



## **GES NewsFlash—Tech@SG pilot programme set for Q4 launch**

**Talent—The key to operational strategy.**

Greetings from your Tax & Legal team at Deloitte Singapore. We are pleased to update you on the following:

### **Singapore has announced plans for a pilot program to ease immigration requirements for tech workers.**

The program, called Tech@SG, is set to launch in the fourth quarter of 2019. The program is designed to ease Employment Pass requirements for core team members of certain tech firms, with a focus on those in high-growth areas such as digital, medtech, biotech, cleantech, agritech and fintech.

- **Implementation time frame:** The pilot is expected to launch in the fourth quarter of 2019 that will last for two years.
- **Visas/permits affected:** Employment Pass.
- **Who is affected:** Tech companies in Singapore.
- **Business impact:** Officials hope the program will help Singapore draw top foreign talent in the tech field to help grow the sector.

Singapore's Economic Development Board (EDB) and Enterprise Singapore announced the program in a [statement](#) released on 30 July 2019. Few specifics were included on how the program will ease Employment Pass requirements, but the Straits Times [quoted an EDB spokesman](#) who said changes to the program could include "considering alternative factors in the application if needed, such as the stock options remuneration of the core team members, or if they have deep skills in place of formal academic qualifications."

Singapore has stressed the importance of developing its local workforce. Chng Kai Fong, EDB's Managing Director, said in the statement that the program will not only help companies

fill their workforce needs, but will also create opportunities for local workers “to work in globally competitive teams alongside top engineers and entrepreneurs from all over the world”.

### Deloitte Singapore’s view

The creation of Tech@SG is a major policy development for Singapore that could help tech companies meet workforce needs and remain globally competitive. Additional information is expected in the lead-up to the program’s implementation. Updates will be provided as information becomes available.

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## Contacts

Should you have any comments or questions arising from this newsletter, please contact either the listed names below, or any member of the [Singapore Tax & Legal team](#).

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