

Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) Midstream Research Programme for Universities (MRP)

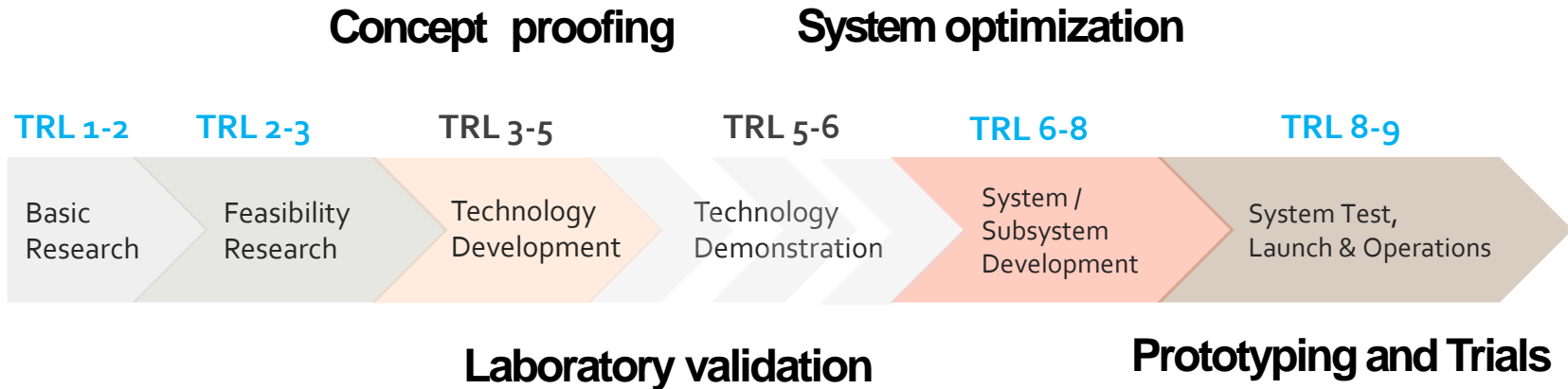


Innovation and
Technology
Development Office
創新及科技發展處

- Launched in December 2016, MRP aims to encourage universities funded by the University Grants Committee (UGC) to collaborate with leading research institutes worldwide to conduct:
 - **Theme-based** midstream research in focused technology areas
 - **Inter-disciplinary** and **multi-institutional** translational research and development work



- **Supported Research Activities:** Concept proofing, laboratory validation, system/process optimization, prototyping and trials



Technology Readiness Levels (TRL): A measure being adopted by many governmental and academic institutes to assess the maturity of evolving technologies.

Research outcomes could be made available for further downstream research work or product development

2021 Research Themes

Drug Development

- *Mid- to down-stream research*
- *Innovative chemical, biological or Chinese medicines-based drugs for disease management.*



Green Engineering Technologies

Wide range of technology areas, incl.

- *Intelligent Buildings And Smart Grids*
- *Renewable Energy e.g. solar, wind*
- *Third Generation Semiconductors*
- *Remote Sensing Technology*
- *Artificial Intelligence*



PolyU RO Deadline: 11 March 2021

ITC MRP Deadline: 26 March 2021



Innovation and Technology Fund

~ for **universities** funded by the University Grants Committee (UGC)



Standalone Projects

- **Funding ceiling** per project: **\$5 million**



Collaboration Projects

(Projects involving collaboration across multiple disciplines, universities or research institutions)

- **Funding ceiling** per project: **\$10 million**
- **Accorded Priority**

(A co-applicant can be a different unit of the same university, or a different local/non-local university/research institution.)



