

**Head 155 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT:  
INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION**

**Controlling officer:** the Commissioner for Innovation and Technology will account for expenditure under this Head.

<b>Estimate 2025–26</b> .....	<b>\$2,579.4m</b>
<b>Establishment ceiling 2025–26</b> (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 339 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2025 rising by seven posts to 346 posts as at 31 March 2026.....	<b>\$295.5m</b>
In addition, there will be an estimated ten directorate posts as at 31 March 2025 and as at 31 March 2026.	
<b>Commitment balance</b> .....	<b>\$6,427.4m</b>

**Controlling Officer’s Report**

**Programmes**

<p><b>Programme (1) Support for Research and Development</b></p> <p><b>Programme (2) Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship</b></p> <p><b>Programme (3) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development</b></p> <p><b>Programme (4) Infrastructural Support</b></p> <p><b>Programme (5) Quality Support</b></p>	<p>These programmes contribute to Policy Area 17: Information Technology and Broadcasting (Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry).</p> <p>This programme contributes to Policy Area 15: Health (Secretary for Health) and Policy Area 17: Information Technology and Broadcasting (Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry).</p> <p>This programme contributes to Policy Area 17: Information Technology and Broadcasting (Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry).</p>
<p><b>Programme (6) Subvention: Hong Kong Productivity Council, Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute Company Limited</b></p>	<p>This programme contributes to Policy Area 17: Information Technology and Broadcasting (Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry).</p>

**Detail**

**Programme (1): Support for Research and Development**

	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	<b>2025–26 (Estimate)</b>
Financial provision (\$m)	103.4	114.5	119.6 (+4.5%)	<b>121.3</b> (+1.4%)
				(or +5.9% on 2024–25 Original)

**Aim**

**2** The aim is to promote and support applied research and development (R&D) activities which can contribute to innovation and technology (I&T) upgrading in industry.

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### *Brief Description*

3 The Commission achieves this aim by providing funding support and putting in place appropriate infrastructural facilities to encourage applied R&D activities. Under the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF), the Innovation and Technology Support Programme (ITSP) supports applied R&D projects with a view to transferring the R&D results to companies in the relevant industry. The Partnership Research Programme (PRP), which aims to support collaboration between industries and research institutes on applied R&D projects, will be subsumed under the ITSP in 2025 as both ITSP and PRP share similarities in objectives and target beneficiaries. The Guangdong-Hong Kong Technology Cooperation Funding Scheme (TCFS) and the Mainland-Hong Kong Joint Funding Scheme (MHKJFS), both supporting and encouraging R&D collaboration among universities, research institutes and technology enterprises in Hong Kong and the Mainland, will be merged as the Mainland-Hong Kong Technology Cooperation Funding Scheme (MHKTCFS) in 2025. The Public Sector Trial Scheme (PSTS) supports the production of prototypes/samples and/or conducting of trials in the public sector to promote the realisation and commercialisation of local R&D results. The Commission also administers the Patent Application Grant (PAG) to provide funding assistance to local companies and individuals applying for patent registration of their own inventions for the first time.

4 Six R&D centres have been established to drive and co-ordinate R&D efforts in six focus areas, namely nanotechnology and advanced materials, textiles and clothing, automotive platforms and application systems, logistics and supply chain management enabling technologies, information and communications technologies, and microelectronics. The R&D projects carried out by these centres, except for those contract researches the full costs of which are borne by sponsoring companies, are funded mainly by the ITF. The Automotive Platforms and Application Systems (APAS) R&D Centre will be incorporated into the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) with effect from 1 April 2025.

5 Funding is provided for State Key Laboratories in Hong Kong and Hong Kong Branches of Chinese National Engineering Research Centres to enhance their research capabilities. Financial support is also provided for designated universities to enhance their technology transfer capabilities.

6 Under the R&D Cash Rebate Scheme, companies participating in ITF-funded R&D projects or conducting R&D projects in partnership with designated local public research institutes enjoy a cash rebate of 40 per cent on their investments.

7 To assist more local technology companies in realising and commercialising their R&D outcomes and encourage public sector organisations to utilise more local R&D outcomes, the scope of funding of the PSTS has been extended to cover all technology companies conducting R&D activities in Hong Kong since March 2020.

8 Companies can claim enhanced tax deduction for expenditure on qualifying R&D activities incurred on or after 1 April 2018. The Commissioner for Innovation and Technology is responsible for designating qualified local research institutions as “designated local research institution” (DLRI) under the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112).

9 The Commission launched the Innovation Hub@HK in August 2022 with the aim of showcasing the R&D outcomes of universities and research institutes of Hong Kong. The website provides a one-stop platform to connect universities, research institutes and the industry to facilitate commercialisation and technology transfer of R&D outcomes.

10 The Commission plans to launch the Frontier Technology Research Support Scheme (FTRSS) in 2025–26 to assist, on a matching basis, eight University Grants Committee-funded universities in procuring facilities and attracting top-notch international talents from outside Hong Kong to conduct research projects in Hong Kong.

11 The performance under this programme is indicated by the extent to which the applied R&D activities receiving funding support are of relevance to the industry and the extent to which the R&D centres accomplish their research programmes effectively. Performance indicators in respect of the ITSP, TCFS, MHKJFS, MHKTCFS, PRP, University-Industry Collaboration Programme (UICP), Midstream Research Programme for Universities (MRP), PSTS, PAG, R&D centres and R&D Cash Rebate Scheme are as follows:

### *Indicators*

	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Estimate)
ITSP $\Psi$			
applications received and processed .....	481	20 $\lambda$	494 $\S$
projects funded and being monitored .....	271	276	504 $\S$
TCFS $\Psi$			
applications received and processed .....	401	474	N.A. $\phi$
projects funded and being monitored .....	105	143	N.A. $\phi$
MHKJFS $\Psi$			
applications received and processed .....	243	371	N.A. $\phi$
projects funded and being monitored .....	89	112	N.A. $\phi$
MHKTCFS $\Psi$ .....			
applications received and processed .....	N.A. $\phi$	N.A. $\phi$	614 $\phi$
projects funded and being monitored .....	N.A. $\phi$	N.A. $\phi$	285 $\phi$

