

SUPPORT FOR SMES



NEAR-TERM MEASURES

Support to overcome near-term challenges

- ***Wage Credit Scheme** - Receive co-funding for qualifying wage increases to your Singaporean employees earning a gross monthly wage of up to \$4,000. 20% for 2018, 15% for 2019, and 10% for 2020
- ***CIT rebate** - 40% of tax payable, capped at \$15,000 for YA2018; and 20% of tax payable, capped at \$10,000 for YA2019
- **Special Employment Credit (SEC) and Additional SEC** - Wage offset of up to 11% of eligible workers' wages
- **SME Working Capital Loan** - Government co-shares 50% of the default risk, for loans up to \$300,000

ACCESS FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- ***Enterprise Development Grant (EDG)** - Up to 70% funding support for building capabilities (e.g. product development, innovation) and internationalisation. EDG will be launched in Q4 2018. In the interim, companies may continue to apply for the Capability Development Grant and the Global Company Partnership grant.
- **Market Readiness Assistance grant** - Up to 70% funding support for pre-scoped activities, e.g. overseas market set-up
- ***Double Tax Deduction for Internationalisation** - 200% tax deduction on the first \$150,000 of qualifying internationalisation expenses for each YA, without the need for prior approval

ACCESS IN-MARKET ADVICE AND NETWORKS

- **Over 35 Overseas Centres** - Access in-market advice and assistance in over 35 overseas markets
- **Plug & Play Network** - Link up with established in-market service suppliers in six key markets (e.g. co-working space, market advisory, business-matching)
- **Global Innovation Alliance** - Gain access to overseas partners for co-innovation and market expansion

FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

- **Tariff Finder** - Understand and take better advantage of Singapore's network of 22 implemented Free Trade Agreements / Economic Partnership Agreements to improve market access. Online portal can be accessed through <http://www.iesingapore.gov.sg/FTA>



INTERNATIONALISE

For SMEs who wish to access overseas opportunities



MANPOWER

For SMEs who wish to build and deepen human capabilities

ATTRACT YOUNG JOB-SEEKERS

- **SME Talent Programme** - Attract talent from Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs) through structured internships
- **SkillsFuture Earn and Learn programme** - Structured career development programmes, to groom and retain suitable fresh graduates from ITEs and Polytechnics
- **Go Southeast Asia Award** - Attract undergrads through structured regional internships

FILL RECRUITMENT NEEDS THROUGH ADAPT & GROW

- Reskill mid-career job seekers through the **Professional Conversion Programmes** and **Place-and-Train** which provide training and salary support
- ***Career Trial** - Try out job seekers seeking new careers through a short-term work stint, with training and salary support

PLUG GAPS IN SKILLS/EXPERTISE

- **Capability Transfer Programme** - Plug capability gaps in the local workforce by engaging foreign specialists to transfer capabilities to local workers, or sending local workers for training abroad, with funding support and work pass facilitation
- **Lean Enterprise Development Scheme** - Access funding and transitional foreign manpower support to transform to become more manpower-lean
- Obtain funding support to train workers under **SkillsFuture**

STRENGTHEN LEADERSHIP BENCH STRENGTH

- **SkillsFuture Leadership Development Initiative** - Acquire leadership competencies and critical experiences
- ***ASEAN Leadership Programme** - Understand, build networks in, and plan business expansions to Southeast Asian markets

STRENGTHEN HR PRACTICES

- **SkillsFuture SME Mentors** - Tap on qualified mentors to strengthen capabilities to attract and develop talent
- **P-Max** - Get funding support to better recruit, manage and retain newly-hired PMETs
- **HR Shared Services** - Funding support to outsource HR activities, e.g. payroll, to a common pool of HR service providers

ACCESS FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- ***PACT** - Funding support to support collaborations between firms of all sizes, including capability building, co-innovation and accessing overseas opportunities

ACCESS TO SHARED FACILITIES AND RESOURCES FOR ECONOMIES OF SCALE AND TO SAVE COSTS

- E.g. shared cold room and warehouse facility at JTC's Food Hub,
- E.g. shared services (such as chemical treatment, sawmilling) at the JTC TimMac@Kranji

