

## JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

## More than S\$3 million set aside to drive growth of sustainability solutions through Sustainability Open Innovation Challenge 2023

- *5<sup>th</sup> Sustainability Open Innovation Challenge (SOIC) by Enterprise Singapore to catalyse co-innovation between industry players and promising startups and small-and-medium enterprises in the sustainability space*
- *New partnerships with Temasek Trust ecosystem entities – the Centre for Impact Investing and Practices (CIIP), Philanthropy Asia Alliance (PAA), and Temasek Foundation – to drive co-innovation between corporates and SMEs, and accelerate growth of high-impact startups to address urgent sustainable development challenges*
- *Launch of call for applications by promising impact innovators for Amplifier programme by CIIP and PAA at SWITCH*

MR No.: 050/23

Singapore, Tuesday, 31 October 2023

1. Enterprise Singapore (EnterpriseSG) launched the fifth edition of the **Sustainability Open Innovation Challenge (SOIC)** today, to catalyse co-innovation between industry players and promising startups and small-and-medium enterprises (SMEs) in the sustainability space. This was announced by Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat in his opening address at the **Singapore Week of Innovation and Technology (SWITCH) 2023**. The SOIC leverages Singapore's strong innovation fundamentals to drive the development of innovative solutions that can be scaled globally, starting with addressing pressing sustainability issues in Asia.
2. This also marks enhanced collaboration between EnterpriseSG and Temasek Trust ecosystem entities – **Centre for Impact Investing and Practices (CIIP)**, **Philanthropy Asia Alliance (PAA)**, and **Temasek Foundation** – through the SOIC.
3. The upcoming SOIC introduces a new Open Category for solution providers, granting them direct entry to Temasek Foundation's **The Liveability Challenge (TLC)** without the need for a separate application. Furthermore, this will allow participants to access an expanded network of demand drivers and partner support beyond SOIC. The collaboration focuses on crowdsourcing innovative solutions in areas such as Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS), and Emerging Renewable Energy.

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4. Additionally, startups/SMEs that apply for the SOIC will be considered for the **Amplifier mentorship programme (Amplifier)** by CIIP and PAA. The Amplifier is a dedicated one-year capacity-building programme focused on helping high-impact startups develop a path to sustainability, by providing access to hands-on mentorship, critical professional services, and tangible commercial opportunities. A pool of catalytic philanthropic capital will also be made available to qualifying mentees to support their growth and scale their impact. The call for applications to the Amplifier was launched today, as part of SWITCH.
5. “We are happy to work with strategic partners like Temasek Foundation for The Liveability Challenge as well as CIIP and PAA for the Amplifier to accelerate the growth of our innovation ecosystem and drive new collaborations in the sustainability space,” said **Mr Tan Boon Kim, Executive Director, Global Innovation Network & Innovation Eco-system Development, Enterprise Singapore**. “The current climate pressures have made it increasingly urgent to not just develop solutions that can address sustainability challenges, but to scale them effectively. By working together, we can amplify our support for startups and innovative SMEs to give them the best chance to succeed.”
6. The Amplifier programme will catalyse philanthropic capital, mobilise collective action, and forge new pathways to scale promising impact innovators. We are excited to launch the call for programme applications today, in partnership with EnterpriseSG,” said **Ms. Koh Lin-Net, Director, Centre for Impact Investing & Practices**. “We welcome impact-focused companies with solutions to tackle Asia’s sustainable development challenges to apply to be part of our inaugural 2024 cohort”.
7. “Partnerships underpin the Philanthropy Asia Alliance’s approach towards catalysing Asian solutions for global environmental and social challenges,” said **Mr. Ryan Tan, Director, Philanthropy Asia Alliance**. “The Amplifier programme employs a ‘whole-of-ecosystem’ approach to support impact innovators to scale and we invite more like-minded partners to join us in unlocking transformative innovations for a more sustainable future.”
8. “Temasek Foundation, together with the Centre for Impact Investing & Practices and the Philanthropy Asia Alliance, is happy to support the **Sustainability Open Innovation Challenge (SOIC)**. In collaboration with our partners, we will help startups bring their

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innovations from the laboratory into the commercial space to produce sustainable climate solutions. In addition, we will work with the innovators to scale and commercialise their innovations so that we can benefit the people and planet and make our cities more liveable." said **Mr. Lim Hock Chuan, Head of Programmes, Temasek Foundation.**

### **Sustainability Open Innovation Challenge 2023 by Enterprise Singapore**

9. More than S\$3 million has been set aside to support the development of innovative solutions through SOIC 2023, the highest to date. This year, nine strategic partners, along with 19 global corporates such as global trading companies like Japfa and Tata Steel, have launched 22 challenge statements to crowdsource innovative solutions across areas including Climate Change, Sustainable Agriculture & Trade, Green Buildings and Sustainable Materials. These demand drivers not only present the current industry needs, but also provide the scale and expertise to nurture and anchor promising startups in their respective industry ecosystems. Refer to [Annex A](#) for more details on SOIC 2023, including the SOIC Open Category curated in partnership with TLC. More information on the SOIC 2023 can be found [here](#).