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	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Estimate)
PRP <sup>Ψ</sup>			
applications received and processed .....	48	78	N.A. §
projects funded and being monitored .....	149	169	N.A. §
UICP			
applications received and processed <sup>^</sup> .....	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
projects funded and being monitored .....	21	19	N.A. <sup>^</sup>
MRP			
applications received and processed <sup>¶</sup> .....	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
projects funded and being monitored .....	50	43	N.A. <sup>¶</sup>
PSTS <sup>Ψ</sup>			
applications received and processed .....	31	19	24
projects funded and being monitored .....	70	70	71
PAG			
applications received and processed .....	173	200	186
projects funded .....	107	110	110
R&D centres' projects <sup>Φ</sup>			
Automotive Platforms and Application Systems (APAS) R&D Centre			
new projects .....	22	23	13 <sup>Ω</sup>
projects funded and being monitored .....	88	94	103 <sup>Ω</sup>
R&D Centre for information and communications technologies			
new projects .....	47	55	43
projects funded and being monitored .....	119	139	139
Logistics and Supply Chain MultiTech (LSCM) R&D Centre			
new projects .....	28	20 <sup>Δ</sup>	37
projects funded and being monitored .....	88	80	96
Nano and Advanced Materials Institute (NAMI)			
new projects .....	43	32 <sup>φ</sup>	40
projects funded and being monitored .....	184	171	175
Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel			
new projects .....	16	20	21
projects funded and being monitored .....	73	79	82
R&D Cash Rebate Scheme			
applications received and processed .....	314	318	312
applications approved .....	320	327	321

<sup>Ψ</sup> The figures do not include applications submitted or projects undertaken by the six R&D centres, which are reported under the indicator “R&D centres’ projects”.

<sup>λ</sup> In 2024, the Commission received 20 applications for ITSP Special Call on Aerospace Technology, which was launched in July 2024. As the 2024–25 round of application for ITSP (Platform & Seed) will close at the end of February 2025, the estimated application(s) to be received and processed thereunder are projected under 2025 (Estimate).

<sup>§</sup> PRP will be subsumed under ITSP in 2025. All PRP applications and projects funded and being monitored will be included under the indicator “ITSP” from 2025 onwards.

<sup>φ</sup> TCFS and MHKJFS will be merged as MHKTCFS in 2025. All applications and projects funded and being monitored under the two schemes will be included under the new indicator “MHKTCFS” from 2025 onwards.

<sup>^</sup> UICP ceased to accept new applications from April 2019 onwards. All UICP projects funded and being monitored will be included under the indicator “ITSP” from 2025 onwards.

<sup>¶</sup> MRP has been subsumed under ITSP. Applications for ITSP (Mid-stream, theme-based) have been included under the indicator “ITSP” from 2022 onwards. All MRP projects funded and being monitored will also be included under the indicator “ITSP” from 2025 onwards.

<sup>Φ</sup> ITF-supported R&D projects undertaken by the five R&D centres are included, except for the Hong Kong Microelectronics Research and Development Institute (MRDI). The MRDI, established in September 2024, is preparing for the installation and tuning of pilot lines at the Microelectronics Centre in the Yuen Long InnoPark at the end of 2025. The Government will work with the MRDI to establish a rigorous assessment mechanism with key performance indicators, which are not available yet.

<sup>Ω</sup> The figures represent the expected number of new projects and projects to be funded by 31 March 2025 before the APAS R&D Centre is incorporated into HKPC in April 2025.

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- △ Some new projects originally scheduled to commence in 2024 have been delayed, as preparatory work for project commencement takes time due to the fact that the projects involve complex technology areas. LSCM R&D Centre will strengthen the monitoring of preparatory work progress for project commencement.
- φ Due to uncertain economic outlook induced by the external environment, small and medium-sized enterprises adopted a wait-and-see attitude on investing in I&T, resulting in a reduction on the number of new projects in 2024. NAMI will strengthen collaboration with the industry and relevant departments/organisations to incubate new projects.

### *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26*

**12** During 2025–26, the Commission will:

- launch the FTRSS;
- continue to administer the various funding programmes and monitor progress of the funded projects;
- continue to support the activities of the six R&D centres with emphasis on commercialisation and technology transfer of funded projects;
- complete the restructuring exercise of the State Key Laboratories in Hong Kong;
- drive MRDI to commence its work and establish an assessment mechanism with key performance indicators;
- continue to process applications for designation as DLRIs; and
- continue to promote the Innovation Hub@HK and enrich its contents with more R&D outcomes.

### **Programme (2): Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship**

	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	<b>2025–26 (Estimate)</b>
Financial provision (\$m)	38.1	54.6	52.3 (–4.2%)	<b>68.1</b> (+30.2%)
				(or +24.7% on 2024–25 Original)

### *Aim*

**13** The aim is to promote technological entrepreneurship in Hong Kong and provide essential support to technology-based entrepreneurial activities and technology R&D in the private sector.

### *Brief Description*

**14** To encourage more private sector investment in R&D, the Commission launched in April 2015 the Enterprise Support Scheme (ESS) under the ITF to replace the Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme (SERAP). The ESS provides funding support to companies of all sizes incorporated in Hong Kong to carry out R&D. The Applied Research Fund (ARF) which provides funding to technology companies in Hong Kong at the venture capital stage has been operating in a winding down mode since 2005 upon review.

**15** The Commission administers the Technology Start-up Support Scheme for Universities (TSSSU). The TSSSU provides funding to six local universities to support their teams to start technology businesses and commercialise their R&D results. In addition, the Commission works closely with the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC) which operates various support programmes as well as its Corporate Venture Fund to provide funding and other support for technology start-ups at different stages of operation.

**16** To stimulate private sector investments in I&T start-ups in Hong Kong, the Commission administers the Innovation and Technology Venture Fund (ITVF) to co-invest with venture capital funds selected as co-investment partners (CPs) in eligible local I&T start-ups. To enhance Hong Kong’s start-up ecosystem, the Commission invites fund managers to raise market capital, in order to set up funds jointly with the market, on a matching basis, to invest in start-ups of strategic industries.