ACCESS REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TOGETHER

- ***Infrastructure Office** - Brings together local and international firms to develop, finance and execute Asian infrastructure projects



PARTNERSHIPS

For SMEs who wish to partner others to share resources, access better opportunities and innovate



TECH ADOPTION

For SMEs who wish to adopt technology to improve productivity and competitiveness

BUSINESS ADVISORY AND DIAGNOSIS

- **12 SME Centres** - Seek business advice and diagnosis at SME Centres

ACCESS FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- ***Productivity Solutions Grant** - Up to 70% funding support for adoption of pre-scoped productivity equipment and IT solutions
- ***Enterprise Development Grant** - (see details above)
- **SMEs Go Digital programme** - Get step-by-step advice (through Industry Digital Plans) and funding support to build stronger digital capabilities

TECH ADVICE AND RESOURCES

- **SME Digital Tech Hub** - Seek specialist advice for advanced digital needs, e.g. data analytics and cybersecurity
- **Tech Depot** - Range of readily adoptable technologies online to digitalise workflows and improve productivity



DEVELOPMENT

For SMEs who wish to develop and commercialise new technologies, products and services

ACCESS FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- ***Enterprise Development Grant** - (see details above)

CO-INNOVATE WITH OTHER FIRMS AND RESEARCHERS

- **Innovation Clusters and Tech Consortia** - Access networks of researchers and other firms to co-innovate to solve industry challenges
- **Sector-specific platforms** - SMEs with suitable capabilities may participate in R&D programmes in areas of national priority
 - *Expansion of National Robotics Programme to Built Environment
 - *Aviation Transformation Programme
 - *Maritime Transformation Programme
 - *Energy Grid 2.0
- ***Open Innovation Platform** - Get matched to problem-owners or solution providers to collaborate and tackle industry problems through digital solutions

FIND COMPLEMENTARY BUSINESS PARTNERS

- **A*STAR Collaborative Commerce Marketplace** - Search for independently-verified solution providers, or firms with complementary capabilities to pursue business opportunities

TRY OUT ADVANCED EQUIPMENT

- **Tech Access initiative** - Use A*STAR's advanced manufacturing equipment to prototype new products and learn how to integrate such advanced equipment into your business
- **Model Factory@SIMTech** - Learn about and test out advanced manufacturing technologies

ACCESS MANPOWER EXPERTISE

- **GET-Up** - Tap on A*STAR expertise to chart technology needs, and kickstart in-house innovation

OBTAIN TECH ADVICE AND RESOURCES

- **8 Centres of Innovation** - Access support for IP translation, test-bedding and tech consultancy services

SUPPORT FOR START-UPS

- **StartupSG schemes** - Access suite of schemes, including early stage funding for commercialisation of proprietary technology, programmes to catalyse private sector funding, and manpower and infrastructure support



RESEARCH

For SMEs who wish to engage in research, and acquire IP and technologies to create new sources of competitive advantage

ACCESS FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- Higher ***tax deductions** from YA2019 to YA2025 to support businesses in their use and development of innovations

	Tax deduction	Expenditure Cap
Qualifying expenses incurred on R&D performed in Singapore	Increase from 150% to 250%	-
IP Licensing Payments to Unrelated Parties	Increase from 100% to 200%	\$100,000
IP Registration Fees	Increase from 100% to 200%	\$100,000

ACCESS TO IPs

- **IP Intermediary** - Get connected to suitable IP based on tech needs and sector trends
- **Innovation and Enterprise Offices in A*STAR and universities** - Source of IP and technology
- **Intellectual Property Office of Singapore schemes** - Access to business clinics and analytics to support your IP strategy
- **Headstart** - Access royalty-free and exclusive licences for up to 36 months on industry solutions co-developed with A*STAR

* refers to Budget 2018 measures

This is a non-exhaustive list. For more information, please contact MTI at mti_email@mti.gov.sg or refer to <http://www.smeportal.sg>