Annex C: Background on Singapore's AI and Data work

Artificial Intelligence ("**AI**") has been identified as a key step of Singapore's Smart Nation journey, and one of four emerging technologies essential to growing Singapore's Digital Economy, alongside Cybersecurity, Immersive Media and the Internet of Things.

Singapore's National AI Strategy ("**Strategy**"), announced in November 2019, sets out a plan for Singapore to become a leader in developing and deploying scalable, impactful AI solutions, in key sectors of high value and relevance to our citizens and businesses by 2030. The Strategy identifies five National AI Projects for a start, to use AI technologies to address key national challenges and deliver impactful social and/or economic benefits to Singaporeans. These projects are in transport and logistics, smart cities and estates, healthcare, education, and safety and security.

The Strategy also outlines the development of key enablers to anchor a vibrant and sustainable AI ecosystem, and drive AI innovation and adoption across the economy. One of the key enablers is partnerships between public sector, industry and research performer. Singapore believes that it is important to assist industries in reaping the benefits of AI by driving understanding and adoption of its fundamentals and possibilities across sectors. Another key enabler is international collaboration. Singapore will work with international partners on multi-national AI projects and contribute to global standards for AI-related policies and guidelines.

Alongside the launch of the strategy, the National AI Office under the Smart Nation and Digital Government Office was established to set the national agenda for AI and catalyse efforts across research, industry, and government stakeholders to work on national AI priorities. AI Singapore, a national programme set up in May 2017 with an investment of up to S$150 million, will support the national AI strategy to catalyse, synergise and boost Singapore's AI capabilities.

AI as an enabler in the Digital Economy

Singapore's approach maximises AI's unique strengths through building a strong, trusted and collaborative regulatory environment. The Model Framework complements other initiatives and programmes that Singapore previously launched – including an industry-led

Advisory Council on the Ethical use of AI and Data, a Digital Services Laboratory to accelerate the deployment of AI technologies, a National Speech Corpus which enables AI speech solutions to work with Singapore's lexicon, a Research Programme to explore ethical and legal implications of AI, and multi-pronged training courses to boost AI talent in Singapore.

Data protection and innovation underpinning AI

Singapore sees data-driven innovation as the means to power AI in a Digital Economy, providing competitive advantages for businesses that adopt them. The Personal Data Protection Commission has therefore announced that it is critical for organisations to move beyond data protection compliance to a culture of accountability. Singapore is reviewing its Personal Data Protection Act[3] to strengthen consumer trust and provide greater clarity for organisations to use data for innovation.

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[3] The PDPA came into effect in Singapore in 2014 and is Singapore's baseline law for personal data protection.