

**Submitted via Qualtrics**

**Anonymous  
Company / Organisation  
Law Firm**

**Question 1**

**Do you agree with the proposed definitions of “Specialist Technology Company”, “Specialist Technology Products” and “Specialist Technology”?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views. If your answer is “No”, please provide alternative suggestions.**

**Question 2**

**Do you agree with the list of Specialist Technology Industries and the respective acceptable sectors set out in paragraph 4 of the Draft Guidance Letter (Appendix V to the Consultation Paper)?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views. If your answer is “No”, please provide alternative suggestions.**

**Question 3**

**Do you agree that the Exchange should take into account the factors set out in paragraph 107 of the Consultation Paper to determine whether a company is “primarily engaged” in the relevant business as referred to in the definition of “Specialist Technology Company”?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 4**

**Do you agree that the Exchange should retain the discretion to reject an application for listing from an applicant within an acceptable sector if it displays attributes inconsistent with the principles referred to in paragraph 101 of the Consultation Paper?**

No

**Please give reasons for your views.**

Generally agree. However, with regard to limb (b) of para 101, i.e., "the success of participants in the sector can be demonstrated to be attributable to the application, to their core business, of new technologies and/or the application of the relevant science and/or technology within that sector to a new business model, which also serves to differentiate them from traditional market participants serving similar consumers or end users;", we would suggest to remove "which also serves to differentiate them from traditional market participants serving similar consumers or end users" because new technology may not necessarily have a traditional market.

**Question 5**

**Do you agree that the Specialist Technology Regime should accommodate the listings of both Commercial Companies and Pre-Commercial Companies?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 6**

**Do you agree with the proposed approach to apply more stringent requirements to Pre-Commercial Companies?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 7**

**Do you agree with the proposal that all investors, including retail investors, should be allowed to subscribe for, and trade in, the securities of Pre-Commercial Companies?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 8**

**Do you agree that a Commercial Company applicant must have a minimum expected market capitalisation of HK\$8 billion?**

No

**Please give reasons for your views.**

We believe that setting a threshold as high as HKD8 billion would limit the Specialist Technology Regime to a handful of potential issuers which would have other choices of listing venue.

**Question 9**

**Do you agree that a Pre-Commercial Company applicant must have a minimum expected market capitalisation of HK\$15 billion at listing?**

No

**Please give reasons for your views.**

We believe that setting a threshold as high as HKD15 billion would limit the Specialist Technology Regime to a handful of potential issuers which would have other choices of listing venue.

**Question 10**

**Do you agree that a Commercial Company must have revenue of at least HK\$250 million for the most recent audited financial year?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 11**

**Do you agree that only the revenue arising from the applicant's Specialist Technology business segment(s) (excluding any inter-segmental revenue from other business segments of the applicant), and not items of revenue and gains that arise incidentally, or from other businesses, should be recognised for the purpose of the Commercialisation Revenue Threshold?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 12(a)**

**Do you agree that a Commercial Company must demonstrate year-on-year growth of revenue derived from the sales of Specialist Technology Product(s) throughout the track record period, with allowance for temporary declines in revenue due to economic, market or industry-wide conditions?**

No

**Please give reasons for your views.**

For companies listed under LR8.05(3), there is no such requirement. Setting such additional threshold will add extra burden on the issuers and discourage them to choose HK as a listing venue. In addition, it is possible that the listing applicant has not yet generated revenue in the first two years of the track record period so that the year-on-year growth rate is not available.

**Question 12(b)**

**Do you agree that the reasons for, and remedial steps taken (or to be taken) to address, any downward trend in a Commercial Company's annual revenue must be explained to the Exchange's satisfaction and disclosed in the Listing Document?**

No

**Please give reasons for your views.**

For companies listed under LR8.05(3), there is no such requirement. Setting such additional threshold will add extra burden on the issuers and discourage them to choose HK as a listing venue. In addition, it is possible that the listing applicant has not yet generated revenue in the first two years of the track record period so that the year-on-year growth rate is not available.

