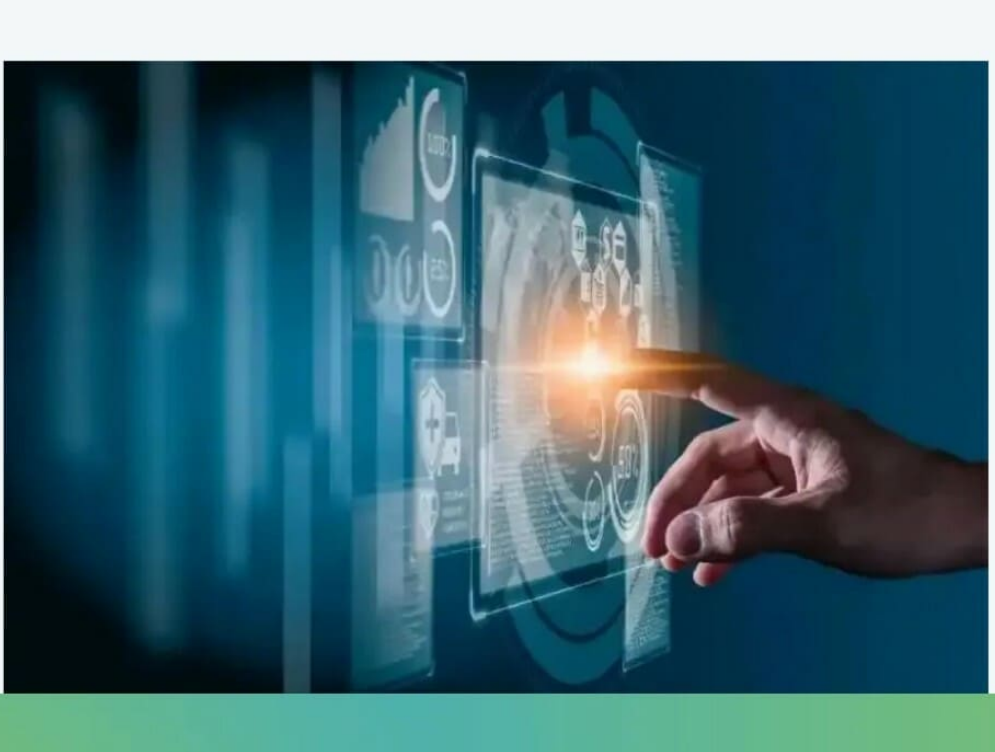
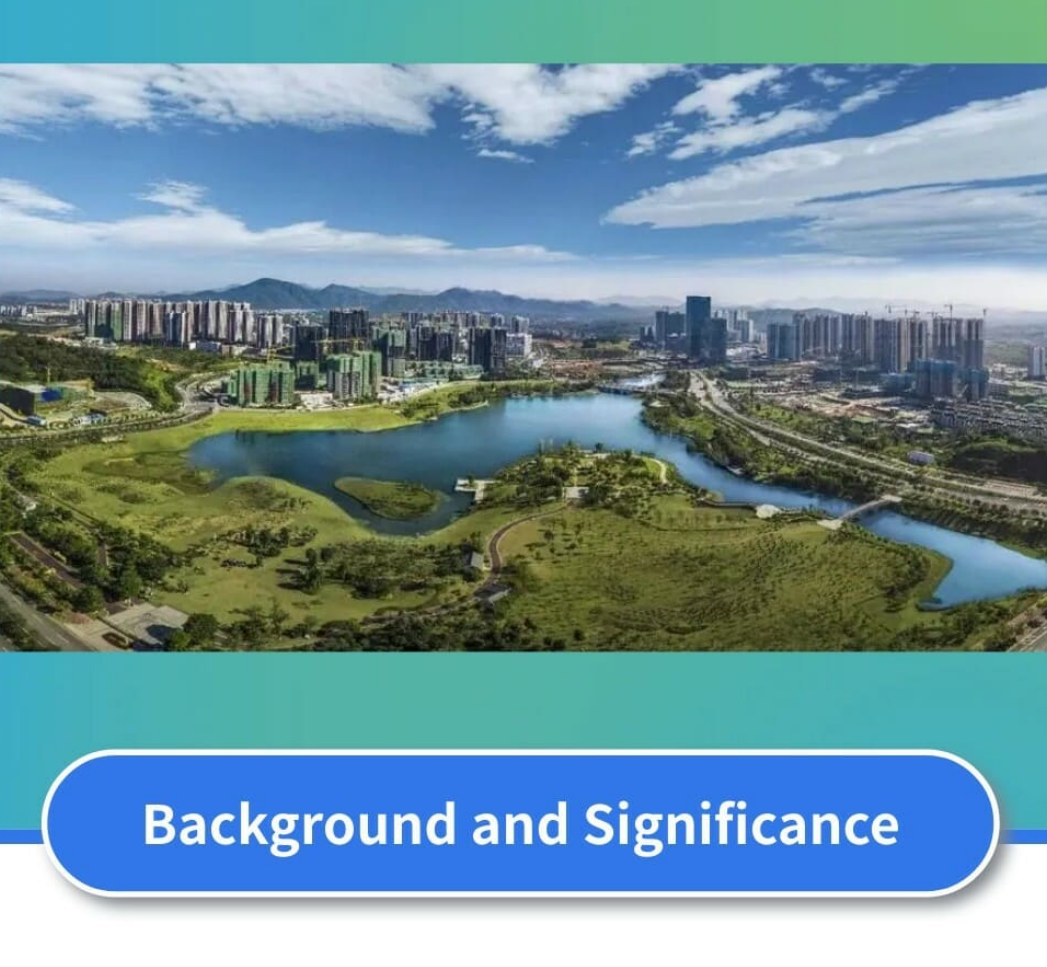
Unlock up to RMB100 million per project: Guangzhou Development District's 30 Measures for New Quality Productive Forces