**17** To incentivise collaboration among industry, academic and research sectors to further promote the transformation of R&D outcomes “from 1 to N” and the industry development, the Commission launched the “Research, Academic and Industry Sectors One-plus Scheme” (RAISE+ Scheme) in October 2023 to fund, on a matching basis, university research teams with potential to become I&T start-ups.

**18** During 2024–25, the Commission:

- administered the ESS, the TSSSU and the RAISE+ Scheme;
- administered and optimised the ITVF; and
- monitored the residual work relating to the ARF and the SERAP.

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19 The key performance indicators are:

*Indicators*

	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Estimate)
SERAP <sub>μ</sub> projects being monitored.....	9	9	0
ESS applications received and processed .....	56	92	97
projects funded and being monitored.....	96	71	72

μ Applications for SERAP were closed on 28 April 2015 and the remaining nine projects being monitored were closed in 2024.

**Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26**

20 During 2025–26, the Commission will continue to:

- administer the ESS, the TSSSU and the RAISe+ Scheme;
- administer the ITVF, including the selection of suitable fund managers under the ITVF enhanced scheme and setting up funds jointly with the market to invest, on a matching basis, in start-ups of strategic industries; and
- take forward the Pilot I&T Accelerator Scheme and the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park (HSITP) Incubation Support Programme for Life and Health Technology Start-ups.

**Programme (3): Planning for Innovation and Technology Development**

	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	2025–26 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	109.2	147.6	108.9 (–26.2%)	112.2 (+3.0%)
				(or –24.0% on 2024–25 Original)

**Aim**

21 The aim is to support the formulation and co-ordination of I&T policies, enhance public awareness of I&T and promote technology adoption.

**Brief Description**

22 The Commission supports technology co-operation with the Mainland and overseas economies, and participates in relevant regional and international activities which help promote I&T.

23 To enhance public awareness and understanding of the importance of I&T, the Commission organises promotional events locally and administers the General Support Programme (GSP) under the ITF to fund projects such as seminars, exhibitions, promotion of popular science and technology competitions for students which help foster an I&T culture in the community.

24 To promote new industrialisation in Hong Kong, the Commission administers the New Industrialisation Funding Scheme (NIFS) which aims to subsidise manufacturers, on a matching basis, to set up new smart production lines in Hong Kong. Besides, the Commission launched the New Industrialisation Acceleration Scheme (NIAS) in September 2024 to provide funding support on a matching basis for enterprises engaging in industries of strategic importance (i.e. life and health technology, artificial intelligence and data science, as well as advanced manufacturing and new energy technologies) to set up new smart production facilities in Hong Kong. Research Talent Hub (RTH) for Companies Subsidised under the NIAS was launched in September 2024 to provide funding support for the recruitment of more research talents to conduct R&D work. Technology Talent Admission Scheme (TechTAS)-NIAS was launched in September 2024 to flexibly allow enterprises under NIAS to employ non-local technical personnel who possess the required skills/know-how and relevant experience in setting up and operating new production facilities to work in Hong Kong.

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25 The Innovation and Technology Fund for Better Living (FBL), launched by the former Innovation and Technology Bureau in May 2017 and transferred to the ITF in June 2021, aims to fund I&T projects which will make people's daily life more convenient, comfortable and safer, or address the needs of specific community groups. In order to make more effective use of the ITF in supporting Hong Kong's I&T development, FBL ceased accepting applications from January 2025 onwards.

26 The Commission also administers four programmes to pool together and nurture technology talents:

- Launched in July 2020, the RTH merged the former Researcher Programme and Postdoctoral Hub to provide financial support for eligible organisations/companies to engage research talents to carry out R&D work. It aims to provide opportunities for graduates from tertiary institutions to acquire research and industrial experience, stimulate the interest of graduates in applied R&D activities and help nurture a larger pool of research talents;
- the STEM Internship Scheme subsidises university students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines to gain I&T-related work experience through participation in short-term full-time internships, so as to enlarge the local I&T talent pool;
- the TechTAS provides a fast-track arrangement for eligible companies to admit overseas and Mainland technology talents to undertake R&D work for them in Hong Kong; and
- the New Industrialisation and Technology Training Programme (NITTP) subsidises local companies to train their staff in advanced technologies.

27 During 2024–25, the Commission:

- enhanced technology co-operation with the Mainland at the central, regional, provincial and municipal levels through various co-operation mechanisms, including the Mainland/Hong Kong Science and Technology Co-operation Committee, the Pan-Pearl River Delta Joint Conference on Regional Co-operation in Science and Technology, and the Guangdong/Hong Kong Expert Group on Co-operation in Technology and Innovation;
- organised exhibitions and workshops as well as sponsored competitions to promote I&T culture and popular science to different sectors of the community through the GSP;
- sponsored and supported the Innovation and Technology Scholarship to nurture young talents to become future leaders in I&T;
- administered the Technology Voucher Programme (TVP) to support enterprises to improve productivity;
- administered the STEM Internship Scheme to provide allowance to STEM university students to undertake short-term full-time internships in I&T-related work;
- organised the nine-day InnoCarnival from October to November 2024; and
- organised the second City I&T Grand Challenge with the Grand Pitch and the Showcase held in August and October 2024 respectively.

