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A helping hand for new ideas

INNOVATIVE industrialists will have a new venue to try out their ideas with the opening of the Business and Technology Centre at the Hongkong Polytechnic today.

Centre director Professor John Hearn said the privately funded centre aimed to strengthen the manufacturing base by supporting industry and business.

Professor Hearn said that through the various divisions of the centre, the staff at the Polytechnic would provide a consultancy service to industry and undertake specific research projects commissioned by firms.

The centre would also help train management staff for companies through its Integrated Graduate Development Scheme, a part-time programme leading to a masters degree.

Jointly offered by the Polytechnic and the University of Warwick in England, the scheme, which began in January, has enrolled 66 management staff from local industry.

The centre, which has attracted more than 200 members, was founded by 12 companies including Dow Chemicals, Motorola, and Chen Hsong, which each contributed \$500,000.

Professor Hearn said \$6 million had been contributed to the centre with \$25 million more pledged.