



2019

Guide To Setting Up Your Business In Singapore

EDB
singapore

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Message from The Singapore Economic Development Board

Welcome to the 2019 edition of *Guide to setting up your business in Singapore*.

Singapore, with its robust economy and strong talent pool, is a buzzing metropolis situated right in the heart of Asia. We offer businesses the ideal landscape to invest with confidence.

Here are some reasons why you should set up your business here:

1. It is easy to do business in Singapore.

The World Bank¹ has consistently ranked Singapore as the best country in Asia, and second best globally, to do business.

2. We are the gateway to Asia.

Singapore offers extensive connectivity and has strong business, cultural and linguistic links to the emerging Southeast Asian market. Home to more than 600 million people, of which 70 per cent are below the age of 40, ASEAN is one of the world's largest untapped economies.

3. We offer stability.

The 2017 Euromoney Country Risk Survey² ranked Singapore first for having the most stable political climate, with lowest sovereign risk globally.

4. In fact, we boast the best business environment.

Singapore topped the ranks again for the Economist Intelligence Unit's 2018 projection of the best business environment worldwide for the next five years³. Singapore has held this position since 2013.

If you are keen to set up here, this guide can help you get your operations up and running in the shortest time possible.

In the following pages, discover how to choose the right business structure, register your business and meet your needs around talent, advisory services, and space and utilities.

You will also learn more about how the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB) can provide you with the right information and connections to partners – in both public and private spheres – to enable your success.

A government agency under the Ministry of Trade and Industry, EDB is responsible for strategies enhancing Singapore's position as a global centre for business, innovation, and talent. It also works closely with other local government agencies to ensure that companies here are supported by a well-developed business environment and a globally competitive workforce.

Get ready to establish your presence in Singapore!

¹ World Bank. (2017, October 31). Doing Business 2018. Retrieved from <http://www.doingbusiness.org/~media/WBG/DoingBusiness/Documents/Annual-Reports/English/DB2018-Full-Report.pdf>.

² Wright, C. (2017, March 9). Singapore leads the world in sovereign risk. Retrieved from <https://www.euromoney.com/article/b12khpchzd4ypn/singapore-leads-the-world-in-sovereign-risk>

³ The Economist Intelligence Unit. (2018, April 13). Country analysis: Singapore. Retrieved from <http://country.eiu.com/Singapore>



Steps to Setting Up Your Business in Singapore

Did you know?

Singapore was ranked second globally for ease of doing business in the 2018 World Bank Doing Business report.

Businesses took on average only 2.5 days to start their operations here!

Step 1: What is the right business structure for you?

How to decide which is best for you

Business entities in Singapore are regulated by the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA). Before you register your business entity, you have to choose among different types of local entity structures that can be set up here.

1. SOLE PROPRIETORSHIP

A sole proprietorship is a business owned by one person or one company. The sole proprietor has absolute say, but also unlimited liability, in the running of the business.

2. PARTNERSHIP

A partnership is a business formed by at least two, or a maximum of 20, partners. Partners have unlimited liability, and will be personally liable for the partnership's debts and losses incurred by other partners. Partners can also sue or be sued in the firm's name, and cannot own property in the firm's name.

3. COMPANY

A company is a business entity registered under the Companies Act, Chapter 50. It has a legal personality (i.e. the rights to own properties, perpetual succession, and can sue or be sued in its own name). In contrast to sole proprietorships and partnerships, members of a company are not personally liable for debts and losses of a company. Companies tend to have higher set-up and maintenance costs. Annual returns must also be filed. There are three types of companies:

- Exempt Private Company - 20 members or less and no corporation holds beneficial interest in the company's shares
- Private Company - 50 members or less
- Public Company - more than 50 members

4. LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP

A Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) gives owners the flexibility of operating as a partnership, while having a separate legal identity like that of a private limited company. Since the LLP has a legal personality separate from its partners, the partners of the LLP will not be held personally liable for any business debts incurred by the LLP. Registration costs are lower than that of a company, and there are fewer formalities and procedures to comply with. However, an LLP still needs to keep accounting records, profit and loss accounts, and balance sheets that sufficiently explain its transactions and financial position.

