

HKAI Global Acceleration Program

APPLICATION INFORMATION KIT

Empowering Startups

HKAI LAB offers a 12-month HKAI Global Acceleration Program that takes your startup to the next level.

We focus on empowering startups to develop and commercialize their AI inventions and technologies.

WHAT we offer

1. Financial Support and Investor Network
 - Selected companies may be evaluated for funding support by the Alibaba Hong Kong Entrepreneurs Fund (AHKEF) and/or SenseTime (investment is not guaranteed).
 - Access to our extensive investor network to diversify funding sources.
2. Access to Proprietary AI Technologies
 - Technical consultation and support from SenseTime, Alibaba Cloud, and Alibaba DAMO Academy teams.
 - Complimentary cloud credits and LLM tokens from our strategic partners to accelerate AI development.
3. Mentorship, Network, and Opportunities
 - Mentorship and coaching from industry experts to enhance business strategy, technology, and growth.
 - Exposure to government and corporate partners via our events.
 - Opportunity for direct admission to the CityU HK Tech 300 Program (subject to fulfilling program requirements).
4. Dedicated Support & Resources
 - High-performance computer resources equipped with GPUs are available for R&D purposes only.
 - Comprehensive support in technical areas, marketing, talent acquisition, and business development is provided.
 - Free workspace at the Hong Kong Science Park is available for the duration of the 12-month program, supported by HKSTP.
5. An exclusive pathway to HKAI Lab x HKSTP Co-Ideation Programme*
 - One is considered applying for both the **HKAI Global Acceleration Programme** and the **HKAI Lab x HKSTP Co-Ideation Programme** without requiring a separate application. The Co-Ideation Programme includes a financial grant of up to HKD 100,000 and other support. More information is available at: Ideation Programme.

Remarks:

*HKAI Lab x HKSTP Co-Ideation Programme

Once you submit your application through the portal, you will be considered as applying for both the **HKAI Global Acceleration Programme** and the **HKAI Lab x HKSTP Co-Ideation Programme**. Those who are interested in HKAI Lab x HKSTP Co-Ideation Programme, please ensure to include a 3-minute pitch video URL link in your business plan proposal. Video pitch can be in English, Mandarin or Cantonese.

Eligibility (HKAI Lab x HKSTP Co-Ideation Programme)

The principal applicant (individual) must be a shareholder of the Hong Kong entity, or a future shareholder of the Hong Kong entity to be incorporated. The principal applicant's full name must match exactly with the name shown on the Hong Kong Identity Card or the passport used in the application.

- Any Hong Kong entity incorporated within 2 years is eligible. Applications with a Hong Kong entity incorporated over 2 years will be rejected.
- If the principal applicant applies with a non-Hong Kong entity, regardless of whether it is within or over 2 years of incorporation, they will be required to set up a Hong Kong entity upon admission to the Co-Ideation Programme to fulfil the MAC requirement.
- Details can be found: Ideation Application Guideline.
- Upon successful admission to the HKSTP Ideation Programme, you will receive an email confirmation from HKSTP.

Those not being accepted into the program may be invited to join our HKAI LAB community.

WHO is eligible

1. Any founder who is passionate in AI and would like to explore HK & China market.
2. Applicants can be either individuals (full name) or companies (BR registration company full name). Selected applicants are required to incorporate a Hong Kong private limited entity upon receiving our offer.
3. The company must conduct significant operations in Hong Kong. The person-in-charge of the applicant must be a shareholder of the entity to be incorporated in Hong Kong.
4. The founding team members must hold 51% or more of the company's shares.
5. The company must have at least 2 full-time staff and must engage in the research, development, or application of AI.

