

Organisers:



HSBC x HKET Innovative Business Award 2019

Recognising businesses that thrive
through innovation and technology



Lead Partners:



Technical Partner:



Supporting Organisations:



Overview

Organised by HSBC Commercial Banking and Hong Kong Economic Times (“HKET”), the **HSBC x HKET Innovative Business Award (the “Award”)** was first launched in 2018 to recognise Hong Kong businesses which have broadened their horizons to achieve ground-breaking success through innovation and technology. Entering its second year, the Award aims to inspire and encourage local SMEs and startups to embrace creativity and technology in building new and sustainable business models, elevating their competitiveness in the market, and driving prosperous long-term growth.

Objectives

1. Promote a culture of entrepreneurship and continuous innovation across businesses.
2. Recognise the outstanding achievements of Hong Kong SMEs and startups in embracing technology; adopting innovative business models, products and/or services; or achieving technological breakthroughs.
3. Encourage the use of technology and innovation for new business development.

Award Categories and Prizes

Categories	Awards	Prizes
Innovative SME	Innovative SME Award – Gold (1 winner)	HK\$300,000 worth of advertisements on HKET* and a trophy
	Innovative SME Award – Silver (1 winner)	HK\$120,000 worth of advertisements on HKET* and a trophy
	Innovative SME Award – Bronze (1 winner)	HK\$80,000 worth of advertisements on HKET* and a trophy
Innovative Startup	Innovative Startup Award – Gold (1 winner)	A cash prize of HK\$300,000 and a trophy
	Innovative Startup Award – Silver (1 winner)	A cash prize of HK\$120,000 and a trophy
	Innovative Startup Award – Bronze (1 winner)	A cash prize of HK\$80,000 and a trophy

Each eligible applicant company will be entitled to:

- (1) 3-month free subscription to [hket.com](https://www.hket.com), which will be governed by the terms and conditions set by HKET.
- (2) Free attendance to a networking session on 9 August 2019 organised by the Hong Kong Productivity Council. Details will be shared with the applicants in late July / early August 2019 via email.

*The advertisements refer to designated HKET promotion platforms including printed and online (<https://www.hket.com>) platforms, iMoney printed and online (<https://imoney.hket.com>) platforms, and e-zone printed and online (<https://ezone.ulifestyle.com.hk>) platforms. The advertisements and HKET platforms are governed by the terms and conditions set by HKET.

Eligibility

Innovative SME

1. Companies registered in Hong Kong* before 19 July 2014, which have been established for more than five years with solid business operations.
2. All types of businesses are eligible including technology companies; companies from emerging industries; companies with evidence of successful business transformation via technology and innovation; and companies that have invented new products, services or business models.
3. Companies registered with the HKSAR Government that hold all valid permits and licenses required or necessary for their businesses and operations.
4. Companies that have attained a minimum turnover of HK\$5 million in the latest financial year.
5. Listed companies and their subsidiary companies are not eligible to join.

Innovative Startup

1. Companies registered in Hong Kong* on or after 19 July 2014, which have been established for five years or less with solid business operations.
2. All types of businesses are eligible including technology companies; companies from emerging industries; companies with evidence of successful business transformation via technology and innovation; and companies that have invented new products, services or business models.
3. Companies registered with the HKSAR Government that hold all valid permits and licenses required or necessary for their businesses and operations.
4. The representative must be a company founder that currently holds an active managerial and/or operational role in the company.

*Determined by the date of incorporation on Certificate of Incorporation (applicable to incorporated limited company only) or Certified Extract of Information on the Business Register (applicable to non-incorporated limited companies only).

Application Method

1. Companies must submit an online application via the Award website successfully **on or before 6pm, 19 July 2019**.
2. The following items are required in the submission:
 - Duplicate copies of Hong Kong company registration, and all valid permits and licenses required or necessary for their businesses and activities, e.g. Business Registration Certificate
 - Duplicate copies of the Certificate of Incorporation and Business Registration Certificate (applicable to limited company only), duplicate copies of the Certificate Extract of Information on the Business Register, or any other documents issued by the HKSAR Government as proof of the applicant company's date of incorporation
 - Founder information for "Innovative Startup"
 - Details about the innovative product, service, business model or process
 - Details about the innovative practice, proprietary technology or application of the kind of technology that boosts efficiency, reduces cost, or significantly contributes to income
 - Duplicate copies of the latest tax return(s) and tax bills, and audited accounts (if statutory audit is required) or financial statements of the previous year

Selection Process

19 July 2019

On or before 6pm

Site Visit

2 October 2019

18 October 2019

15 November 2019

1. Companies must submit applications by the mentioned deadline (see "Application Method"); if the companies have been requested to provide any supplementary information, they must provide the supplementary information by the designated deadline.
2. The technical partner may visit the shortlisted companies for a better understanding of the operations if necessary.
3. All first-round shortlisted companies must attend the first interview on **2 October 2019**.
4. All finalists must attend the final interview on **18 October 2019**.
5. All winners will be notified separately and will be invited to join the Award presentation ceremony on **15 November 2019**.

Judging Criteria

	Innovative SME	Innovative Startup
Degree of innovation Innovation in product, service, business model or process	35%	50%
Application of technology Use of technology or application in product, service, business model or process with clear evidence of improved efficiency, reduced cost, or significant contribution to income	25%	30%
Market positioning and competitive edge Market positioning and competitiveness of products or services in the market	20%	10%
Commercial viability Financial viability, sustainability and scalability of the business	20%	10%

For Information or Enquiries

Hong Kong Economic Times
"Innovative Business Award 2019" Secretariat

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