

Submitted via Qualtrics

**Hong Kong Federation of Women Lawyers
Company / Organisation
Professional Body / Industry Association**

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.

The scope of these definitions should be non-exhaustive and subject to regular review.

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with the list of Specialist Technology Industries and the respective acceptable sectors set out in paragraph 4 of the Draft Guidance Letter (Appendix V to the Consultation Paper)?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

The list of Specialist Technology Industries and the respective acceptable sectors should be subjected to regular review , especially by specialists in the field.

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.

As these companies might not have revenue yet, so total operating expenditure, basis of valuation, basis of market cap and proposed used of proceeds can be considered instead.

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?

Yes

Please give reasons for your views.

Agree as this will avoid companies who otherwise won't be able to list on the Mainboard to choose to list in this new board. However, as discretion can be subjective, we suggest the Exchange set up a committee for informal consultation with prospective applicants in order to encourage promising applicants to apply.

Question 5

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

No

Please give reasons for your views.

Accommodating the listings of both Commercial Companies and PreCommercial Companies will be too risky. For eg., AV and UA business models require huge investments on capital expenditures and R&D and relatively long payback period.

Question 6

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

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?

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.

Setting the threshold too high will make fundraising difficult for smaller tech companies. Suggest HK\$5bn.

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.

The threshold is too high. Suggest HK\$10 bn

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?

No

Please give reasons for your views.

Setting the threshold too high will make fundraising difficult for smaller tech companies. Suggest HK\$180mm.

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.

Agree or else traditional companies can easily set up a new tech segments to list in this new board instead.

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?

Yes

Please give reasons for your views.

Agree that these companies should have growth

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?

Yes

Please give reasons for your views.

Agree that these companies should be listed based on their growth potential.

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?

Yes

Please give reasons for your views.

The rationale behind the new board is to encourage R&D. R&D significantly contributes to their expected value and constitutes a major activity and expense.

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.

15% is reasonable for Commercial Companies.

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.

For pre Commercial Companies, 50% is reasonable. The increase in percentage can be justified on the ground that there are more risk in the early stages of the R&D process. As mentioned in the Consultation Paper, it may be difficult to accurately predict the potential market size of the company's products or services, as well as how successful the company will be in addressing the needs of that potential market.

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.

E.g. Biotech follows the same suit.

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?

Yes

Please give reasons for your views.

As it's too risky to allow a listing for companies with less than a 3 year operation record.

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.

investors will also consider ownership when buying shares in a company.

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.

This can ensure pre-commercial and commercial companies will have initial capital.

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.

independence will help mitigate concerns related to difficulty in valuing these companies.

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.

Agree that these investors have an established scale and track record of sourcing quality targets and have sufficient resources to carry out research and due diligence on the targets.

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?

Yes

Please give reasons for your views.

It is crucial for the applicant to have at least 2 Sophisticated Independent Investors to support its business model.

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?

No

Please give reasons for your views.

25% is the minimum public float for mainboard listed companies. We suggest the percentage to be lowered by 5% in each of the categories in Table 4.

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.

Investing in Pre-Commercial Companies entail more risks.

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.

A Pre-Commercial Company should disclose in more detail its business plan as investing in such types of companies are more risky .

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.

That should be decided on a case by case basis depending on the business.

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.

Investment in these companies are riskier.

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.

Investment in these companies are riskier.

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.

This accords with requirements of Listing Rules for certain companies such as mining companies not having a profit track record.

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.

Because having crawl back mechanism so yes.

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”)?

Yes

Please give reasons for your views.

WE agree that there should be at least 15% of its issues shares being free from any disposal restrictions. The restriction should be based on percentage rather than a fixed amount.

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.

the Exchange should ensure that such companies have an active market.

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.

This will enable investors to better understand such companies which are novel to many.

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.

They should have a right to exit too.

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.

Existing shareholders should not be treated differently than those of other mainboard listed companies.

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?

No

Please give reasons for your views.

The period should be longer because more time is needed for development.

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?

No

Please give reasons for your views.

The period should be longer because more time is needed for development.

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?

092

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 SIIIs 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.

Agree but controlling shareholders should be subjected to higher restriction on right to sell their

securities before and after IPO as compared to controlling shareholders in mainboard listed companies.

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.

We don't agree to placing within six months after IPO but thereafter, the listco should have a right to right funds in the secondary market and any dilution of shares of controlling or other shareholders shall not be considered a deemed disposal.

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.

as this is beneficial to the Company and the shareholders.

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.

This information is material to shareholders and investors.

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.

those information are material to shareholders and investors.

Question 50

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

No

Please give reasons for your views.

Such disclosure should extend to Commercial Companies too.

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?

No

Please give reasons for your views.

12 months period is too short considering that the market cap requirements of such companies are higher.

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.

such change in nature of their principal business may render them not being able to meet the criteria required by the Regime.

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.

Agree to make it more noticeable to investors .

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.

Meeting the requirements in paragraph 270 signifies that the company have become a commercial company.

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.