28 The key performance indicators are:

### *Indicators*

	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Estimate)
GSP			
applications received and processed .....	122	212	<b>212</b>
projects funded and being monitored .....	241	299	<b>356</b>
FBL			
applications received and processed .....	70	118	N.A.#
projects funded and being monitored .....	44	40	<b>29</b>
RTH			
applications received and processed .....	2 895	3 117	<b>2 883</b>
research talent positions funded .....	4 512	4 777	<b>4 529</b>
NITTP			
applications received and processed .....	8 419€	3 202€	<b>2 241€</b>
trainings funded .....	22 544€	4 149€	<b>2 904€</b>
TVP			
applications received and processed .....	11 527	6 700p	<b>11 629p</b>
projects funded and being monitored .....	27 463	28 893	<b>30 592</b>
NIFS			
applications received and processed .....	15	30	<b>30</b>
projects funded and being monitored .....	29	40	<b>65</b>

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	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Estimate)
NIAS <sup>⊖</sup> .....			
applications received and processed .....	N.A.	0 <sup>Ψ</sup>	12
projects funded and being monitored.....	N.A.	0 <sup>Ψ</sup>	12

# FBL ceased accepting new applications from January 2025 onwards.

ε The Commission has implemented enhancement measures under NITTP since late 2023 to strengthen the quality of courses registered under the programme. There is a drop in both the number of applications received and trainings funded as stakeholders need time to familiarise with the enhancement measures. Separately, since there are fewer approved registered courses currently available for enrollment under NITTP compared to the same period in 2024, the Commission projects a decline in both the applications received and processed and the trainings funded in 2025.

ρ The Government has announced that TVP would cease accepting new applications after 31 December 2024. Applications received before the cut-off date will be processed in 2025.

⊖ New indicators as from 2024.

Ψ The NIAS was launched in September 2024. No application has completed processing as clarification and supplementary information from applicants are pending.

***Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26***

**29** During 2025–26, the Commission will:

- continue to administer the RTH, STEM Internship Scheme and TechTAS;
- continue to strengthen technology co-operation with the Mainland under various co-operation mechanisms;
- continue to administer the GSP, NIFS, NIAS and NITTP, and monitor progress of the funded projects of the above funding programmes and TVP;
- continue to promote an I&T culture and popular science to the general public and nurture more young innovators;
- nominate entries for the State Science and Technology Awards upon the invitation of the National Office for Science and Technology Awards;
- continue to organise promotional and educational activities to enhance public awareness of I&T development; and
- to launch the Pilot Manufacturing and Production Line Upgrade Support Scheme (Manufacturing+).

**Programme (4): Infrastructural Support**

	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	2025–26 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	57.6	76.1	76.2 (+0.1%)	1,880.1 (+2 367.3%)
				(or +2 370.6% on 2024–25 Original)

***Aim***

**30** The aim is to develop world-class support infrastructure to facilitate technological upgrading and development of the I&T industry and to promote I&T.

***Brief Description***

**31** The Commission achieves the aim through planning, supporting and overseeing technological infrastructural projects; and actively participating in the formulation and implementation of policies by other government bureaux and departments which impinge on I&T development in Hong Kong. The Commission works closely with relevant organisations such as the HKSTPC, Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park Limited (HSITPL), the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute Company Limited (ASTRI) and HKPC in the process.

**32** During 2024–25, the Commission:

- worked closely with the HKSTPC on various initiatives, including Stage 2 of the Science Park Expansion Programme and the Microelectronics Centre in the Yuen Long InnoPark;
- established a new InnoHK R&D Centre to participate in the Chang'E-8 mission, contributing to national aerospace development;

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- completed a mid-term scientific review of the work of the research laboratories in the InnoHK research clusters with the aim of supporting the continuous development of the research clusters and promoting Hong Kong as a hub for global research collaboration;
- started preparatory work for the establishment of the third InnoHK research cluster which focuses on advanced manufacturing, materials, energy and sustainable development, with a view to attracting world-class R&D teams to collaborate with local institutions, promoting R&D and bringing in talents;
- started preparatory work for the setting up of life and health technology research institute(s) in order to promote the development of life and health technology in Hong Kong;
- worked closely with HSITPL on the development of the HSITP in the Loop;
- worked closely with the ASTRI in strengthening its institutional and research capabilities; and
- monitored the delivery of value-added support services to the advanced manufacturing and related service industries by the HKPC.

### *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26*

**33** During 2025–26, the Commission will:

- continue to oversee the work of 30 InnoHK R&D Centres in two research clusters, namely Health@InnoHK and AIR@InnoHK, to promote global research collaboration in Hong Kong;
- continue to work on the setting up of the third InnoHK research cluster which focuses on advanced manufacturing, materials, energy and sustainable development, with a view to expanding our world-class R&D collaboration and enhancing the R&D development of Hong Kong;
- continue to work on the setting up of life and health technology research institute(s) in order to promote the development of life and health technology in Hong Kong;
- continue to work closely with the HKSTPC on various initiatives, including Stage 2 of the Science Park Expansion Programme, the Microelectronics Centre, the proposed new accommodation facility for I&T talents near Science Park, increasing the supply of advanced manufacturing space in InnoParks, and the planning of 20 hectares of new I&T land in San Tin Technopole;
- continue to work closely with the HSITPL to take forward the development of the HSITP; and
- continue to work closely with the MRDI and HKSTPC on the planning and installation of pilot lines at the Microelectronics Centre.

### **Programme (5): Quality Support**

	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	<b>2025–26 (Estimate)</b>
Financial provision (\$m)	141.2	142.6	132.6 (–7.0%)	<b>180.3</b> (+36.0%)
				(or +26.4% on 2024–25 Original)

### *Aim*

**34** The aim is to promote internationally accepted standards and conformity assessment services to underpin technological development and international trade, and the development of the testing and certification (T&C) sector in Hong Kong.

### *Brief Description*

**35** The Commission achieves this aim through the operation of the Standards and Calibration Laboratory (SCL), the Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS), the Secretariat of the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification (HKCTC) and the provision of standard-related services.

**36** SCL is the official custodian of physical measurement reference standards. Through participation in Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) drawn up by the International Committee for Weights and Measures (CIPM), SCL's calibration certificates are accepted worldwide.



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37 Through the MRAs signed with international and regional organisations of accreditation bodies, the endorsed test reports and accredited certificates issued by organisations accredited by the HKAS under the Hong Kong Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (HOKLAS), the Hong Kong Certification Body Accreditation Scheme (HKCAS) and the Hong Kong Inspection Body Accreditation Scheme (HKIAS) are recognised worldwide.

