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香港房屋協會



Press Release

31 July 2023

Hong Kong's First PropTech Co-working Space Commences Operations Supporting Northern Metropolis as an Innovation & Technology New Engine and Giving Impetus to Smart City Development

The Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS) and Cyberport today (July 31) celebrated the commencement of operations of Hong Kong's first PropTech co-working space established with their joint efforts at "HS Centre", HKHS's new office in the Northern Metropolis, pioneering PropTech development in the region and providing fresh impetus to the development of Hong Kong as a smart city. Named Smart-Space PropTech, the co-working space, since July, has welcomed 13 start-ups of PropTech products and solutions development to carry out proof of concept (PoC) demonstration and validation.

HKHS Chief Executive Officer James Chan and Cyberport Chief Executive Officer Peter Yan officiated at the commencement ceremony. Among the guests were Acting Director of the Northern Metropolis Co-ordination Office of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government Pecvin Yong, President of the Hong Kong PropTech Association Vivian Chan, the management of HKHS and Cyberport, as well as representatives of the start-up enterprises.

HKHS Chief Executive Officer James Chan said, "HKHS continues to play the role of 'housing laboratory' and establishes the first-ever PropTech co-working space. By funding and incubating young technology entrepreneurs, we encourage local start-ups to develop PropTech solutions with innovative ideas, such as smart construction and innovative building maintenance solutions, through the application of new technologies such as Internet of Things, Big Data, Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain. We look forward to applying the PoC solutions at HKHS's rental estates and properties, so as to create quality living environments that keep up with the times. In addition, the commencement of operations of the PropTech co-working space marks a pivotal step in building a collaborative ecosystem of the PropTech sector in the Northern Metropolis. This initiative also represents our staunch support to the Government in developing the Northern Metropolis as a new engine for promoting the I&T industry."

Peter Yan, CEO of Cyberport, said, "Cyberport is committed to propelling Hong Kong's smart city development and bolstering the innovative community. In collaboration with the Hong Kong Housing Society, we are very pleased to officially launch the co-working space and have selected 13 start-ups from our jointly organised PoC programme to be the first tenants, helping them complete the PoC process with subsidies and a chance to pioneer their innovative solutions at HKHS properties to demonstrate I&T effectiveness and encourage extensive technology adoption among industry. The Northern Metropolis is an important base for promoting the development of I&T industries. Cyberport and HKHS will continue to work closely to assemble more start-ups that specialise in such technology areas as smart building, property

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management, smart home, construction technology and green technology, to steer at full steam the development of the I&T ecosystem and smart city in the Northern Metropolis."

Located inside HKHS's new regional office in Fanling, the co-working space occupies two floors with a total usable area of 8,000 square feet. It operates round-the-clock and offers workspaces of various types and sizes, including private offices, fixed workstations, flexible desks, as well as a showcase area, meeting rooms and communal space to support the Smart-Space community and events. The highly flexible workplace environment is fully equipped with high-speed 5G network, 4K live streaming AV system, and a comprehensive network of technical support services to cater for the needs of different start-ups and to facilitate exchanges between the start-ups and their industry and business partners. The co-working space is also one of the first venues adopted innovative technological products developed by Cyberport start-ups, such as multi-functional robot receptionist and smart phone booth, to showcase the application and integration of smart technology. The design of the co-working space also aims to create a smart healthy working environment with green and recycled materials for sustainability, and the testing of a new ESG solution by a Cyberport incubatee which aims to improve environmental impact tracking and management.

The collaboration programme between HKHS and Cyberport is initially set for five years. HKHS will provide funding support to the start-ups and also mentorship by professional staff on knowledge and experience about housing development and management. The start-ups can also conduct field trials at HKHS's rental estates and commercial buildings for PoC. Cyberport will provide entrepreneurial guidance and organise activities to inspire start-ups to develop and implement PropTech-related innovative tech products and solutions, in an effort to drive digital transformation in the industry and attract young people to the innovation and technology sector for building a smart city.

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Photos:



HKHS Chief Executive Officer James Chan (left) and Cyberport Chief Executive Officer Peter Yan (right) officiated at the operations commencement ceremony of Hong Kong's first PropTech co-working space.



Acting Director of the Northern Metropolis Co-ordination Office Pecvin Yong (first right in the front row), President of the Hong Kong PropTech Association Vivian Chan (first left in the front row) and start-ups representatives attended the ceremony.



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HKHS Chief Executive Officer James Chan reckons that the programme will help incubate local start-ups to develop PropTech solutions and anticipates applying the solutions for the long-term development of HKHS.



Cyberport Chief Executive Officer Peter Yan looks forward to working with HKHS to inject more vitality into the entrepreneurial ecosystem and nurture a new generation of innovators.



Spanning an area of 8,000 square feet, the PropTech co-working space operates round-the-clock throughout the year and is well-equipped with advanced and versatile facilities, enabling the start-ups to conduct R&D and exchange ideas.