

Questions	Answers
<p>What is Fintech Supervisory Sandbox 3.1 Pilot (2024)?</p>	<p>Fintech Supervisory Sandbox 3.1 Pilot (2024) (the “FSS 3.1 Pilot”) provides development-stage funding support for leading financial technology projects. These projects must have successfully participated in the Proof of Concept (PoC) Subsidy Scheme sponsored by the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau, or other relevant Pilot/PoC programs supported by a government, regulator, and/or reputable organizations. Projects that have been awarded in industry-recognized Fintech competitions are also eligible.</p> <p>Participating Fintech companies should partner with one or more banks in Hong Kong (the “Bank(s)”) to develop innovative Fintech solutions, with the aim of promoting commercialization and wider adoption of projects aligned with the HKMA’s regulatory mandate. The FSS 3.1 Pilot is administered by the Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited (HKCMCL).</p>
<p>How to apply?</p>	<p>Eligible applicants must submit their applications via email to fss2024@cyberport.hk. All required supporting documents, as outlined in the Guide and Notes document, must be included as part of the submission. You can download this document from the FSS 3.1 Pilot website at fss2024.cyberport.hk.</p>
<p>When should companies apply?</p>	<p>Application period: November 29, 2024 - February 21, 2025*</p> <p>*Note: The dates listed are subject to change. Please refer to the updated schedule on the landing page of our website (fss2024.cyberport.hk) for the latest information.</p>
<p>Which companies and projects are eligible for the FSS 3.1 Pilot Subsidy Scheme?</p>	<p>To be eligible for the FSS 3.1 Pilot funding subsidy, applicants must meet the following criteria*:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be registered in Hong Kong under the Business Registration Ordinance (Cap. 310) (“BRO”) and have commenced business in Hong Kong before submitting the application; and • Conduct substantive Fintech activities in Hong Kong, Mainland China, or overseas. The eligibility will be separately verified and assessed where necessary; and • Have a bank in Hong Kong as a project sponsor. <p>*Note: Notwithstanding the above requirements, HKCMCL reserves the final discretion on the eligibility of an Applicant and a Sponsoring Bank.</p> <p>Qualifying FSS 3.1 Pilot projects should involve the development of viable technological ideas or concepts that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successfully approved and completed the PoC programs sponsored by the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau or other relevant Pilot/PoC programs supported by a government, regulator, and/or reputable organizations (e.g., PoC program in Mainland China or overseas, PoC from reputable accelerators); or • Have received an award(s) in relevant fintech competition(s) (e.g., Champion, First runner-up, Second runner-up); or • A Fintech Firm that meets the above criteria while just landed in Hong Kong from Mainland China or overseas; <p>but have yet to reach the target level of implementation for commercialization or wider adoption. The FSS 3.1 pilot implementation should cover additional technology components, use cases or designs to support commercialization and wider adoption.</p>

	<p>FSS 3.1 Pilot projects must also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support HKMA initiatives such as CBDC, CDI, IADS, Regtech, and/or Risk Management. • Address a practical issue or pain point faced by the banking industry with no prior use case in the market. • Be governed by a sponsorship agreement or letter of intent in writing between the applicant and the sponsoring bank; and • Demonstrate strong potential for commercialization.
What is the application procedure for the FSS 3.1 Pilot Subsidy Scheme?	<p>Applicants must submit their applications and all supporting documents via email to fss2024@cyberport.hk within the application period. The Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited (HKCMCL) will assess applications based on the qualifying criteria, required information and documents, and the assessment criteria outlined in the “Guide and Notes for Applicants”. Each application will be evaluated individually.</p> <p>Successful applicants must enter a funding agreement with HKCMCL before receiving the subsidy. For detailed submission requirements, please refer to the “Guide and Notes for Applicants” and the “Online briefing material” available for download from the FSS 3.1 Pilot website (fss2024.cyberport.hk).</p>
When shall I start the project, If the application is successful?	An approved FSS 3.1 Pilot project is required to be commenced within one month from the date of approval.
How will the project be monitored after commencement?	The applicant must provide a progress report three months after the project commencement and seek email confirmation from the project sponsor to validate the content of the report. Additionally, HKCMCL may request a meeting or interview with the applicant via telephone calls, e-meetings, or other means to monitor the project’s progress.
Any limit on the number of pilot project grant applications?	An Applicant can submit only one application.
How much is the subsidy?	Each approved FSS 3.1 project will receive 100% of the approved subsidy, up to a maximum of HKD 500,000, provided that the required conditions specified in the “Guide and Notes” of the FSS 3.1 Pilot are met.
Any limit on the number of sponsored projects by each eligible project sponsor?	No limit.
How will the applicant be informed about the application result?	Applicants will be notified of the application result by email from HKCMCL.
Can a non-bank entity sponsor the Pilot project?	No, the Pilot project must be sponsored by an HKMA-regulated bank in Hong Kong.
Is there a time limit for completing the FSS3.1 Pilot Project?	Yes, an approved FSS 3.1 Pilot project must commence within one month from the approval date and be completed within six months from the commencement date. However, the implementation period may be extended by an additional three months, up to a total of nine months, on a case-by-case basis (e.g., for complex projects involving multiple stakeholders). Extensions are granted at the discretion of HKCMCL.

