

## JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

### **IE Singapore and Ascendas-Singbridge set up Singapore Manufacturing Innovation Centre to help Singapore technology companies partner Chinese enterprises in Industry 4.0 solutions**

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1. Today, International Enterprise (IE) Singapore and Ascendas-Singbridge launched the Singapore Manufacturing Innovation Centre (SMIC) in Guangzhou, a one-stop shop to facilitate partnerships between Singapore Industry 4.0<sup>1</sup> (I4.0) technology solutions providers and Chinese enterprises looking to adopt such solutions. This will help Singapore companies tap rising demand in China, arising from the “Made in China 2025” initiative (MIC 2025) aimed at leveraging technology to upgrade traditional industries and develop its advanced manufacturing sector.
2. SMIC is a first-of-its-kind platform to promote collaboration and co-creation of innovative technology solutions among Singapore companies and Chinese enterprises. IE Singapore has partnered Ascendas-Singbridge to bring together a pioneer batch of five Singapore technology players with complementary capabilities to anchor the SMIC. They are:
  - i) Akribis Systems, motion control solutions specialist;
  - ii) Barghest Building Performance, energy efficiency technology provider focusing on intelligent building space;
  - iii) K-One, innovation solutions provider focusing on Sustainability, Environmental-friendly and Value-added solutions;
  - iv) Plant Werx, industrial information technology provider;

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<sup>1</sup> Globally, the Fourth Industrial Revolution (or Industry 4.0), characterised by the convergence of new technologies in the physical and digital spheres, is driving significant changes in production and management systems within the manufacturing sector. The integration of advanced technologies into the manufacturing ecosystem will transform factories into smarter, nimbler and responsive operations that drive productivity and economic transformation.

- v) SESTO Robotics, autonomous technology specialist delivering automated guided vehicle solutions

(Please refer to Annex for company details)

3. Located in the co-working space within Ascendas OneHub GKC in the Sino-Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City (GKC), the opening of SMIC was graced by Mr Ong Ye Kung, Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) and Second Minister for Defence and Mr Chen Xiao Hua, Mayor of Huang Pu District and Executive Vice Director of Guangzhou Development District Administration. Minister Ong is in Guangzhou in his capacity as Co-Chairman of the Singapore-Guangdong Collaboration Council (SGCC). The five Singapore companies, Ascendas-Singbridge and Sino-Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City Investment and Development Co. Ltd will sign a strategic partnership framework agreement at the eighth SGCC meeting tomorrow.

#### **SMIC a launchpad for Industry 4.0 collaboration in China**

4. With a strong manufacturing foothold, Guangdong is now driving innovation and tech-driven manufacturing for its next phase of growth. In line with MIC 2025, the Guangdong government has pledged approximately SG\$190 billion<sup>2</sup> to drive the upgrade of its manufacturing sector and the adoption of robotics to cope with rising labour costs and shortage of skilled labour.
5. The five SMIC member companies aim to partner Chinese manufacturers in this drive, co-creating solutions that contribute to I4.0 readiness and facilitating the Chinese manufacturing sector transition to advanced manufacturing. Areas of collaboration cover robotics and industrial automation, additive manufacturing, augmented reality, Industrial Internet-of-Things (IIoT), as well as big data and analytics.
6. For example, K-One and SESTO Robotics have generated interest from Chinese enterprises for automated inflight catering solutions. K-One's I4.0 solutions in industrial cleaning and inflight catering preparation lines complement SESTO Robotics' automated guided vehicle systems that transport various types of products and materials autonomously. This partnership allows them to create a complete automation solution for Chinese companies looking to improve efficiency in assembling pre-packed meals.

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<sup>2</sup> The Economist, "Special Report: Pearl River Delta"

7. Mr Lee Ark Boon, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of IE Singapore said, “Singapore has a strong knowledge-intensive manufacturing sector, which accounts for 20% of our GDP. Because of this, our local technology solutions providers have gained relevant expertise and track record in transforming the traditional manufacturing sector. These companies can partner and co-create solutions with Chinese manufacturers as they move up the value chain. The SMIC serves as a one-stop shop for Singapore and Guangdong enterprises to collaborate on I4.0 solutions, and scale up in other parts of China.”
8. IE Singapore and Ascendas-Singbridge will connect the SMIC member companies to potential business leads. Housed in the Ascendas OneHub GKC, the SMIC participants have ready access to MNCs and Chinese enterprises situated in the Guangzhou Development District. They will also benefit from seminars, workshops, tradeshows and demonstrations that facilitate networking and business matching. Ascendas-Singbridge will provide supporting services for the companies to plug into the business ecosystem in Guangdong and Southern China.
9. Mrs Nina Yang, Ascendas-Singbridge’s CEO for Sustainable Urban Development said, “As the master developer of Sino-Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City, Ascendas-Singbridge is pleased to jointly launch the SMIC with IE Singapore. Located in the heart of the Pearl River Delta region, one of the world’s most important manufacturing and industrial hubs, SMIC is strategically positioned for innovative enterprises to meet the demand of Chinese manufacturers actively seeking solution partners to enhance their capabilities and create higher value-add. This is in line with our commitment to play a meaningful role in supporting economic and social development in key cities across China and round the region.”
10. Mr Michael Leong, Chief Executive Officer of SESTO Robotics, said, “SMIC’s strategic location with a well-connected transportation network and robust infrastructure, provides us with an excellent base for reaching out to the Chinese companies requiring quality and intelligent automation solutions. We are actively engaging clients and partners who are looking for intelligent robotics solutions in the South China region, to support the burgeoning growth of advanced manufacturing in China.”
11. In 2016, Guangdong’s GDP reached SG\$1.63 trillion (7.5% increase from 2015). As a key node of the Pearl River Delta (PRD) Economic Zone, the nine Guangdong cities