38 During 2024–25,

- SCL provided calibration services traceable to the International System of Units and proficiency testing services, and participated in the following international metrology activities to substantiate its CIPM MRA status:
  - inter-laboratory comparisons of measurement standards;
  - peer reviews of the capabilities and quality systems of other CIPM MRA partners;
  - presenting SCL’s technical achievements at international conferences and journals;
  - participating in the 23rd meeting of the Directors of National Metrology Institutes; and
  - participating in the 40th General Assembly and related meetings of the Asia Pacific Metrology Programme (APMP);
- HKAS provided accreditation services to laboratories, certification bodies and inspection bodies according to international standards and participated in international and regional accreditation co-operation bodies, namely the Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC), the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), to maintain its MRA status for worldwide recognition of endorsed reports and certificates issued by HKAS accredited organisations;
- HKAS provided standards sales and technical enquiry services as well as participated in international and regional fora, including the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC), on standards and conformance matters; and
- the Secretariat of the HKCTC continued to provide support to the HKCTC in implementing measures to support the development of the T&C sector and provided financial support under the T&C Sector Job Creation Scheme to encourage private T&C organisations to cultivate the T&C talent pool by creating new jobs.

39 The key performance measures for the SCL, HKAS and standard-related services are:

### *Targets*

	Target	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Plan)
processing of quotation for calibration services within two working days (%).....	97	99	99	<b>97</b>
calibration of equipment within 13 working days (%) .....	95	99	99	<b>95</b>
processing of technical enquiries on product standards within one working day (%) .....	95	100	96	<b>95</b>
processing of quotations on standards within one working day (%) .....	100	100	100	<b>100</b>
processing of orders for licensed reproduction of standards within two working days (%) .....	100	100	100	<b>100</b>
issue of letter for confirming accreditation assessments within four working days (%).....	90	97	95	<b>90</b>
publishing updated information of accredited organisations on website within four working days (%).....	90	99	96	<b>90</b>

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*Indicators*

	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Estimate)
SCL			
calibrations and proficiency tests performed .....	1 213	1 084ε	<b>1 000</b>
revenue generated (\$) .....	5,440,006	4,773,991ε	<b>4,500,000</b>
SCL's overseas CIPM MRA partners (cumulative)φ.....	101	102	<b>102</b>
Standard-related services			
technical enquiries received .....	263	113φ	<b>110</b>
sales of standards			
enquiries received.....	107	89Ψ	<b>90</b>
quotations given .....	952	758Ψ	<b>300Ω</b>
orders placed .....	79	74Ψ	<b>70</b>
revenue generated (\$).....	48,925	37,400Ψ	<b>37,000</b>
HOKLAS			
accredited laboratories (cumulative) .....	235	233ρ	<b>235</b>
newly accredited laboratories.....	6	8	<b>7</b>
assessments, re-assessments and surveillance visits conducted.....	328	306	<b>320</b>
overseas laboratory accreditation schemes entered into MRA with the HOKLAS (cumulative).....	112	114	<b>114</b>
HKCAS			
accredited certification bodies (cumulative) .....	27	27	<b>27</b>
newly accredited certification bodies .....	1	1	<b>1</b>
assessments, re-assessments and surveillance visits conducted.....	63	66	<b>64</b>
overseas certification bodies accreditation schemes entered into MRA with the HKCAS (cumulative) .....	84	86	<b>86</b>
HKIAS.....			
accredited inspection bodies (cumulative) .....	24	27	<b>28</b>
newly accredited inspection bodies.....	1	4	<b>4</b>
assessments, re-assessments and surveillance visits conducted.....	32	36	<b>34</b>
overseas inspection bodies accreditation schemes entered into MRA with the HKIAS (cumulative).....	87	88	<b>88</b>

ε The decrease in number of calibrations performed and revenue generated in 2024 were due to reduced customer demand as they are under tight financial conditions.

φ This indicator provides information on the extent of international recognition of SCL's measurement standards and calibration certificates. These figures include all CIPM MRA partners, which comprise overseas national metrology institutes and four international organisations, namely International Atomic Energy Agency, European Commission – Joint Research Centre, World Meteorological Organization and European Space Agency.

φ With the increase in availability of standards-related information online, a drop in the number of technical enquiries was noted.

Ψ The number of enquiries received, quotations given, orders placed and revenue generated in 2024 were lower than those in 2023 mainly because of the absence of major updates of popular international standards.

Ω With reference to the falling trend observed in 2024, the number of quotations given in 2025 is anticipated to return to the figure observed in 2022 (i.e. around 300).

ρ The figure has taken into account ten laboratories which ceased accreditation in 2024.

***Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26***

**40** During 2025–26, the Commission will continue to:

- provide support to the HKCTC in implementing measures to support the development of the T&C sector and organising the 2025–26 T&C Manpower Development Award Scheme;
- pursue further liberalisation measures relevant to the T&C sector under the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA);
- develop plans to extend accreditation services to other areas to support industry and continue to work closely with the HKCTC to promote existing accreditation services to industry;
- provide calibration and proficiency testing services;
- participate in international metrology activities of CIPM and APMP;
- participate in APEC, ISO and PASC activities relating to standardisation;

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- provide accreditation services under the HOKLAS, HKCAS and HKIAS; and
- participate in the activities of the APAC, the ILAC and the IAF to maintain the MRA status of the HKAS.

**Programme (6): Subvention: Hong Kong Productivity Council, Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute Company Limited**

	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	2025–26 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)				
Hong Kong Productivity Council	217.7	221.4	224.8 (+1.5%)	<b>217.4</b> (–3.3%)  (or –1.8% on 2024–25 Original)
Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute Company Limited	153.4	160.5	160.5 (—)	— (–100.0%)  (or –100.0% on 2024–25 Original)
<b>Total</b>	<b>371.1</b>	<b>381.9</b>	<b>385.3</b> (+0.9%)	<b>217.4</b> (–43.6%)  (or –43.1% on 2024–25 Original)

*HKPC*

**Aim**

**41** The aim is to promote productivity excellence through the provision of integrated support across the value chain of the industry, in order to achieve more effective utilisation of resources, enhance the value-added content of products and services, and enhance the industry’s competitiveness and sustainability.

**Brief Description**

**42** The HKPC provides integrated support to innovative and growth-oriented Hong Kong firms across the value chain, in particular small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and start-ups, with the main geographical focus on Hong Kong and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) in the Mainland.

