



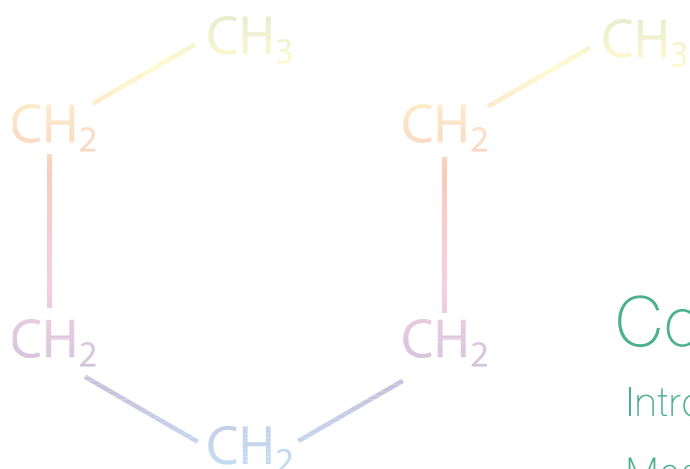
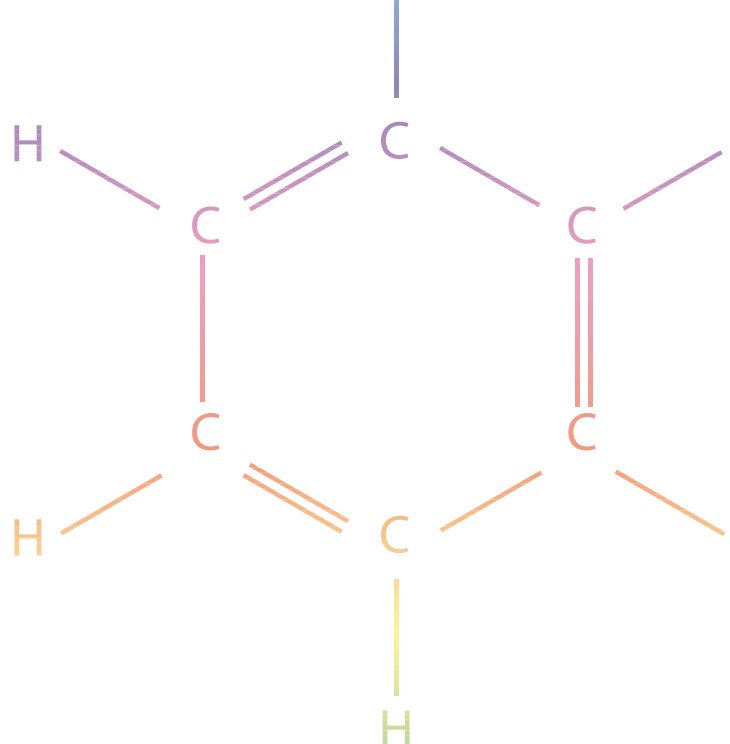
SUPPORT MEASURES

FOR ACTIVITIES RELATED TO
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEVELOPMENT



Thailand Board of Investment

www.boi.go.th



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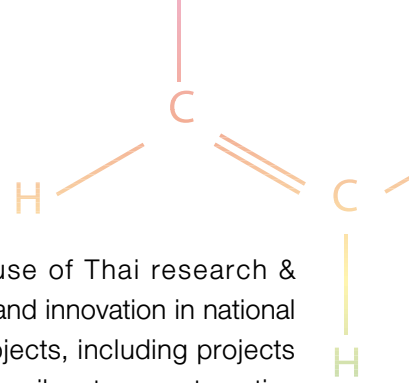
Introduction

Thailand, like the rest of the world, is adapting to a constantly changing global economy driven by knowledge and innovation. Known as the industrial hub of Southeast Asia, Thailand is investing its future in developing a multilayered economy where both industry and research & innovation guide the nation from a middle-income state to a high-income state by 2026. In September 2014, the Thai government released a policy statement highlighting the nation's plan to expand support of science, technology, research & development (R&D), and development & innovation. The new policy highlighted five separate targets to stimulate Thailand's R&D capabilities:



ABOUT
THAILAND





- ▶ Increase funding of national research and development to at least 1% of Thailand's GDP. The target ratio of public to private R&D investment should be 30:70 in order to increase competitive capacity commensurate with the development progress of other developing countries, as well as improve the organization of scientific, technological, research, and innovative work to ensure unity, efficiency and support linkages with the private sector.
 - ▶ Expedite the creation of an innovation society by supporting integrated science, technology, engineering, and math education. Develop personnel to meet the needs of sectors with skill shortages by linking the learning process to employment. Allow public sector research personnel to work with the private sector and encourage Thai SMEs to acquire new technologies through cooperation between public sector agencies and academic institutions.
 - ▶ Reform incentive schemes, regulations, and laws that hinder the use of research and development for the benefit of the people, including formulating regional and provincial research and development plans to respond to unique needs of local communities, seeking research and development outcomes for commercial applications by supporting cooperation between universities, public research institutes and the private sector.
 - ▶ Support the use of Thai research & development, and innovation in national investment projects, including projects in clean energy, rail systems, automotive vehicles, electricity, water and waste management, as well as promoting the use of domestic tools, materials and other products to supplement the use of foreign technologies. Review public sector procurement policies to create opportunities for domestic technology development and in necessary circumstances requiring the need to acquire foreign tools, materials, and technologies, to specify technology transfer provisions for future technological self-reliance.
 - ▶ Improve and organize infrastructure for science, technology and innovation that are fully ready, relevant, and evenly distributed to all regions to ensure effective commercial applications and extensions for the industrial sector, including the development of information technology systems, analysis, operational and research centers.
- The allocation of THB20.3 billion (in the 2016 budget) to increase the nation's R&D capabilities is a product of the 2014 policy statement's emphasis on accelerating Thailand's knowledge economy. Thailand's new emphasis on R&D capabilities and its goals of nurturing a burgeoning knowledge economy will provide new opportunities for investors.



Measures

1 Special Tax Treatment Offered by The Revenue Department

The Revenue Department of the Royal Thai Government, in order to support the government's emphasis on a knowledge based economy and R&D, has established special tax incentives to encourage R&D investment in Thailand.

1.1 R&D Equipment Depreciation Rate Incentive

When acquiring new R&D equipment and machinery, the depreciation value (for use in the calculation of corporate income tax) will be automatically set at 40% of the asset cost for the 1st year (depreciation tax for machinery is normally 20% for 5 years, with the balance to be depreciated over the following 4 years).

Conditions

- Machinery or equipment cannot be intended for manufacturing or to provide services.
- All equipment or machinery for which the investor wishes to apply this incentive must be used for basic industrial research, applied research, or product quality testing.

- **Basic Research** refers to studies or research activities to discover new knowledge that has academic value and in turn will lead to the utilization or problem solving in the developing process of new products, new processes or new services in the future.
- **Applied Research** refers to research that applied basic knowledge to solve or to develop a concept for commercial purpose, with objectives to obtain a new product or process. Applied research includes related activities such as formula development, product design, production process design for future use in an industrial or commercial level.
- **Product Quality Testing** is defined as improvement of production techniques either to lower the cost or to increase output for the purpose of both research and technology development.
- In order for the machinery or equipment to qualify for this incentive, the equipment must be brand new with a life span of two or more years and have a minimum original product cost of at least THB100,000.

