

## UK-Guangdong Newton Fund on Urban Innovation

Partnership Building Visit to Guangdong Province | 26 June - 1 July 2017

Expression of Interest Deadline: BST 5:00pm Friday 9 June 2017

Innovate UK and the Guangdong Department of Science and Technology ([GDST](#)) are seeking to strengthen the bilateral partnership in industrial R&D between UK and Chinese businesses on the use of innovative solutions to address urbanisation challenges in the Guangdong Province.

It is anticipated that future collaborations through an upcoming Newton Fund programme will produce a positive social or environmental effect on the wider society and boost economic development in Guangdong. In particular, R&D collaborative are sought for the following challenge areas:

1. **Smart Mobility** – The rapid urbanisation in the Guangdong Province has led to an increase in traffic, with negative effects to the environment, health and safety of its residents.
2. **Affordable Healthcare through Big Data Solutions** – The number of older adults in the Guangdong Province is set to reach 15 million by 2020, with a significant proportion facing healthcare and daily assistance needs. The rapid urbanisation and industrialisation of the Province has also caused an increase in chronic illnesses that are consuming a large percentage of the Province’s medical resources.
3. **Smart Platforms for Sustainable Urban Environments** – China’s rapid urbanisation and industrialisation over the last decades have contributed to significant environmental issues caused by the lack of regulated discharges into air, water and soil. Environmental pollution and ecological issues are of critical concern in Guangdong’s urban areas. They adversely impact health, quality of life and productivity of the residents, while placing cities under growing pressures from ever-expanding populations and industries. It is the intention that future collaboration will help to develop innovative solutions that allow Guangdong cities to use their resources in a more efficient and sustainable way.

To support Innovate UK and GDST in developing strong early collaborative relationships between businesses, the Knowledge Transfer Network (KTN) and the British Embassy in Beijing are organising a **Partnership Building Visit** for UK stakeholders to Guangdong Province during the tentative dates of **26 June – 1 July 2017**, inclusive of travel time.

KTN would like to invite applications from UK businesses and research organisations with competencies to meet the three challenge areas who are interested in the visit.

Our objective is to take approximately 15 UK delegates to Guangdong and provide sufficient opportunity for these stakeholders to identify and meet with potential Chinese partners, and take forward discussions on collaborations. We also aim to give UK stakeholders a good first-hand appreciation of related urbanisation challenges that Guangdong faces and the context of what it means to work with counterparts in China.

The visit will most likely consist of:

- Partnering Workshops where UK and Guangdong companies and research organisations can showcase their capabilities and areas of project interest to discuss potential collaborations through 1-to-1 meetings.
- Introductory event(s) for UK stakeholders to gain further understanding of the urbanisation landscape in Guangdong, and associated challenges and innovation needs.
- Visit(s) to Guangdong organisations and/or projects that reflects the challenges faced by the province.

The visit aims to benefit businesses and research organisations with innovation capabilities and genuine interest in collaborating with Chinese partners under the upcoming **UK-Guangdong Newton Fund on Urban Innovation**. Participants will be selected on a competitive basis through an Assessment Panel.

Interested organisations are requested to fill in the **Application Form** to be submitted by email to **Dr Nee-Joo Teh** ([neejoo.teh@ktn-uk.org](mailto:neejoo.teh@ktn-uk.org)) and **Jess Sully** ([jess.sully@ktn-uk.org](mailto:jess.sully@ktn-uk.org)) by **BST 5:00pm on Friday 9 June 2017**.

Successful companies will be informed by Friday 16 June 2017.

Successful applicants will be expected to pay a £400 contribution towards costs of the visit, primarily to cover flights and accommodation.

Successful applicants will be expected to arrange their own business visa to China (a formal Invitation Letter and instructions on how to apply will be provided). A passport with at least 6 months of remaining validity and blank visa pages is required.