

CE welcomes and thanks the country's recruitment of payload specialists in Hong Kong

The Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, today (October 2) welcomed and expressed gratitude for the country's recruitment of payload specialists for the first time in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) in the launch of the recruitment of the fourth batch of astronauts. He described the move as uplifting and exciting with great historical significance.

"This year marks the 73rd anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. This gift by the country to the HKSAR at this joyful moment not only doubled the happiness when Hong Kong people are celebrating the National Day but also fully reflected the country's care, support and trust to Hong Kong," Mr Lee said.

"The China Manned Space Agency's recruitment of payload specialists in the HKSAR provides an opportunity for Hong Kong people to realise their space aspiration and contribute to the country. The HKSAR Government will render its full assistance and co-operation to the country's selection exercise.

"The recruitment exercise in Hong Kong signifies that the country encourages and welcomes Hong Kong compatriots to contribute to the country's development. It also demonstrates the country's confidence in Hong Kong's level in scientific research and development as well as her care for the development of Hong Kong's young people.

"This recruitment is also an educational opportunity for all to better understand our country. The HKSAR Government encourages students and various sectors of Hong Kong to take this opportunity to understand more about the remarkable achievements of the national manned space programme and boost their sense of national identity," Mr Lee said.

Mr Lee has designated the Deputy Financial Secretary, Mr Michael Wong, to take charge of cross-bureau co-ordination as well as publicity and education, and the Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry, Professor Sun Dong, to take charge of the selection exercise.