

11 July 2025

CLP Hosts Free Electrons in Hong Kong to Accelerate Energy Innovation

CLP Holdings Limited (CLP) is pleased to host the Master Module of the Free Electrons 2025 global energy accelerator programme in Hong Kong this week, deepening collaborations between global utilities and start-ups on innovative energy technologies and services.

The Master Module culminated with the Hong Kong Innovation Immersion Session on 10 July, where more than 170 technologists, entrepreneurs, business executives, policy makers and investors from Asia Pacific, Europe and the Americas participated physically and online to discuss innovation in the energy industry. The Top-15 start-ups from Free Electrons 2025 also presented proposals to commercialise their energy technologies.

The Immersion Session was officiated by Chief Executive Officer of CLP Holdings T.K. Chiang and Under Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry of the Hong Kong SAR Lillian Cheong. Speakers included Chief Executive Officer of CUHK Innovation Limited Joyce Ng, Head of Innovation and Technology at InvestHK Andy Wong, Associate Director of Greentech at Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation Howard Lee, and Founder and President of Brazilian artificial intelligence (AI) company Pix Force Renato Gomes.

Running since 2017, Free Electrons connects start-ups with utilities to co-develop and test innovative energy solutions. Start-ups are selected annually through a competitive application process to participate in collaborative modules aimed at piloting and scaling new technologies. Following the Master Module this week, the winner of Free Electrons 2025 will be announced at the Grand Finale to be held in Dublin, Ireland in October.

T.K. Chiang, Chief Executive Officer of CLP Holdings, said in his welcome remarks: “The energy sector has experienced significant changes in the past few years with decarbonisation becoming an imperative. Innovation is now more crucial than ever – it allows us to rethink how we generate, distribute, and consume energy and empowers us to build a cleaner and smarter energy future. And there’s no platform like Free Electrons that enables utilities to connect with a vast array of global startups to deliver innovative energy solutions in such a collaborative manner.”

Lillian Cheong, Under Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry of the Hong Kong SAR, shared that to support the development of strategic Innovation and Technology (I&T) industries, including advanced manufacturing, new energy, new materials, the Government has been actively promoting the interactive development between the upstream, midstream and downstream sectors, and also fostering a closer collaboration between the government, industry, academia, research and investment sectors. Meanwhile, Hong Kong has a strong research and development capability, robust intellectual property protection regime which help pool global innovation resources. She invited the utility professionals, start-ups and representatives from the vibrant innovation ecosystem to continue to work together and make good use of Hong Kong's increasingly vibrant I&T ecosystem with plenty of opportunities as well as the unique advantage of being an international gateway for their business development, to create smarter, better and greener technologies for Hong Kong and the world.

The core of Free Electrons lies in fostering collaborative efforts to deliver pilot projects. An example of these projects is a partnership between CLP and Pix Force, an alumnus from Free Electrons 2024, on AI image analytics technology to assess the building facade condition of substations. This year, CLP is collaborating with start-up partners from Free Electrons 2025 on projects including AI-enabled weather forecasting and electric vehicle battery health assessments.

About CLP Group

The CLP Group is one of the largest investor-owned power businesses in Asia Pacific with investments in Hong Kong, the Chinese Mainland, Australia, India, Taiwan Region and Thailand. Hong Kong-listed CLP Holdings Limited is the holding company for the CLP Group, whose business spans every major segment of the electricity value chain ranging from power generation, transmission and distribution to retail and smart energy services. Visit our website: www.clpgroup.com.

Photo captions:

Photo 1



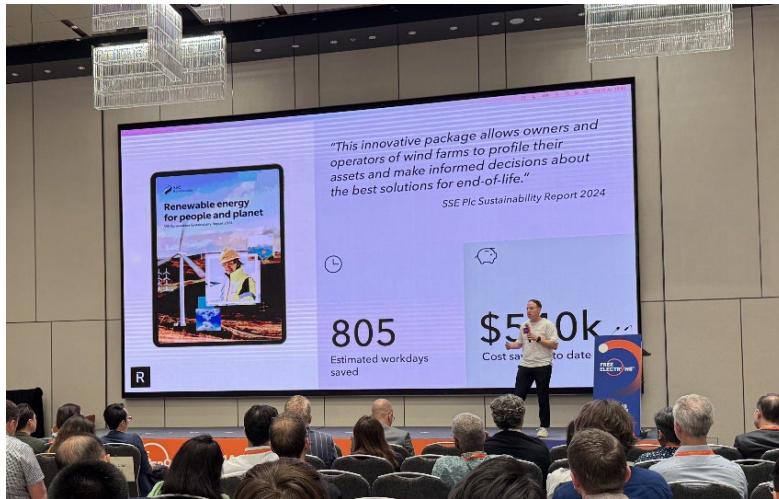
Free Electrons 2025's Hong Kong Innovation Immersion Session is officiated by CLP Holdings Chief Executive Officer T.K. Chiang (fourth from left) and Under Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry Lillian Cheong (third from left). Other speakers include CUHK Innovation Limited Chief Executive Officer Joyce Ng (first from right), InvestHK Head of Innovation and Technology Andy Wong (third from right), Hong Kong Science & Technology Parks Corporation Associate Director of GreenTech Howard Lee (second from right), Pix Force Founder & President Renato Gomes (second from left) and CLP Holdings Head of Research & Ecosystems Brendon Joe (first from left).

Photo 2



CLP Holdings Chief Executive Officer T.K. Chiang says Free Electrons enables utilities to connect with a vast array of global start-ups to deliver innovative energy solutions in a collaborative manner.

Photo 3



Energy start-ups participating in Free Electrons 2025 present their proposals at the Hong Kong Innovation Immersion Session.

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