Guangzhou Development District (GDD) has released the "Several Measures for Building the 'Three Cities and One Island' Industrial Growth Pole to Accelerate the Development of New Quality Productive Forces (NQPFs)" ("Several Measures"), introducing 30 groundbreaking measures to establish a one-stop innovation ecosystem. The focus is on developing Guangzhou's "Three Cities and One Island" namely the China-Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City, Guangzhou Science City, Guangzhou Maritime Silk Road City and Guangzhou International Bio Island, as the key drivers of industrial growth.

This initiative aims to establish GDD as an economic growth hub by leveraging its specialised industrial and enterprise agglomeration network, thereby driving regional development. The GDD provides funding of up to RMB100 million for strategic emerging industries and future-oriented projects, setting a new benchmark for industrial support in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.



Background and Significance

At the end of last year, Guangzhou proposed building a '12218' modern industrial system[1], aiming to establish a self-reliant, secure and highly competitive modern industrial framework. This initiative seeks to promote the integrated development of manufacturing and service sectors, to drive digital-intelligence integration[2] and green transformation, as well as to create new competitive advantages in industrial development through reindustrialisation.

As a key national development zone, GDD remains committed to high-quality development of real economy foundation and manufacturing industries. Aligning with the new requirements for building a nationally integrated market, the district has concurrently established its '12136' modern industrial system[3], defining a new paradigm for developing NQPFs across the entire zone, and has rolled out the '30 Measures for NQPFs'.

Highlights

The "Several Measures" cover seven key areas namely investment, projects, innovation, enterprises, industries, parks and ecosystem, emphasising public-private partnership, shared risk-taking and value creation.

The policy will offer enhanced incentives to attract investors to GDD, addressing industry challenges while fostering a more transparent and predictable policy environment. In particular, the policy focuses on accelerating manufacturing transformation, with targeted support to semiconductors, smart mobility, new energy vehicles and AI to boost investor confidence.

Key Measures

Enhancing Support for Foreign Investment (Including Hong Kong Enterprises)

- The minimum investment requirement for foreign-funded projects (including those from Hong Kong enterprises) to qualify for financial incentives has been lowered from US$10 million to US$5 million. This means investments reaching US$5 million are now eligible for corresponding funding support.

- The initiative focuses on supporting strategic emerging industries and future industries, such as energy conservation & environmental protection, next-generation information technology, biotechnology, high-end equipment manufacturing, new energy, new materials and new energy vehicles. Eligible projects may receive up to RMB100 million in funding.

- According to the principle of 'More Investment, More Supports', investment projects in strategic emerging industries and future industries with high significant economic impact can receive a support ratio of up to 20%.

Enabling Enterprises to Stack Policy Benefits Across Various Government

- Integrated incentives from national, provincial, municipal and district levels such as special funds, government bonds and investment subsidies can be jointly recommended to enterprises. Through project consolidation, the initiative promotes the formation of synergistic industrial clusters. Enterprises that effectively integrate resources to strengthen and subsidise intensive development of industry chain may qualify for funding support of up to RMB10 million.

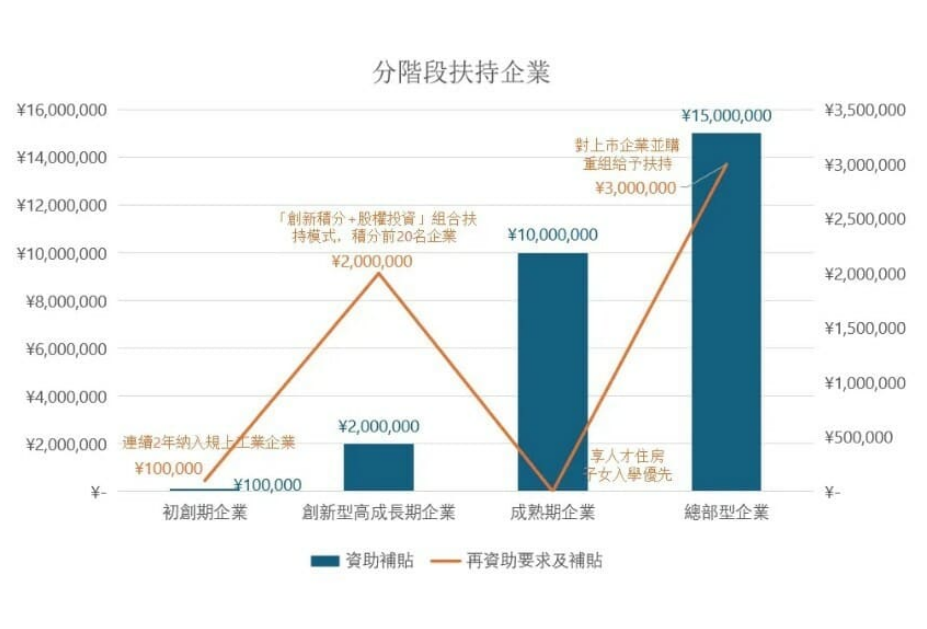
Supporting Enterprise Innovation Across Industrial Chains

