

## **ANNEX C-1: ACCELERATING DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION TO EMERGE STRONGER**

Singapore will continue to seize the momentum brought about by COVID-19 and double down on our efforts to accelerate the growth of new digital capabilities for our enterprises and workers to emerge stronger. We will:

- a) **Scale Broad-based Digitalisation** by providing small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) access to relevant digitalisation resources and advisory;
- b) **Develop Digital Leaders** by building a local core of enterprises which are digital leaders that can compete regionally and globally; and
- c) **Catalyse New Products and Business Models** by scaling and speeding up digital innovation to solve business challenges.

### **(I) Scale Broad-based Digitalisation**

#### **I-1. Chief Technology Officer-as-a-Service (CTOaaS)**

The CTOaaS will help SMEs uncover their digitalisation needs and transform their business operations. It consolidates existing digitalisation advisory services to provide a single touchpoint for both digital consultancy and project management services.

SMEs will be able to tap on professional IT consultancies to receive end-to-end digital advice, from digital consultancy tailored to business needs, to downstream project implementation.

### **MORE INFORMATION**

More details will be announced at MCI's COS. For more information about CTOaaS, please contact [info@imda.gov.sg](mailto:info@imda.gov.sg).

## **(II) Develop Digital Leaders**

### **II-1. Digital Leaders Programme**

The Digital Leaders Programme (DLP) seeks to enable promising, high-potential local companies to become digital leaders by equipping them with digital capabilities and talent to transform their business models and capture new growth opportunities. The DLP will support companies to:

- a) Build technology leadership and expertise in the firm, including support for hiring of digital talent.
- b) Develop and implement Digital Transformation Roadmaps, including support for consultancy and implementation costs.

### **MORE INFORMATION**

More details will be announced at MCI's COS. For more information about DLP, please contact [info@imda.gov.sg](mailto:info@imda.gov.sg).

### **(III) Catalyse New Products and Business Models**

#### **III-1. Enhanced Open Innovation Platform (OIP)**

The OIP was launched by IMDA in 2018 to support companies in getting quality and multi-disciplinary ideas, talent, and resources to meet their innovation and business needs effectively. ‘Problem owners’ such as sector lead agencies and Trade Associations and Chambers (TACs) identify problem statements, while ‘problem solvers’ comprising entrepreneurs, startups, companies, and technology innovators create innovative digital solutions to solve the problems.

In the Fortitude Budget in May 2020, the Government introduced the National Innovation Challenges (NICs), riding on the success of the OIP. The NICs focus on partnerships to develop industry-led solutions to the challenges that all businesses are grappling with to emerge stronger from COVID-19.

In Budget 2021, the OIP will be enhanced to increase the scale and speed of digital innovation. It will also enable better matching, testing, and development through two new features:

- a) A Discovery Engine that facilitates the search and matching of technology solutions to challenges through automated recommendations; and
- b) A Digital Bench that aids quicker Proof-of-Concept (POC) testing through a virtual POC sandbox and testing environment.

IMDA, through the OIP, works closely together with Enterprise Singapore and the National Research Foundation to drive adoption of solutions at scale. The improved matching process will allow more companies to effectively participate in co-innovation and digital transformation, fast-track the development of prototypes, and shorten the time taken for commercialisation.

#### **MORE INFORMATION**

For more information about the OIP, please contact [info@imda.gov.sg](mailto:info@imda.gov.sg).

#### **III-2. Emerging Technology Programme**

To support commercialisation of innovations and diffusion of technology, the new Emerging Technology Programme will co-fund the costs of trials and adoption of frontier technologies like 5G, artificial intelligence, and trust technologies. This will continue helping SMEs and Large Local Enterprises sharpen their competitiveness. More details will be announced at a later date.

## **MORE INFORMATION**

For more information about Emerging Technology Programme, please contact [info@imda.gov.sg](mailto:info@imda.gov.sg).