1.2 300% Tax Deduction for R&D Expenses

To apply for this incentive, a firm registered in Thailand must submit their application through the National Science and Technology Development Agency for approval. The incentive will allow companies to base their tax reduction on 3 times the cost of their R&D expenditures. The maximum tax reduction allowed for each firm depends on the company's income. Companies with an income of less than THB50 million can deduct up to 60% of their income, companies with income of more than THB50 million but less than THB200 million can deduct no more than 9% of their income, and companies with income of more than THB200 million cannot have a deduction greater than 6% of their income.

Conditions

- The National Science and Technology Development Agency will evaluate candidate companies by applying the previously defined definitions of basic research, applied research, and product development testing used by the Revenue Department.

1.3 Human Capital & Training Incentives

The Revenue Department offers a 200% corporate income tax deduction for the cost of training or enhancing human capital.

Conditions

- The curriculum used to train a company's employees must be made for the purpose of developing relevant skills and must be approved by the Ministry of Labor.

- The training curriculum's calculated cost per person must be within the cost range set by the Ministry of Labor.
- Training must be for the benefit of the company's business.
- Individuals that receive training must be employees of the company, and must be legally registered with the company according to labor protection laws as evidence of employment.
- A company that intends to provide training for their employees must have a policy in place that will allow employees to maintain their employment at the company after completion of the training.
- Materials and tools that will be used for training purposes must be clearly identified as not for use in the company's normal operations.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

90 Soi Phaholyothin Rd., Bangkok 10400

Tel: 1161

Website: www.rd.go.th



Tax Incentives Offered by The Board of Investment (BOI)

Thailand's Board of Investment, Thailand's main agency for encouraging and attracting foreign investment, recently redesigned its entire incentive program. The new incentives program rewards higher value investments tied into Thailand's new knowledge based economy. Projects involved in research and development and biotechnology in Thailand are classified as activities of special importance and benefit to the country and are granted maximum incentives by the Board of Investment.

2.1 Research and Development Incentives

Conditions

- Scope of R&D activity includes
 - **Basic Research** refers to studies or research activities to discover new knowledge that has academic value and in turn will lead to the utilization or problem solving in the developing process of new products, new processes or new services in the future.
 - **Applied Research** refers to research that applied basic knowledge to solve or to develop a concept for commercial purpose, with objectives to obtain a new product or process. Applied research includes related activities such as formula development, product design, production process design for future use in an industrial or commercial level.
 - **Pilot Development** refers to activities performed to magnify a production scale from basic research and applied research. Pilot development includes a production of prototype and/or production process testing in a semi-industrial level to test market and/or collection of suitable conditions used for product development or production process design in industrial level.
 - **Demonstration Development** refers to research and development that further magnify pilot study with objectives to test a production

process in industrial level, to verify reliability of technologies in industrial production process, and to demonstrate the stability of the process and production capability in both quality control and cost estimation.

- Companies applying must provide the Board with the details and scope of such research and development projects, information on projects' researchers, including number of researchers, academic profiles and work experiences.
- Revenues derived from the sale of the provision of services that are directly related to a promoted business or which are from downstream production for commercial purposes, either carried by the promoted company or sub-contractor, shall be regarded as revenue of the promoted business
- Projects located in a promoted science and technology park or one that is approved by the Board will receive an additional 50% reduction in corporate income tax for 5 years after the end of its corporate tax exemption period.
- Projects must have expenses for salaries of research and development personnel of at least THB1,500,000 per year

Incentives

- **Incentives for R&D**

Projects in R&D are granted an 8-year corporate income tax exemption without being subjected to a corporate income tax exemption cap, exemption of import duty on machinery, and exemption of import duty on raw or essential materials used in manufacturing export products.

- **R&D projects are also eligible for the following merit-based incentives**

- One additional year of corporate income tax exemption if qualified investments or expenditures are not less than 1% of the project's total revenue of the first 3 years combined, or not less than THB200 million whichever is less. However, the total period of corporate income tax exemption shall not exceed 8 years.
- Two additional years of corporate income tax exemption if qualified investments or expenditures are not less than 2% of the project's total revenue of the first 3 years combined, or not less than THB400 million, whichever is less. However, the total period of corporate income tax exemption shall not exceed 8 years.
- Three additional years of corporate income tax exemption if qualified investments or expenditures are not less than 3% of the project's total revenue of the first 3 years combined, or not less than THB600 million, whichever is less. However, the total period of corporate income tax exemption shall not exceed 8 years.
- Non-Tax incentive include permission to bring in expatriates, own land and take or remit foreign currency abroad

2.2 Biotechnology Incentives

Biotechnology projects eligible for incentives from the Board of Investment

- R&D activity and/or manufacturing of seed industry, improvement of plants, animals or microorganisms using biotechnology
- R&D activity and/or manufacturing of biopharmaceutical agents using biotechnology
- R&D and/or manufacturing of diagnostic devices for health, agriculture, food and environment
- R&D and/or manufacturing of bio-molecules and bioactive substance using microorganisms, plant cells and animal cells
- Manufacture of raw materials and/or essential materials for molecular biological research and development, experiment, testing or quality control services and/or production of biological substances
- Biological substance analysis and/or synthesis services and/or quality control services and/or product validation services



Conditions

- Projects in biotechnology:
 - Must use modern biotechnology approved by the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) or the Thailand Centre for Excellence of Life Science (TCELS).

Incentives

• **Incentives for Biotechnology**

Projects in biotechnology are granted an 8-year corporate income tax exemption without being subject to a corporate income tax exemption cap, exemption of import duty on machinery, and exemption of import duty on raw or essential materials used in manufacturing export products.

Biotechnology projects that are located in a science and technology park promoted by the BOI or one that is approved by the Board will receive an additional 50% reduction in corporate income tax for 5 years at the end of its corporate income tax exemption period.

• **Biotechnology projects are also eligible for merit-based incentives as mentioned in 2.1**

Non –Tax incentive include permission to bring in expatriates, own land and take or remit foreign currency abroad

THAILAND BOARD OF INVESTMENT
555 Vibhavadi-Rangsit Rd., Chatuchak,
Bangkok 10900
Tel: +66 (0)2.553.8111
Website: www.boi.go.th

Financial Assistance

Thai government agencies and research centers provide a number of programs to offer direct funding into R&D efforts in Thailand. These programs, housed in Thailand's various research institutes and government agencies are evidence of Thailand's commitment to turning the nation into a regional hub of R&D activity.

3.1 National Innovation Agency (NIA)

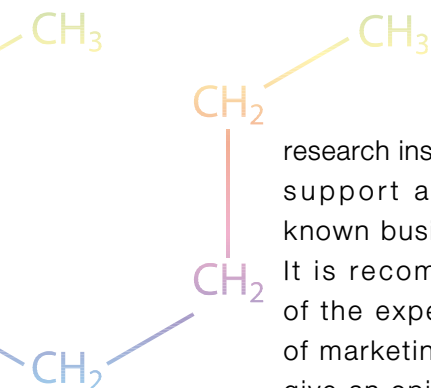
The NIA, established in 2003, was designed to serve as a hub of cooperation between public and private agencies to spur innovation in the Thai economy and promote innovation among the various industries of the Thai economy. The NIA currently offers grant programs for firms with promising prototypes of technological products.

3.1.1 Technology to Capital Program

This grant supports technological innovations that are in the testing or pilot phase. These prototypes can be derived from research and development of inventions or patents that have been approved of and feasibility evaluated by the NIA.