**43** The work of the HKPC is anchored on four programme areas of smart manufacturing technologies, SME upgrade and support, smart and digital technologies and green technologies to promote new industrialisation and new productive forces, including:

- providing one-stop services in intelligent manufacturing and new industrialisation to assist industries in different sectors to set up smart production lines and transform to high value-added production;
- providing integrated services for SMEs and start-ups to boost their business performance, including FutureSkills training from technological knowledge to TechEd STEAM education and management to nurture future talents in I&T, as well as secretariat support to government funding schemes to help SMEs upgrade and transform;
- promoting digitalisation and cyber security to assist local industries to utilise digital technologies and develop effective security strategies to transform operations and adapt to future challenges; and
- providing new energy and green technology support to drive smart and green living and contribute to carbon neutrality.

**44** During 2024–25, the HKPC ran the following subsidiaries:

- the HKPC Technology (Holdings) Company Limited which functions as a vehicle for the commercialisation of patents, technologies and project deliverables of the HKPC and the APAS R&D Centre; and
- the Productivity (Holdings) Limited which operates consulting firms in Shenzhen and Dongguan to strengthen the HKPC’s integrated support and services for Hong Kong firms operating in the Greater Bay Area.

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45 The key performance indicators for the HKPC are:

### *Indicators*

	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 <sup>Φ</sup> (Revised Estimate)	2025–26 <sup>Φ</sup> (Estimate)
external income per employee (\$m).....	1.1	0.8	<b>0.8</b>
total income/total expenditure ratio (%) .....	85	78	<b>77</b>
income from integrated service projects (\$m) .....	680.2	633.5	<b>718.8</b>
income from fee-charging integrated learning course projects (\$m).....	30.9	26.7	<b>27.5</b>
no. of integrated service projects accepted .....	730	650	<b>680</b>
no. of people participated in fee-charging integrated learning courses .....	22 058	13 500	<b>15 000</b>
no. of people participated in the HKPC's seminars, workshops, conferences, exhibitions and non-fee charging training courses and study missions .....	29 439	26 000	<b>29 000</b>
no. of new R&D projects <sup>β</sup> .....	116	110	<b>120</b>
no. of new projects using HKPC's patents .....	55	54	<b>65</b>
customer satisfaction index .....	9.6	8.9	<b>8.9</b>

Φ The estimate figures have taken into account, among others, the estimates for 2024–25, year-to-date actual performance, Hong Kong's economic outlook and general market sentiment.

β The figures for 2023–24 and 2024–25 do not include projects undertaken by the APAS R&D Centre, which are reported under the relevant indicators for the Centre in paragraph 11 above.

### *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26*

46 During 2025–26, the HKPC will continue to:

- accelerate new industrialisation for local enterprises to harness new productive forces;
- promote intelligent manufacturing by operating the INC Invention Center Hong Kong jointly established with the Fraunhofer Institute for Production Technology in October 2018 and the Hong Kong Industrial Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Centre set up with RWTH Aachen Campus in 2021;
- provide digitalisation and cyber security support for enterprises to upgrade and digitalise operation for sustainable development in the changing business environment;
- nurture future talents and promote new technology application and commercialisation through the HKPC Academy and the Inno Space;
- strengthen training relating to new industrialisation;
- promote smart and green living by accelerating the adoption of new energy and green technologies and providing support to enterprises in managing their Environmental, Social, and Governance performance;
- provide integrated services to SMEs and start-ups through the SME ReachOut and SME One;
- enhance support to Hong Kong companies operating in the Greater Bay Area, through subsidiary consulting firms set up in Shenzhen and Dongguan and service platforms set up with local governments and new industrialisation service points in the region; and
- implement designated government funding schemes as the secretariat for serving SMEs.

### *ASTRI*

#### *Aim*

47 The aim is to provide research capability for Hong Kong's technological development and stimulate the growth of technology-based industry in Hong Kong, and to enhance Hong Kong's competitiveness in technology-based industries through applied research.

#### *Brief Description*

48 ASTRI's missions are to:

- perform high quality R&D and transfer the technologies developed to industry;
- promote greater application of technology in industry;
- become a focal point for attracting international R&D talent to work in Hong Kong;

## Head 155 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION

- enhance Hong Kong’s technological human resources development;
- act as a spawning ground for technology entrepreneurs; and
- provide a focal point for industry-university collaboration.

**49** ASTRI is designated as the R&D Centre for information and communications technologies. ASTRI focuses its R&D on six core initiatives – financial technologies, new industrialisation and intelligent manufacturing, smart city, digital health, application specific integrated circuits and metaverse. Its operating strategy is to transfer the technologies and results developed from its R&D projects to the industry. This process will elevate the technology level of Hong Kong industry and accelerate the expansion of its technology industry base to create new employment opportunities and enhance competitiveness. Over the years, ASTRI has become more customer-focused in its R&D business.

**50** The key performance indicators for ASTRI are:

### *Indicators*

	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)	2025 <sup>ψ</sup> (Estimate)
no. of new full projects <sup>^</sup> .....	28	31	—
no. of new seed projects <sup>¶</sup> .....	19	24	—
no. of inventions (patents) filed .....	34 (68)	30 (60)	—
no. of technology transfer .....	70	79	—
no. of clients engaged in technology transfer.....	67	65	—
no. of members joining consortia formed by ASTRI.....	154	523 <sup>λ</sup>	—
no. of technology workshops/seminars organised .....	111	111	—
no. of participants of seminars .....	7 149	11 671	—
amount of income from industry (\$m).....	161.0	171.1	—

<sup>ψ</sup> The funding arrangement for ASTRI will change from recurrent subvention under Head 155 – Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission to ITF with effect from 2025–26.

<sup>^</sup> Full projects are R&D projects with more than \$2 million funding support from the ITF, including collaborative projects with the industry.

<sup>¶</sup> Seed projects are feasibility studies for developing substantive R&D project proposals. The maximum ITF funding support for each of them is \$2.8 million.

<sup>λ</sup> Refer to the accumulated number of members recruited.