- **Industry sponsorship** (cash and/or in-kind sponsorship), while NOT mandatory, is **encouraged** for MRP projects to **demonstrate reasonable market interest**.
- *Eligible* sponsors may apply for **Research and Development Cash Rebate Scheme**



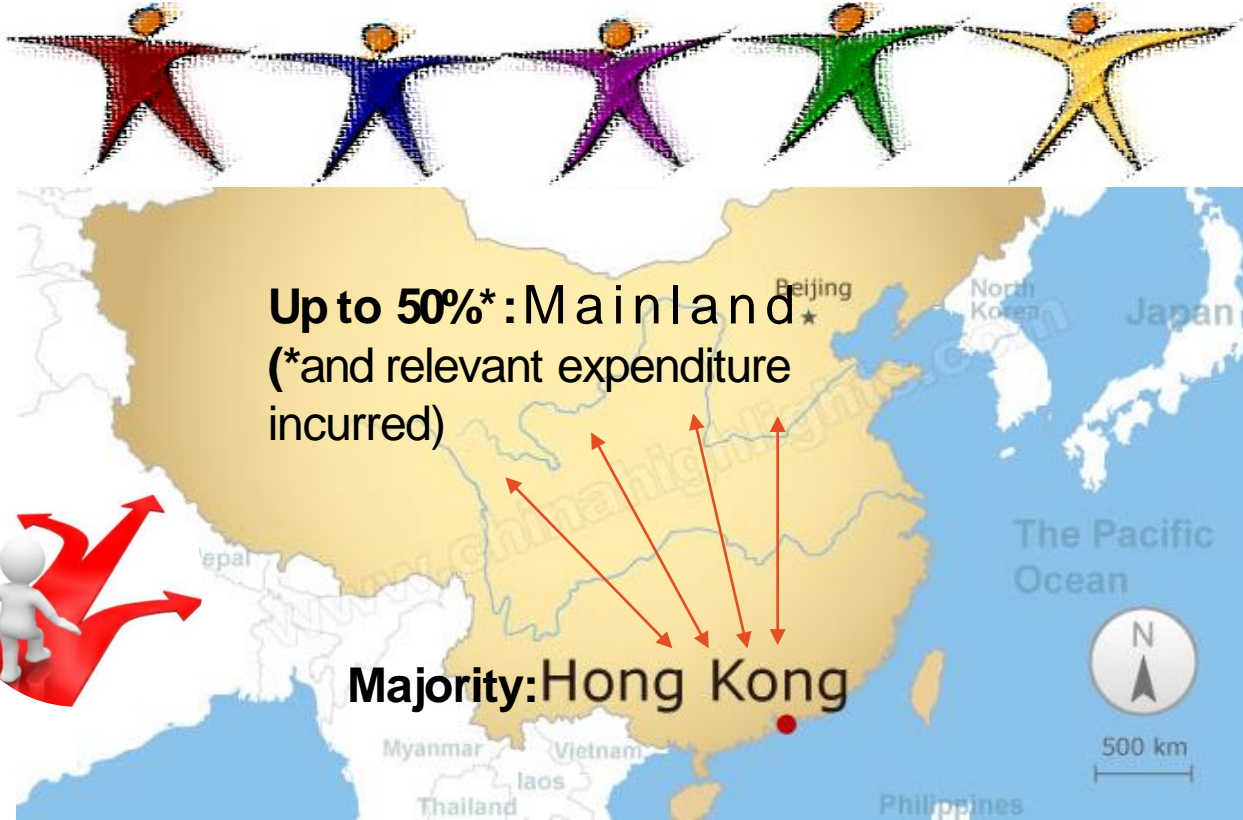
Cash Rebate for Eligible Company Sponsors of ITF Projects

- Under the ITF - Research & Development Cash Rebate Scheme, industry sponsorship by a private company (both local and non-local) towards an ITF project (including an MRP project) is eligible for cash rebate.
- A cash rebate equivalent to **40% of its actual industry sponsorship** (cash and in-kind contributions) in the funded ITF projects.



