance the foresight and relevance of AI governance rules**. This ensures that Hong Kong’s regulatory framework for AI development aligns with national and international trends and cater for the local practical needs, and thus promote the healthy and orderly development of AI in Hong Kong.

21. With regard to robotics and embodied intelligence, although there is currently no specific legislation in Hong Kong governing the development or application of related technologies, all organisations and individuals must comply with the existing rules and regulations applicable to the sectors or scenarios concerned. At the same time, the Government will **examine the safety, liability and regulatory requirements involved in the application of robots and embodied intelligence, taking into account different scenarios, forms and risk characteristics**, with a view to striking a balance between promoting innovation and mitigating risks.

22. To evaluate whether the laws under different policy areas can keep pace with technological developments including AI, the Secretary for Justice convened a steering committee meeting in March this year for the establishment of the

Inter-Departmental Working Group to Review Legislation to Support Wider Application of AI. Establishing a Working Group with its core members comprising representatives from different policy bureaux and government departments (B/Ds) is crucial for addressing issues arising from the rapid development and widespread application of AI. At present, various B/Ds have already commenced studies on their respective policies or work purview. The goal is to conduct a comprehensive and in-depth review of existing laws to identify loopholes or deficiencies, before exploring targeted and practicable solutions (including considering the need for, and feasibility of, enacting bespoke legislation or implementing administrative measures) in light of Hong Kong’s actual circumstances.

“AI for All”

23. Promoting the widespread adoption and understanding of AI is key to ensuring the inclusive development of AI and enhancing digital and intelligent capabilities. The 2026-27 Budget has allocated \$50 million to implement the **“AI for All” Inclusive Programme**, inviting three public organisations (Cyberport, HKSTP and HKPC) to collaborate with technology enterprises and academic institutions to organise a variety of activities, including AI application courses, seminars, workshops, practical training, internships and competitions and through collaboration with various sectors, with a view to enhancing the AI awareness, application skills and responsible use of AI among students, young people, SMEs, working professionals, parents, the elderly and vulnerable groups. The programme covers the 2026-27 and 2027-28 financial years, with plans to organise over 200 events. These activities are expected to be rolled out progressively from this summer.

24. In addition, we launched **“AI Masterclass”** in early May on free television channel at prime time, bringing AI education into every household. The eight-episode series **“AI Masterclass”** invites a range of experts and leading academic luminaries as speakers who transform complex technological knowledge into easy-to-understand content, covering the evolution of AI, how it integrates into daily life, and its role in supporting employment and entrepreneurship, enhancing public awareness of the safe application, as well as future trends and opportunities of AI.

25. As the design, deployment and use of robotic systems rely heavily on interdisciplinary capabilities such as AI, data, sensors, control engineering and scene understanding, the **“AI for All”** outreach initiative, whilst centred on AI, can also establish a broader social foundation for robotics technology. This supports the development of emerging fields such as embodied intelligence,

medical robotics and smart manufacturing, while also helping to foster a social culture of responsible development and use of new technologies.

Mainland Cooperation and External Exchange

26. In the development of AI and robotics technologies, Hong Kong is continuously strengthening exchanges and collaborative partnerships with the Mainland and overseas through various existing platforms and projects. **InnoHK** brings together a number of laboratories co-organised with leading overseas universities and research institutions, covering areas such as generative AI, medical image analysis, robot control and human-computer interaction. With research team members from various universities both locally and overseas, this helps Hong Kong maintain close ties with the international frontier fields such as algorithms, large-scale models, medical AI and intelligent robots.

27. With regard to cooperation with the Chinese Mainland, the Government, through the “**Mainland-Hong Kong Technology Cooperation Funding Scheme**”, provides joint funding with the Chinese Mainland authorities to encourage applied research collaboration projects between universities, research institutions and technology enterprises in both places, including research into AI and robotics-related technologies. Furthermore, the Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau signed a **Memorandum of Understanding on Co-operation in Innovation and Technology Development** with the Cyberspace Administration of China in April this year, covering areas such as promotion of AI and cross-boundary data flow, with a view to thoroughly implementing the National 15th Five-Year Plan and the “AI+” initiative, supporting Hong Kong in building itself into an international innovation and technology hub, and helping Hong Kong to better integrate into and serve the overall national development.

28. Meanwhile, the **incubation programme for Hong Kong Park in the Loop** was officially launched on 30 March this year. The programme collaborates with leading incubation platforms, focusing on two key areas including life and health technology, and AI and data science. By integrating industry resources, technology platforms, mentor networks, and global markets as well as financing and investment networks, the programme provides selected start-ups with end-to-end support across R&D, validation and commercialisation, thereby injecting fresh I&T momentum into the Hetao Co-operation Zone and promoting high-quality economic development in Hong Kong. During the application period last year, the programme received over 750 applications, from which 108 highly promising start-ups were shortlisted, including approximately 40 AI companies.

Way Forward

29. The Government will continue to enhance the development of the AI ecosystem, promoting the deep integration of AI and robotics technology, and industrial innovation, while proactively aligning with the national 15th Five-Year Plan, to contribute to the development of new-quality productive forces of the country.

30. We will also engage the Subcommittee at later meetings, in conjunction with relevant B/Ds, to discuss issues such as the industrial applications of AI and robotics, educational strategies, and workforce training, as well as relevant governance frameworks and legal regulations.

Advice Sought

31. Members are invited to note the content of this paper and provide their views on the overall direction of AI and robotics technology development in Hong Kong.

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