### *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26*

**51** During 2025–26, the ASTRI will continue to:

- transfer technologies developed from its R&D projects to industry and commercialise project deliverables through implementing corporate-level initiatives and encouraging more collaborative projects;
- strengthen co-operation with the industry, public organisations and universities in R&D, for example, through the establishment of joint laboratories/R&D centres and alliances;
- collaborate with enterprises and research institutions in the Mainland and overseas and explore development potential in the Greater Bay Area;
- develop research capabilities in identified emerging technology areas;
- enhance institutional R&D infrastructure and research capabilities;
- contribute to development of local high-technology human capital by recruiting local engineering graduates as research fellows under the RTH of the ITF; and
- proceed to implement merger with NAMI.

**52** The funding arrangement for ASTRI will change from recurrent subvention under Head 155 – Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission to ITF with effect from 2025–26.

**Head 155 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT:  
INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION**

**ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION**

<b>Programme</b>	2023–24 (Actual) (\$m)	2024–25 (Original) (\$m)	2024–25 (Revised) (\$m)	2025–26 (Estimate) (\$m)
(1) Support for Research and Development.....	103.4	114.5	119.6	121.3
(2) Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship.....	38.1	54.6	52.3	68.1
(3) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development.....	109.2	147.6	108.9	112.2
(4) Infrastructural Support.....	57.6	76.1	76.2	1,880.1
(5) Quality Support.....	141.2	142.6	132.6	180.3
(6) Subvention: Hong Kong Productivity Council, Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute Company Limited .....	371.1	381.9	385.3	217.4
	820.6	917.3	874.9 (–4.6%)	2,579.4 (+194.8%)
				<b>(or +181.2% on 2024–25 Original)</b>

**Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision**

**Programme (1)**

Provision for 2025–26 is \$1.7 million (1.4%) higher than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to increased provision for salary. There will be a net increase of three posts in 2025–26.

**Programme (2)**

Provision for 2025–26 is \$15.8 million (30.2%) higher than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to increased provision for salary and general departmental expenses. In addition, there will be a net increase of three posts in 2025–26.

**Programme (3)**

Provision for 2025–26 is \$3.3 million (3.0%) higher than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to increased provision for cash flow requirements for organising the City I&T Grand Challenge.

**Programme (4)**

Provision for 2025–26 is \$1,803.9 million (2 367.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to increased provision for salary and cash flow requirements for the setting up of life and health technology research institute(s). In addition, there will be a net increase of one post in 2025–26.

**Programme (5)**

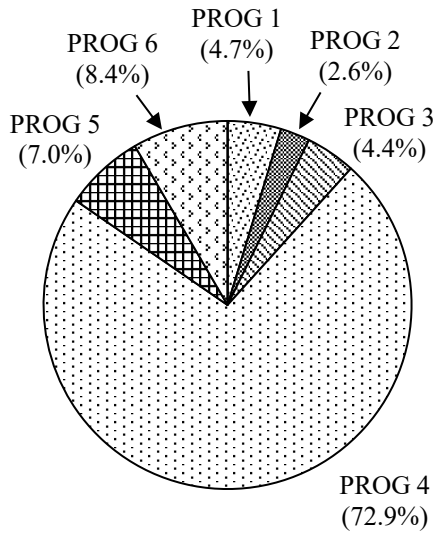
Provision for 2025–26 is \$47.7 million (36.0%) higher than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to increased provision for salary, general departmental expenses and procurement of equipment.

**Programme (6)**

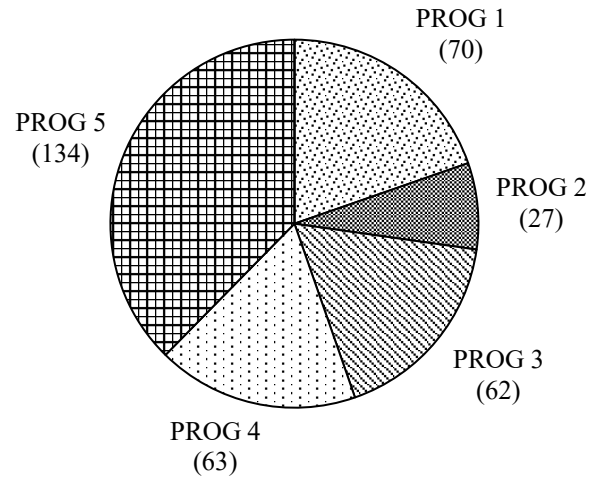
Provision for 2025–26 is \$167.9 million (43.6%) lower than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to the change of funding arrangement for ASTRI from recurrent subvention under Head 155 – Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission to ITF with effect from 2025–26.

**Head 155 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT:  
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*Allocation of provision to programmes (2025-26)*

