

ANNEX A-4: STRENGTHENING SUPPORT FOR FIRMS TO INNOVATE, SCALE UP AND INTERNATIONALISE

A*STAR Support for Innovation

To support firms in their efforts to innovate, A*STAR will embark on the following efforts:

(A) Operation and Technology Road-mapping

A*STAR will scale up its Operation and Technology Road-mapping initiative to help local firms develop strategic technology roadmaps that are aligned to their business goals and strategies. It will build up capacity to support 400 companies over the next four years, by partnering Trade Associations and Chambers such as the Singapore Manufacturing Federation and Singapore Precision Engineering and Technology Association.

(B) Headstart Programme

Under the Headstart programme, SMEs that enter into a Research Collaboration Agreement with A*STAR can enjoy royalty-free and exclusive IP licenses for 18 months in the first instance. With immediate effect, A*STAR will extend this to 36 months.

(C) Tech Access Initiative

To support companies in the use of advanced machine tools for prototyping and testing, A*STAR will provide access to its installed base of specialised equipment. The available equipment may range from inspection tools to more advanced equipment such as robotised 3D scanners and high pressure cold sprays for additive manufacturing. Firms will be trained to use the equipment.

Further details of the scheme, such as the list of Tech Access equipment, will be made available on A*STAR's website by September 2017.

More information

For more information on A*STAR's support for innovation, please contact A*STAR at A-STAR_SME@a-star.edu.sg.

International Partnership Fund

To support Singapore-based firms to scale up and internationalise, the Government will set aside up to \$600 million for the International Partnership Fund. The Fund will co-invest alongside Singapore-based firms in opportunities for scale-up and internationalisation, with a focus on Asian markets. Such joint investment would allow Singapore-based firms to partner other promising Asian companies to extend product lines, brands or value chains, or to gain access to markets, channels and technologies.

Qualifying Singapore-based firms should be headquartered in Singapore with annual revenues of no higher than \$800 million.

More information

The International Partnership Fund will be managed by Heliconia Capital Management Pte Ltd. Interested companies may contact Heliconia at enquiries@heliconiacapital.com for more information.