

**Business Facilitation Advisory Committee
Wholesale and Retail Task Force**

Digital Corporate Identity Platform

Purpose

This paper briefs members on the Digital Corporate Identity (CorpID) Platform to be implemented by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO).

Background

2. In order to further promote the development of the digital economy and create a business-friendly environment, the Financial Secretary announced in the 2024-25 Budget that \$300 million have been earmarked to set up a “Digital Corporate Identity¹” platform, i.e. the business version of “iAM Smart” to enable authentication of identity and verification of signature of corporations using e-government services or conducting online business transactions in a secure, convenient and efficient manner without having to go through complicated procedures, thus saving time and reducing the risk of human error. Our goal is to roll out the platform progressively from end-2026 onwards.

Key Features

3. The CorpID Platform will provide a digital identity for business corporations in Hong Kong, covering around 1 800 000 businesses including companies incorporated or registered under the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 622) and businesses (such as sole proprietorship or partnership) registered under the Business Registration Ordinance (Cap. 310), to facilitate them to conduct e-business activities (such as online transactions) with the Government and other public and private organisations.

¹ Also known as “digital identity of enterprises” in the 2024-25 Budget Speech.
<https://www.budget.gov.hk/2024/eng/budget14.html>

4. The CorpID Platform will provide four key functions to the business corporations in Hong Kong:

- (a) Corporate identity verification: Applicants can submit applications electronically through the CorpID Platform in conjunction with the use of “iAM Smart+”. Upon successful application, the corporation will be given a digital corporate identity, which enables safe and convenient identity verification of the corporation and its authorised representative(s) when using the e-government services or conducting online business transactions;
- (b) Digital signing: Applicants can use the digital signing function provided by the CorpID Platform to perform digital signing to substitute the existing handwritten signing and physical company chop, allowing the verifier to verify the signature more easily and accurately, hence shortening the processing time of different applications;
- (c) Authorisation to share corporate information from the e-service application system(s) for form pre-filling: The CorpID Platform provides a form pre-filling function, enabling applicants to authorise the sharing of corporate information from the e-service application system(s) for form pre-filling (e.g. company address, nature of business, information of directors and company secretary, etc.), without the need to fill them in repeatedly, thus saving time and effort; and
- (d) Document wallet: Document wallet allows corporation to store the verifiable corporate digital licences issued by the government. When a corporation needs to present, upload or verify the licences (such as licences issued by the Fire Services Department), it can do so by presenting or retrieving the digital licenses stored in the document wallet to substitute the physical licence or licence copy, which is more convenient and secure when using online service.

5. The CorpID Platform will be launched progressively from end-2026, including a portal that facilitates business corporations to apply for a digital corporate identity online, as well as provision of the above four

key functions (i.e. corporate identity verification, digital signing, authorisation to share corporate information from the e-service application system(s) for form pre-filling, and document wallet to store the corporate digital licences). In addition, several e-government services adopting the CorpID will be launched by mid-2027, including e-services with businesses related to the Inland Revenue Department and Companies Registry.

Way Forward

6. We will solicit suggestions and opinions from market players on the CorpID Platform through different channels, with a view to making it fit well with their daily operational needs, driving them to move towards digital transformation, reducing the administrative burden and related operating costs of both of the government and business corporations, thereby improving the overall efficiency and fostering the development of electronic commerce and digital economy.

7. We also plan to conduct a review in mid-2027 after the smooth rollout of the platform to formulate future development plan, including the extension of the platform to cover other types of corporations (e.g. schools under the Education Ordinance (Cap. 279) and societies established in Hong Kong under the Societies Ordinance (Cap. 151)) and the study on the feasibility of mutual recognition of the digital corporate identity with the Mainland (including the Greater Bay Area) and other economies in order to further promote the opportunities for Hong Kong corporations to develop e-businesses locally and overseas.

Advice Sought

8. Members are invited to note the content of this paper.

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