



جامعة الملك عبدالله
للعلوم والتقنية
King Abdullah University of
Science and Technology

KAUST

Innovation Hub in Shenzhen

Founding Director: Jinchao Xu



KAUST New Strategic Plan

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince launches the new strategy of King Abdulla University of Science and Technology 'KAUST'

Aug 20, 2023 Press Release



His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince, Prime Minister, and Chairman of KAUST Board of Trustees, launched today the new strategy of the University: **The strategy aims to transform research into economically productive innovations by focusing on the national priorities for research, development, and innovation.**

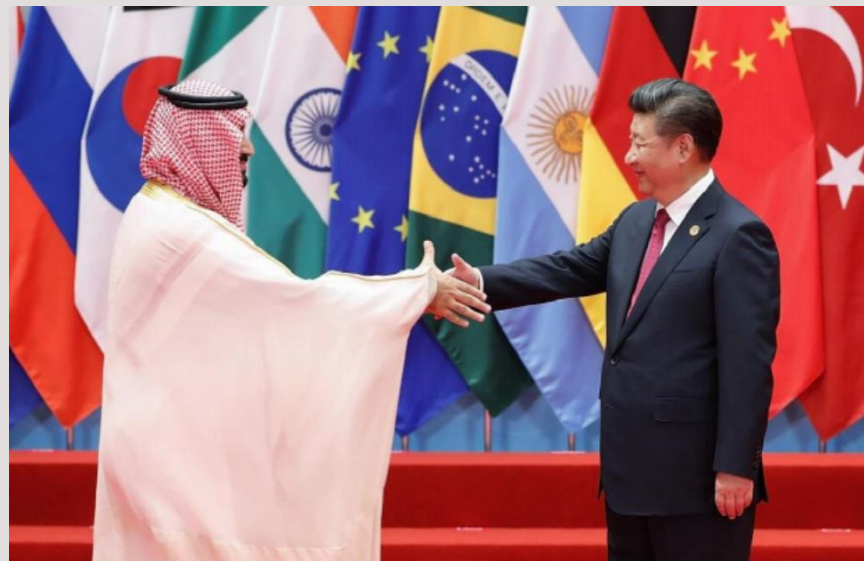
One of the most prominent initiatives of the strategy is **to strengthen international partnerships and develop cooperation frameworks with leading academic institutions and technology pioneers in the world.** This includes forging strategic cooperation agreements with leading academic and commercial institutes in the Chinese city of **Shenzhen** to collaborate on applied research across cutting-edge fields like aerospace, robotic, and microelectronics.

Why Now

- **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between Saudi Arabia and China.**
- **Integration and synergy of Vision 2030 and One Belt One Road.**
- **Increasing collaboration and business in science, technology, and innovation.**
- **Largest trading partner.**



December 8, 2022, President Xi visited Saudi Arabia's King and Crown Prince



September 11, 2024, MBS met with Chinese Premier Li Qiang at the Royal Palace

Why Shenzhen



KAUST Innovation
Hub in Shenzhen

Among the top in Global Innovation Index 2024

Global
Innovation
Index 2024

Science and
Technology
Clusters



- **Global leader in manufacturing and innovation ecosystems.**
- **Highly progressive in zero emission and sustainability.**
- **Top-10 financial centers worldwide.**
- **Leading incubators, universities, and labs as potential partners.**



Shenzhen has strong intent to build ties with Saudi Arabia organizations and corporations.



California Governor Gavin Newsom, October, 2023:

“We have a lot of similar aspirations. But we have never seen them done at this scale that fast. That’s reason we are here.”

Industry Consensus: Shenzhen is 10 times cheaper in prototyping speed and 10 times faster in iteration cost than Silicon Valley.

Mission

01

Research Commercialization

Accelerate the commercialization of KAUST research through the Shenzhen ecosystem.

02

Research Collaboration

Enhance research and foster innovation through collaborative programs.

03

Education Development

Develop educational initiatives to support innovation and cultivate future talents.

