



**Press Release**

*For Immediate Release*

**HKSTP and NETA Sign MOU to Jointly Promote Hong Kong's Emerging  
New Energy Vehicles Industry**

*Establishment of NETA Auto R&D Centre at Science Park realises Hong Kong's new industrialisation mission and proves city as a major draw for global investment, R&D talent and innovation.*

- The partnership between HKSTP and NETA Auto is fully endorsed by and the result of the strategic focus of the ITIB and other HKSAR Government departments and the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES). NETA Auto is proactively setting up shop in Hong Kong, proving the city's role as a launchpad to pave the path for Chinese tech enterprises to go global.
- NETA Auto aims to spark positive industry synergies, foster development of the new energy vehicle industry in Hong Kong, and drive global expansion of its brand by leveraging the city's access to capital, low taxes, talent, scientific and technological advantages.
- Hong Kong embraces its solid scientific research strength, while tight Mainland integration makes it the ideal launchpad for foreign enterprises connecting to China and Asia.

**(Hong Kong, 1 September 2023)** – The Hong Kong Science and Technology Park Corporation (HKSTP) and Hozon New Energy Auto Co., Ltd. (NETA Auto) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish operations at Science Park and join the vibrant innovation ecosystem in Hong Kong, to advance Hong Kong's new energy vehicles industry and mission to achieve Net-Zero emissions.

The Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau (ITIB) recently declared its "Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Development Blueprint" which includes development of new energy vehicles as part of the government's strategic plan to foster new industries such as advanced manufacturing and attract key enterprises from overseas and mainland China into the city. NETA Auto has been identified as a strategic representative I&T company with high potential, hence its proactive establishments in Hong Kong, is strong endorsement of the city's role in paving the path for China enterprises to go global.

The MoU between HKSTP and NETA Auto is fully endorsed and backed by the ITIB, other HKSAR Government departments and the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES), which is tasked to attract representative companies that advance strategic sectors like advanced manufacturing. Under the theme of "Innovation Manufacturing and Propelling Endless Possibilities", the formal partnership was witnessed by Professor Sun Dong, Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry; Ms Lillian Cheong, Under Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry; Mr Phillip Yung, Director-General of Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises; Dr Sunny Chai, Chairman of HKSTP; Mr Ouyang Minggao, Member of the Standing Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative



Conference (CPPCC), Academician with the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Professor at Tsinghua University, and Deputy Director of the Academic Committee of Tsinghua University, and Mr Fang Yunzhou, Founder and Chairman of NETA Auto. The MoU was signed by Mr Albert Wong, Chief Executive Officer of HKSTP and Ms Evonne Ching, Chief Investment Officer of NETA Auto.

Taking advantage of the city's access to capital, low taxes benefits, talent, scientific and technological advantages, NETA Auto will establish its international headquarters in Hong Kong by the end of this year with a plan to invest hundreds of millions to billions in RMB and recruit nearly 600 research talents over the next five years. In addition, a smart research and development (R&D) centre of over 40,000 square feet will be established to attract more tech ventures and talent in the automotive industrial chain to join Science Park's innovation ecosystem and further strengthen cooperation across key industries in Hong Kong and the Mainland. HKSTP has already established a thriving I&T ecosystem with over 13,000 research professionals, over 1,400 technology companies and more than 300 partner networks. HKSTP will offer comprehensive support and infrastructure to drive collaboration among stakeholders across the industry, academia and research sectors. HKSTP has for many years provided unwavering support to nurture 10 unicorn companies within its ecosystem. Such experience will help to assist NETA Auto in its journey to innovation and success.

The collaboration between HKSTP and NETA Auto will set out a multi-pronged approach to unlock the investment value of the corporation and open up the global market, bringing cutting-edge technology to the international stage, at the same time, supporting NETA Auto to transform from a Chinese Automobile brand to a global technology company.

Professor Sun Dong, Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry, said, "New energy vehicles are now in the spotlight as an emerging world-leading technology industry. By integrating the upstream, midstream and downstream sectors, new energy vehicles will spur economic development and provide employment opportunities. According to the Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Development Blueprint, new energy vehicles has been identified as a significant development area. The Government is committed to establishing Hong Kong as an international I&T hub, and realising high quality development and fostering new industrialisation. The Central People's Government has recently promulgated the 'Development Plan for Shenzhen Park of Heta, Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone', signifying Hong Kong's accelerated I&T development. With unwavering support from the Motherland and being closely connected to the world, I firmly believe that Hong Kong will swiftly achieve its goal of becoming an international I&T hub for a coordinated development with the Mainland GBA cities."