Requirements

- Has to be an R&D project that is certified or given financial support from an education institute, research institute, research support agency or a widely recognized business association; the certification must be in the form of a written document and signed by an authorized person at the institute or agency. This program can be for projects that have completed the laboratory phase and are entering the commercial phase, or are prototypes, experimental units, pilot scales, pilot plants, and pre-commercial to full-scale trials.
- The technology or knowledge is derived from a patent or pending patent.
- The innovative device or technology is already functional and can perform its supposed role.
- The technology has passed both commercial production and market feasibility evaluation from no less than 3 unbiased senior experts from government agencies, education institutes,



research institutes, and research support agencies or well-known business associations. It is recommended that one of the experts be in the field of marketing or is qualified to give an opinion on marketing. At minimum, the technology or knowledge from the project must be usable to create prototypes for actual production or usable for creating a pilot project from the R&D, invention, patent/petty patent result.

Conditions

The entity being supported must make a cash investment valued at no less than 25% of the project expenditure. The National Innovation Agency will give a grant of no more than 75% of the project expenditure per project up to a limit of THB5 million (except in cases where the committee decides otherwise). The support duration is no more than 3 years.

3.1.2 Innovation Interest Program

This program provides support through loans from banks with no interest for up to THB5 million for no more than 3 years. This program specifically targets innovative projects in the early stages of development in order to bring the product to the production phase. Financial institutions that are approved by the National Innovation Agency will provide the loans.

Requirements

- The project must be in a pre-revenue generating phase where the equipment, production process is still considered in the experimental phase.
- The loan must go towards development of a prototype or pilot project that is in the initial phase of commercial production.
- The project builds on previous research results, inventions or patents that have commercial potential
- The project must be aligned with the goals of the Strategic Innovation Program.
- The project has good market potential, and the company has clear business and investment plans.

3.1.3 Innovation Coupon for SMEs

This program offers grants in the form of reimbursements for expenditures up to 75% of the projects total value, but not exceeding THB1.5 million. The agency also offers grants of THB200,000 for feasibility studies for Thai SMEs. The program will also provide matchmaking services between participants in the program with experts in the participant's particular field of innovation from educational institutes, research institutes, private and public agencies. The grant is only intended to be used for project related tasks, such as; remuneration of experts provided from the matchmaking

service, project consultancy services, feasibility studies, material cost (no more than 50%), license fee, royalty fees and temporary employees pays, among others.

Requirements

- Must be a medium or small size business, which is defined by the Ministry of Industry as having no more than THB200 million revenue in production and/or services, while having no more than 200 employees.
- Thai nationals must hold no less than 51% of the firm's total shares.
- Must be capable of completing the project successfully.
- Must not be receiving support from other agencies in the same project, except if the investment expenditure does not stack with each other.
- The company must be able to complete the innovative project within 2 years and must contribute (in-cash matching) at least 25% of total project value. After project approval, the company will not be given support for more than two projects.
- The company is not bankrupt or facing criminal charges that may affect the completion of the project.
- Any liabilities concerning infringements of intellectual property, copyright, or document forgeries in anyway will be the responsibility of the entity gaining support from the program.

Conditions

- The National Innovation Office will be responsible for paying interest on the loan's principal for no more than 3 years after the project has been considered and approved by both the NIA and the financial institution that has been selected to provide the loan.
- Interest rates will be negotiated.
- The party receiving support from the program will be responsible for providing collateral. The maximum loan amount is THB5 million per project. Selected partner banks are the SME Bank of Thailand, TMB Bank, Siam City Bank, Bangkok Bank, Bank of Ayudhya, CIMB Bank, SCB Bank, Kasikorn Bank and Krung Thai Bank.

*NATIONAL INNOVATION AGENCY
73/2 Rama VI Road, Rajdhevee,
Bangkok 10400
Tel: +66 (0)2.017.5555
Website: www.nia.or.th*



3.2 National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)

As the government agency in charge of supporting the Thai knowledge-based economy and local R&D development, NSTDA provides three programs to financially support domestic R&D projects.

3.2.1 The Company Directed Technology Development Program

This program provides low interest loans to commercialize products developed from local R&D projects.

Requirements

- The research must lead to commercial production, development of new inventions/products, improvements of technological production processes or products, enhancements of laboratories used for research, experimentation, or product quality control, or reverse engineering for development.
- The firm must be considered an SME, with registered capital of less than THB200 million.
- Thai nationals must hold no less than 51% of the firm's total shares.
- The firm must be managed by Thai nationals.

Conditions

- The NSTDA will provide loans of up to THB30 million; the loan may not exceed 75% of the project's total budget.
- The loan must be repaid within 7 years.

3.2.2 Industrial Technology Assistance Program (ITAP)

This program will reimburse 100% of fees for expert consultation to solve technical problems and advise on business development while also providing free expert matching services.

Requirements

- The firm must be considered an SME with registered capital of less than THB200 million.
- Thai nationals must hold no less than 51% of the firm's total shares.
- The firm must be managed by Thai nationals.

Conditions

- The maximum grant is THB400,000 and may not exceed 50% of the project's total expenditures.
- Large companies that apply to this program will not receive financial assistance, but can utilize the expert matching services.

NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

*111 Thailand Science Park,
Phaholyothin Road, Khlong Nueng,
Khlong Luang, Pathumthani 12120
Tel: +66 (0)2.564.7000
Website: www.nstda.or.th*

Research Institution Network/ Government Research Capabilities

Thailand's various scientific agencies and research institutes are the leading centers of basic and applied research in mainland Southeast Asia. For years, they have worked with the private sector assisting in moving Thailand's industrial sectors up the value chain. With the new policy allowing researchers in the public sector to work in the private sector simultaneously, investors will have access to a pool of skilled, highly experienced researchers.



4.1 National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)

NSTDA is Thailand's leading research agency. Under the Ministry of Science and Technology, the NSTDA conducts both basic and applied research and engages in various public-private partnerships. The agency manages Thailand's Science Park as well. The NSTDA conducts research in the following categories; agriculture and food, health and medicine, energy and

environment, bioresources and community, and manufacturing and service industries. The NSTDA's research interests are as follows:

- **Agriculture and Food Research** – rice, tapioca, rubber, seed, plants of the future, animal production, animal health, and food innovation programs.
- **Health and Medicine** – newly emerging disease – re-emerging disease program, genotype technology program, assistive devices and technologies for people with disabilities and the elderly program.
- **Energy and Environment** – the sustainable environment program, resource and energy efficiency program, renewable energy and new technology research program.
- **Bioresources and Community** – the technology for rural development program and bio-resources program.
- **Manufacturing and Services Industry** – the hard disk drive industry research programs, air-conditioning and refrigerator industry programs, the automotive and automotive parts industry programs

Besides these programs, the NSTDA also operates the following research units:



4.1.1 National Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (BIOTEC)

BIOTEC was first set up under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Energy in 1983. It is one of four research centers operating under the jurisdiction of the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) and the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST).

BIOTEC operates research units located at the Thailand Science Park and specialized laboratories hosted

by various universities, employing 581 staff, 172 of whom are PhD researchers, along with 196 research assistants and lab technicians (as of December 2015). BIOTEC research covers a wide spectrum from agricultural science to biomedical science and environmental science. Apart from research laboratories, BIOTEC activities also include policy research, an outreach program, training and international relations.

