

Press Release For immediate release

Cyberport Start-ups Participate in HKMA Project Ensemble wCBDC Sandbox

To drive asset tokenisation and promote green and sustainable finance

Hong Kong, 28 August 2024 – Cyberport start-ups, <u>EVIDENT</u> and <u>Linked Charge</u> will participate in the <u>Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA)'s new wholesale central bank digital currency (wCBDC) Project Ensemble Sandbox</u> (the Sandbox). As part of the programme's focus on Green and Sustainable Finance, they will collaborate on the tokenisation of Real World Assets (RWA) using blockchain technology to enhance transparency and efficiency in Green and Sustainable Finance.

The HKMA recently announced the commencement of wCBDC, Project Ensemble, to support the development of the assets tokenisation market in Hong Kong. Today, HKMA unveiled details of the Sandbox and its participating entities, highlighting four key themes: Green and Sustainable Finance, Trade and Supply Chain Finance, Fixed Income and Investment Funds, and Liquidity Management.

Cyberport is a partner in the "Green and Sustainable Finance" track, and two Cyberport start-ups, EVIDENT and Linked Charge, will engage in research and use case testing within the Sandbox. Linked Charge is a cross-border charge point operator based in Hong Kong, providing smart electric vehicle charging solutions. Utilizing its self-developed technology and platform to meet the global demand for efficient charging infrastructure, Linked Charge's Fast EV charging network covers Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area, offering convenient and efficient charging services to governments, businesses, public transportation, and the general public. EVIDENT is a licensed investment platform for alternative assets that enables individual and institutional investors to diversify their portfolios by investing in private equity, venture capital, infrastructure, start-ups, carbon credits, and more.

EVIDENT and Linked Charge will team up to address efficiency and cost issues in traditional alternative asset trading. EVIDENT will provide the tokenized market infrastructure, while Linked Charge will provide charging stations for tokenisation.

Previously, traditional alternative asset transactions required a minimum settlement period of six weeks and incurred high settlement costs, reducing investor participation. Furthermore, investors could only participate in charging station investments through corporate entities, which involved lengthy auditing and administrative procedures, making it difficult for companies to attract new investors. EVIDENT's innovative tokenized asset trading mechanism uses blockchain technology to achieve real-time Delivery versus Payment (DvP) transactions. By integrating Linked Charge Platform's usage data and advanced data analytics, the system can monitor and report the environmental benefits of green projects in real-time, significantly reducing settlement times and transaction costs.



Ir Eric Chan, Chief Public Mission Officer of Cyberport, said, "As Hong Kong's leading FinTech and Web 3.0 hub, Cyberport is dedicated to fostering collaboration between start-ups, institutions and government departments through various pilot programmes, actively promoting the development of CBDC and the tokenisation market. By participating in the HKMA Sandbox projects, Cyberport's start-ups can jointly explore and test solutions with key stakeholders in the financial sector, further refining product designs and enhancing the efficiency of Hong Kong's capital markets, ultimately contributing to the advancement of FinTech application. We anticipate more collaboration with the HKMA to promote the development of Green and Sustainable Finance and further strengthen Hong Kong's position as an international financial centre together."

Cyberport has been collaborating with the HKMA for many years to drive the development of FinTech and Web3.0 in Hong Kong. In the HKMA's e-HKD Pilot Programme, Cyberport partnered with Hang Seng Bank to complete real-life simulations for the programmable payment use cases last year, aiming to promote the tokenisation of assets and currencies in Hong Kong and further explore FinTech innovation. In addition, Cyberport has been entrusted by the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau to launch the "Green and Sustainable FinTech Proof-of-Concept Subsidy Scheme" starting from June, with the aim of promoting the research and development and commercial adoption of innovative Green FinTech solutions across five key areas, including Green and Digital Finance and Investment.

As Hong Kong's largest FinTech and Web3.0 community, Cyberport houses more than 400 FinTech start-ups and over 250 Web3.0 enterprises, covering digital assets, tokenisation of real world assets, payments and remittances etc., Cyberport will continue to support these start-ups, promote industry development, strengthen Hong Kong's status as an international financial centre, and drive Hong Kong to become an international I&T Centre.

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For high-resolution photos, please download via link.



Ir Eric Chan, Chief Public Mission Officer of Cyberport, said that Cyberport's start-ups can jointly explore and test solutions with key stakeholders in the financial sector, further refining product designs by participating in the HKMA Sandbox projects.



HKMA announced the commencement of wCBDC, Project Ensemble, with representatives of Cyberport and other participating parties at the launch ceremony.



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About Cyberport

Cyberport is Hong Kong's digital technology flagship and incubator for entrepreneurship with over 2,000 members including over 900 onsite and over 1,100 offsite start-ups and technology companies. It is managed by Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited, wholly owned by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government, and committed to the vision to inject new impetus into digital economy and smart city development through innovation and technology, and to connect enterprises to Mainland China and overseas markets. Cyberport strives to nurture a vibrant tech ecosystem by cultivating talents, promoting entrepreneurship among the youth, supporting start-ups, fostering technology industry development by promoting strategic collaboration with local, Mainland Chinese and international partners, and integrating new and traditional economies by accelerating digital transformation in public and private sectors.

For more information, please visit http://www.cyberport.hk