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MOM enhances EntrePass scheme to attract global startup talent to build innovative businesses in Singapore

On 2 August 2017, the Ministry of Manpower (“MOM”) announced that the EntrePass scheme would be revised to strengthen Singapore’s tech startup ecosystem and position Singapore as a leading startup location. The revised scheme came into effect on 3 August 2017.

EntrePass is a work visa for foreign entrepreneurs who are keen to start a business in Singapore in certain areas. The scheme was introduced in 2003.

Key enhancements to the EntrePass scheme include:

- **Broadening evaluation criteria:** Under the existing innovation criteria, applicants need to: (i) have funding/investment from a Government-recognised venture capital or business angel; or (ii) hold intellectual property; or (iii) have a research collaboration with an institute of higher learning or research institution in Singapore; or (iv) be an incubatee at a Government-recognised incubator/accelerator. Applicants will now be assessed on factors beyond the existing four innovation criteria. This will allow global startup talent to enter Singapore during the business exploration stage. Examples of new criteria include entrepreneurial and investment track record, business network and key achievements in their areas of expertise.
- **Removing paid-up capital requirement:** The paid-up capital requirement of S\$50,000 has been removed to recognise the non-monetary contributions of global startup talent such as expertise and relevance to industries.
- **Extending validity period of each EntrePass:** The validity period of each EntrePass has been extended from one to two years, after the first renewal. This will provide more certainty for global entrepreneurs in scaling up their businesses.

The EntrePass scheme falls under the Startup SG Talent pillar, one of the five pillars under the Startup SG umbrella branding that consolidates all local startup schemes.

In addition to SPRING Singapore, two new partner agencies will be involved in the enhanced EntrePass scheme: the Infocomm Media Development Authority and the National Research Foundation, supported by SGInnovate. These agencies will work with MOM to evaluate the applications in their respective sectors.

Reference materials

The following materials are available from the MOM website www.mom.gov.sg:

- [MOM press release](#)
- [Factsheet - Enhanced EntrePass Scheme](#)

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