along the PRD<sup>3</sup> account for more than a tenth of China's GDP<sup>4</sup>. Guangdong is known for producing white goods such as television sets, electrical fans and refrigerators, and other consumer products like garments, toys, shoes and electronics. Exports of most of these products rank the highest in China<sup>5</sup>. Well-known Chinese manufacturers include China Petrochemical Corp., SAIC Motor and Chinese Aviation Industry Corp. MNCs such as Foxconn and Cisco have also looked to Guangzhou to establish smart manufacturing facilities.

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**About International Enterprise Singapore**

IE Singapore is the government agency that promotes international trade and partners Singapore companies to go global.

We attract and anchor global trading companies in Singapore by promoting our unique advantages as a global trading hub. Today, Singapore is home to a complete ecosystem for the energy, agri-commodities and metals & minerals trading clusters.

Through our network of over 35 overseas centres and comprehensive assistance programmes, we partner Singapore companies to strengthen their global competitiveness. Visit [www.iesingapore.gov.sg](http://www.iesingapore.gov.sg) for more information.

**About Ascendas-Singbridge**

Ascendas-Singbridge Group is Asia's leading sustainable urban and business space solutions provider with Assets under Management exceeding S\$20 billion. The Group undertakes urbanisation projects spanning townships, mixed-use developments and

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<sup>3</sup> Dongguan, Foshan, Guangzhou, Huizhou, Jiangmen, Shenzhen, Zhaoqing, Zhongshan and Zhuhai

<sup>4</sup> The Economist Special Report on The Pearl River Delta

<sup>5</sup> HK TDC Guangdong market profile <http://china-trade-research.hktdc.com/business-news/article/Facts-and-Figures/Guangdong-Market-Profile/ff/en/1/1X000000/1X06BUOU.htm>

business/industrial parks. Headquartered in Singapore, Ascendas-Singbridge has projects in 28 cities across 9 countries in Asia, including Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Singapore and South Korea.

Ascendas-Singbridge holds commercial, hospitality and industrial assets across Asia Pacific. It has a substantial interest in and also manages three Singapore-listed funds under its subsidiary Ascendas, namely Ascendas Reit (a Straits Times Index component stock), Ascendas India Trust and Ascendas Hospitality Trust. Besides these listed funds, it also manages a series of private real estate funds. For more information, visit [www.ascendas-singbridge.com](http://www.ascendas-singbridge.com).

## ANNEX

### **About Akribis Systems**

Akribis' core business is in the design and manufacturing of motors, stages, and precision systems that are used in equipment for manufacturing, inspection, and testing. Specifically, Akribis supplies linear servo motors, rotary motors, air bearing stages, xyz stages, voice coil motors, and more to support a wide range of industries including semiconductor, flat panel, data storage, photonics, biomedical and electronics manufacturing.

Akribis is also engaged in the trading and distribution of standard or custom parts (make-to-stock) and project-based equipment contract manufacturing and automation business. Akribis has offices located in Singapore, China, Korea, Japan, Thailand, Germany and the United States. The company has 16 patents which were applied since 2004.

### **About K-One**

K-ONE Industries Pte Ltd is an innovation solutions provider focusing on Sustainability, Environmental-friendly and Value-added solutions. It is one of the leading companies on "Green and Sustainable Technology". K-ONE is head-quartered in Singapore with its own Research and Development (R&D) team. Its regional offices are in Taiwan, Indonesia and China. Over the years, it had achieved success stories on Industrial Waste Water Treatment, Industrial Dish-washing Systems and Flexible Assembly Automation Systems. Our innovative solutions are well-recognized with patent rights.

As an Innovation company, it will continue to focus on our core strength in developing innovative and specialized concepts for our customers in order to improve their operations over existing conventional processes.

### **About Barghest Building Systems**

Barghest Building Performance (BBP) is a leading company in the intelligent building space. We specialize in optimising existing HVAC and Refrigeration systems in commercial and industrial buildings. BBP's proprietary technology focuses on optimising operational performance of installed systems to achieve energy savings without replacing any equipment. BBP system has proven to achieve sustained savings of 10%~30% of existing Chiller Plant energy consumption and has received accreditations from Singapore Media & Information Authority, National Environment Agency and Singapore Green Building Council.

### **About Plant Werx**

Plant Werx Pte Ltd is a System Integrator in Industrial Controls Automation. It has been in the industry since year 2000. The company focuses mainly in Process Controls and specialises in industries such as Food & Beverages, Pharmaceuticals, Oil & Gas and Water Treatment.

**About SESTO Robotics**

SESTO Robotics is a leading robotics company in the field of autonomous technology. Headquartered in Singapore, the company engineers and delivers robotics solutions to global clients seeking to empower their businesses with greater efficiency. SESTO Robotics' line of automated guided vehicles, designed to automate material movement processes, is an autonomous and sustainable solution that has been employed by industry leaders in the field of manufacturing and logistics. SESTO Robotics is part of HOPE Technik, a company accredited by the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA).

[sestorobotics.com](http://sestorobotics.com)