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\$700,000^{10.5} for quality consultant

MORE than \$700,000 is being offered to an overseas consultant to help set up a centre to improve the quality of goods manufactured in Hongkong.

The consultant is needed to oversee the initial work of the proposed Hongkong Quality Assurance Agency because Hongkong lacks home-grown experts in the field.

The job involves establishing a scheme of accreditation, recruiting and training local staff, and advising on world-wide publicity for Hongkong's products.

The agency, aimed at helping manufacturers assess their quality management systems, will be set up in August by the Industry Department.

A \$2.67 million package to launch the agency was approved by legislators.

Besides the consultant's fee, the package will include \$736,000 for four staff members including a chief executive.

The move is part of a quality improvement drive mounted by the Industry Department to boost the competitiveness of local products world-wide.