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.

We run two acceleration 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.
   - Exposure to venture capitalists and strategic partners via our events.
   - Opportunity for admission to the HKSTP Programmes/ exclusive pathway to the Ideation Programme, or direct admission to the CityU 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.

5. Office Space
   - Supported by HKSTP, office space at the Hong Kong Science Park is available for the duration of the 12-months Program (Core activities should be R&D related).

Remarks:

* Subject to fulfill these programme requirements. Upon successful application to the HKSTP Ideation Program, you will be contacted for further details on the exclusive pathway to the HKSTP Ideation Program with HK$100,000 financial grants. No separate application to the program is required, and the details of the grant allocation will be subject to 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

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 27 Jun 2025 for interview date and time.

   - Interview date is scheduled on 8 Jul 2025 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 is conducted primarily in English or Mandarin, but Cantonese is also acceptable language. You do not need to bring your laptop for the presentation when you join the on-site interview. 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 4 Jul 2025. 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 9 Jul 2025.

4. Orientation

   - Selected applicants will be contacted by email to attend the Orientation on 18 Jul 2025 tentatively.

Major Dates	
30 May 2025	Close of application
27 Jun 2025	Short-listed applicants be notified for interviews (by email)
4 Jul 2025	Deadline for submission of updated business plan prior to the interview (if applicable)
8 Jul 2025	Interview date
9 Jul 2025	Announce the result to selected applicants (by email)
18 Jul 2025	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.