Location of R&D Work

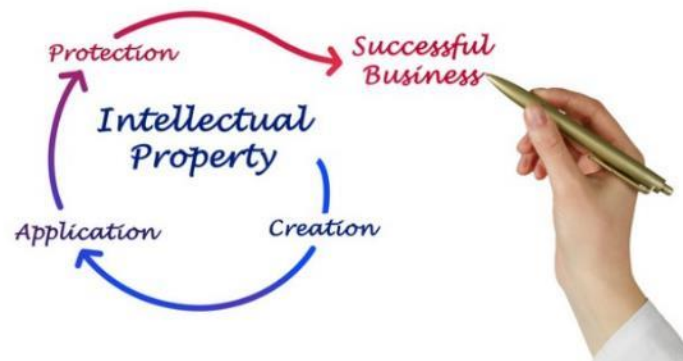
- Location of R&D work:



*R&D tasks that need to be conducted outside Hong Kong (other than the Mainland):
Prior approval from ITC must be sought*

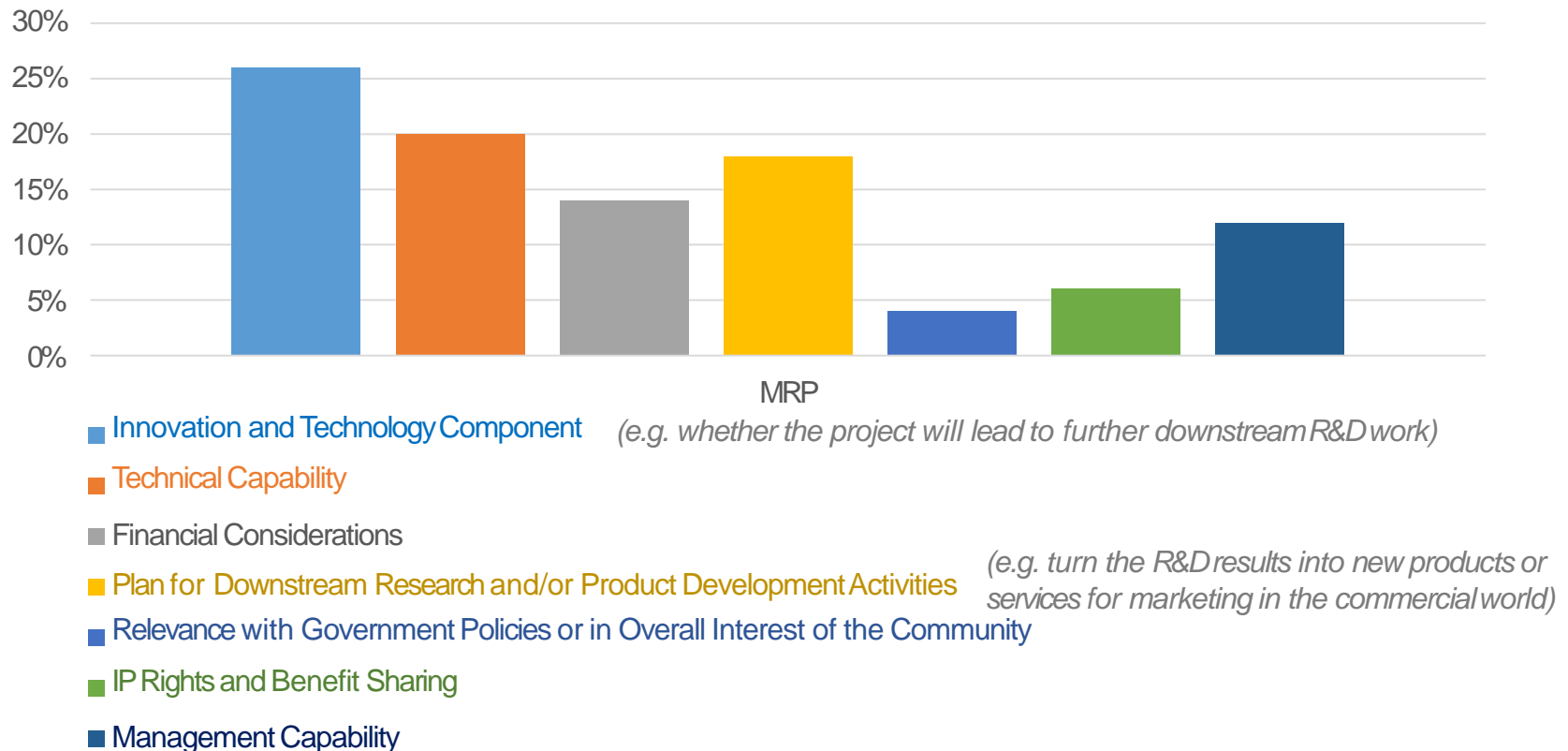
Intellectual property (IP) rights and benefit sharing

