

<b>How is the Green and Sustainable Fintech PoC Project defined?</b>	A Green and Sustainable Fintech PoC project is defined as a project which involves the following: (1) Development of viable Green and Sustainable Fintech ideas/concepts but <u>shall not cover development areas which are deemed too early-stage</u> , for example, basic research, generation of pure scientific and technological knowledge, and the development of research ideas, hypotheses and experimental designs without application; and (2) Validation of the commercial merit of the Green and Sustainable Fintech product/solution by seeking reference customers or external funding
<b>How to apply?</b>	The applicant company shall fill in the application form and submit the required information and relevant supplementary documents through the email submission channel.
<b>When should companies apply?</b>	Application period: From 28 <sup>th</sup> Jun 2024 to 20 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicants should submit the registration and application before 12<sup>th</sup> Sep 2024.</li> <li>• The submission deadline for the sponsorship agreement is September 20, 2024. However, this deadline has been extended to October 10, 2024. Please note that this extension applies only to the sponsorship agreement; all other submission deadlines remain unchanged.</li> </ul>
<b>Which companies are eligible for the Green and Sustainable Fintech Proof-of-Concept Funding Support Scheme ("PoC Scheme")?</b>	The applicant company must be a technology company or research institute registered and have commenced business in Hong Kong before application submission and conducts substantive Green and Sustainable Fintech-related activities*. The applicant company is required to partner with an eligible project sponsor to conduct the PoC project. (Please refer to the "Guide and Notes for Applicants" document for more details)  Remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• *Applicants focusing on other mainstream technologies with a plan to adopt Green and Sustainable Fintech will also be considered on a case-by-case basis.</li> </ul>
<b>What is the application procedure?</b>	Applicants should register by submitting an application form online. Once their eligibility is confirmed, they will be able to submit the grant application. Upon receipt of full information including necessary supporting documents from the applicant, the applicant company will be notified of the application result by email from Cyberport within six weeks after the end date of all the proposals and supporting documents are provided and accepted. Eligible Green and Sustainable Fintech PoC projects will be reviewed and approved by the HKCMCL and the advisory panel. The Funding Agreement will be signed before the funding grant process is initiated.
<b>When shall I start the project, if the application is successful?</b>	The applicant company must start the project within one month after the signing date of the Funding Agreement.
<b>What should I do after the project is started?</b>	8 weeks after the commencement of the Green and Sustainable Fintech PoC project, the Grantee shall submit a progress report. The report should review the work completed, work in progress, and work to be done on the project. Within one month after the end of the project period, the Grantee shall submit a Green and Sustainable Fintech PoC final report, user/project acceptance report, commercial adoption viability report survey and other supporting information. An audit report may be required upon request.
<b>How will the project be monitored after commencement?</b>	Please refer to the Guide and Notes document.
<b>Any limit on the number of project applications?</b>	The applicant company can apply for a maximum of five Green and Sustainable Fintech PoC projects.
<b>How much is the Funding Support?</b>	Each approved Green and Sustainable Fintech PoC project will receive funding support up to HK\$150,000.

<b>Any limit on the number of sponsored projects by each project sponsor?</b>	No limit.
<b>When and how will the applicant be informed about the application result?</b>	After the end of the application period and upon receipt of full information including necessary supporting documents and supplementary information from all the applicants, the successful Applicant will be notified of the application result by email from HKCMCL within six weeks.
<b>Can we partner with a non-Financial Institution as a sponsor of the project?</b>	Yes, Green and Sustainable Fintech PoC Scheme Eligible Sponsors can be non-Financial Sector Companies. Eligible sponsors should be well-established companies with sufficient resources and know-how to monitor and support the project implementation. For project sponsor eligibility details, please refer to the Guide and Notes document.
<b>Is there a time limit for completing the PoC?</b>	Each approved PoC project must be completed in 4 months.
<b>How will a successful applicant company be notified of the status of the application?</b>	Successful Applicant will be notified of application status via email. Applicant company might check their spam/junk mail folder to identify any email from Cyberport. The applicant company can also visit the online portal to view the list of successful Applicants (use of the latest version of web browsers is recommended).
<b>How is my Green and Sustainable Fintech PoC proposal being evaluated?</b>	Evaluation is based on (1) Eligibility of the applicant, project sponsor and project proposal, (2) Submitted Proposal documents (3) Assessment criteria in the "Guide and Notes" document by HKCMCL and the advisory panel. Each eligible application will be assessed based on individual merits and considered on a case-by-case base. The decision from HKCMCL is final and conclusive.
<b>When and how to receive the funding?</b>	The initial instalment for an approved project will only be deposited into the designated Hong Kong-based bank account of the Applicant after the (1) signing of the Funding Agreement and (2) HKCMCL's verification of all case details (e.g., completeness of all approval and endorsement, bank statement). The final instalment will be made to the Applicant upon (a) project completion and (b) HKCMCL's acceptance of all final project submissions (e.g., UAT report).
<b>Is there any requirement for the Green and Sustainable Fintech PoC projects?</b>	Qualifying Green and Sustainable Fintech PoC projects must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Directly relate to recognised Green and Sustainable Fintech categories listed in the guides and notes;</li> <li>- Address a practical issue or a pain point faced by the different industries in Hong Kong with no prior used case in the market;</li> <li>- Demonstrate originality and strong commercial potential</li> </ul>
<b>Can I change the project scope?</b>	After the project is approved, no change of project scope or list of project deliverables is allowed.
<b>Can an organization without a Business Registration Certificate apply for the Scheme?</b>	The applicant company must have a valid Business Registration Certificate at the time of the application.
<b>Can I submit one application to apply for multiple projects?</b>	No, each application can cover only one Green and Sustainable Fintech PoC project.
<b>Can the Green and Sustainable Fintech PoC project currently benefiting from other public funding programmes apply for the Scheme?</b>	No. Funding Support under this Scheme will not be granted if the company is receiving other Funding Support provided by other local public funding programmes through the proposed Green and Sustainable Fintech PoC project.
<b>What is the Project Sponsor's role and responsibility?</b>	The Project Sponsor does not necessarily have a direct financial contribution to the project but is required to sign an agreement to exhibit active engagement and commitment to facilitate the project completion.
<b>Can I start the project before the application?</b>	To be eligible for financial support under the Green and Sustainable Fintech PoC Scheme, the Green and Sustainable Fintech PoC project must not have commenced before submission of the application.

<b>Can I start the project before approval?</b>	Not recommended. Applicants cannot make any claims from HKCMCL for any losses, risks and/or costs if their applications are eventually rejected or the funding applied-for is not granted in full.
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