

Re-industrialisation Funding Scheme funds project for setting up smart electrospinning production lines for nanofiber filter material

A spokesperson for the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) said today (August 12) that the Re-industrialisation Funding Scheme (RFS) had approved funding of \$15 million for a project entitled "Setting up of smart electrospinning production lines for nanofiber filter material" by a local manufacturer, Nanoshields Technology Limited. The production lines will be established at the Advanced Manufacturing Centre (AMC) in Tseung Kwan O Industrial Estate, which is scheduled for completion next year.

Speaking at the signing ceremony of the funding agreement, the Commissioner for Innovation and Technology, Ms Rebecca Pun, said, "We are pleased to see manufacturers engage in smart production in Hong Kong with funding support of the RFS, thereby promoting re-industrialisation in Hong Kong. The project is the first one with maximum funding approved under the RFS and with smart production lines set up at the AMC. We look forward to receiving funding applications from more manufacturers for the RFS to develop smart production and strengthen the 'Made in Hong Kong' brand".

The approved project will mainly involve the establishment of two smart electrospinning production lines which can produce more than 300 tons of nanofiber filter material annually for use in personal protective equipment and water filters to serve the global market. The total project cost is about \$50 million and the manufacturer will invest \$35 million. In fact, the nanofiber material has wide applications ranging from personal health devices such as air filters, water filters and face masks; to sensors, batteries and artificial blood vessels, etc.

Under the RFS, the Government will provide funding on a 1 (Government): 2 (company) matching basis to subsidise manufacturers to establish production lines in Hong Kong. The funding ceiling is one-third of the total project cost or \$15 million, whichever is lower. Since the launch of the RFS about a year ago, the ITC has received 21 applications. Among the 18 applications assessed by the RFS Vetting Committee, 16 were supported in principle, covering industries such as biotechnology, food processing, construction, printing, medical devices and nanofiber materials. The total funding amount is about \$108 million.

The RFS is open for application throughout the year. Details are available at the Innovation and Technology Fund website (www.itf.gov.hk/en/funding-programmes/facilitating-technology/rfs). For enquiries, please contact the RFS Secretariat (Tel: 3655 5678; email: rfs-enquiry@itc.gov.hk).