04

Saudi-China Exchange

Serve as a conduit for innovation exchange, bridging supply and demand.

Role & Function

KAUST Office for China Affairs



KAUST Research Commercialization
Cooperation Platform in China

Saudi Arabia
KAUST

KAUST Innovation
Hub in Shenzhen

China
Shenzhen

Connection | Innovation | Empowerment

- Strengthen KAUST strategic ties with Shenzhen, China, to enhance innovation and drive economic impact.
- Form multiple partnerships in China, leveraging the innovation ecosystem of Shenzhen to support KAUST's new strategic plan.

Academic Partners

Innovation

- Technology transfer and commercialization.
- Entrepreneurship training program.

Research

- Joint labs, research centers/institutes.
- International research projects.

Education

- Joint/dual degrees, exchange of students and faculty, talent training programs.



清华大学
Tsinghua University



深圳清华大学研究院
Research Institute Of Tsinghua University In Shenzhen



深圳科创学院
Shenzhen innoX



X-Institute
深圳零一学院



深圳市大数据研究院
Shenzhen Research Institute of Big Data



Shenzhen Institutes of
Advanced Technology,
Chinese Academy of
Science



清华大学深圳国际研究生院
Tsinghua Shenzhen International Graduate School



香港中文大学(深圳)
The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen



深圳大学
SHENZHEN UNIVERSITY



INTERNATIONAL
DIGITAL
ECONOMY
ACADEMY
粤港澳大湾区数字经济研究院

Industrial Partners

Saudi Arabia Enterprises and state-owned giants

- Air Product
- ACWA Power
- ENOWA
- RED SEA FARMS
- Vision Industry
- Aramco
- PIF Alat

Chinese Enterprises

- VPOER
- Hongyeji
- LAIPIC
- 51 WORD
- DJI
- Meituan
- iFLYTEK
- Excyton



Database

Database of 34,821 Chinese Companies (in cooperation with local partners):

- 39.6% CEO level contracts.
- 18.22% Department manager level contracts.
- Industries included: Manufacturing, Finance, Real Estate, Internet, Construction, Transportation, Medical and Health care and other fields.



Governmental Partners

Saudi Arabia Government Institutions

- MISA
- PIF
- NEOM
- RDIA
- NTDP
- MCIT
- GEOSA
- MEWA
- KACST
- SADIA

Chinese Government Institutions

- **Shenzhen city:** Mayor's Office, Science and Technology Innovation Bureau, Foreign Affairs Office, Commerce Bureau, Industry and Information Technology Bureau, People's Congress
- **Dongguan city:** Mayor's Office, Science and Technology Bureau, Foreign Affairs Office
- **Zhongshan city:** Foreign Affairs Office
- **Hongkong:** Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, The Chinese University of Hong Kong



Shenzhen



Hongkong



Dongguan

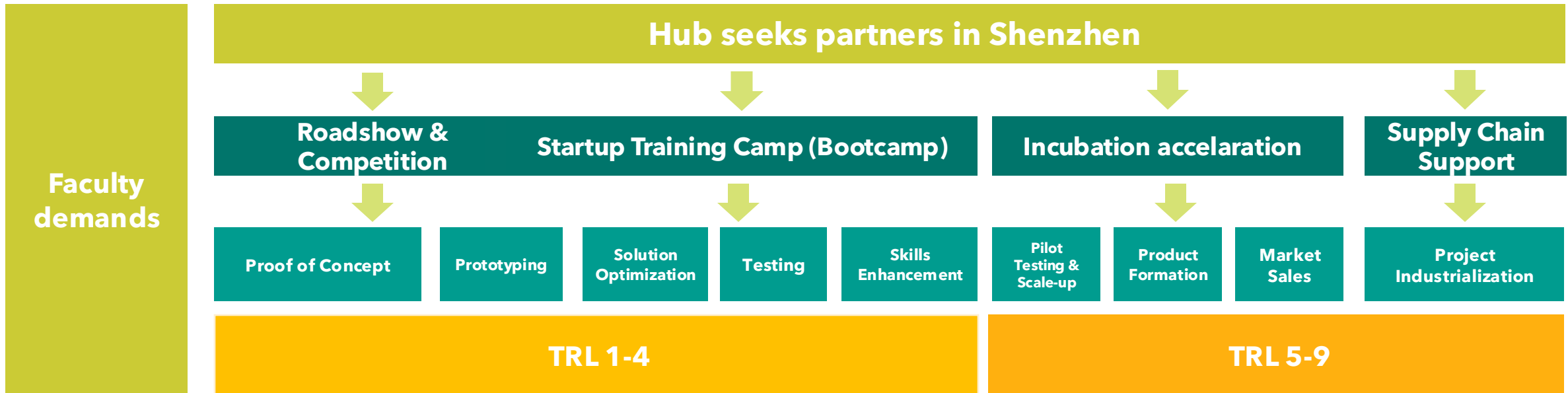


Zhongshan

Strategy Structure



Support KAUST Faculty and Projects



- **TRL1-4** , HUB joint holds Roadshow and competitions in China, and set up Bootcamp with local partners.
- **TRL5-9**, Hub provides incubation space in Shenzhen office and Supply chain Support.
- HUB also facilitates connections between KAUST, Saudi firms, and Chinese enterprises, offering international cooperation services.

Joint R&D Platform



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Hub Support



Chinese Institutions & Enterprises



Joint R&D Platform

KAUST- University Joint R&D Platform

Assist KAUST in establishing Joint R&D Platforms with Chinese universities, focusing on the common technological needs of a specific industry to conduct collaborative research, joint problem-solving, and build joint research centers.

KAUST-Enterprise Joint R&D Platform

Concentrating on critical fields like energy, information technology, advanced manufacturing, and biopharmaceuticals, we bring in leading KAUST scientists to partner with Chinese companies in establishing applied joint research and development platforms.

Joint Education Program

Through joint education programs, we promote Saudi-China academic collaboration by broadening the scope of research and resources, recruiting top students, and advancing innovative research commercialization.

Resource sharing : Share the top education and research resources in China and Saudi Arabia.

Mutual benefit : Enable students and professors to benefit from diverse educational systems and cultural perspectives.

International perspective : Cultivate innovative talents with a global perspective.

Objective : Develop academic programs with international influence to enhance KAUST's competitiveness in the global education sector

Dual Master's Degrees

Dual Ph.D. Degrees



清华大学深圳国际研究生院
Tsinghua Shenzhen International Graduate School

Dual Master's Degree Joint Cultivation Program
Planned to launch the program in the fall of 2025



香港中文大學(深圳)
The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen

Dual Ph.D. Degree Joint Cultivation Program
Planned to launch the program in the fall of 2024

Milestones

2023.3.16-3.20

1st KAUST Delegation visit and MOUs sign



2023.11.20

Announcement of the Establishment



Appointment of Professor Jinchao Xu as Director of the KAUST Innovation Hub in Shenzhen

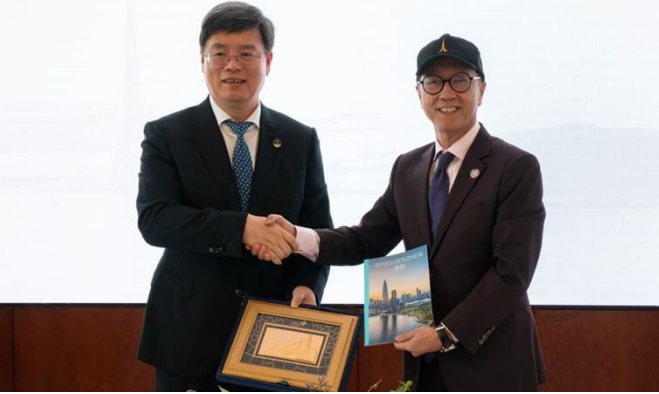
2024.1.4-1.18

ShenTech Winter Bootcamp



2023.9.14

Shenzhen mayor visits KAUST



2023.12.8

Shenzhen Networking Event



2024.7.14-7.24

ShenTech Summer Bootcamp



Example: Shen-Tech Bootcamp



Winter Camp: selected 59 participants from 1,291 applicants.

Media Coverage: 10 Saudi media and 11 Chinese media outlets reported.



Summer Mini-camp for Biotech: 5 KAUST projects.

Enterprise Investigation: Deeply explored the Shenzhen innovation ecosystem, visited nearly 40 Chinese high-tech companies.

Example: Hydrogen Workshop in Shenzhen

Enterprise Type	Number of Enterprises
Hydrogen energy enterprises	26
Hydrogen energy academic institutions	7
Hydrogen energy investment institutions	9

DAY 1

09:00-09:10

Opening Speech

09:10-11:50

TOPIC Speech (x6)

11:50-12:30

Round Table

LUNCH BREAK

13:30-16:30

TOPIC Speech (x4)

TEA BREAK

16:45-17:30

TOPIC Speech (x2)

17:30-18:30

Round Table

19:00-21:30

Dinner

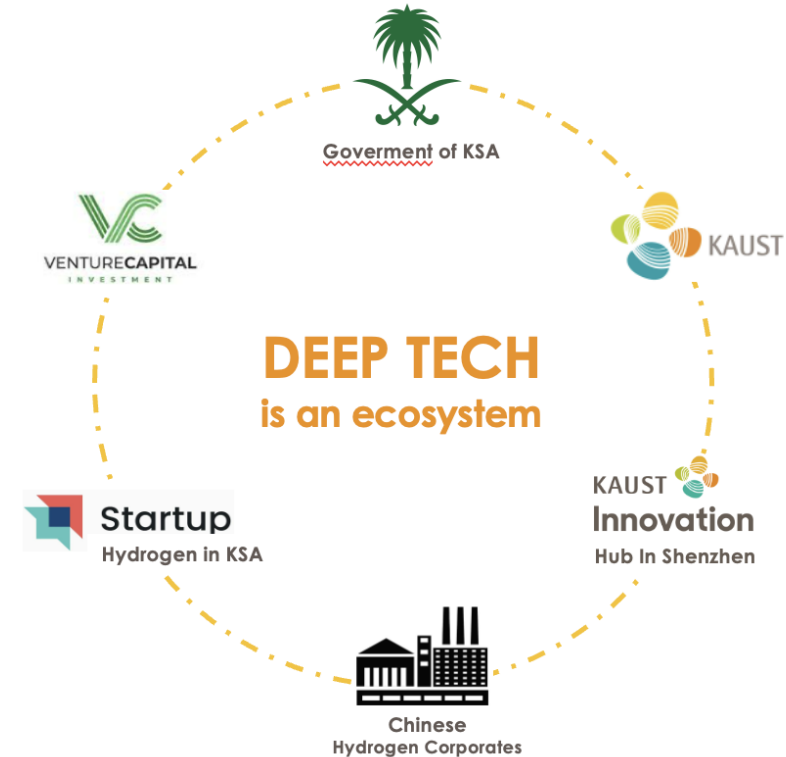
KAUST mission is to become the deep-tech heart of Saudi Arabia's innovation economy.

To follow the new strategy of KAUST and power this emerging ecosystem, KAUST Innovation Hub in Shenzhen (KISZ) choose to start with the energy sector, and bring in the Sino - KSA Joint IUR Project In Hydrogen Industry.

KISZ missioning to connect department of Innovation facilitates exchanges between KAUST researchers and technology users to fuel the leaders and entrepreneurs with the knowledge, skills and resources they need. All with one ambition: **Put KAUST technology to use to create remarkable impact for Saudi Arabia and the world**

To implement the aiming we have, 3 steps would be needed:

- STEP 1 Hydrogen Forum
- STEP 2 Pilot Project
- STEP 3 Commercialization & Localization



Through the implementation of these 3 steps, Project will be strongly combined with the DEEP TECH philosophy and going to **create a cross boarder DEEP TECH ecosystem.**

Example: Hydrogen Workshop in Shenzhen



Xu Lu



Mani Sarathy



Jinchao Xu



Hong G. Im



Cafer Yavuz



Kuo-Wei Huang

Example: Khalid Al-Falih's Visit to the Hub

On December 8, 2023, His **Excellency Khalid Al-Falih**, Minister of Investment, and an accompanying delegation of eight visited Hub office and listened to the presentation.

The visit highlights the strategic role of the KAUST Innovation Hub in Shenzhen as a **pivotal connector** between China and Saudi Arabia, acting beyond a representative office to enhance bilateral relations.

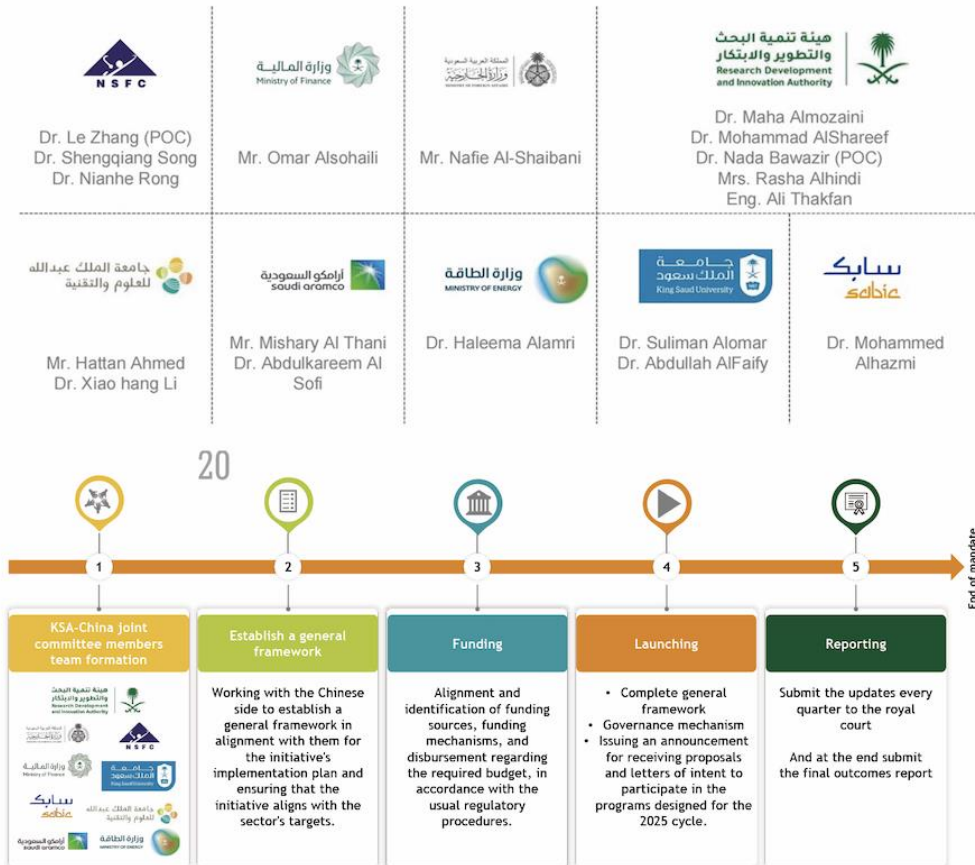
Visit Duration: Extended from 15 mins to 1.5 hours



Example: Saudi-China Joint Activity



Bridging Horizons: Enhancing Research Collaboration between Saudi Arabia and the People's Republic of China



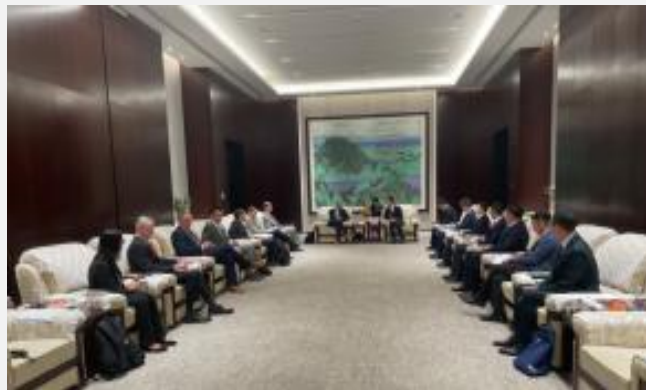
Example: Saudi-China Exchange Activities