- To support enterprises in overcoming key technical challenges and pain points, the R&D funding threshold has been lowered to RMB2 million, expanding policy coverage by over 30%. Award-winning competition projects will enjoy rent-free for the first year and 50% rent discount in the second year.

- The initiative promotes shared access to scientific instruments, offering annual innovation vouchers worth up to RMB100,000 per enterprise for utilising equipment and services at key laboratories, public service platforms and testing centers.

- "Accelerated Tech Commercialisation" initiative provides up to RMB3 million in grants and RMB5 million in angel investment[4], with an additional RMB10 million allocated to support demonstration projects that facilitate the transition of innovative achievements from laboratory research to industrial production.

Implementing a Multi-phase Enterprise Support Programme



- For startups newly classified as designated scale-up industrial enterprises (industrial entities with annual main business revenue reaching RMB20 million+), they will receive a RMB100,000 subsidy, with an additional RMB100,000 for maintaining this status for 2 consecutive years.

- For innovative high-growth enterprises, support of up to RMB2 million is provided. An "Innovation Points + Equity Investment" combined model is also introduced for the first time, through which the top 20 point earners can receive up to RMB20 million in equity investment funding.

- For mature enterprises, comprehensive evaluation is adopted. Top-performing enterprises are eligible for up to RMB10 million financial support, plus talent housing benefits and children's education enrolment priority.

- For headquarters (HQ) enterprises, including multinational regional HQs, NQPFs HQs, and foreign-invested R&D centers, maximum support of RMB15 million, with additional RMB3 million is offered for the listed companies undergoing M&A restructuring.

Promoting Traditional Industry Upgrading and Emerging Sector Expansion

- The initiative pioneers the "Civil Engineering Tech-Upgrade & Leased Equipment Retrofit"[5] policy, with a maximum support of up to RMB 30 million.

- The initiative mainly supports listed companies on strategic and future industries by conducting mergers and acquisitions to enhance core technologies, optimise resources and boost competitiveness through supply chain integration. Eligible projects may receive funding of up to RMB30 million, subject to the scale and structure of the mergers and acquisitions.

Cutting Business Setup Costs in Industrial Zones

- The initiative supports the "One Industry + One Leading Enterprise" partnership model to develop flagship specialty industrial parks, piloting "zero-rent" innovation zones to better serve startup needs

- For enterprises aligned with GDD's industrial priorities that purchase property for self-use, a maximum support of up to RMB3 million will be provided in instalments after comprehensive assessment.

Cultivating a Business-Friendly Industrial Ecosystem

- To support young talent, free youth hostels will be established, with outstanding corporate employees eligible for subsidies of up to RMB1.5 million.

- The GDD's Technology Innovation Fund will allow for up to 100% loss tolerance, strengthening support for "early-stage investments, small-scale ventures, and hard-tech projects", creating a district-level confident capital and bold investment matrix.

Source: Guangzhou Development District Administrative Committee & Huangpu District People's Government Portal

Footnotes:

[1] Guangzhou's "12218" Modern Industrial System:
This is structured as follows: "1": Adhere to industry-first strategy with manufacturing as the foundation. "2": Focus on integration of manufacturing and service sectors, and digital-intelligent and green transformation. "21": 15 strategic industrial clusters. "8": 8 modern service industries

[2] Digital-Intelligent Integration:
This refers to the deep convergence of digitalisation and intelligentisation, leveraging digital technologies and smart algorithms to enable data-driven business innovation and intelligent decision-making.GDD's "12136" Modern Industrial System

[3] GDD's "12136" Modern Industrial System:
This framework comprises 12 pillar industries, 21 strategic emerging industries, 13 future industries and 6 major platforms.

[4] Angel Investment:
This refers to the first external equity financing provided by individuals or institutions to startups with innovative technologies or business models, typically occurring at the seed stage when companies only have prototype products or business plans.

[5] Civil Engineering Tech-Upgrade & Leased Equipment Retrofit:

Civil Engineering Tech-Upgrade:
This refers to the technical enhancement of buildings or facilities, involving structural, equipment and pipeline improvements. Examples include structural reinforcement of aging factories, installation of new production equipment or optimisation of manufacturing processes.

Leased Equipment Retrofit:
This refers to technical enhancements implemented on rented premises or leased equipment. Such upgrades typically avoid large-scale civil works, focusing instead on optimising existing equipment, production techniques or operational workflows.