⁴ World Bank. (2017, October 31). Doing Business 2018. Retrieved from <http://www.doingbusiness.org/~media/WBG/DoingBusiness/Documents/Annual-Reports/English/DB2018-Full-Report.pdf>

Visit ACRA's website for more information on business structures in Singapore. Resources include:

- A [detailed description](#) of different business entities in Singapore
- A [YouTube video](#) summarising the differences among various local entity structures
- How-to guides specific to each business structure, e.g. [How-To Guide: Starting Sole Proprietorships or Partnerships](#)

5. LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

A Limited Partnership (LP) consists of a minimum of two partners, with at least one general partner and at least one limited partner. In contrast to an LLP, an LP does not have a separate legal personality from its partners. While an individual or a corporation may be a general partner or a limited partner of the LP, the general partner will be responsible for the actions of the LP and is liable for all its debts and obligations. The limited partner will not be liable for the LP's debts and obligations beyond an agreed contribution, unless the partner took part in its management.

Are there other options?

An alternative business entity that could be set up is a branch of a foreign company. Unlike a local entity incorporated in Singapore with its own legal personality and liabilities, a branch is an extension of its head office incorporated overseas. As such, the liabilities of the branch office in Singapore are extended to its parent company. A branch office is not eligible for the same tax benefits or rebates offered to a local entity.

A representative office (RO) is another option. An RO can be registered in Singapore as a temporary arrangement for conducting market research and feasibility studies. The key benefit of an RO: it allows a foreign entity to assess Singapore's business environment before setting up permanently. As an RO cannot generate income or solicit business, it will not have to pay taxes. An RO that decides to continue its presence in Singapore should register as a legal business entity with ACRA and if necessary, obtain the relevant licence to perform any regulated activity.

To open an RO in the manufacturing, international trading, wholesale, trade and trade-related business sectors, approach [Enterprise Singapore](#) (ESG). An RO of a foreign commercial entity registered with ESG may operate in Singapore for a maximum of three years from its commencement date, provided the RO status is evaluated and renewed yearly. ROs registered by ESG must comply with these [terms and conditions](#).

In the legal sector, an RO is set up by a law practice based outside Singapore to undertake only liaison or promotional work in or from Singapore. It is not allowed to provide legal services or conduct other business activities here. To register an RO in this sector, visit the [Legal Services Regulatory Authority](#) (LSRA), a department under the Ministry of Law. To offer legal services in Singapore, a licence is required. For more information on these licences, please visit this [page](#).

A bank or insurance company should approach the [Monetary Authority of Singapore](#) (MAS) to discuss their plans for an RO in Singapore. Applicants will need to meet guidelines or requirements laid out by MAS.

More About The Government Agencies Involved

Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA)

The Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA) is a statutory board under the Ministry of Finance and is the national regulator of business entities, public accountants and corporate service providers in Singapore.

Website: <https://www.acra.gov.sg/>

Enterprise Singapore (ESG)

Enterprise Singapore (ESG) is a statutory board under the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) championing enterprise development. ESG works with committed companies to build capabilities, innovate, and internationalise. It also supports the growth of Singapore as a hub for global trading and startups.

Website: <https://www.enterprisesg.gov.sg/>

Legal Services Regulatory Authority (LSRA)

The Legal Services Regulatory Authority (LSRA) is a department under the Ministry of Law that oversees the regulation of all law practice entities and the registration of foreign lawyers in Singapore.

Website: <https://www.mlaw.gov.sg/content/minlaw/en/our-work/legal-services-regulatory-authority.html>

Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS)

The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) is Singapore's central bank and financial regulatory authority. Apart from managing Singapore's monetary policy, foreign exchange reserves and liquidity in the banking sector, MAS is also an integrated supervisor that oversees all financial institutions in Singapore.

Website: <http://www.mas.gov.sg/>

Ministry of Law (MinLaw)

The Ministry of Law is a ministry of the Government of Singapore responsible for the country's legal infrastructure.

Website: <https://www.mlaw.gov.sg/>

EDB's Network Of Partners

Incorporation and Corporate Secretarial Services

These companies offer services that include **business registration**:

[HAWKSFORD SINGAPORE](#)

[IN.CORP GLOBAL](#)

[TMF GROUP](#)

[SLEEK](#)

[VISTRA](#)



Step 2: Registering your business:

How to incorporate in Singapore

After choosing the right business structure, you will need to apply for and reserve a name for your business entity. Your application, which costs S\$15, will be approved immediately if the name is available and does not require approval or review by other government agencies. An approved company name will be reserved for 120 days from the date of approval.

There are two ways you can apply for a business name:

1. Register directly at [BizFile+](#), ACRA's online portal. You may log into BizFile+ using a SingPass or CorpPass account to submit your online transaction.
2. Engage the services of a registered filing agent such as a law firm or a corporate secretarial firm to submit an online application on your behalf.

