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SPRING Singapore Sets Aside Additional \$10 million to Accelerate Quality and Standards Development

**In 2013, SPRING supported 630 enterprises to adopt standards and to build
business & service excellence**

1. To help more local enterprises build quality and adopt standards as strategic business tools, SPRING Singapore has added another \$10 million in grant budget to support efforts in these areas. Enterprises can use the funding to develop and adopt new standards. It will also fund the appointment of new Standards Development Organisations to oversee standards development and promotion in new sectors, as well as to nurture a pipeline of new standards professionals through standards education.

2. As part of SPRING's continual efforts to strengthen the quality and standards infrastructure for businesses, the agency developed and reviewed some 180 Singapore Standards and built up a robust accreditation system with a pool of some 290 competent conformity assessment bodies in 2013. A total of 630 companies benefited from SPRING-supported standards adoption, and business and service excellence projects last year.

3. Quality and standards can help businesses to become more productive, to reduce wastage, to manufacture safer, higher quality and environment-friendly products; or to achieve stronger product and service differentiation.

New Accreditation Scheme

4. To boost the industry's confidence in learning service providers (LSPs), the Singapore Accreditation Council (SAC) launched a new accreditation scheme for the certification bodies of LSPs today. This new scheme will ensure that certification bodies provide systematic and impartial third party assessment and certification of LSPs. In the area of Workplace Safety and Health (WSH), the scheme will thus better support the Ministry of Manpower's drive to raise competency standards of the workforce by assuring the quality of certification of LSPs.

Addressing New Business Challenges

5. In partnership with SPRING, the Singapore Standards Council (SSC) and SAC have developed strategic plans to address the emerging standardisation and accreditation needs of local industries. These include raising productivity, accelerating the development of new growth sectors, increasing resource efficiency and sustainability, as well as addressing social and safety needs.

6. Many industries will benefit from these measures. The manufacturing industry will see new Singapore Standards which will improve its logistics support and put in place more efficient business processes. In growth sectors like the infocomm industry, the SSC and the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore (IDA) developed the world's first multi-tiered cloud computing security standard that provides companies with greater clarity on the different levels of security offered by Cloud Service Providers. In the area of resource efficiency, new Singapore Standards and Accreditation Schemes for energy and water efficiency management have also been developed.

7. From this year, SPRING has also taken on the role of ¹Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC) Secretariat to strengthen international standardisation programmes and to enhance free trade. SPRING has also been elected as a member of the Executive Committee for the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC), which facilitates trade in the Asia Pacific region through harmonised conformity assessment practices. This is done by

¹ PASC is a regional grouping of 24 National Standards Bodies consisting of Brunei Darussalam, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Fiji, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, and Vietnam.

ensuring that companies with certificates bearing the Accreditation Mark from accreditation member bodies of PAC are widely accepted through global mutual recognition. The network of accreditation Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) which include the recently-signed MRAs on Food Safety Management System Certification and Proficiency Testing Providers, will provide our companies easier access to over 75 economies including China, India, Indonesia and the United States.

8. At the ceremony today, SPRING signed two Memoranda of Understanding. The first was with Singapore Polytechnic to further its collaboration in the design of a course curriculum and delivery of a Diploma Course in Applied Sciences to raise the level of competence of working adults in laboratory management. The second was an MOU with the Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ) to deepen collaboration in the area of accreditation.

9. "As quality and excellence will play a bigger role in the transformation and growth of our economy, our programmes must continue to stay relevant, and deliver benefits to Singapore's enterprises so that they can remain competitive," said Mr Tan Kai Hoe, Chief Executive, SPRING Singapore, at the Quality and Standards Conference 2014. A robust quality and standards infrastructure assures the quality of Singapore products and services, and as a result strengthens the overall credibility and trust in the Singapore Brand.

10. Some 550 business leaders and partners attended the Quality and Standards Conference at Orchard Hotel, organised by SPRING, SSC, SAC and the Singapore Manufacturing Federation. Entitled 'Quality and Standards for the Future of Manufacturing in Singapore', the conference brought together many local and international experts who provided their valuable insights on the role of quality and standards against the manufacturing landscape in Singapore. Speakers included representatives from the National Research Foundation, Panasonic Corporation (Japan) and JAS-ANZ.

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About SPRING Singapore

SPRING Singapore is an agency under the Ministry of Trade and Industry responsible for helping Singapore enterprises grow and building trust in Singapore products and services. As the national standards and accreditation body, SPRING develops and promotes an internationally-recognised standards and quality assurance infrastructure. SPRING also oversees the safety of general consumer goods in Singapore. As the enterprise development agency, SPRING works with partners to help enterprises in financing, capability and management development, technology and innovation, and access to markets. Please visit www.spring.gov.sg for more information about SPRING Singapore.

About the Singapore Accreditation Council

The Singapore Accreditation Council (SAC) is the national authority for the independent accreditation of conformity assessment services, such as testing, calibration, certification and inspection. The industry-led SAC is managed under the aegis of SPRING Singapore. Through the strengthening of Singapore's accreditation and conformance infrastructure, as well as maintaining the impartiality, integrity and credibility of conformity assessment bodies in Singapore, SAC aims to enhance the competitiveness of Singapore enterprises and build trust in Singapore products and services. Please visit www.sac-accreditation.gov.sg for more information on SAC.

About the Singapore Standards Council

The industry-led Singapore Standards Council (SSC) approves the establishment and withdrawal of Singapore Standards and advises SPRING Singapore, the national standards body, on the directions, policies, strategies and priorities for the Singapore Standardisation Programme.

The Council has appointed 12 Standards Committees to lead standards development and implementation in various functional areas. Under these Standards Committees, various Technical Committees and Working Groups, which comprise representatives from the industry, professional bodies, associations, academia and government agencies, are formed to undertake the preparation of standards. Please visit www.spring.gov.sg/standards for more information on SSC.

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