

# HKAI LAB ACCELERATOR PROGRAM

## APPLICATION INFORMATION KIT

### Empowering Startups

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

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

We run two accelerator cohorts every year.

#### WHAT we offer

1. Financial Investment
  - The selected companies are eligible to be evaluated by Alibaba Hong Kong Entrepreneurs Fund (AHKEF) and/or SenseTime to get their funding support. However, it is not a guaranteed investment.
  - Access our extensive investor network to diversify your sources of funding.
2. Access to Proprietary AI Technologies
  - High-performance computer resources equipped with GPUs are available for R&D purposes only
  - PAI, a machine-learning platform powered by Alibaba Cloud
3. Strong Advisory, Network & Opportunities
  - Knowledge sharing by a wide spectrum of advisors including AI scientists, eminent professors and technical experts
  - Exposure to venture capitalists and strategic partners through various events
  - Opportunity for admission to the Hong Kong Science Park Ideation/Incubation Programme or direct admission to the City University HK Tech 300 Seed Fund Programme\*
4. Dedicated Support & Resources
  - Free cloud service credits will be offered to eligible companies
  - Technical consultation and support from Alibaba Cloud, SenseTime and Alibaba DAMO Academy teams
  - Technical and management assistance, promotion and development assistance, and business support from HKSTP through their incubation programs
5. Office Space
  - Supported by HKSTP, office space at the Hong Kong Science Park is available for the duration of the 12-month Accelerator Program (Core activities should be R&D related).

#### Remarks:

- \* Subject to fulfill the HKSTP Programme or the City University HK Tech 300 Programme requirements
- Those not being accepted to the program may be invited to join our HKAI LAB community.

### WHO is eligible

1. Applicant could either be an individual (**FULL NAME on HKID/Passport**) or a company (**REGISTERED COMPANY NAME on BR**). Selected applicants must obtain the Hong Kong business registration before program begins.
2. Majority of the founding team members must either be Hong Kong permanent residents, or the company's meaningful operations are carried out in Hong Kong.
3. The founding team members must hold 51% or more of the shares of the company.
4. The company must have at least 2 full-time staff and the company must engage in research, development or application of AI.

### HOW we select

Our Selection Panel screens applications for the Accelerator Program based on the following criteria:

1. Depth of research and development
2. Innovation quotient
3. Viability of your business plan
4. Competence of the founding team

#### TIPS:

- Solid business plan e.g. business model, product or service description, product development plan/schedule, market assessment & potential, marketing/ sales strategy
- Strong execution of the team includes technical or business background, and entrepreneurial history (if any)
- Background knowledge and R&D capability in machine learning e.g. technical expertise, innovation and patent
- Latest technical and business achievement by the team

## 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 on-site interview with the Selection Panel.
  - Short-listed applicants will be notified by email on 31 May 2024 for interview date and time.
  - Interview dates are scheduled on 18 & 19 Jun 2024 tentatively.
  - Before the interview, short-listed applicants must submit all required information and supporting documents if any is missed in online application.
  - 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 will primarily be conducted in English or Mandarin, but Cantonese is also an acceptable language. You are not required to bring your laptop for the presentation. However, if there have been significant updates to your business plan since its submission but before the interview, please send us the updated version by 11 Jun 2024. Please note that last-minute updates or new business plans provided on-site will not be accepted.
  - Selected applicants will be notified by email on 20 Jun 2024.
  
4. Orientation
  - Selected applicants will be contacted to attend the Orientation.

Your application may be accepted even if your business legal entity has not yet been registered at the time of submission. However, if you are selected to the Accelerator Program, you must complete the business registration before the program begins.

<b>Major Dates</b>	
19 Apr 2024	Close of application
31 May 2024	Short-listed applicants be notified for interviews
11 Jun 2024	Submission of updated business plan before the interview (if any)
18 & 19 Jun 2024	Interview dates (in-person)
20 Jun 2024	Announce the result to selected applicants
11 Jul 2024	Orientation for admitted startups

**Supporting Documents required in online application form (in PDF format):**

\*Mandatory document (s)

**Company documents:**

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Business Plan* (in English/Chinese only and in PPT/PDF slides format)                                    | (max. 10MB) |
| 2. Hong Kong Business Registration Certificate  | (max. 2MB)  |
| 3. Certificate of Incorporation of Hong Kong  | (max. 2MB)  |
| 4. Academic certificates of Key Technical Person  | (max. 2MB)  |
| 5. Technical Publications by the Team related to the Technology used in the Business (e.g. academic papers) | (max. 2MB)  |

**Documents to be provided by Limited Companies**

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|--|-------------|
| 6. Memorandum and Article of Association                     | (max. 2MB)  |
| 7. Audited Accounts  | (max. 5MB)  |
| 8. Bank Statement for the past 6 months                      | (max. 5MB)  |
| 9. Special Resolution of Company                             | (max. 5MB)  |
| 10. Latest Annual Return of Incorporation Form               | (max. 5MB)  |
| 11. Certificate of Filing / Grant of Patents (if applicable) | (max. 5MB)  |
| 12. Other documents  | (max. 10MB) |

**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 in the website of Hong Kong AI & Data Laboratory Limited - [www.hongkongai.org](http://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.
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