The following research units and laboratories are under the authority of BIOTEC.

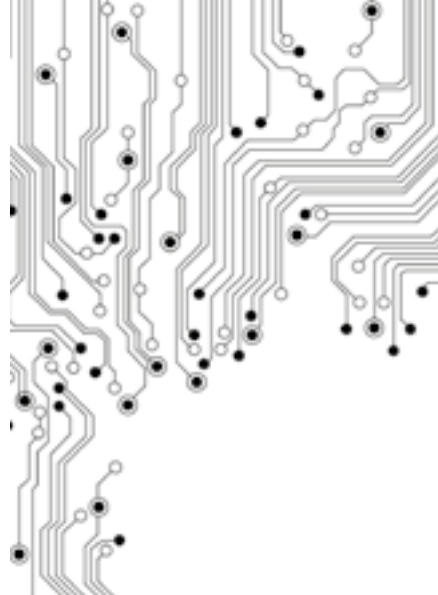
- Bioresources Technology Research Unit - at the Thailand Science Park
- Animal Biotechnology Research Unit - at the Thailand Science Park
- Food Biotechnology Research Unit - at the Thailand Science Park
- Medical Molecular Biology Research Unit - at the Thailand Science Park
- Genome Technology Research Unit - at the Thailand Science Park
- Biosensing Technology Research Unit - at the Thailand Science Park
- Biochemical Engineering and Pilot Plant Research and Development Laboratory - at King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT), Bangkhunthien Campus
- Waste Utilization and Management Laboratory - at King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT), Bangkhunthien Campus



- Cassava and Starch Technology Research Laboratory - at Kasetsart University, Bangkhen Campus
- Rice Gene Discovery Laboratory - at Kasetsart University, Kampaengsaen Campus
- Medical Biotechnology Research Laboratory - at Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital and Chiang Mai University
- Biomedical Technology Research Laboratory - at Chiang Mai University
- Marine Biotechnology Laboratory - at Chulalongkorn University
- Molecular Biology and Genomics of Shrimp Laboratory - at Chulalongkorn University
- Shrimp Molecular Biology and Biotechnology Laboratory - at Mahidol University
- Peat Swamp and Rainforest Research Station - in Narathiwat Province

A number of laboratories and facilities are established with special emphasis to promote translational research in collaboration with industry, as well as provide services to industry. These are:

- Shrimp Genetic Improvement Center
- Nuclear Polyhedrosis Virus Pilot Plant for Insect Pest Control
- Thailand Bioresource Research Center
- Food and Feed Innovation Center
- Integrative Biorefinery Laboratory
- National Biopharmaceutical Facility



4.1.2 National Electronics and Computer Technology Center (NECTEC)

The National Electronics and Computer Technology Center (NECTEC) is one of four research centers operating under the jurisdiction of the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) and the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST). The following labs are under the authority of NECTEC.

- **Advanced Automation and Electronics Research Unit (AAERU)**
 - Embedded System Technology Laboratory (EST)
 - Machine Vision Laboratory (MVL)
 - Intelligent SCADA Laboratory (ISL)
 - Advanced Automation System Laboratory (AAS)
 - Machine and Drive Design Laboratory (MDD)

- **Biomedical Electronics and Systems Research Unit (BESRU)**

- Rehabilitation and Assistive Technologies Laboratory (RHA)
- Biomedical Signal Processing Laboratory (BSP)
- X-Ray CT and Medical Imaging Laboratory (CTI)
- Healthcare Systems and Data Analytics Laboratory (HDA)
- Health and Lifestyle Monitoring Laboratory (HLM)

- **Information Communication and Computing Research Unit (ICCRU)**

- Large Scale Simulation Research Laboratory (LSR)
- Internet Innovation Laboratory (INO)
- Intelligent Transportation Systems Laboratory (ITS)
- Knowledge Elicitation and Archiving Laboratory (KEA)
- Computational Process Analytics Research Laboratory (CPA)

- **Innovation and Engineering Research Unit (IENRU)**

- Industrial Prototype and Product Development Laboratory (IPP)
- Standard and Testing Development Laboratory (STD)
- Intelligence Service Analytics and Automation (ISA)

- **Intelligent Devices and Systems Research Unit (IDSRU)**

- Photonics Technology Laboratory (PTL)
- Nano-Electronics and MEMS Laboratory (MEM)

- Solar Energy Technology Laboratory (STL)
- Optical Thin-Film Laboratory (OTL)

- **Intelligent Informatics Research Unit (INIRU)**

- Speech and Audio Technology Laboratory (SPT)
- Image Technology Laboratory (IMG)
- Language and Semantic Technology Laboratory (LST)

- **Thai Microelectronics Center (TMEC)**

- Microelectronics Research and Development Division (MRD)
- Engineering Division (ENG)

- **Wireless Information Security and Eco-Electronics Research Unit (WISRU)**

- RF Electronics Laboratory (RFE)
- Wireless Network and Protocol Laboratory (WNP)
- Cybersecurity Laboratory (CSL)

- **Institute of Technology for Persons with Disabilities and Elderlies (ITDE)**

- Accessible Innovation and Universal Design Laboratory (AID)

- **Thai Organic and Printed Electronics Innovation Center (TOPIC)**

NECTEC is also conducting two platform technology research programs namely “Service Informatics (SI)” and “Electronic Devices and Systems (EDS)”.

Based on accumulated strength in electronics and information technologies, the two programs aims to prepare NECTEC well for the future of ubiquitous computing environment, where things are all networked connected anywhere, anytime.

While Service Informatics program is designed to produce knowledge and service oriented software components generic enough to ease the integration into variety of service systems or application, EDS is designed to produces electronic devices and sub-system components focusing on photonics, microelectronics, MEMS, and embedded system technology with similar concept.

Some well recognized outputs are Thai language processing which appears as back office engine of VAJA, TVIS, LEXiTRON; network technology for management as seen by NetHAM, BaCon, Vman; CMOS technology used in high-performance sensors and power devices; photonic signal processing for high-quality inspection required in smart manufacturing, farming, and healthcare.

The expected achievement of both programs are to have the significant proportion of program research outputs repeatedly utilized into the integrated higher level of products or services, as well as continuing development in other NSTDA's

funding programs designed for commercialization and technology transfer stages.

*NATIONAL ELECTRONICS AND
COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY
CENTER*

*112 Phahonyothin Road, Khlong
Nueng, Khlong Luang District,
Pathumthani 12120*

Tel: +66 (0)2.564.6900

Website: www.nectec.or.th



4.1.3 National Metal and Materials Technology Center (MTEC)

The National Metal and Materials Technology Center (MTEC) was established by the Cabinet Resolution on September 16, 1986 as a project under the Office of the Permanent-Secretary of the then Ministry of Science and Energy. Its main objective is to support research and development in metals and materials, which is vital to the expansion of industrial sector and the overall development of the country.



In 1991, the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) of Thailand realized the significance of science and technology for the country's development. In December 1991 of the same year, National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) was established under Ministry of Science and Technology by the special National Science and Technology Development Act 1991. Since then, MTEC has become a member of the NSTDA, operating outside the traditional framework of civil service and state enterprise. This allowed the MTEC flexibility in organizational management, inter-organizational coordination and technology transfer support to the industry.

Vision

Thailand's specialized center in the field of materials science which aims to reach out to strategic alliances through research collaboration and other mechanisms in order to create knowledge and its application leading to sustainable development of the country.