SingPass

SingPass, short for Singapore Personal Access, allows users to transact with over 60 government agencies online easily and securely. Singapore citizens and permanent residents, passholders (Employment Pass, EntrePass, S-Pass, Dependant Pass, Long Term Visit Pass Plus), and selected work permit holders are eligible for a SingPass. For more information on setting up a SingPass, you may visit this [website](#).

CorpPass

CorpPass, short for Singapore Corporate Access, is a corporate digital identity for businesses and other entities (such as non-profit organisations and associations) to transact with government agencies online. From 1 September 2018, CorpPass will be the only login method for businesses to transact with the public sector. For more information on setting up a CorpPass, you may visit this [website](#).

Prepare the following to register your business with ACRA:

- Transaction number of the approved name application
- Personal details of the proposed owners and authorised representatives (if applicable)
- Business commencement date
- Registered office address

Upon approval of your business name, you are ready to register your business with ACRA!

The application will take up to three working days to be approved. Otherwise, it may take between 14 working days and two months if the application needs to be referred to another agency for approval or review. Similar to reserving a business name, you can register your business online using [BizFile+](#), or engage the services of a registered filing agent to submit an online application on your behalf.

Here are the different costs associated with registering different business structures:

Business Structure	Registration Cost
Sole Proprietorship	S\$100 for one-year registration and S\$160 for three-year registration
Partnership	S\$100 for one-year registration and S\$160 for three-year registration
Company	S\$300 incorporation fee
Limited Liability Partnership	S\$100 for registration
Limited Partnership	S\$100 for one-year registration and S\$160 for three-year registration
Foreign Company	S\$300 incorporation fee

After registering your business, we recommend checking with the relevant industry association to confirm if you require a licence for business operation. If you do, a useful resource is [LicenceOne](#), a one-stop portal set up by the Singapore Government to simplify licence-related applications and payments. Use its search function to sort through a database of over 100 business licences by keyword or business intent. Companies can apply for a new licence, amend or cancel a licence, or renew a licence through the platform.

Step 3: Managing your business:

How to get your operations up and running

Congratulations on becoming a legal corporate entity in Singapore!

Now that you are ready to commence operations here, this section will help you sort out the nitty-gritty.

Before you begin, get acquainted with the [Singapore Employment Act](#), which spells out the basic terms for different types of employees.

Human resources

In Singapore, you gain access to global talent across educational levels, technical experience, and specialisations.

The country's focus on developing a skilled, adaptable workforce starts with providing world-class education to its people, and extends to building a rich ecosystem comprising institutes of higher learning and public research institutes.

In 2017, about S\$12.9 billion in public spending was channelled to education⁵. Two of Singapore's universities – the National University of Singapore (NUS) and Nanyang Technological University (NTU) – were respectively ranked 11th and 12th globally in the 2018 Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings⁶, making them the top two universities in Asia.

Apart from NUS and NTU, Singapore has four other public universities, five polytechnics, and three Institute of Technical Education (ITE) colleges that offer vocational training.

The World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Index 2017 – 2018 ranked Singapore first globally in the higher education and training pillar, which measures the quality of education and on-the-job training in countries worldwide.

⁵ Ministry of Finance, Government of Singapore. (2017, February 20). Revenue & expenditure estimates. Retrieved from https://www.singaporebudget.gov.sg/budget_2017/budgetspeech/RevenueExpenditure/RevenueExpenditureEstimates

⁶ Davie, S. (2018, June 7). NUS is back on top as Asia's No. 1 university. Retrieved from www.straitstimes.com/singapore/education/nus-is-back-on-top-as-asias-no-1-university

Recruitment

Singapore has a strong pool of local and global talent. To recruit fresh graduates, do consider the activities conducted by the career offices of our institutes of learning.

To connect with graduating students from our institutes of learning, reach out to the following career offices:

National University of Singapore (NUS)	Centre for Future-Ready Graduates
Nanyang Technological University (NTU)	Career & Attachment Office
Singapore Management University (SMU)	Career Centre
Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD)	Career Development Centre
Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT)	ReadyTalent
Singapore Polytechnic (SP)	Education & Career Guidance
Nanyang Polytechnic (NYP)	Education & Career Guidance
Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP)	Education & Career Services
Republic Polytechnic (RP)	Career Services
Temasek Polytechnic (TP)	Career Services Centre
Institute of Technical Education (ITE)	Career Service Centre

Did you know?

