THE HONG KONG E&M CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION

The Hong Kong E&M Contractors' Association Limited
香港機電工程商協會有限公司

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Mr Eric PANG Yiu Hung, JP
Director of Electrical & Mechanical Services
7/F, 3 Kai Shing Street, Kowloon, Hong Kong

(By post and email: ericpang@emsd.gov.hk)

Dear Eric,

We write to enlist your support for an initiative to enhance the local E&M sector and support innovation and technological development in Hong Kong.

However, there is no industry based research centre in Hong Kong dedicated to the integration of IT and robotic to support construction and engineering applications. A research centre is essential to the development of local and regional innovation and technology to advance the existing construction culture.

As you may also be aware it is a requirement of the statutory authorities in Hong Kong, EMSD and FSD in particular, that all applications for approval / acceptance of E&M installations and equipment shall be accompanied by supporting documents indicating that the installation / equipment under application has been tested to an acceptable national / international test standard.

There are a number of international accreditation firms operating in Hong Kong (such as Intertek, DEKRA and the SGS Group) capable of certifying that products and systems conform to national / international standards. There is, however, the testing facility in Hong Kong that can test E&M installations and equipment to a prescribed standard for the purposes of verification and certification is very limited.

The lack of a suitable testing facility means that E&M installations and equipment manufactured in either Hong Kong or Mainland China must be transported overseas (typically to Europe, the US and / or Australia) for testing, verification and certification.

To give you an indication of the demand for a testing facility in Hong Kong and to offer a sense of the scale of the problem we set out below a summary of FSD's approval lists for fire services installations and ventilating systems. As can be seen from the table the size of the approval lists and the number of products and systems requiring testing and certification is substantial.

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Item No.	Item	No. of Pages in Approved List	No. of Products / Systems on Approved List
1	List of Fire Services Installations and Equipment	1,137	7,953
2	List of Accepted Materials and Equipment (Ventilating System)	64	380
3	List of Approved Equipment (Ventilating System)	10	37

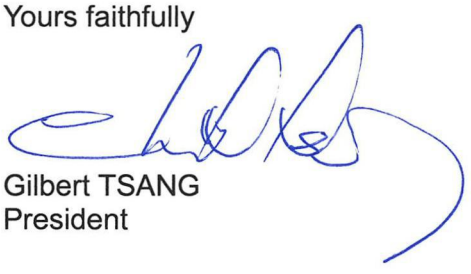
The cost of construction and development in Hong Kong has been unnecessarily increased as the process of transporting E&M installations and equipment overseas is both time consuming and expensive.

Furthermore the process is restricting the distribution and sale of locally manufactured E&M installations and equipment to international markets whilst stifling innovation and technological development in the E&M sector both locally and regionally.

We believe that the solution to this problem is the creation of research centre, an integrated accredited testing laboratory, standards agency and certification body in Hong Kong to facilitate and support local and mainland engineering industries by accrediting original products and systems. A research centre dedicated to IT, robotic, construction and engineering applications would improve efficiency and add value to the innovation and technology sector.

Your assistance and support for this initiative which would be of benefit to the Hong Kong economy would be greatly appreciated. We would be grateful for the opportunity to meet with you to discuss our proposal in more detail.

Yours faithfully



Gilbert TSANG
President

cc Secretary for Innovation & Technology for Development (Works) – Mr SIT Wing Hang, Alfred, JP
Head of Project Strategy and Governance Office, Development Bureau – Mr KWONG Ka Sing, John
HKFEMC – Mr Rocky Poon
Legco – Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP
Legco - Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP