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By Computerworld Hong Kong staff | 05 Nov 2014

Tag: HKICTA Hong Kong OGCIO Smart cities

The annual Hong Kong ICT Awards (HKICTA) are now open for enrollment for the 2015 competition.

The HKICTA seeks to recognize innovative ICT products, applications and services developed in Hong Kong. The awards were started and are steered by the OGCIO, are now in their ninth year. Government CIO and steering committee chairperson Daniel Lai said the organizers are introducing a new category for the year, Best Smart Hong Kong Award, designed for technologies that can help develop Hong Kong into a smart city.

"Through establishing the Best Smart Hong Kong Award, we aim to encourage the ICT industry to develop innovative applications and solutions with the use of public sector information and emerging technologies, such as the Internet of Things and big data analytics," he said.

The award will be judged on the capacity of the solution to "enhance the quality of living for the public and make Hong Kong a smarter city."

The other awards include best business solution; best digital entertainment; best ICT startup; best innovation; best mobile apps and best student invention awards.

There are 10 categories in total, with one grand award to be handed out in each category. The 10 winners will also go in the running to receive the Award of the Year.

Enrollment for the 2015 awards will close on January 16. Leading award organizers include the Hong Kong Computer Society, Internet Society Hong Kong and GS1 Hong Kong.