Mission

To create and enhance capabilities in materials technology of both governmental and private sectors through R, D&E, technology transfer, HRD and infrastructure development in order to be a driving force behind the economic growth of the country.

MTEC RESEARCH UNIT

MTEC has established 7 Research Units, 2 Focus Units and Material Characterization Unit in order to strengthen the capability in materials technology of the country.

- Design and Engineering Research Unit (DERU)
- Ceramics Technology Research Unit (CERRU)
- Polymer Research Unit (PRU)
- Biomedical Research Unit (BMERU)
- Materials for Energy Research Unit (MFERU)
- Materials Reliability Research Unit (MRRU)
- Environment Research Unit (ENVRU)
- Natural Rubber Focus Unit (NRFU)
- Technology for Oil Palm Processing Focus Unit (TOPPFU)
- Materials Characterization Unit (MCU)

MTEC R&D Focused Theme Research Projects

In order to steer towards goal-oriented and tangible application of research within the next 3-5 years, MTEC has established 8 focused theme research projects.

1. Green Production of Natural Rubber and Products
2. Food Rheology
3. Bone Reconstructive and Regenerative Devices
4. Medical Device Design for Senior Citizen
5. Light Alloy Shape Fabrication Technology

6. Development of CAD/CAE Software for Engineering Analysis
7. Electrochemical Technology for Energy Storage
8. Development of Failure Control in Power Generation Industry

*National Metal and Materials
Technology Center (MTEC)
114 Thailand Science Park,
Phaholyothin Road, Khlong Nueng,
Khlong Luang, Pathumthani 12120
Tel: +66 (0)2.564.6500
Website: www.mtec.or.th*



4.1.4 National Nanotechnology Center (NANOTEC)

NANOTEC is the leading agency on nanotechnology development in Thailand. Established in August 2003, NANOTEC is one of four research centers operating under the jurisdiction of the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) and the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST). NANOTEC not only serves as a national R&D center, but also a funding agency to support research activities in universities and public institutions. It has established strong links with leading universities in Thailand in the form of Centers of Excellence in Nanotechnology (COENs) which consist of more than 400 nanotechnology researchers, as well as with leading nanotechnology centers overseas. The following



research units are under the authority of NANOTEC.

- **Nanotec Central Research Unit**
 - Nano Delivery System Laboratory (NanoDelivery)
 - Nanomaterials for Energy and Catalysis Laboratory (NanoEnergy & Cat.)
 - Nano-cosmeceuticals Laboratory (NanoCosme)
 - Hybrid Nanostructure and Nanocomposites Laboratory (NanoHybrid)
 - Nano Safety and Risk Assessment Laboratory (NanoSafety)
 - NanoMolecular Sensor Laboratory (NanoSens)
 - Nanoscale Simulation Laboratory (NanoSim)
 - Organic Nanomaterials Laboratory
 - Nano-Molecular Target Discovery Laboratory (Target Discovery)
 - Nano Characterization Laboratory
 - Nano Functional Textile Laboratory
 - Engineering and Manufacturing



4.2 Chulalongkorn University

The oldest university in Thailand, Chulalongkorn University was founded in 1917. Chulalongkorn University is known in Thailand for its excellence in the sciences, engineering, business, and law. Chulalongkorn is especially strong in the biological sciences, material science, and petrochemical science.

- **The Institute of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering** is an interdisciplinary research institute specializing in studying the application of biotechnology and genetics for agriculture as well as medical applications.
- **Center of Excellence on Petrochemical and Material: PETROMAT** specializes in the study of bioplastics, high performance materials, smart materials, alternative/renewable energy, catalysis, petrochemical technology, and green process design.
- **The Energy Research Institute** was established as an institute studying various methods of renewable energy that would be the most effective for national usage, but also serves to assist the Thai government in policy decisions regarding the development of renewable energy usage in Thailand.

4.3 Mahidol University

Mahidol University was established in 1943 as Thailand's first medical school. Since then, Mahidol has become Thailand's leading center for medical research.

- **Faculty of Medical Technology** is Thailand's foremost school for the advancement of medical technologies. The faculty is strong in radiological technology, microbiology, biomedical informatics, and medical big data.
- **Institute of Molecular Biosciences** was established in 2009 with the mission of advancing the fields of molecular genetics, genetic engineering, and neuroscience and their applications in the medical and non-medical fields.
- **Faculty of Medicine** at Siriraj Hospital is one of the two research hospitals under the purview of Mahidol University. The hospital has become one of the top centers in Thailand in the field of biomedical research. The center is well known for its strengths in translational medicine, regenerative medicine, and personalized medicine research.

4.4 Kasetsart University

Kasetsart University was founded in 1943 and was the first university in Thailand devoted to the fields of agricultural and natural science. Today Kasetsart University remains a leading University known worldwide in agricultural, food, and environmental research in Thailand.

- **Kasetsart University Food Innovation Research and Services in Thailand (KU-FIRST)** focuses on increasing the competitiveness of food-industry entrepreneurs in the world market through research and development

for innovative process and products. Consultancies, technical services, training supports to enhance SME capacity are offered year-round. KU-FIRST encompasses collaborative network of more than 250 Ph.D. experts in food related disciplines from Faculty of Agro-industry, Faculty of Agriculture, Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Science, and Institute of Food Research and Product Development. Six pilot scale food processing facility is available. Expertise and research laboratory cover complete food value supply chain from agricultural raw material to consumer and business feasibility.

- **Institute of Food Research and Product Development (IFRPD)** perform research services on food technology and product development. Training at local and international level is provided to assist food industries and SME entrepreneurs.
- **Center of Excellence for Agricultural Biotechnology** adopts the multi-disciplinary approach in building tools for efficiency improvement in the production of crops, animal and bio-energy. Indigenous wisdoms are intergraded with the present state-of-the-art biology and biotechnology.
- **Cassava and Starch Technology Research Unit** aims to support industrial sectors by conducting R&D on cassava starch properties, starch processing, starch modification and industrial applications. The Unit also coordinates technology between producers and users and facilitates the transfer of technology and supporting technical services.

4.5 King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi

Founded in 1960, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi has become Thailand's leading university for technology and engineering research.

- **Institute of Field Robotics** was established to promote higher education and advanced research in the area of manufacturing automation and industrial robots. This center also aims to render consultant service to Thai industries. The service includes technology selection and diversification, which will promote productivity and creativity of Thai industry.
- **Faculty of Engineering** is one of Thailand's top schools for engineering. The faculty offers specialization in chemical engineering, civil engineering, computer engineering, electrical engineering, electronics and telecommunication engineering, environmental engineering, food engineering, control system and instrumentation engineering, mechanical engineering, production engineering, tool and materials engineering.
- **School of Bioresources and Technology** was established as an interdisciplinary program emphasizing agricultural sciences, biological engineering, bioinformatics, and biotechnology.





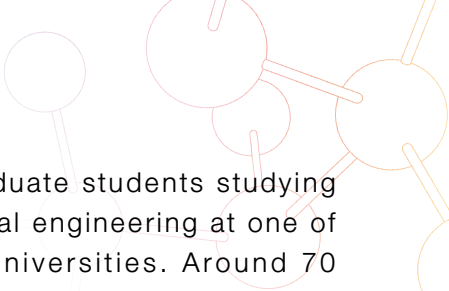
5

Training/HRD Programs

The Thai government, understanding the importance of talented, highly skilled human capital to expanding the economy's capabilities for innovation and satisfying the nation's goals of expanding their R&D capacity, has established training programs including programs that are partnerships with the private sector to train the next generation of researchers, scientists, engineers, and programmers.

