FAQ

1. **Who is eligible to apply for the AISS?**
   Eligible users for the AISS include:

   (a) **Local institutions**: including the eight universities funded by the University Grants Committee and the self-financing local degree-awarding institutions registered under the Post Secondary Colleges Ordinance (Cap. 320), etc.

   (b) **R&D Centres**: including the government-funded R&D centres[1], R&D Centres under the InnoHK Clusters, Hong Kong Productivity Council, and Hong Kong Institute of Biotechnology, etc.

   (c) **Government bureaux and departments**

   (d) **AI start-ups** which are:
      i. incorporated under the Companies Ordinance within the last seven years and with one of its offices (headquarter or regional office) or its main business operation or its key management or leadership team being located in Hong Kong;
      ii. engaged in AI Projects, such as AI model development, fine-tuning, applications of developed models and model inferencing, etc.; and
      iii. having a total number of employees (including Hong Kong, Mainland and overseas office(s)) of less than 250.

      AI start-ups include incubatees and alumni of Cyberport and Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation, start-ups under the Technology Start-ups Support Scheme for Universities, and the Research, Academic and Industry Sectors One-plus Scheme, etc.

   (e) **Strategic enterprises**: local enterprises from industries of strategic importance to Hong Kong including those set out under the I&T Blueprint or the frontier technology fields under the Nation's 14-5 Plan, such as life and health technology, artificial intelligence and data science, financial technology, advanced manufacturing and new-energy technology industries, from which the projects can contribute to R&D and AI innovation in Hong Kong, and for those non-local enterprises shall undertake to land in Hong Kong and employ a specified number of professionals so as to drive the development of the local

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[1] The Government currently maintains five government-funded R&D centres including the Hong Kong Automotive Platforms and Application Systems R&D Centre, Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel, Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute, Logistics and Supply Chain MultiTech R&D Centre, and Nano and Advanced Materials Institute.

AI ecosystem, and/or meet other eligible criteria as agreed by the Committee and the Government.

2. **How to apply for the AISS?**

Applicants shall download the application form from the website: https://aisc.cyberport.hk/aiss ("Website") and submit the application with the required information and documents as indicated on the Website by email to aiss_application@cyberport.hk ("Email"). Submissions by other means, including but not limited to post, will not be accepted.

Upon receipt of application, an acknowledgement email with an application number will be sent to the applicant. The applicant is reminded to keep this application number in safe custody as it will be used in subsequent communication with Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited ("HKCMCL") regarding the application.

3. **What kind of information is required for the application?**

Please submit Application Form with the required documents listed in **Annex A** of the "Guide and Conditions for Applicants of the Artificial Intelligence Subsidy Scheme" by Email.

4. **When can applicants apply for the AISS?**

Applications can be submitted throughout the year.

5. **What is the amount of the subsidy?**

Under normal circumstances, successful applicants will be subsidised up to 70% of the list price (please refer here for details). The list price will be reviewed regularly and adjusted according to the market conditions, subject to the consideration of the Committee of the AISS.

6. **What are the minimum and maximum consumption for each application?**

A minimum of one node, i.e. eight x H800 GPUs, for three months and a maximum of 10 nodes for 12 months can be applied for each application. Please submit applications specifying full units of computing power (in number of nodes) and duration (in number of months). Partial units of computing power (e.g. in number of GPUs) or durations (e.g. in number of days) will become acceptable when more options for the minimum consumption of each applicant become available in 2025.

7. **Is there any limit on the number of application submissions?**

There is no limit on the number of application submissions from each entity. In general, only one application should be submitted for a project with the same scope of work unless the application is previously rejected or withdrawn.

8. **Who will evaluate the application?**

HKCMCL will conduct an eligibility check and may seek clarification(s) and/or supplementary information from applicants. Eligible applications will then be recommended to the Committee of the AISS appointed by the Government for consideration and approval on the amount of computing power, duration and amount of subsidy to be granted for each application.

The Committee of the AISS comprises members from the information technology, AI, public administration, industry and commercial sectors. For details, please refer to: Committee of the Artificial Intelligence Subsidy Scheme | Digital Policy Office.

9. **How will the application be evaluated?**

The Committee will approve the amount of computing power resources, duration and amount of subsidy to be granted for each application to ensure effective allocation and utilisation of the precious computing power resources, taking into account the evaluation criteria listed below:

- Alignment with I&T and AI development needs in Hong Kong (25%)
- Reasonableness of project's computing power requirement (20%)
- Technical & financial capabilities, track record and other attributes (25%)
- Probability of success, expected outcomes and social impact of the project (30%)

For more details, please refer to the Website.

10. **When and how will applicants be informed about the application results?**

Whether successful or not, applicants will be notified of their application results by email in about three months in general upon submission of application, subject to the completeness of information of the applications and the number of applications received over that period.

11. **When can successful applicants start using the granted computing power?**

HKCMCL will arrange service agreement signing with successful applicants within two weeks upon the result announcement. The granted computing power will be activated according to the start date as stipulated in the Service Agreement and upon receipt of the prepayment in full or the first quarterly prepayment at a minimum.

12. How to pay for the service?

HKCMCL accepts cheques, FPS and bank transfers. Payment details will be shared with successful applicants in the service agreement.

Successful applicants shall make the prepayment in full or the first quarterly prepayment at a minimum for the allocated computing power on or before the payment due date as stipulated in the Service Agreement before being granted access to the computing power. Subsequent prepayments should be made on a quarterly basis and at least seven calendar days in advance of the start of the following quarter. For the avoidance of doubt, successful applicants should refer to the payment due date as stipulated in the invoice issued by HKCMCL.

13. Are there any on-going monitoring measures for the successful applicants?

HKCMCL will issue monthly computing power usage reports to successful applicants. Successful applicants with less than 50% utilisation rate for three consecutive months as reflected in monthly reports without reasonable justification will be subject to computing power and subsidy reduction or termination.

Successful applicants which are granted computing power for more than six months are required to submit a progress update by Email within 14 calendar days after mid-term.

A final report shall be submitted by Email within 14 calendar days after the expiration of the usage period for all successful applicants.

14. Can any changes be made after the application is approved?

In case of any changes of planned usage period and/or computing power consumption before the start date as stipulated in the Service Agreement, the successful applicant should promptly notify HKCMCL by Email with the updated plan. HKCMCL will assess the feasibility of rescheduling and/or changing computing power consumption.

It is the responsibility of the successful applicants to promptly notify HKCMCL of any changes in the information provided in the application that may affect the eligibility and/or the subsidy amount of the applicant or the project during the usage period. The changes should be presented by means of declaration in the change request form and progress update by Email.