Dr Sunny Chai, Chairman of HKSTP, said, "HKSTP is the city's largest R&D base, providing high-quality infrastructure and facilities as well as a vast network of partners, it aims to foster greater collaboration between NETA Auto and tertiary and research institutions to unite Hong Kong's world-class research, academic and industry potential, embrace the opportunity brought by the new energy vehicles industry and achieve a win-win collaboration. We hope this partnership with market-leading EV maker NETA can forge new links between the Chinese and Hong Kong advanced manufacturing industries,



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bringing in more upstream and downstream corporates from the new energy automobile industry value chain to invest into Hong Kong, as well as attract top quality talent to advance their careers in our city.”

Mr Fang Yunzhou, Founder and Chairman of NETA Auto, said, “As the first Chinese new automobile manufacturing brand to sell over 150,000 vehicles a year, NETA Auto is expanding from China to the world. By establishing our international headquarters at Science Park, NETA Auto will take full advantage of Hong Kong’s competitive edge as an international financial hub and innovation incubation ground which supports the development and enhancement of the new energy vehicles industry in Hong Kong, achieving the vision of ‘Make intelligent EVs for all’ and creating a better smarter and environmentally-friendly lifestyle.”

Strategically located in East Asia and connected to the rest of the world, Hong Kong is a global hub for finance, trade, information and technology sectors. The partnership between NETA Auto and HKSTP is well timed and will allow in-depth collaboration in key areas such as industrial value chain development and equity, while further promoting the implementation of the partnership.” Fang added.



**Photo 1:** Witnessed by the guests, the MOU was signed by Mr Albert Wong, the Chief Executive Officer of HKSTP (fourth from left) and Ms Evonne Ching, Chief Investment Officer of NETA Auto (fourth from right).



**Photo 2:** NETA Auto will establish its international headquarters at Science Park with a plan to recruit nearly 600 research talents. In addition, a smart research and development (R&D) centre of over 40,000 square feet will be established to attract more tech ventures and talent in the automotive industrial value chain to join Science Park's innovation ecosystem.



**Photo 3:** Professor Sun Dong, Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry (seventh from left), Ms Lillian Cheong, Under Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry (sixth from right), Mr Phillip Yung, Director-General of Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (fifth from left), Mr Ouyang Minggao, Academician with the Chinese Academy of Sciences (eighth from right), Mr Fang Yunzhou, Founder and Chairman of NETA Auto (seventh from right) and Dr Sunny Chai, the Chairman of HKSTP (sixth from left) attended the MoU signing ceremony today.



**Photo 4:** The partnership between HKSTP and NETA Auto is fully endorsed and the result of the strategic focus of the ITIB and other HKSAR Government departments under the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES).

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**About Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation**

Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTP) has for over 20 years committed to building up Hong Kong as an international innovation and technology hub to propel success for local and global pioneers today and tomorrow. HKSTP has established a thriving I&T ecosystem that supported over 10 unicorns and Hong Kong’s leading R&D hub with over 13,000 research professionals and over 1,400 technology companies focused on healthtech, AI and robotics, fintech and smart city technologies.

Established in 2001, we attract and nurture talent, accelerate and commercialise innovation and technology for entrepreneurs on their journey of growth in Hong Kong, to the Greater Bay Area, Asia and beyond. Our growing innovation ecosystem is built around our key locations of Hong Kong Science Park in Shatin, InnoCentre in Kowloon Tong and three modern InnoParks in Tai Po, Tseung Kwan O and Yuen Long. The three InnoParks are realising a vision of new industrialisation for Hong Kong. The goal is sectors like advanced manufacturing, electronics and biotechnology are being reimaged for a new generation of industry.

Through our infrastructure, services, expertise, and network of partnerships, HKSTP will help establish innovation and technology as a pillar of growth for Hong Kong, while reinforcing Hong Kong’s international I&T hub status as a launchpad for global growth at the heart of the GBA innovation powerhouse.



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More information about HKSTP is available at [www.hkstp.org](http://www.hkstp.org).

#### **About NETA Auto**

NETA Auto is a product brand of Hozon New Energy Automobile Co., Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as "Hozon").

Founded in October 2014, Hozon is an innovative high-tech company integrating software services as well as R&D, production, and sales of high-quality smart electric vehicles, with a registered capital of RMB 2.664 billion, total investment of over RMB 10 billion, and over 9,000 employees.

The vision of NETA Auto is "Populariser of smart EV". Adhering to the concept of "Make intelligent EVs for all" and "Tech for all", NETA Auto focuses on products and fosters innovative technologies to promote the continuous evolution of EVs and leads the future trend of technological development.

NETA Auto focuses on the mass consumer market and will introduce multiple models of different classes at a pace of one new vehicle per year, based on an exclusive platform for all-new electric cars, covering the mainstream A0-B segments. Currently, NETA Auto has launched various models including Neta GT, Neta S, Neta U-II, Neta AYA, and Neta V. Additionally, NETA Auto has released a full-stack self-developed intelligent and safe car platform, "Shanghai Platform", and HOZON Intelligent Technology brand, to meet new demands of users and the market, while promoting "Tech for all".



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