<p>How is my FSS 3.1 Pilot project proposal being evaluated?</p>	<p>The evaluation of your FSS 3.1 Pilot project proposal is based on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eligibility: This includes the eligibility of the applicant and the project sponsor. 2. Submitted Documents and Project Proposal: The evaluation will primarily follow the assessment criteria outlined in the “Guide and Notes” document by HKCMCL. <p>Each eligible application is assessed on its merits and considered on a case-by-case basis. The decision made by HKCMCL is final and conclusive.</p>
<p>When and how to receive the funding?</p>	<p>The first instalment payment for an approved project will be deposited into the applicant’s designated bank account after the Funding Agreement is signed and HKCMCL verifies proof (such as a bank statement) that the account belongs to the applicant. The final payment will be issued upon project completion and HKCMCL’s acceptance of the final reports and verification of proof of bank account validity.</p>
<p>Is there any requirement for the FSS 3.1 Pilot projects?</p>	<p>To qualify for FSS 3.1 Pilot projects, the following criteria must be met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The project must support HKMA initiatives, such as: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) ii. Commercial Data Interchange (CDI) iii. Interbank Account Data Sharing (IADS) iv. Regtech v. Risk Management 2. It must address a practical issue or pain point faced by the banking industry, with no prior use case in the market. 3. The project must be governed by a written sponsorship agreement or letter of intent in writing between the applicant and the sponsoring bank. 4. It must demonstrate strong potential for commercialization.
<p>Can I change the project scope?</p>	<p>After the project is approved, no change of project scope is allowed.</p>
<p>Can an organization without a Business Registration Certificate apply for the Scheme?</p>	<p>No, the applicant company must have a recent valid Business Registration Certificate at the time of the application.</p>
<p>Can I submit one application to apply for multiple projects?</p>	<p>No, each application can cover only one Pilot project.</p>
<p>Can the FSS 3.1 Pilot project currently benefiting from other public funding programmes apply for the Scheme?</p>	<p>No, a subsidy will not be granted if the FSS 3.1 Pilot project is receiving subsidies from another local public funding program for the same project scope and development activities. Applicants must declare that the proposed FSS 3.1 Pilot project implementation has not received any grants previously, except for grants related to Pilot/PoC projects directly relevant to the pre-development stage for the FSS 3.1 Pilot. Additionally, applicants must declare that they will not be applying for other grants for the same FSS 3.1 Pilot project implementation. Acceptance of prior grants from other government agencies or FSTB for the same project scope and development activities will render the project ineligible for the FSS 3.1 Pilot.</p>
<p>What is the Sponsoring Bank's role and responsibility?</p>	<p>The Sponsoring Bank does not necessarily have direct financial contribution to the FSS 3.1 Pilot project. However, to be eligible for funding subsidy, the Applicant must have a Sponsoring Bank in Hong Kong, that demonstrates active engagement and commitment to observe the project development till the project’s completion. This commitment must be supported by agreements or other forms of documentary evidence (e.g., Letter of intent) to the satisfaction of Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited (HKCMCL). The Sponsoring Bank should be involved in signing or endorsing the sponsorship agreement, progress report, User Acceptance Testing (UAT) report, or related correspondence (e.g., emails) after each milestone is completed.</p>

Can I start the project before the application?	No, to be eligible for financial support under the FSS 3.1 Pilot Scheme, the project must not have commenced before the application is submitted.
Can I start the project before approval?	It is not recommended to start the project before approval. If you do, you cannot make any claims from HKCMCL for any losses, risks, and/or costs if your application is eventually rejected or if the funding is not granted in full.