

Confirmation of Minutes (BDC 21/2014 Revised)

The Revised Minutes of the 55th Meeting held on 11 November 2014 had been circulated to Members and there were no further requests for amendments. The Minutes were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

I. Report of Technology Sourcing Trips to Germany, Britain and Australia (BDC 1/2015)

1. Invited by the Chairman, briefed Members on the progress made in R&D collaboration with R&D institutions in Australia, Britain and Germany after technology sourcing trips to these countries in 2013 and 2014.

said that it was expected that such collaboration would build up HKPC's technology competencies for further knowledge transfer and service provision. Collaboration in three technology areas were already underway, namely:

- (a) laser-assisted sheet metal progressive forming – an ITF project (\$5.7M) with the Fraunhofer Institute for Production Technology (IPT) of Germany was being implemented to develop the technology for fabrication of high strength light weight automotive parts;
- (b) advanced robotics applications – following the consignment of a 6-axis desktop robot from KUKA of Germany and user training, a Robotics Centre would be set up in HKPC in mid-2015 to promote robotics applications and automation technologies; and
- (c) environmental biotechnology for waste water treatment – in partnership with the Environmental Biotechnology Group, University of Oxford, UK, a proposal to develop improved microbial strains for treating textile dyeing effluent would be submitted to the HKRITA.

2. said that we had also identified another five potential technology areas for partnership and collaboration opportunities, namely:

- (a) battery management system & lithium air battery – an MOU was being finalized with the University of Wollongong, Australia, and a seed project proposal was being formulated for funding support under APAS;

that there should also be potential for the commercial adoption of the system for the future express rail link and even for aircrafts. To optimize the commercial potential and enable wide application of the system, non-exclusive licensing arrangement should be an appropriate mode of commercialization.

7. said that the R&D results and products/technologies developed by HKPC and APAS should be widely publicized for their optimal adoption by industry. In response, said that, apart from our normal promotion activities, the series of lunches with associations and other stakeholders at SME ONE in 2014 had provided a good platform to communicate and promote HKPC's services and R&D achievements direct to the senior management of these organizations. Technology promotion, transfer, industry adoption and commercialization would be a major focus for HKPC's integrated support to industry after the success of SME ONE. said that the industry should be made aware of HKPC's R&D results and patents etc. who could then make useful contribution in promoting these results and patents via their contacts. said that this could be done by giving comprehensive information more prominently on the HKPC website on the R&D results and patents/IPRs etc. of HKPC and APAS, as well as the commercialization opportunities to market players.

8. said that the 50kW fast charging station, with its CHAdeMO certification, would have good commercialization potential and advised that preparation work should be undertaken to promote the fast charging station for large scale public use, such as shopping malls, after the public trial projects for the Hong Kong Post Office and the Water Supplies Department which would help refine the system as necessary and collect information on user preference.

9. In response to the remark of , said that the amount of income generated from commercialization and/or centre operation was not the most important consideration in assessing the performance of the R&D Centres which were essentially not operated as full-fledged business concerns. From the experience of overseas R&D institutes, it was not uncommon for government-funded R&D institutes to become self-sustaining financially only after a long period of time. The Government's focus at the moment was to build up more R&D personnel and promote applied R&D which could be commercialized by the industry. Therefore, apart from conducting seed projects on its own, it was also important for APAS to continue to enhance collaboration with industry and universities in R&D for the automotive sector via platform projects to build up its research capabilities. The ITC would report on

the operation of the R&D Centres to the Legislative Council Panel on Commerce and Industry in June 2015 and seek its support for extending the funding support for the operation of APAS beyond 31 March 2017. In this connection, the ITC would seek inputs from APAS on its longer term development plan for its operation in support of the funding extension request.

10. said that a decision would need to be made with regard to the recruitment for the post of General Manager of APAS the responsibilities of which was currently looked after by GM/AE. If the current arrangement was effective and had been fostering increased synergy between APAS and other HKPC divisions, then the General Manager post of APAS should be considered to be abolished and the relevant budget could then be used to recruit more technologist staff in support of the R&D work of APAS. The Management should review the issue in the light of funding extension for APAS and consult ITC on the way forward.

11. said that, arising from the Director of Audit's report on the Innovation and Technology Fund released in 2013 which covered the R&D Centres, the R&D Centres undertook to review their individual commercialization guidelines. requested APAS to complete the review as early as possible so that this action item could be closed.

12. Members noted the 2014/15 Annual Report and 2015/16 Annual Plan of the Automotive Parts and Accessory Systems R&D Centre (APAS) Division which would be submitted to the ITC in line with the funding agreement with the Government.

III. Report on Projects for Government Funding Schemes (April 2014 – January 2015) (BDC 3/2015)

13. Invited by the Chairman, introduced the paper and briefed Members on the position of HKPC's involvement in various government funding schemes for the period April 2014 to January 2015.

IV. Interim Performance Review of Completed ITF Projects (BDC 4/2015)

19. Members noted the interim performance review of 4 completed ITF projects, namely :

- (a) Development of a Novel Biofilm Carrier to Enhance the Performance of the Moving Bed Biofilm Reactor (MBBR) Process for Treating Domestic Sewage and Industrial Wastewater under High Loading Condition;
- (b) To Develop an Innovative, Cost Effective and Multi-function Textile and Apparel Decoration Machine for Flexible Manufacturing;
- (c) Develop a Knowledge Based 3D Shoe Design, Patterning & Mass Customization System to Strengthen the New Product Development Capability of Hong Kong Footwear Industry; and
- (d) Development of Dyeing Natural Textiles in Supercritical Carbon Dioxide.

V. Any Other Business

(A) Appointment of Mentor for ITF Projects

20. Members agreed to the appointment of Mr. Leung Kwong-chuen as the mentor of an ITF project “Novel Design for Smoke Management under Pneumoperitoneum during Laparoscopic Intervention” in replacement of ex-Council Member, Mr. Jimmy Kwok Chun-wah.

(B) Shenzhen SZ-HK Productivity Foundation Co. Ltd. (SZJV)

21. said that the business licence of the SZJV would expire in May 2015 after ten years of operation. Both the shareholders (SZWFOE and 深圳中小企業服務中心) were open to extending the SZJV for another ten years. Continued operation of the SZJV would complement the overall policy agenda for closer Hong Kong-Shenzhen collaboration. It would also continue to provide a legal entity for holding a licence to conduct training activities in the Mainland and to import equipment and machinery in compliance with mainland laws. As the SZJV was not a direct subsidiary of HKPC, approval by Council and the Government was not required to renew its business licence.

(C) Attendance Record

22. Members noted their attendance record in 2014 tabled at the meeting.

VI. Date of Next Meeting

23. It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on 14 July 2015 at 2:30pm.

24. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05pm.