

Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation

www.hkstpc.org

Located at the waterfront of Tolo Harbor adjacent to The Chinese University of Hong Kong in the New Territories, the 22-hectare Hong Kong Science Park, which is managed by Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC), was constructed to attract technology firms to base operations and R&D in Hong Kong. Phase 1 of the Park was opened in 2002 with Phase 3 due to be completed in stages from the end of 2013 to 2016.

“Our vision is to help Hong Kong build its capability in technology and innovation development,” explains Mr. E. Anthony Tan, chief executive officer of HKSTPC. “And to turn discoveries and new inventions from an idea or concept into a commercial product or service.”

To enable this, HKSTPC offers state-of-the-art infrastructure and offices for applied R&D activities, and shared laboratories with technical support to help reduce capital investment of R&D companies in product design and development. The five major technology clusters in the Park include electronics, information technology and telecommunications, precision engineering, biotechnology, and green technology. Around 55 of the 400 companies based in the Park work in biotech, employing roughly 800 people. The Park is currently 95 percent occupied; Phase 3 will provide another 50 percent capacity.

Gathering like-minded industries together was crucial to the Park’s design. “One important element of the Park is the clustering effect,” says Mr. Tan. “By focusing on certain technologies we can pool the right companies together who can create new ideas and challenge each other.

Among the five clusters, biotech is one of the important sectors for the 21st century,” adds Mr. Tan. “Many of the the issues in health and life sciences depend on biotech to provide solutions.”

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-Mr. E. Anthony Tan

Andrew Meng-Cheung Young, vice president of Marketing and Sales for HKSTPC, believes the Park works as a bridge between academic research and commercial products or solutions.

“We provide a platform to facilitate: we support mature and medium sized companies,” explains Mr. Young. “More importantly, one of our main focuses is to support the startups, nurturing them and helping them with financial and non-financial support.”

HKSTPC’s incubation programs provide not only low-cost accommodation, but also management, marketing, financial, and technical assistance during the crucial first two to four years in the lives of startup companies. Incubatees can apply for a financial aid package worth up to HK\$860,000 (US\$112,000) over a four-year period. Beyond this, HKSTPC also implements a small and medium-sized enterprise program which helps companies with financial and legal services, office space, shared facilities, and more.

Beyond this, Hong Kong Science Park is an important new part of Hong Kong’s infrastructure as it turns itself into a regional hub for innovation and technology. “Many think of Hong Kong as a tourist spot, a trading center, and a logistics center. But not yet as a technology center. So we really need to focus on making a difference at the Park. We want to show the world that Hong Kong is capable of excelling in developing selected technologies,” explains Mr. Tan.

Mr. Young believes that the Park will be part of the community. “We serve the local community and also act as a platform for overseas technology companies to capture the Asia market,” he explains. “We also enable Chinese technology companies to use Hong Kong as a base for their own internationalization.”

Moving beyond Hong Kong itself, HKSTPC works closely with Chinese authorities at the national and provincial levels, as well as with a technology park in Guangzhou, mainland China. HKSTPC is also currently improving shipping methods on both sides of the Hong Kong-China border to allow for the smoother exchange of samples between R&D laboratories.



E. Anthony Tan



Andrew Meng-Cheung Young



Hong Kong Science Park Phase 3