**Question 13**

**Do you agree that a Specialist Technology Company listing applicant must have been engaged in R&D of its Specialist Technology Product(s) for a minimum of three financial years prior to listing?**

No

**Please give reasons for your views.**

We would propose that the minimum period for a Specialist Technology Company listing applicant to have been engaged in R&D to be two years if such company qualifies as a Commercial Company.

**Question 14(a)**

**Do you agree that, for a Commercial Company, its total amount of R&D investment must constitute at least 15% of its total operating expenditure for each of its three financial years prior to listing?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 14(b)**

**Do you agree that, for a Pre-Commercial Company, its total amount of R&D investment must constitute at least 50% of its total operating expenditure for each of its three financial years prior to listing?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 15**

**Do you agree with the proposed method for determining the amount of qualifying R&D investment and the total operating expenditure as set out in paragraph 141 of the Consultation Paper?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

We believe that excluding "the initial recognition of any fixed assets relating to the company's R&D activities (e.g. capital expenditures for acquiring an R&D center") is not suitable as fixed assets relating to the company's R&D activities could lay a solid foundation for the company's R&D effort and demonstrate its commitment to conducting R&D. We propose that such capital expenditures can be counted towards R&D investments, and the Exchange could reserve the right to disagree with such inclusion under certain circumstances, for example, if the cost is disproportionately large as compared to other components.

**Question 16**

**Do you agree that a Specialist Technology Company listing applicant must have been in operation in its current line of business for at least three financial years prior to listing under substantially the same management?**

No

**Please give reasons for your views.**

While it was proposed in the Consultation Paper that the Exchange may accept a shorter trading record of at least two financial years in exceptional circumstances, such "exceptional circumstances" can be very hard to define and there does not seem to be much guidance on this. Similar to Chapter 18A, allowing potential issuers with two-year track record period would help attract more candidates. We would propose that for Commercial Companies, they should be allowed to use a two-year track record period to list since they already have a proven path to commercialization.

**Question 17**

**Do you agree that there must be ownership continuity and control for a Specialist Technology Company listing applicant in the 12 months prior to the date of the listing application?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 18**

**Do you agree that an applicant applying to list under the proposed regime must have received meaningful investment from Sophisticated Independent Investors (SIIs)?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 19**

**Do you agree with the independence requirements for a Sophisticated Independent Investor as set out in paragraphs 155 to 157 of the Consultation Paper?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 20**

**Do you agree with the proposed definition of a sophisticated investor (including the definition of investment portfolio) as set out in paragraphs 159 to 162 of the Consultation Paper?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 21**

**Do you agree that as an indicative benchmark for meaningful investment, an applicant should have received third party investment from at least two Sophisticated Independent Investors who have invested at least 12 months before the date of the listing application, each holding such amount of shares or securities convertible into shares equivalent to 5% or more of the issued share capital of the listing applicant as at the date of listing application and throughout the pre-application 12-month period?**

No

**Please give reasons for your views.**

We believe such requirement would be challenging for potential listing applicants to satisfy.

**Question 22**

**Do you agree that as an indicative benchmark for meaningful investment, the aggregate investment from all Sophisticated Independent Investors should result in them holding such amount of shares or securities convertible into shares equivalent to at least such percentage of the issued share capital of the applicant at the time of listing as set out in Table 4 and paragraph 168 of the Consultation Paper?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 23**

**Do you agree that a Pre-Commercial Company applicant must have as its primary reason for listing the raising of funds for the R&D of, and the manufacturing and/or sales and marketing of, its Specialist Technology Product(s) to bring them to commercialisation and achieving the Commercialisation Revenue Threshold?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 24**

**Do you agree that a Pre-Commercial Company applicant must demonstrate to the Exchange, and disclose in its Listing Document, a credible path to the commercialisation of its Specialist Technology Products, appropriate to the relevant Specialist Technology Industry, that will result in it achieving the Commercialisation Revenue Threshold?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 25**

**Do you agree with the examples proposed in paragraphs 176 to 179 (including the definition of “highly reputable customer”) of the Consultation Paper that a Pre-Commercial Company applicant could use to demonstrate a credible path to achieving the Commercialisation Revenue Threshold?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 26(a)**

