

Business Facilitation Advisory Committee
Wholesale and Retail Task Force
Food Business and Related Services Task Force
Task Force on Business Liaison Groups

**Brief Introduction of Pilot Manufacturing and Production Line
Upgrade Support Scheme (“Manufacturing+”)**

Purpose

The paper aims to introduce the new funding scheme of Pilot Manufacturing and Production Line Upgrade Support Scheme (Manufacturing+) under the Innovation and Technology Fund.

Objective

2. Launched in November 2025, Manufacturing+ aims to support enterprises carrying out manufacturing operations or running production lines¹ in Hong Kong in formulating **smart production strategies and introducing advanced technologies into their existing manufacturing operations or production lines.**

¹ Manufacturing includes the physical or chemical transformation of materials, substances, or components into new products. Substantial alteration, renovation and reconstruction of goods are generally considered to be manufacturing. Also included in this industry sector is specialised repair and maintenance of industrial and commercial machinery and equipment. Please refer to Section C – Manufacturing in the Hong Kong Standard Industrial Classification (HSIC) Version 2.0 or any more updated version (if applicable) published by Census and Statistics Department for the economic activities classified as manufacturing (https://www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/data/stat_report/product/B2XX0005/att/B2XX0004012008XXXXB0300.pdf).

For the avoidance of doubt, production line refers arrangement/combination of machinery, equipment, apparatus, installations, etc. for carrying out manufacturing operations.

Eligibility

3. Entities applying for funding under Manufacturing+ must be a manufacturing enterprise fulfilling the following eligibility requirements:

(a)(i) is **registered in Hong Kong** under the **Business Registration Ordinance** (Cap. 310) (“BRO”); or

(a)(ii) is **incorporated and registered in Hong Kong** under the **Companies Ordinance** (Cap. 622);

AND

(b) is **neither** a listed company in Hong Kong **nor** a government subvented organisation² or subsidiary of any government subvented organisation;

AND

(c) **carries out manufacturing operation or runs one or more production lines for at least one year in Hong Kong** and the manufacturing operations or production lines are related to the project under the application³.

Funding Scope

4. Manufacturing+ supports projects in the form of adopting smart manufacturing technologies in upgrading the manufacturing operation or production line. The funding could be used to cover costs in advisory and strategic planning consultancy, procurement and installation of equipment, as well as coaching services. Applicants could propose other relevant smart manufacturing technological services and solutions which could achieve the objectives of Manufacturing+.

² Government subvented organisation means organisation that receives subvention from the Government on a recurrent basis. The subvention contributes towards the organisation's operational expenses, in exchange for its service to the public. The recurrent subvention may account for the bulk of the organisation's income or may just be a token contribution/sponsorship forming a small percentage of the organisation's total income.

³ For the avoidance of doubt, manufacturing operation or production line of applicants fulfilling requirements in paragraph 3(a)(i), 3(a)(ii) and 3(b) but located outside Hong Kong are not eligible for funding under Manufacturing+. The applicant must provide documentary evidence proving the location of its manufacturing operation/production line in Hong Kong.

Funding Amount

5. Funding of up to HK\$250,000 for each eligible entity will be provided on a 1 (Government) : 2 (Enterprise) matching basis.

Application Procedures

6. Manufacturing+ is open for applications throughout the year. Applicants should submit their applications through the Manufacturing+ dedicated website (<https://mplus-eproc.itf.gov.hk/>) after completing the necessary e-procurement procedure on the same website. Applicants should study the Guidance Notes for Applications (please refer to <https://www.itf.gov.hk/en/funding-programmes/promoting-new-industrialisation/new-industrialisation-support-scheme/manufacturing-plus/index.html>) before submitting their application and may contact the Secretariat (Tel: 2788 5346; email: mplus-enquiry@hkpc.org) for assistance if they encounter difficulties in e-procurement or submitting applications.

Project Duration

7. Normally within 12 months.

Assessment Criteria

8. Each eligible application will be assessed based on individual merits and considered on a case-by-case basis. The assessment criteria of Manufacturing+ projects include –

- (a) **relevance of the proposed project to the applicant's manufacturing operation or production line** – the equipment/hardware/software should be directly applied to the manufacturing operation or production line and the services should be related to the integration of the equipment/hardware/software with the manufacturing operation or production line;
- (b) **reasonableness of the budget** – assessment with reference to market prices of the smart manufacturing technologies in question

as known to the Committee or the Secretariat will be made. Individual items of expenditure must also be essential and directly related to the implementation of the project;

- (c) **reasonableness of the implementation details** – consideration may include whether concrete project deliverables and outcomes have been set. The implementation details should also be realistic taking into account factors such as the complexity of the smart manufacturing technology and the project duration;
- (d) **achieving smart manufacturing** – the technologies in the proposal should be able to achieve “smart manufacturing”, i.e. the integrated and intelligent use of “smart” technologies such as:
 - Internet of Things
 - Real-time data acquisition
 - Application of data analytics
 - Application of advanced human-machine interfaces
 - Artificial intelligence/machine learning/deep learning
 - Automation and robotics
 - Sustainable technology
 - Sensors and actuators

etc. in the production process;

- (e) **economic benefits** – the project should lead to quantifiable saving such as less manpower or lower utility costs, or quantifiable growth such as improved productivity and product quality, diversified product range, etc.; and
- (f) **adverse record of consultants and/or service provider(s)** as known to the Committee and the Secretariat if available.

Way Forward

9. Members are invited to note the content of this paper.