- **Talent Mobility Program:** According to the National Science Technology and Innovation Policy Office, 70% of researchers are employed by the government or educational institutes. As a result, the private sector has an insufficient talent pool to draw from to conduct necessary and relevant research for commercial purposes. In order to alleviate the issue, the Talent Mobility Program provides collaborative research-matching services between the public and private sector.

The program allows researchers at educational research institutes and government agencies to split their time between their parent organization and a private sector organization. The private sector time commitment for the researcher is for at least 3 months, but no more than 2 years, and is defined as working at the company for at least one day per week, while still receiving full pay and benefits from the parent organization. The private company that will be retaining the researchers will have to pay a fee to the parent organization to compensate for the use of their employee(s). This program is designed to improve the R&D capabilities of Thailand's industrial sector and allow government researchers to study issues facing the market. Thai SMEs can receive additional funding support for service matching and research personnel search services, while financial support for large entities



will be granted only after case-by-case consideration. To date, more than 70 companies have participated in this program, including Seagate Technology and Western Digital.

- **Work Integrated Learning (WiL) program:** The WiL program provides collaborative educational services between educational institutes and the private sector in the form of Public Private Partnerships (PPP). The program was established to ensure a supply of highly skilled technicians for the industries that power Thailand's economy. This program allows students at technical schools and universities to enroll in programs hosted by industrial partners where they can gain hands-on industry experience while also continuing their studies. There are currently 140 university students and 60 teachers from 7 Thai universities participating in the program. The focus of this project will be on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) subjects applied to the agriculture & food, automotive and electronics industries.

As an example of a pilot project conducted under the WiL program, Michelin Siam Group collaborates with Kasetsart University, Prince of Songkla University, King Mongkut's University of Technology North Bangkok, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, and Rajamangala University of Technology.

The Michelin pilot program was a 10-month course offered to 4th year

undergraduate students studying mechanical engineering at one of these 5 universities. Around 70 university students and 30 teachers were involved. The time students spent at the factory counted towards their school term credits. During the first semester, students were given engineer training at the factory 5 days a week. During the second term, students spent 4 days at the factory and 1 day at their respective universities.

- **Dual Vocational Training (DVT):** Following the Vocational Education legislation of 2008, the office of the Vocational Education Commission has emphasized dual vocational training as the main mode of vocational training apart from internal and external institutional education. The system is based around vocational educational institutes forming agreements with private firms, state owned enterprises, or government agencies; to create effective curriculums, training, testing, and evaluation for students to gain practical working experiences in industry settings outside of their respective education institutions.

In 2014, the total number of vocational students that completed the program was 61,244. Students and instructors involved in the program received compensation and allowances/expenses along with other benefits. Companies that have already participated in the program include Honda, Isuzu, and Panasonic.

- **STEM Education Program:** The NSTDA offers various science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education programs. One such program is coursework designed for individuals planning to enter the field of IT. Coursework ranges from project management, to algorithms and programming, and software engineering. Another program is the general STEM education development program. This program provides scholarships for masters and doctorate candidates to study overseas in science and technology.

Various industry-training programs are offered by non-government agencies as well. The Thai-German Institute specializes in training individuals in the automotive and auto parts industry, The Federation of Thai Industries offers training courses in industrial environmental management and operations, and the Tribology Association offers training in various industrial engineering.



*NATIONAL SCIENCE AND INNOVATION
POLICY OFFICE*

*319 Chamchuri Square BD., 14, Phayathai Rd.,
Patumwan, Bangkok 10330*

Tel: +66 (0)2.160.5432

Website: www.sti.or.th

FEDERATION OF THAI INDUSTRIES

*60 New Rachadapisek Road, Klongtoey,
Bangkok, 10110*

*Queen Sirikit National Convention Center,
zone C, level 4*

Tel: +66 (0)2.345.1261-5

Website: www.iei.or.th

THAI-GERMAN INSTITUTE

*700/1 Moo 1 Amata Nakorn Industrial Estate,
Bangna-Trad (57 km) Rd.,*

Klongtamru, Muang, Chonburi 20000

Tel: +66 (0)38.215.033-39, +66 (0)38.930.100

Website: www.tgi.or.th

TRIBOLOGY ASSOCIATION

*131 Thailand Science Park, INC 1 Bldg., Room
234, Phahonyothin Road,*

Khlong Nung, Khlong Luang,

Pathumthani 12120

Tel: +66 (0)2.564.7200 ext. 5234

Website: www.tta.or.th

Supporting Infrastructure

6.1 Science Parks

6.1.1 Thailand Science Park

With more than 70 companies, four research institutes, three universities and one medical school, the Thailand Science Park is the leading and largest research center in Thailand; with two superhighways and a number of bus routes connecting it to Bangkok for easy access. Established in 2002, the Thailand Science Park has high-level activities in the areas of Biotechnology, Information Technology, Metals and Materials Technology and Nanotechnology. The technologies provide strong support for the businesses in the areas of Agriculture and Food, Health and Medicine, Energy and Environment. The science park facilitates business services and privileges such as the Industrial Technology Assistance Program (iTAP), Technology Licensing Office (TLO), and Business Incubation Center (BIC) along with privileges from the BOI and the Revenue Department. The park also provides access to advanced ICT infrastructure, R&D leasing space, government scientific databases,

R&D personnel networks in Thailand and laboratory facilities from nearby Thammasat University.

Current tenants that are already established and utilizing park facilities range from local to international companies, including: Austrianova (Singapore), Air Products and Chemicals (USA), Bara Scientific (Japan), Betagro Science Center (Thailand), SCG (Thailand), Better Pharma (Thailand), PTT Global Chemical (Thailand), IS-Industries (France), DSPcomm (Australia) and Emsland Asian Food Innovation Corp. (Germany).

The National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)'s headquarters is located in the park along with its 3,000 employees. The proximity allows tenants to gain access to highly skilled personnel from NSTDA's 2,000 full-time researchers, of which around 500 are Ph.D. scientists.

THAILAND SCIENCE PARK
Phahonyothin Rd, Khlong Nung,
Khlong Luang, Pathumthani 12120
Tel: +66 (0)2.564.7200
Website: www.sciencepark.or.th

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6.1.2 Northern Science Park Thailand

This science park, located in Chiang Mai University, is set up as the main management operation center for all science parks in the Northern region of Thailand. Services the science park offers include: knowledge and technology training and transfer, academic services, consultation and business matching, testing and technical services, joint research for technology and innovation development, licensing intellectual property services, coordination of networking and cooperation for technology R&D development between the academic, government and private sectors, support and facilitation of financing and funding of joint projects. The park also offers service tests, laboratory facilities, proto-type factory and event organization renting spaces. Various science parks in the network also offer business incubator and support programs. There are six science parks in the region that operate under this park's management. These six are science parks at Maejo University, Mae Fah Luang University, Phayao University, Naresuan University, Uttaradit Rajabhat University, and Pibulsongkram Rajabhat University.

*SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PARK, CHIANG MAI UNIVERSITY
2nd Floor of Research and Technology Transfer (RTT) Building: The Faculty of Engineering, Chiang Mai University
239 HuayKaew Rd., Muang District, Chiang Mai 50200*

Tel: +66 (0)53.942.088-91 (ext.208)

Website: <http://step.cmu.ac.th>

6.1.3 Khon Kaen University Science Park

The science park is set up as the main management operation center for all science parks in the Northeastern region of Thailand. It offers services in information research, business incubators, business and technological matching and consultation, intellectual property rights, licensing, and is the main contact and coordination point for applying and coordinating government support for the technology and R&D sectors, from other related agencies of the government. Laboratory and expert services are also available in collaboration with Khon Kaen University. There are three science parks in the region that operate under its management, the science parks at Suranaree University of Technology, University of Ubon Ratchathani and Mahasarakham University.

*KHON KAEN UNIVERSITY
SCIENCE PARK*

*123, 1st Floor Pienijitr Building,
Faculty of Engineering Khon Kaen
University 40002*

Tel: +66 (0)43.202.697

Website: www.nesp.kku.ac.th

6.1.4 Prince of Songkla University Science Park

This science park was established as the main management operation center for all science parks in the

Southern region of Thailand. The park offers services in coordinating grants and support for SMEs under the Company Direct Technology Development Program (CD) and Industrial Technology Assistance Program (iTAP), providing business incubator space, intellectual property rights licensing consultation, design and consultation services for factories and basic infrastructure. It also offers laboratory facilities/personnel and proto-type factory study services. The Walailak University Southern Thailand Science Park also operates in the same network and offers similar services.

6.2 Software Park

6.2.1 Thailand Software Park

The Park is an organization under the National Science and Technology Development Agency. The park was designed to strengthen and grow Thailand's domestic software industry by engaging with stakeholders from all Thai industries both industrial and service. The park provides IT training centers to educate Thailand's next generation of IT specialist as well as providing support to Thai IT entrepreneurs. Some tenants currently occupying the park are Asia One Click Co., Ltd, Data Design Solution Thailand Co., Ltd., Digital Design Automation Co., Ltd., Innovation IT Co., Ltd., Larngear Technology Co., Ltd., Triple I Geographic Co., Ltd., Ultimax Co., Ltd. and UOB Bank (PLC).

THAILAND SOFTWARE PARK
99/31 Moo 4 Software Park Building,
Chaengwattana Road,
Klong Gleua, Pakkred,
Nonthaburi 11120
Tel: +66 (0)25.839.992
Website: www.swpark.or.th

6.2.2 Software Park Phuket

The Park was established with the goal of becoming the ideal work place for ICT companies. The first phase of the park was completed in 2008. The Software Park Phuket (SWPP) has received not only tremendous support from the Software Industry Promotion Agency Public Organization (SIPA) and the municipality but has also been given substantial assistance from the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) under Ministry of Science and Technology.

SOFTWARE PARK PHUKET
88/9 Moo 2, Chaofah West Road,
Vichit Sub-district, Muang Phuket
District, Phuket 83000
Tel: +66 (0)76.680.351
Website: www.softwareparkphuket.com



Contact Us

HEAD OFFICES

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF INVESTMENT

555 Vibhavadi-Rangsit Road, Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900
Tel: +66 (0) 2553-8111
Fax: +66 (0) 2553-8315
Website: www.boi.go.th
Email: head@boi.go.th

ONE STOP ONE STOP INVESTMENT CENTER (OSOS)

18th Floor, Chamchuri Square Building,
319 Phayathai Road, Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330
Tel: +66 (0) 2209-1100
Fax: +66 (0) 2209-1199
Website: osos.boi.go.th
Email: osos@boi.go.th

REGIONAL OFFICES

REGIONAL INVESTMENT AND ECONOMIC CENTER 1

CHIANG MAI OFFICE
Airport Business Park 108-110, 90 Mahidol Road, Amphur Muang,
Chiang Mai 50100
Tel: +66 (0) 5329 4100
Fax: +66 (0) 5329 4199
Email: chmai@boi.go.th

PHITSANULOK OFFICE

3rd Floor, Thai Sivarat Building, 59/15 Boromtrilokkanat 2 Road, Naimuang,
Amphur Muang, Phitsanulok 65000
Tel: +66 (0) 5524-8111
Fax: +66 (0) 5524-8777
Email: phitsanulok@boi.go.th

REGIONAL INVESTMENT AND ECONOMIC CENTER 2

NAKHON RATCHASIMA
2112/22 Mitraphab Road, Amphur Muang, Nakhon Ratchasima 30000
Tel: +66 (0) 4438 4200
Fax: +66 (0) 4438 4299
Email: korat@boi.go.th

REGIONAL INVESTMENT AND ECONOMIC CENTER 3

KHONKAEN
177/54 Moo 17, Mitraphab Road, Amphur Muang, Khonkaen 40000
Tel: +66 (0) 4327 1300-2
Fax: +66 (0) 4327 1303
Email: khonkaen@boi.go.th

OVERSEAS OFFICES

SHANGHAI

Thailand Board of Investment, Shanghai Office
Royal Thai Consulate General, No. 18, Wanshan Road,
Changning District, Shanghai 200336, P.R.C.
Tel: +86-21-5260-9876, +86-21-5260-9877
Fax: +86-21-5260-9873
Email: shanghai@boi.go.th

BEIJING

Thailand Board of Investment, Beijing Office
Royal Thai Embassy, No.40 Guang Hua Road, Beijing 100600 P.R.C.
Tel: +86-10-6532-4510
Fax: +86-10-6532-1620
Email: beijing@boi.go.th

GUANGZHOU

Thailand Board of Investment, Guangzhou Office
Investment Promotion Section, Royal Thai Consulate-General Guangzhou
No.36 Youhe Road, Haizhu District, Guangzhou, P.R.C. 510310
Tel: +86-20-8385-8988 ext. 220-225,
+86-20-8387-7770 (Direct Line)
Fax: +86-20-8387-2700
Email: guangzhou@boi.go.th

TAIPEI

Thailand Board of Investment, Taipei Office
Taipei World Trade Center, 3rd Floor, Room 3E 39-40 No.5 Xin-Yi Road,
Sec. 5 Taipei 110, Taiwan R.O.C.
Tel: +886-2-2345-6663
Fax: +886-2-2345-9223
Email: taipei@boi.go.th

TOKYO

Thailand Board of Investment, Tokyo Office
Royal Thai Embassy, 8th Floor, Fukuda Building West, 2-11-3, Akasaka,
Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-0052 Japan
Tel: +81 (0) 3-3582-1806
Fax: +81 (0) 3-3589-5176
Email: tyo@boi.go.th

OSAKA

Thailand Board of Investment, Osaka Office
Royal Thai Consulate-General, Bangkok Bank Building, 7th Floor,
1-9-16 Kyutaro-Machi, Chuo-Ku, Osaka 541-0056 Japan
Tel: +81 (0) 6-6271-1395
Fax: +81 (0) 6-6271-1394
Email: osaka@boi.go.th

SEOUL

Thailand Board of Investment, Seoul Office
#1804, 18th Floor, Koryo Daeyongak Center, 97 Toegy-ro, Jung-gu,
Seoul, 100-706, Korea
Tel: +82-2-319-9998
Fax: +82-2-319-9997
Email: seoul@boi.go.th

ONE STOP SERVICE CENTER FOR VISAS AND WORK PERMITS

18th Floor, Chamchuri Square Building,
319 Phayathai Road, Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330
Tel: +66 (0) 2209-1100
Fax: +66 (0) 2209-1194
Email: visawork@boi.go.th