**Do you agree that a Pre-Commercial Company applicant must explain and disclose, in detail, the timeframe for, and impediments to, achieving the Commercialisation Revenue Threshold?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 26(b)**

**Do you agree that a Pre-Commercial Company applicant must, if its working capital (after taking into account the listing proceeds) is insufficient to meet its needs before it achieves the Commercialisation Revenue Threshold, describe the potential funding gap and how it plans to further finance its path to achieving the Commercialisation Revenue Threshold after listing?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 27**

**Do you agree that a Pre-Commercial Company applicant must have available working capital to cover at least 125% of its group’s costs for at least the next 12 months (after taking into account the IPO proceeds of the applicant), and these costs must substantially consist of the following: (a) general, administrative and operating costs; and (b) R&D costs?**

Yes



**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 28**

**Do you agree that Independent Institutional Investors should be given a minimum allocation of offer shares in the IPO of Specialist Technology Companies to help ensure a robust price discovery process?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 29**

**Do you agree with the definition of Independent Institutional Investors as set out in paragraphs 201 to 202 of the Consultation Paper?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views. Please provide any alternative definition you believe appropriate with reasons for your suggestions.**

**Question 30**

**Do you agree that a Specialist Technology Company must, in addition to meeting the existing requirements on public float, ensure that at least 50% of the total number of shares offered in the initial public offering (excluding any shares to be issued pursuant to the exercise of any over-allotment option) must be taken up by Independent Institutional Investors?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 31**

**Do you agree that in the case where a Specialist Technology Company is listed by way of a De-SPAC Transaction, at least 50% of the total number of shares issued by the Successor Company as part of the De-SPAC Transaction (excluding any shares issued to the existing shareholders of the De-SPAC Target as consideration for acquiring the De-SPAC Target) must be taken up by Independent Institutional Investors?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 32**

**Do you agree that in the case of a Specialist Technology Company seeking to list by introduction, the Exchange will consider granting waivers, on a case-by-case basis, from the requirement for the minimum allocation of offer shares to Independent Institutional Investors, if the applicant is able to demonstrate that it is expected to meet the applicable minimum market capitalisation at the time of listing (see paragraph 120 of the Consultation Paper), having regard to its historical trading price (for at least a six-month period) on a Recognised Stock Exchange with sufficient liquidity and a large investor base (a substantial portion of which are independent Institutional Professional Investors)?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 33**

**Do you agree that there should be a new initial retail allocation and clawback mechanism for Specialist Technology Companies to help ensure a robust price discovery process?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 34**

**Do you agree with the proposed initial allocation and clawback mechanism for Specialist Technology Companies as set out in paragraph 205 of the Consultation Paper?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views. If your answer is “No”, please provide alternative suggestions and provide reasons for your suggestions.**

**Question 35**

**Do you agree that a Specialist Technology Company seeking an initial listing must ensure that a portion of its issued shares with a market capitalisation of at least HK\$600**

**million is free from any disposal restrictions (whether under: contract; the Listing Rules; applicable laws; or otherwise) upon listing (referred to as its “free float”)?**

No

**Please give reasons for your views.**

We believe the minimum free float requirement of HK\$600 million is too high.

**Question 36**

**Do you agree that the Exchange should reserve the right not to approve the listing of a Specialist Technology Company if it believes the company’s offer size is not significant enough to facilitate post-listing liquidity, or may otherwise give rise to orderly market concerns?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

Agree that the Exchange could reserve such right, but we propose that more guidance should be given as to what constitutes "not significant enough". For example, can this be calculated with reference to net proceeds being a certain percentage of the R&D expense in the next 12 months for pre-commercial company? We believe that the offer size should be largely a matter of commercial decision driven by a basket of factors including market conditions at the time.