- IP rights generated from the project should be vested with the **lead applicant** (i.e. PolyU)
- It is encouraged to **disseminate the research outcomes to the industry** after project completion by means of licensing or contract services. The benefits arising therefrom may be retained by the lead applicant or shared with its co-applicant(s)/partner institution(s) on an equitable and proportional basis in accordance with the established policy of the respective institutions.
- All the **IP benefit sharing** and related arrangements should be **agreed before the commencement** of the project and set out in the project proposal.



- Applications will be assessed by expert panel(s) comprising members from the academia and industry
- Innovation and Technology Fund Research Projects Assessment Panel

Assessment Framework



Project

- **Theme-based midstream** research in focused technology areas
- 4th round (**Drug Development and Green Engineering Technologies**)

Funding ceiling

- Standalone Project - **\$5 million** / project
- Collaboration Project - **\$10 million** / project (**Accorded priority**)

Duration of the Project Period

- Max.: **36 months**

Industry Sponsorship

- **Not Mandatory**

Encouraging and selecting projects with greater prospect of **further downstream research** or **development of new products or services**

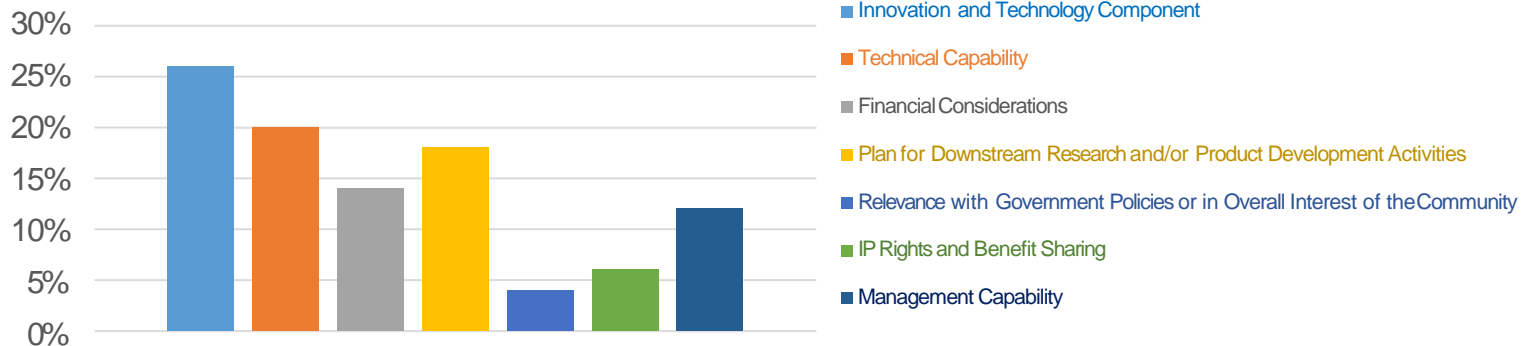
Fostering more **collaborative** efforts among local and non-local **universities and research institutions**

Encouraging **concerted research efforts** to develop innovative technology solutions to address topics with strategic importance

Motivating the private sector to invest more in R&D activities in HongKong

Enhancing co-operation among Government, industry, academia and research institutes (官產學研)

Assessment Framework





Enquiry

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研究事務處

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Reference

ITF MRP Links (<https://www.itf.gov.hk/l-eng/MRP.asp>)

RO MRP Links

(https://www40.polyu.edu.hk/ropgms/faces/pages/secure/function/fundingOpportunity/funding_opportunity.xhtml?id=682)

ITDO MRP Links (https://www.polyu.edu.hk/itdo/docs/TD_FO/MRP.pdf)

Thank you !