### **The Liveability Challenge 2024 by Temasek Foundation**

10. TLC is a global crowdsourcing platform that hunts for and accelerates the commercialisation of innovative solutions that address urban challenges in the tropics. Launched in 2018, TLC is one of Asia's largest sustainability solutions platforms that enables companies with cutting-edge technologies to create a significant positive impact for the planet and people. TLC 2024 will open for applications on 3 November 2023. More information on TLC can be found [here](#).

### **Amplifier Mentorship Programme by CIIP and PAA**

11. The Amplifier is a new programme that focuses on catalysing impact ventures. Temasek Trust will provide early-stage impact startups with access to the capital, opportunities and skills required to survive the 'valley of death'<sup>1</sup> and build a path to commercial viability.

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<sup>1</sup> This refers to the funding gap between the seed round and early stages of a startup.

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In doing so, more high-potential and impact-focused startups can extend their runway and go on to address Asia's sustainable development challenges.

12. As part of the programme, selected startups will receive hands-on, practical mentorship to learn about impact practices at an early stage and access a global network of industry professionals and commercial opportunities. Through the Amplifier, a strong bench of ecosystem players<sup>2</sup> will come together to catalyse philanthropic capital, mobilise collective action, and forge new pathways to create positive impact. The Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth will support the programme as a PAA member. More information on the Amplifier can be found [here](#).

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<sup>2</sup> Ecosystem players include **Impact Innovation Partner** Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth; **Programme Delivery Partners** ABC Impact, Deloitte Singapore, Temasek Life Sciences Accelerator, and UOB; **Advisory Partners** including financial and business advisory outfits like Accenture, Deloitte Singapore, and PwC Singapore and legal advisors such as Allen & Overy, Dechert, Rajah & Tann Asia, and WongPartnership LLP; and **Industry Partners** such as 500 Global, Antler, EDP Renewables APAC, Heritas Capital, Nurasa, SATS, Schneider Electric, SOSV, and UOB Venture Management.

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### **About Enterprise Singapore**

Enterprise Singapore is the government agency championing enterprise development. We work with committed companies to build capabilities, innovate and internationalise.

We also support the growth of Singapore as a hub for global trading and startups, and build trust in Singapore's products and services through quality and standards.

Visit [www.enterprisesg.gov.sg](http://www.enterprisesg.gov.sg) for more information.

### **About the Centre for Impact Investing and Practices (CIIP)**

The Centre for Impact Investing and Practices ("CIIP") was established in 2022 as a non-profit entity by Temasek Trust to foster impact investing and practices in Asia and beyond. CIIP is the anchor partner for SGD Impact, the United Nations Development Programme initiative tasked to develop resources that accelerate investments towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals ("SDGs") by 2030. Through this partnership, Asia investors and businesses are provided with clarity, insights and tools that support their contributions towards achieving the SDGs. Temasek and ABC Impact are CIIP's strategic partners. For more information, please visit [www.ciip.com.sg](http://www.ciip.com.sg)

### **About Philanthropy Asia Alliance**

Philanthropy Asia Alliance (PAA) is a Temasek Trust initiative dedicated to catalysing collaborative philanthropy in Asia through dynamic multi-sector partnerships. By harnessing collective strengths, PAA multiplies impact, accelerates positive change, and takes urgent action to address the pressing environmental and social challenges of our time. PAA's flagship programme is the annual Philanthropy Asia Summit (PAS), which features Calls to Action to foster innovation, drive momentum, and scale impact in addressing environmental and social challenges. For more information, visit <http://philanthropyasiaalliance.org>

### **About Temasek Foundation**

Temasek Foundation supports a diverse range of programmes that uplift lives and communities in Singapore and beyond. Temasek Foundation's programmes, made possible through philanthropic endowments gifted by Temasek, strive towards achieving positive outcomes for individuals and communities now, and for generations to come. Collectively, Temasek Foundation's programmes strengthen social resilience, foster international exchange and regional capabilities, advance science, and protect the planet. For more information, visit [www.temasekfoundation.org.sg](http://www.temasekfoundation.org.sg)