Serving KAUST Visits to Shenzhen (12 times, received 32 faculty)

Hub team received KAUST faculties to visit Shenzhen 12 times, total of 32 people (multiple visits by the same person were not counted repeatedly). A partial list is as follows: Tony Chan, Pierre J. Magistretti, Kevin E. Cullen, Mohamed-Slim Alouini, Gianluca Setti.

Outcomes

Facilitated KAUST in signing a total of 14 MOUs and agreements with universities and research institutions in Shenzhen, covering dual degree programs, space usage, research cooperation, joint event organization.



Example: Saudi-China Exchange Activities

Services for Saudi Institutions Visiting China

(involving 6 Saudi departments, totaling 26 people)

- **Minister of Investment Delegation:** Minister Khalid Al-Falih and 7 others.
- **National Technology Development Program (NTDP) CEO Delegation:** NTDP CEO Ibrahim Neyaz and 2 others.
- **Public Investment Fund (PIF) Delegation:** Eng. Mussab Alkhudairi, Dr. Ali AlAli, Mohanad Ali Alharbi, and 5 others.
- **General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information (GEOSA):** Dr. Mohammed Alsayel, President of GEOSA, and 2 others.
- **NEOM Investment Fund:** Rami Abu Rmaileh, Chief of Staff at the NEOM Investment Department and 1 other.
- **KAUST & NEMO Office:** Dr. Vincent Cunningham, Director, KAUST@NEOM – Office of the President.



**Minister of Investment
Delegation**



**Public Investment Fund (PIF)
Delegation**



NEOM Delegation

Example: Saudi-China Exchange Activities



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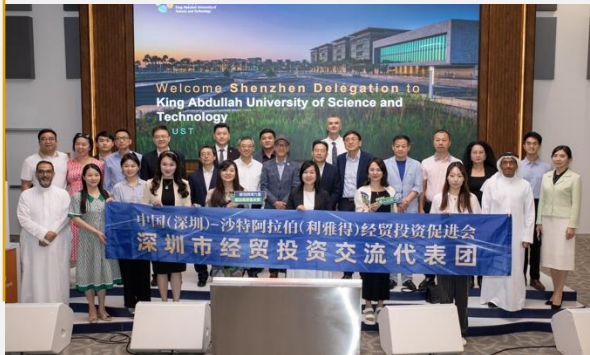
KAUST Innovation
Hub in Shenzhen

Services for Chinese Institutions Visiting KAUST

(9 visits , totaling more than 200 people)

Shenzhen, Dongguan, Zhongshan, and Wuxi government delegations, Chinese universities such as Tsinghua University, Shenzhen University, and Greater Bay Area University, as well as leading technology companies like Meituan, DJI, and UBTECH ROBOTICS, LaiPic,.etc.

**Shenzhen Municipal People's
Congress Delegation**



**Shenzhen University
Delegation**



Tsinghua Delegation



**RITS and Enterprise
Delegation**



Summary



KAUST Innovation Hub in Shenzhen



4+

Co-hosted 4 major Saudi-China exchange events with local Shenzhen institutions in China.

13+

Signed MOUs with 13 Chinese universities and research institutions.

15+

Served over 15+ KAUST Faculty.

20+

Organized more than 20 roadshows for Saudi projects in China.

100+

Hosted 1 event in Saudi Arabia involving over 100 Chinese enterprises.

The Hub's industry-academia collaboration is gaining momentum as a key player in the China-Saudi innovation ecosystem.



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Connection | Innovation | Empowerment

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<https://www.kaust.edu.sa/en/innovate/shenzhen-hub>