**Question 37**

**Do you agree that a Specialist Technology Company applicant’s Listing Document must include the additional information set out in paragraph 32 of the Draft Guidance Letter (Appendix V of the Consultation Paper) due to it being a Specialist Technology Company?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 38**

**Do you have any other suggestions for additional information that a Specialist Technology Company should include in its Listing Document in order to allow an investor to properly assess and value the company?**

No

If so, please provide your suggestion.

**Question 39**

**Do you agree that existing shareholders should be allowed to participate in the IPO of a Specialist Technology Company provided that the company complies with the existing public float requirement under Rule 8.08(1), the requirement for minimum allocation to Independent Institutional Investors (see paragraph 200 of the Consultation Paper) and the minimum free float requirement (see paragraph 207 of the Consultation Paper)?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 40**

**Do you agree with the proposals set out in paragraph 225 of the Consultation Paper regarding the conditions for existing shareholders subscribing for shares in an IPO?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 41(a)**

**Do you agree that the controlling shareholders of a Commercial Company should be subject to a lock-up period of 12 months?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 41(b)**

**Do you agree that the controlling shareholders of a Pre-Commercial Company should be subject to a lock-up period of 24 months?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 42**

**Do you agree with the scope of key persons (as described in paragraph 242 of the Consultation Paper) that should be subject to a restriction on the disposal of their holdings after listing?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 43(a)**

**Do you agree with the proposed lock-up periods on the securities of such key persons and their close associates of 12 months for a Commercial Company?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 43(b)**

**Do you agree with the proposed lock-up periods on the securities of such key persons and their close associates of 24 months for a Pre-Commercial Company?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 44(a)**

**Do you agree with the proposed lock-up period on the securities of Pathfinders SIIIs of six months for a Commercial Company?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 44(b)**

**Do you agree with the proposed lock-up period on the securities of Pathfinders SIIIs of 12 months for a Pre-Commercial Company?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 45**

**Do you agree that controlling shareholders, key persons and Pathfinder Slls should be permitted (in accordance with current Rules and guidance) to sell their securities prior to an IPO and offer them for sale in the IPO, such that only the securities retained by them after listing would be subject to the lock-up restrictions?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 46**

**Do you agree that any deemed disposal of securities by a person resulting from the allotment, grant or issue of new securities by a Specialist Technology Company during a lock-up period would not constitute a breach of the lock-up requirements?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 47**

**Do you agree that a lock-up period in force at the time of the removal of designation as a Pre-Commercial Company should continue to apply unchanged?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 48**

**Do you agree that a Specialist Technology Company must disclose in its Listing Document the total number of securities in the issuer held by the persons (as identified in the Listing Document) that are subject to the lock-up requirements under the Listing Rules, and that the same information must also be disclosed in the interim and annual reports of the Specialist Technology Company for so long as such persons remain as a shareholder?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 49**

**Do you agree with the scope of the additional disclosure in the interim and annual reports of Pre-Commercial Companies as set out in paragraphs 262 and 263 of the Consultation Paper?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views. If your answer is “No”, please provide alternative suggestions and provide reasons for your suggestions.**

**Question 50**

**Do you agree that only Pre-Commercial Companies should be subject to the ongoing disclosure requirements referred to in Question 49?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 51**

**Do you agree that Pre-Commercial Companies should be subject to a remedial period of 12 months to re-comply with the sufficiency of operations and assets requirement before delisting, in the event that the Exchange considers that a Pre-Commercial Company has failed to meet its continuing obligation to maintain sufficient operations or assets?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 52**

**Do you agree that Pre-Commercial Companies must not effect any transaction that would result in a fundamental change to their principal business without the prior consent of the Exchange?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 53**

**Do you agree that Pre-Commercial Companies must be prominently identified through a “PC” marker at the end of their stock names?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 54**

**Do you agree that the continuing obligations for Pre-Commercial Companies no longer apply once a Pre-Commercial Company has met the requirements in paragraph 270 of the Consultation Paper and ceases to be regarded as a Pre-Commercial Company?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 55**

**Do you agree with the proposed requirements for Pre-Commercial Companies to demonstrate to the Exchange that they should no longer be regarded as a Pre-Commercial Company (see paragraphs 269 to 272 of the Consultation Paper)?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**