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### ANNEX A

#### Sustainability Open Innovation Challenge 2023

Strategic Partner		Demand Drivers	Challenge Statements
<b>Climate Change</b>			
Temasek Foundation and Centre for Impact Investing and Practices		<p><u>SOIC 2023 x TLC Open Category:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carbon Capture, Storage and Utilisation</li> <li>Emerging Renewable Energy e.g., Green Hydrogen, Wind/Tidal Energy</li> </ul> <p><b>Hexagon Group</b> is a Corporate Sponsor for the Open Category.</p>	
1	JTC Corporation (JTC)	Chang Chun Group	<p><u>Recovery of Low-Grade Heat Waste (80C)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How might we optimise the recovery of low-grade heat waste (60-80 degrees celsius) and redirect the heat to a productive use within the manufacturing facility?</li> </ul>
2	-	Shing Leck Engineering Services	
3	-	(Tata Steel) T S Global Procurement Pte Ltd	<p><u>Recovery of Low-Grade Heat Waste (150C)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How might we optimise the recovery of low-grade heat waste (150-200 degree celsius) and redirect the heat to a productive use within the steel manufacturing plant?</li> </ul>
4	Singapore Chemical Industry Council (SCIC) and JTC	Advario	<p><u>Floating Photovoltaic Platforms</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How might we optimise the design, operation and maintenance of Floating Photovoltaic (PV) platforms to provide energy at scale despite the variable and challenging seafront conditions?</li> </ul>
5	SCIC	The Polyolefin Company	<p><u>Optimisation of Chiller System Efficiency</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How might we optimise the efficiency of the chiller system to minimise overall energy and water consumption?</li> </ul>
<b>Green Buildings</b>			
6	SEMI	Micron Technology	<p><u>Monitoring system for abatement and DRE efficiency optimisation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How might we create a real-time monitoring system to optimise abatement settings and improve destruction and removal (DRE) efficiency?</li> </ul>
7	-	Keppel Corporation	<p><u>Reduction of Plug-Load Energy Consumption</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How might we minimise the energy consumption of plugged-in devices in tenanted office spaces, in order to reduce total building energy use by at least 5%?</li> </ul>



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8	SG Eco Fund	Housing & Development Board	<u>Renewable Energy and Operational Carbon Emission Reduction</u>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How might we design new renewable energy solutions that generate and/or store energy for HDB buildings and estates?</li> </ul>
			<u>Green Construction Materials</u>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How might we develop and test low-carbon building and infrastructure materials for HDB's new construction projects or existing estates?</li> </ul>
			<u>Rainwater Recycling</u>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How might we improve water detention and retention capacity in urban environments, construction projects or existing estates?</li> </ul>
9	-	Island Concrete	<u>Innovative Materials for Green Concrete</u>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How might we increase green cement production with innovative materials and methods?</li> </ul>
<b>Sustainable Agriculture &amp; Trade</b>			
10	Singapore Agri-Food Innovation Lab (SAIL) operated by NTU Singapore	Japfa	<u>Water Recycling on Livestock Farms</u>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How might we implement a sustainable and cost-effective wastewater treatment solution for livestock and aquaculture facilities?</li> </ul>
11		CNH Industrial	<u>Tracking of Crop Residues Sent to Biomass Energy Plants</u>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How might we record a set of parameters of individual paddy straw bales (crop residues) and thus the quality of each bale, so as to optimise deliveries of bales as feed to biomass energy plants?)</li> </ul>
12	-	(Michelin Group) Societe Des Matieres Premieres Tropicales	<u>Enablement of Smallholders to Participate in Carbon Economy</u>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How can we enable participation in the carbon economy, and therefore create new value for climate-smart smallholder-centred development projects?</li> </ul>
13	-	PT. Sukses Mantap Sejahtera	<u>Alternative Uses of Sugarcane By-Products</u>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How might we create value-added products from sugarcane by-products, thereby enhancing the sustainability and profitability of sugarcane processing?</li> </ul>
14	-	Cargill	<u>Optimisation of Fertiliser Use</u>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How might we collect accurate and actionable insights on fertiliser effects, so that fertiliser use can be optimised on oil palm plantations and smallholder plots?</li> </ul>
15	-	(TTC AgriS) Thành Thành Công - Biên Hòa Joint Stock Company	<u>Transformation of Bagasse into Sustainable Plastic Products</u>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How might we enhance the value of bagasse by transforming them into sustainable plastic products?</li> </ul>



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Sustainable Materials			
16	Singapore Fashion Council	Ghim Li	<p><u>Synthetic Organic Dyes and Fixing Agents</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How might we employ organic or greener synthetic dyes and fixing agents to directly lead to lower electricity usage in the wastewater treatment process and chemical consumption?</li> </ul>
17	-	FKS Food and Agri	<p><u>Alternative Packaging for Flour</u></p> <p>How might we develop a new packaging solution for 25kg bags of agricultural products like wheat flour, that is more sustainable and yet cost-effective?</p>
18	-	Diageo	<p><u>Sustainable packaging</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How might we decrease the carbon footprint or increase the circularity of alcohol packaging?</li> </ul>
19	-	Maha Chemicals	<p><u>Biotechnology-based Sustainable Surfactant Solution</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How might we develop a sustainable surfactant solution using biotechnology to reduce the strain on palm and coconut oil resources?</li> </ul>