On behalf of Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTP), let me congratulate the Communications Association of Hong Kong (CAHK) on the publication of the "2023 Official Guide to ICT Industry in Hong Kong".

One of the hottest technology trends in Hong Kong and across the globe today is the metaverse. The metaverse is a convergence of the physical and virtual worlds, using Virtual Reality (VR) or Augmented Reality (AR) and other mediums to create a universe of new social and economic opportunities for society and business. This opens significant possibilities in the Hong Kong ICT landscape as businesses must adopt new communication platforms to help them create real-time applications and experiences for the metaverse, while new business models will be imagined by traditional businesses and startup ventures.

At HKSTP, we have foreseen the technological needs of the emerging metaverse and the potential disruptive demands from the virtual world. In 2021, we launched our STP Platform which provides a unique combination of virtual and physical lab simulation environments. These enable innovators and enterprises to apply early-stage concepts and pilot projects within the simulated environments to fully test and validate capabilities and design theories for further development.

The other major consideration in the metaverse is the role of data. Growth of data is set to explode to another level with multiple digital universes co-existing simultaneously. Big data analytics, ever more powerful AI engines and even more expansive data centres will become critical to the smooth running of the metaverse. To evolve Hong Kong into a digital economy, we also launched the Data Technology Hub (DT Hub), a dedicated base for ICT and data-centric businesses, developed by HKSTP to realise the government vision for re-industrialisation and digital transformation to diversify the economy and create new industry. This world-class data ecosystem and infrastructure will help harness the huge growth potential of data-driven innovation around trends like the metaverse.

Last year we celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the HKSTP as well as the 25th Anniversary of HKSAR. Boosted by President Xi Jin Ping's full support of Hong Kong's mission to become an international global I&T hub for China – the visit by President Xi to the Science Park on 30 June 2022 is monumental moment for I&T in Hong Kong. He said the investment of HKSTP in the past years have yielded good successes, but there are still a lot more for us to do. HKSTP now hosts 1,100+ companies, 11,000 R&D people and raised HK$72.5B* investment since 2018. But we have to think big, much bigger for exponential growth to becoming China's International I&T Centre.

This also opens a new chapter of Hong Kong's future, with Innovation, Technology and Industrialisation now firmly established as a key pillar of our future economy. HKSTP looks forward to exploring these new possibilities with our partners and CAHK as we enter a new era for Hong Kong.

Mr. Albert Wong

Chief Executive Officer

Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation

* Data as of 30 June 2022

我謹代表香港科技園公司，衷心祝賀香港通訊業聯會《2023 香港通訊業概覽》出版。

元宇宙是現今香港乃至全球最熱門的科技趨勢之一。元宇宙是現實和虛擬世界的融合，透過虛擬實境 (VR) 或擴增實境 (AR) 和其他媒介，為社會和商業經濟創造嶄新的機會，這為香港的資訊及通訊科技領域帶來無限的可能性。配合元宇宙的發展，企業必須建立全新的通訊平台，創建實時應用和體驗，而傳統企業和初創公司也可藉此開拓新的商業模式。

香港科技園公司留意到元宇宙的出現，將對新技術有不一樣的要求，同時亦會在虛擬世界上極大可能產生顛覆性的影響。我們於 2021 年，推出了 STP Platform，該平台提供了虛擬和實體實驗室模擬場景的獨特組合，讓創新者和企業能夠將早期概念和先導項目應用在模擬場景中，作出全面測試，亦驗證其研發能力和設計理論，有助進行進一步開發。

數據是發展元宇宙的另一重要元素。當多個數碼世界同時存在時，數據將會是幾何級的增長，而大數據分析、更強大的人工智能引擎，以及規模更廣闊的數據中心，將成為推進元宇宙向前的關鍵。為配合香港發展數碼經濟，香港科技園公司啟動了數據技術中心 (DT Hub) ──一個專為從事資訊及通訊科技和以數據為基礎發展業務的企業的基地，以實現政府推動再工業化和數碼轉型的願景，發展多元經濟，創造新興產業。這個世界級的數據生態圈和基礎設施，將會提供一個平台，善用如元宇宙帶來的巨大增長潛力，有助發掘以數據驅動的技術創新。

2022 年是香港科技園公司成立 20 周年，也是香港特別行政區回歸 25 周年。國家主席習近平於 2022 年 6 月 30 日到訪科學園，這是香港資訊及通訊科技界劃時代的重要時刻。習主席充分肯定香港在創新科技的努力和成就，也明確要求香港必須打造成為中國的國際創新科技中心。科學園過去的投入已經有初步成效，但還要加倍努力。 雖然科學園今天已有逾 1,100 家公司，11,000 個研發人員，自 2018 年為園區公司籌集了 725 億港元 * 投資。香港若要成為國際創科中心，我們的思維要更遠大、增長更快速。

香港勢將展開新篇章，而創新、科技及工業化絕對是香港未來經濟的重要支柱。為開啟香港以創新為核心的新時代，香港科技園公司期待與合作夥伴和香港通訊業聯會，共同探索更多可能性和新機遇。

黃克強先生

行政總裁
香港科技園公司

* 數據截至 2022 年 6 月 30 日