<u>Application period for IT Service</u> <u>Providers Reference List of Distance</u> <u>Business Programme to close on June 6</u>

The Innovation and Technology Commission announced today (May 30) that the application period for the IT Service Providers Reference List of the Distance Business Programme will end on June 6. Service providers wishing to enrol for the Reference List should submit applications through the Programme's online system before the deadline.

"The Programme opened for enterprises to apply for funding on May 18. As at 10am today, the Programme had received an overwhelming response of 8 017 funding applications from enterprises. In order to focus resources on processing these applications and enable the enterprises to benefit early, we need to cease accepting applications from service providers to enrol for the Reference List at an appropriate time," a spokesman for the Commission said.

The Reference List seeks to offer relevant market information merely for reference by enterprises applying for funding. Whether or not the enterprises engage service providers on the Reference List will not affect the outcome of the application. As at 10am today, there were 2 023 service providers enrolled on the Reference List.

The aim of the Distance Business Programme is to provide funding support through fast-track processing for enterprises to adopt IT solutions during the epidemic for developing distance business, so as to continue their business and services. Details are available on the Programme website (<u>u.hkpc.org/dbiz</u>). For enquiries, please contact the Programme Secretariat by phone on 2788 5070 during business hours (9am to 6pm, Mondays to Fridays (except public holidays)) or via email at <u>dbiz@hkpc.org</u>.