HOW we select

Our Selection Panel evaluates applications for the HKAI Global Acceleration Program based on the following criteria:

1. Prototype Development and Innovation
2. Established Product-Market Fit
3. Revenue Generation
4. Team Viability
5. External Investment/ Cash Funding (if applicable)

BUSINESS PLAN

A business plan (max. 10 MB, up to 20 slides, available in English/ Chinese, in PPT/PDF format)

- The business plan should include:
 - **Team Introduction**
 - ✓ Team Members' technical or business background
 - ✓ Entrepreneurial experience (if any)
 - **Product or Service Description**
 - ✓ Core value proposition
 - ✓ Market pain points addressed
 - **Technology Application and R&D**
 - ✓ R&D capabilities in the field of machine learning
 - ✓ Patents (if any)
 - **Product Demonstration (if available)**
 - ✓ Prototype product showcase
 - ✓ Technical diagrams or product videos
 - **Business Model and Market Analysis**
 - ✓ Reasons for selecting the target market
 - ✓ Market size assessment
 - ✓ Marketing and sales strategies
 - **Current Achievements**
 - ✓ Technical milestones
 - ✓ Business progress

For those who are interested in HKAI Lab x HKSTP Co-Ideation Programme must include a 3-minute pitch video URL link in your business plan.

Application Procedure

1. Online application
 - Submit the online application form with all the required information and supporting documents.
2. Paper assessment by Selection Panel based on the application materials received.
3. Interview by Selection Panel
 - Short-listed applicants will undergo an interview with the Selection Panel.
 - Short-listed applicants will be notified by email on 13 Apr 2026 for online interview date and time.
 - Online interview date is scheduled on 22 Apr 2026 tentatively.
 - Before the interview, short-listed applicants must submit all required information and supporting documents if any is missed in online application.
 - Online Interview duration for each short-listed applicant is 20 minutes (10 mins introduction based on your submitted business plan + 10 mins Q&A). The interview is conducted primarily in English or Mandarin, but Cantonese is also acceptable. However, if there have been significant updates to your business plan since its submission but before the interview, you may send us the updated version by 20 Apr 2026. Please note that last-minute updates or new business plans provided on interview day will not be accepted.
 - Selected applicants will be notified by email on 23 & 24 Apr 2026.
4. Orientation
 - Selected applicants will be contacted by email to attend the Orientation on 30 Apr 2026 tentatively.
5. HKAI Lab x HKSTP Co-Ideation Programme
 - Those who are interested in **HKAI Lab x HKSTP Co-Ideation Programme**, please ensure to include a 3-minute pitch video URL in your business plan in your submission. The short-listed applicants may be requested by HKSTP for further information.

Major Dates	
20 Mar 2026	Close of application
13 Apr 2026	Short-listed applicants be notified for online interviews (by email)
20 Apr 2026	Deadline for submission of updated business plan prior to the interview (if applicable)
22 Apr 2026	Online Interview date
23 & 24 Apr 2026	Announce the result to selected applicants (by email)
30 Apr 2026	Orientation for admitted startups

Supporting Documents required in online application form:

*Mandatory document (s)

Company documents:

1. Business Plan* (max. 10 MB, up to 20 slides, available in English/ Chinese, in PPT/PDF format)
2. Hong Kong Business Registration Certificate (if available)

Your application may be accepted even if your corporate entity in Hong Kong has not yet been registered at the time of submission. However, if you are selected to the HKAI Global Acceleration Program, you must complete the incorporation before the program begins.

Remarks:

- (1) This downloadable Information Kit is provided for the convenience of application only. All content in this document is subject to change without prior notice. Please always also refer to the information and content on the website of Hong Kong AI & Data Laboratory Limited - www.hongkongai.org (the "Site").
- (2) In the event of any discrepancy between the English version and Chinese version of this Information Kit including the names of certain company documents, the English version shall prevail and be referred to.
- (3) All content in this downloadable Information Kit is also part of the content of the Site with all rights reserved, and under the same Terms and Conditions, and Disclaimer. By participating in the HKAI Global Acceleration Program, the applicants, confirm that you have read and agreed to the HKAI Global Acceleration Program Terms and Conditions. You consent to the collection and use of the personal data by Hong Kong AI & Data Laboratory Limited in accordance with their Privacy Policy and Personal Information Collection Statement. Additionally, you acknowledge and agree that your personal data will be shared with and transferred to the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (and its authorized data processors, including but not limited to its service providers) with whom Hong Kong AI & Data Laboratory Limited will collaborate for the purposes of the HKAI Global Acceleration Program.

For any inquiries regarding the HKAI Global Acceleration Program, please email admin@hongkongai.org.