REGIONAL INVESTMENT AND ECONOMIC CENTER 4

CHONBURI
46 Moo 5 Laem Chabang Industrial Estate, Sukhumvit Road, Toongsukhla,
Sriracha, Chonburi 20230
Tel: +66 (0) 3840 4900
Fax: +66 (0) 3840 4997, +66 (0) 3840 4999
Email: chonburi@boi.go.th

REGIONAL INVESTMENT AND ECONOMIC CENTER 5

SONGKHLA
7-15 Chaivong Building Juti Uthit 1 Road, Hadd Yai, Songkhla 90110
Tel: +66 (0) 7458 4500
Fax: +66 (0) 7458 4599
Email: songkhla@boi.go.th

REGIONAL INVESTMENT AND ECONOMIC CENTER 6

SURAT THANI
49/21-22 Sriwichai Road, Makhamtia, Amphur Muang, Surat Thani 84000
Tel: +66 (0) 7740 4600
Fax: +66 (0) 7740 4699
Email: surat@boi.go.th

MUMBAI

Thailand Board of Investment, Mumbai Office
Express Tower, 12th Floor, Barrister Rajni Patel Marg, Nariman Point,
Mumbai, Maharashtra 400021
Tel: +91-22-2204-1589-90
Fax: +91-22-2282-1525
Email: mumbai@boi.go.th

NEW YORK

Thailand Board of Investment, New York Office
7 World Trade Center, 34th Floor, Suite F, 250 Greenwich Street,
New York, New York 10007, U.S.A.
Tel: +1 (0) 212 422 9009
Fax: +1 (0) 212 422 9119
Email: nyc@boi.go.th
Website: www.thinkasiainvestthailand.com

LOS ANGELES

Thailand Board of Investment, Los Angeles Office
Royal Thai Consulate-General, 611 North Larchmont Boulevard,
3rd Floor, Los Angeles CA 90004, U.S.A.
Tel: +1 (0) 323-960-1199
Fax: +1 (0) 323-960-1190
Email: boila@boi.go.th

FRANKFURT

Thailand Board of Investment, Frankfurt Office
Investment Section, Royal Thai Consulate-General, Bethmannstr. 58,5.0G,
60311 Frankfurt am Main, Federal Republic of Germany
Tel: +49 (069) 92 91 230
Fax: +49 (069) 92 91 2320
Email: fra@boi.go.th

PARIS

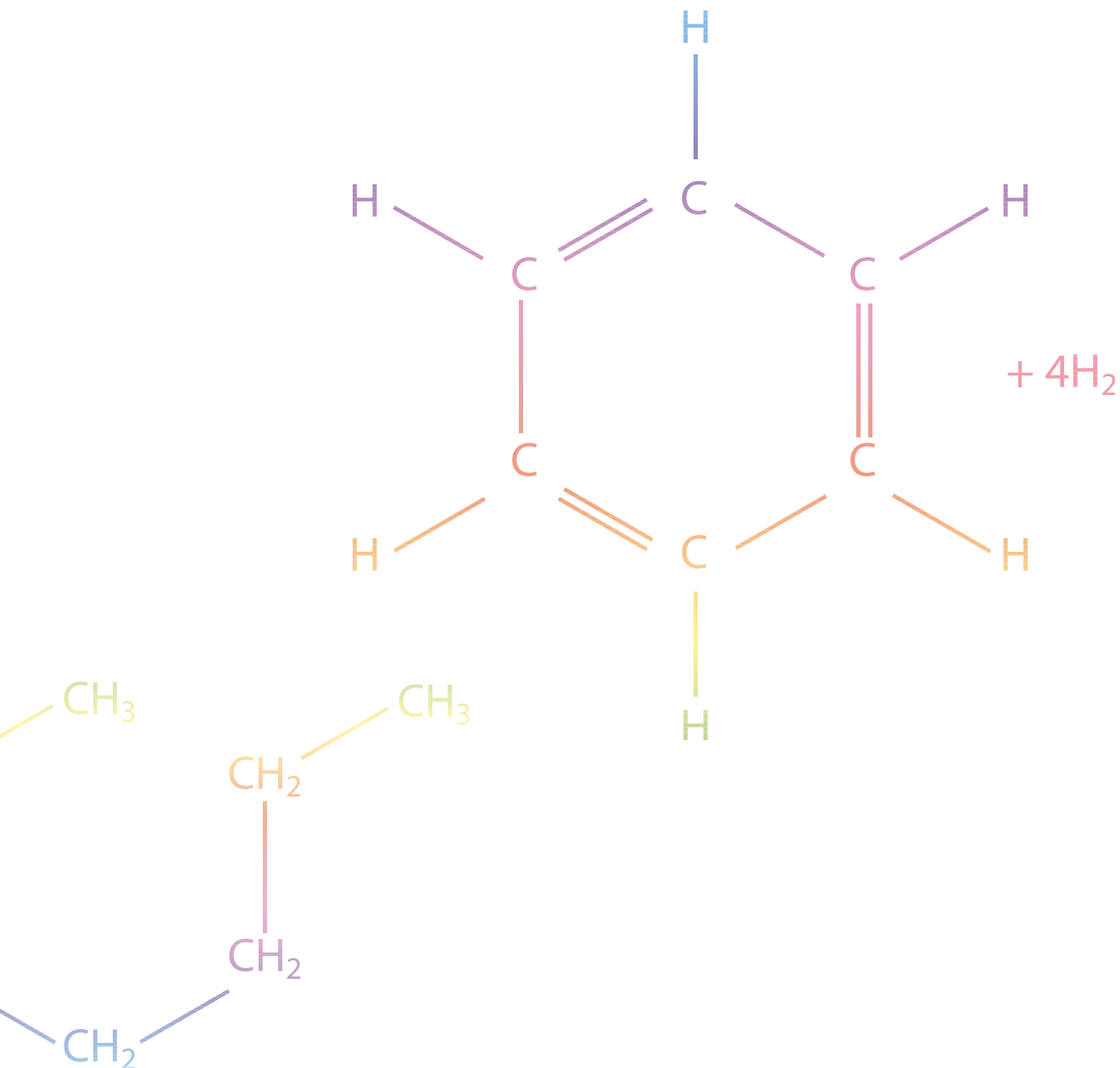
Thailand Board of Investment, Paris Office
Ambassade Royale de Thaïlande, 8, rue Greuze, 75116 Paris, France
Tel: +33-1 56 90 26 00
Fax: +33-1 56 90 26 02
Email: par@boi.go.th

STOCKHOLM

Thailand Board of Investment, Stockholm Office
Stureplan 4C 4th Floor, 114 35 Stockholm, Sweden
Tel: +46 (0) 8463 1158
+46 (0) 8463 1174-75
Fax: +46 (0) 8463 1160
Email: stockholm@boi.go.th

SYDNEY

Thailand Board of Investment, Sydney Office
Suite 101, Level 1, 234 George Street, Sydney, New South Wales 2000, Australia
Tel: +61-2 9252-4884
+61-2 9252-4882
Email: sydney@boi.go.th



Thailand Board of Investment

555 Vibhavadi-Rangsit Road,
 Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900
 Tel: +66 (0) 2553-8111
 Fax: +66 (0) 2553-8315
 Email: head@boi.go.th
 Website: www.boi.go.th



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