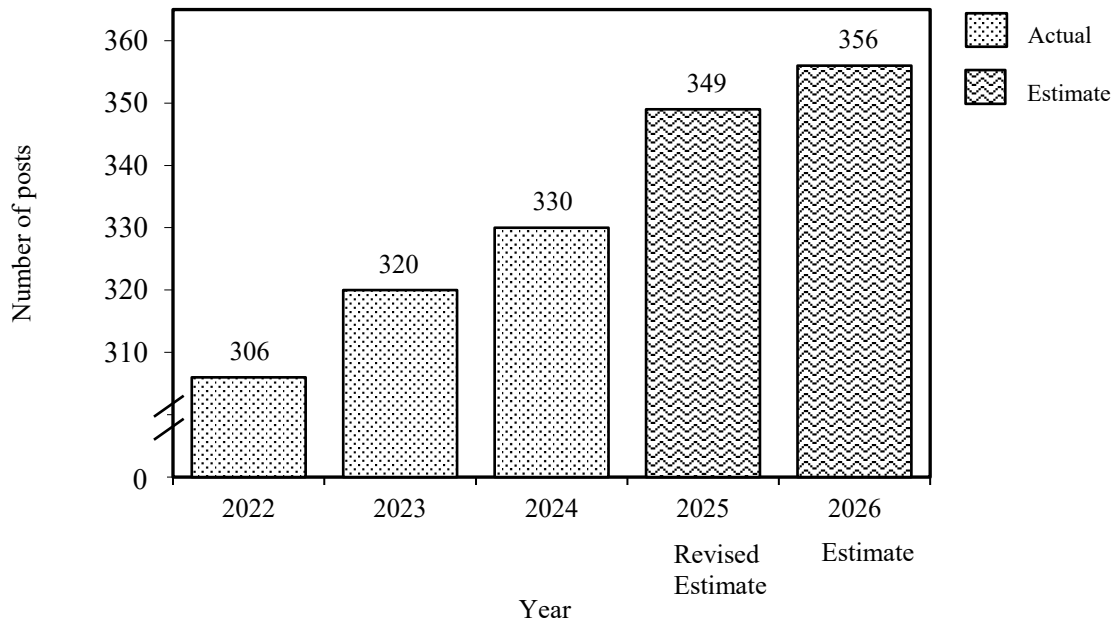


*Staff by programme (as at 31 March 2026)*



(No government staff under PROG 6)

*Changes in the size of the establishment (as at 31 March)*



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Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2023–24	Approved estimate 2024–25	Revised estimate 2024–25	<b>Estimate 2025–26</b>	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	<b>\$'000</b>	
<b>Operating Account</b>					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses .....	786,382	841,991	845,389	<b>706,955</b>
	Total, Recurrent.....	<u>786,382</u>	<u>841,991</u>	<u>845,389</u>	<u><b>706,955</b></u>
Non-Recurrent					
700	General non-recurrent .....	29,066	60,000	24,415	<b>1,830,000</b>
	Total, Non-Recurrent.....	<u>29,066</u>	<u>60,000</u>	<u>24,415</u>	<u><b>1,830,000</b></u>
	Total, Operating Account .....	<u>815,448</u>	<u>901,991</u>	<u>869,804</u>	<u><b>2,536,955</b></u>
<b>Capital Account</b>					
Plant, Equipment and Works					
603	Plant, vehicles and equipment.....	765	10,333	318	<b>20,100</b>
661	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote).....	4,387	4,933	4,767	<b>22,362</b>
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works.....	<u>5,152</u>	<u>15,266</u>	<u>5,085</u>	<u><b>42,462</b></u>
	Total, Capital Account.....	<u>5,152</u>	<u>15,266</u>	<u>5,085</u>	<u><b>42,462</b></u>
	Total Expenditure .....	<u><u>820,600</u></u>	<u><u>917,257</u></u>	<u><u>874,889</u></u>	<u><u><b>2,579,417</b></u></u>



## Head 155 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION

### Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2025–26 for the salaries and expenses of the Innovation and Technology Commission is \$2,579,417,000. This represents an increase of \$1,704,528,000 over the revised estimate for 2024–25 and \$1,758,817,000 over the actual expenditure in 2023–24.

#### Operating Account

##### Recurrent

**2** *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Innovation and Technology Commission, including recurrent subventions to subvented organisation(s). The provision of \$706,955,000 represents a decrease of \$138,434,000 (16.4%) against the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to the change of funding arrangement for ASTRI from recurrent subvention under Head 155 – Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission to ITF with effect from 2025–26.

**3** The establishment as at 31 March 2025 will be 349 posts. It is expected that there will be a net increase of seven posts in 2025–26. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2025–26, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$295,505,000.

**4** An analysis of the financial provision under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is as follows:

	2023–24 (Actual) (\$'000)	2024–25 (Original) (\$'000)	2024–25 (Revised) (\$'000)	2025–26 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries .....	261,186	293,627	286,630	<b>309,091</b>
- Allowances .....	6,883	7,203	8,679	<b>10,650</b>
- Job-related allowances.....	—	2	2	<b>7</b>
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution .....	652	785	746	<b>769</b>
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution .....	25,059	28,085	28,914	<b>34,757</b>
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses .....	121,470	130,432	135,163	<b>134,280</b>
Subventions				
- Hong Kong Productivity Council.....	217,743	221,413	224,811	<b>217,401</b>
- Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute Company Limited .....	153,389	160,444	160,444	—
	786,382	841,991	845,389	<b>706,955</b>

##### Non-Recurrent

**5** Provision of \$1,830 million under *Subhead 700 General non-recurrent* represents an increase of \$1,805,585,000 (7 395.4%) over the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to increased cash flow requirements for the Subsidy Programme for the Setup of Life and Health Technology Research Institute(s).

#### Capital Account

##### Plant, Equipment and Works

**6** Provision of \$20,100,000 under *Subhead 603 Plant, vehicles and equipment* represents an increase of \$19,782,000 (6 220.8%) over the revised estimate for 2024–25. This reflects the increased cash flow requirements for setting up a system for measurement of antenna parameters in the Antenna Laboratory of the SCL at Tseung Kwan O Joint-user Government Office Building.

**7** Provision of \$22,362,000 under *Subhead 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)* represents an increase of \$17,595,000 (369.1%) over the revised estimate for 2024–25. This reflects the increased requirement for the scheduled replacement of minor plant and equipment.

**Head 155 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT:  
INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION**

**Commitments**

Sub-head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2024	Revised estimated expenditure for 2024–25	Balance
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b><i>Operating Account</i></b>						
700		<i>General non-recurrent</i>				
	802	City Innovation and Technology Grand Challenge .....	500,000	97,466	24,415	378,119
	805	Subsidy Programme for the Setup of Life and Health Technology Research Institute(s) .....	6,000,000	—	—	6,000,000
			<u>6,500,000</u>	<u>97,466</u>	<u>24,415</u>	<u>6,378,119</u>
<b><i>Capital Account</i></b>						
603		<i>Plant, vehicles and equipment</i>				
	803	To set up a system for measurement of antenna parameters in the Antenna Laboratory of the Standards and Calibration Laboratory at Tseung Kwan O Joint-user Government Office Building .....	50,000	765	—	49,235
			<u>50,000</u>	<u>765</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>49,235</u>
	Total .....		<u>6,550,000</u>	<u>98,231</u>	<u>24,415</u>	<u>6,427,354</u>