<u>Appendix</u>

About Deep-Tech Lab (DTL)

In November 2023, the **Centre for Entrepreneurship at The Chinese University of Hong Kong** (CUHK) launched the "Deep-Tech Lab" (DTL), an incubation programme aiming at commercialising scientific research to create market and societal impact. The DTL model is inspired by the [Creative Destruction Lab (CDL)](#) at the University of Toronto, Canada, and is strongly supported by its Co-Chair of the Global Strategy Board, Dr Chen Fong.

Deep-tech ventures are characterised by originating from years of deep-tech research efforts, having founders with scientific engineering or biomedical backgrounds, possessing intellectual properties, and having a competitive advantage driven primarily by technology rather than merely by scaling up or locking in customers. DTL has built a platform that brings together research professors, startup teams, investors, business elites, mentors, and CUHK's MBA students to jointly expand the commercial success of deep-tech startups.

Compared to other large-scale entrepreneurial events and incubators that emphasise numbers of participants and investment amounts, DTL focuses on the quality of startups. The incubation process is akin to laboratory research, meticulously analysing and improving each aspect of the venture to ensure the project's success and sustainable development. Its unique features include team-based mentorship, bringing together 48 local and international mentors from various fields to provide advice, and using a debate model to identify the best recommendations for the ventures. After multiple rounds of selection and voting, deep-tech ventures considered to be the most suitable advance to the next stages of DTL. This innovative incubation model itself is an experiment. At the end, eight highly promising ventures successfully graduated, each achieving different accomplishments and milestones.

DTL will continue following the graduating ventures in their next steps with a close eye to provide tailored support. Additionally, DTL will regularly organise networking events to connect ventures and alumni with a diverse group of industry experts and potential customers, fostering meaningful connections.

(Continuing in the next page)

About Deep Tech Lab's first batch of 8 graduating ventures (In alphabetical order)

1) Astra Optics Limited	Commercialising a ground-breaking 3D printing (nanofabrication) technology for industrial applications in optics, consumer electronics, photonics, etc. Their technology greatly accelerates innovation by fabricating complex nanostructures at 100x higher speeds and 10x lower cost.
2) Codex Energy	Develops and operates off-grid datacentres powered by natural gas which would otherwise be wasted or underutilised. In the long term, the company's AI-managed on-site power generation and immersion cooling technologies will underpin high performance datacentres of the future.
3) Gut Rhythm R&D (Hong Kong) Limited	Uses electrophysiological big data for AI-driven drug discovery and safety evaluation through its developed drug screening platform and database. This allows comprehensive prediction of drug side effects and adverse reactions in a fast and cost-effective manner before the drugs enter clinical trials.
4) Kodifly Limited	A pioneering startup in spatial intelligence. Their flagship product, SpatialSense is an intelligent system that combines LiDAR technology with AI. It supports smart city development by monitoring the operation of infrastructure such as railways, predicting the risk of tree collapses, and analysing road and traffic flow.
5) Meat the Next Company Limited	A superfood technology company focusing on creating delicious and nutritionally balanced New Proteins products to combat climate change through dietary changes. With their patented enzymatic technology and focus on sustainable raw materials, like non-GMO Soy & Tiger Nuts, they have developed the world's first Tiger Nut Oat Soy Milk.
6) NexoEdge	The first standardised open-source university project from Hong Kong, offering reliable edge-cloud storage using a Network Coding communication algorithm by sharding data into a number of coded components.
7) Provectus Therapeutics Limited	Develops a proprietary single cell drug screening AI platform to accelerate early-stage development of antibody drug conjugates, study tumor heterogeneity for precision oncology research and personalise treatment solution.
8) PuroChem Limited	Utilises Dispersed Mobile-Phase Countercurrent Chromatography (DMCC) to achieve high-resolution purification of medicinal herbal compounds at industrial capacity, being a ground-breaking separation technology with clear advantages over existing technologies in scalability, cost and speed.