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CLP Brings Free Electrons to Hong Kong to Connect Global Utilities and Start-ups

CLP Holdings Limited (CLP) plays host to Free Electrons, the global energy start-up accelerator programme, in Hong Kong this week, forging new collaboration opportunities between utilities and some of the world's most innovative entrepreneurs on next-generation energy technologies.

During the week-long event, 15 start-up companies met and pitched to Free Electrons' 10 member utilities of their new products and services that are backed by digital technologies including artificial intelligence, data analytics and the Internet of Things.

Free Electrons was founded two years ago by an international alliance of utilities and start-up accelerators with a goal to make energy services more user-centric, efficient and sustainable. Through running annual editions that comprise a series of meetings held in different cities, Free Electrons aims to connect leading electricity companies and start-ups to fast-track the development of new energy solutions.

A highlight of the Hong Kong event was the CLP and Free Electrons Ecosystem Immersion Day held today for more than 200 executives, entrepreneurs, technologists, business partners, investors and policy makers to gain insights into the latest innovations and business models empowering the transition to smarter and cleaner energy in Hong Kong, the Greater Bay Area, and beyond.

"It is our privilege to bring Free Electrons to Hong Kong for the first time. As a densely populated city with the world's highest concentration of skyscrapers, a reliable and efficient electricity supply is extremely important for us all. These unique characteristics make Hong Kong an excellent test bed for energy innovation. We hope today's Immersion Day can connect the innovation of start-up companies and the expertise of leading international utilities to our city's fast-growing technology ecosystem and open up new opportunities for partnerships," said Richard Lancaster, Chief Executive Officer of CLP.

The Immersion Day was officiated by Dr David Chung, Under Secretary for Innovation and Technology, Innovation and Technology Bureau, The HKSAR Government. The event also featured speakers from businesses and organisations including CK Hutchison Holdings, Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited, Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute, and KPMG.

In addition to CLP, other member utilities of Free Electrons include American Electric Power, AusNet Services, Dubai Electricity and Water Authority, Electricity Supply Board, Energias de Portugal, Innogy, Origin Energy, SP Group and Tokyo Electric Power Company.

The 15 start-up companies were selected from almost 500 companies evaluated by Free Electrons this year. In the 2018 edition, start-ups and utilities worked on 43 pilot projects, accelerating the growth of new innovations in energy technologies with the potential for commercial deployment by millions of users around the world.

About CLP Group

CLP Holdings Limited, a company listed on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong, is the holding company for the CLP Group, one of the largest investor-owned power businesses in Asia Pacific. Through CLP Power Hong Kong Limited, it operates a vertically-integrated electricity supply business providing a highly-reliable supply of electricity to 80% of Hong Kong's population.

Outside Hong Kong, CLP holds investment in the energy sector in Mainland China, India, Southeast Asia, Taiwan and Australia. Its diversified portfolio of generating assets uses a wide range of fuels including coal, gas, nuclear and renewable sources. CLP is one of the largest external investors in the Mainland's renewable energy sector. In India, it is one of the biggest renewable energy producers and among the largest foreign investors in the electricity sector. In Australia, its wholly-owned subsidiary EnergyAustralia is one of the largest integrated energy companies, providing gas and electricity to about 2.55 million households and businesses.

CLP is included in the Global Dow – a 150-stock index of the world's leading blue-chips, the Dow Jones Sustainability Asia Pacific Index (DJSI Asia Pacific), the Dow Jones Sustainability Asia Pacific 40 Index (DJSI Asia Pacific 40), Hang Seng Corporate Sustainability Index Series and MSCI ESG Leaders Indexes.

Photo 1:



Mr Richard Lancaster, CEO of CLP (ninth from left), Dr David Chung, Under Secretary for Innovation and Technology, Innovation and Technology Bureau, The HKSAR Government (eighth from left), Mr Harry Lai, Acting Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services, The HKSAR Government (sixth from left) and representatives from Free Electrons' 10 member utilities unveil the CLP and Free Electrons Ecosystem Immersion Day.

Photo 2:



Mr Richard Lancaster, CEO of CLP, hopes the CLP and Free Electrons Ecosystem Immersion Day can connect the start-ups and utilities with business partners and key customers in Hong Kong's fast-growing technology ecosystem and open up new opportunities for partnerships.

Photo 3:



Start-up companies showcase their products and innovations in smart energy technologies.

Photo 4:



Speakers Mr Anson Bailey, Head of Technology, Hong Kong, KPMG in China (first from left), Mr Peter Bourke, Head of Group Information System, CK Hutchison Holdings (second from left), Mr Peter Yan, CEO, Hong Kong Cyberport Company Limited (middle), Dr Megan Fisher, Head of Digital and Innovation, AusNet Services (second from right) and Mr Richard Tse, CFO, West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (first from right), discuss the role of corporate in smart cities.

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