INSEAD's Global Talent Competitiveness Index 2018⁷ ranked Singapore as the top country within the Asia-Pacific region in attracting, developing, and retaining talent. This is a ranking Singapore has held for five consecutive years!

To recruit experienced professionals, companies can advertise on local job portals, participate at career fairs, and/or engage executive search firms. The Singapore Government launched [MyCareersFuture.sg](https://mycareersfuture.sg), a self-help platform that facilitates online job matching between local job seekers and employers in 2014. By April 2018, the platform had more than 300,000 jobseekers and about 30,000 employers registered. Likewise, the [Employment & Employability Institute \(E2I\)](https://www.e2i.com.sg/) offers companies a repository of talent for their recruitment needs.

Hiring global talent in Singapore

Aside from growing a quality workforce sustainably, Singapore is a regional and global hub for attracting and retaining the world's best talent.

If your company is engaging foreigners to work in Singapore, do ensure they hold a valid work pass. Some relevant work passes available are:

1. PROFESSIONALS

- **Employment Pass (EP)**
For foreign professionals, managers and executives. Candidates need to earn at least S\$3,600 a month and have acceptable qualifications.
- **EntrePass**
For eligible foreign entrepreneurs wanting to start and operate a new business in Singapore.
- **Personalised Employment Pass (PEP)**
For high-earning existing EP holders or overseas foreign professionals. Current EP holders need to earn at least S\$12,000 a month, and foreign professionals at least S\$18,000 a month, to be eligible. The PEP offers greater job flexibility over other work passes, as PEP holders can take on jobs in any sector and stay in Singapore for a continuous period of up to six months without a job to search for new employment.

2. SKILLED AND SEMI-SKILLED WORKERS

- **S Pass**
For mid-level skilled staff. Candidates need to earn at least S\$2,200 a month and meet the stipulated assessment criteria.
- **Work Permit**
Different work permits for: foreign workers, foreign domestic workers, confinement nannies and performing artistes.

For more detailed information on the [various work passes](#) available, visit the Ministry of Manpower's (MOM) website. You may also use MOM's [Employment Pass/S Pass Self-Assessment Tool \(SAT\)](#) to check the EP or S Pass eligibility of your candidate before you apply.

⁷ Lanvin, B. & Evans, P. (Eds.). (2017, December 1). 2018 Global Talent Competitiveness Index. Retrieved from www.insead.edu/sites/default/files/assets/dept/globalindices/docs/GTCI-2018-report.pdf

More About The Government Agencies Involved

Ministry of Manpower (MOM)

The Ministry of Manpower (MOM) is a ministry of the Government of Singapore. Its mission is to develop a productive workforce and progressive workplaces, for Singaporeans to have better jobs and a secure retirement.

Website: <https://www.mom.gov.sg/>

EDB's Network Of Partners

Incorporation and Corporate Secretarial Services

These companies offer services that include **employment pass registration and payroll services**:

[HAWKSFORD SINGAPORE](#)

[IN.CORP GLOBAL](#)

[TMF GROUP](#)

[SLEEK](#)

[VISTRA](#)

Recruitment and Executive Search

These companies offer services that include **recruitment consulting and executive search and selection**:

[ADECCO GROUP](#)

[HRNETGROUP](#)

[SALT](#)

[MORGAN MCKINLEY](#)

Did you know?

According to the World Economic Forum 2017-2018 Global Competitiveness Report, Singapore is:

- First in Asia for protection of intellectual property rights
- First globally for having the most efficient legal framework for settling disputes
- Second globally for the strength of its institutions, measured through property rights, strength of investor protection and efficiency of government spending

Legal, financial and tax advisory services

It is easy to manage every aspect of your business in Singapore. You can count on a wide array of firms offering legal, financial, and tax advisory services to support your operations here. Your business interests will be well-supported and guarded by Singapore.

Legal services

You may require legal services to protect your business, whether it be through a patent application to safeguard your innovative solutions or a non-disclosure agreement for confidentiality.

To address demand for legal services, there are more than 900 law practices in Singapore, covering a range of practice areas including corporate and commercial law, and intellectual property law. The Legal Services Regulatory Authority (LSRA) offers an [integrated search function](#) listing all lawyers, individuals and law practice entities registered with the LSRA and/or the Supreme Court of Singapore.

Financial services

As a new business, you will need a range of financial services. Singapore, a reputable financial and regional trading centre in the Asia Pacific, is home to more than 600 financial institutions that can address all your financial needs. Visit the [MAS website](#) for more information on the finance landscape here.

Most businesses start with opening a corporate bank account. In Singapore, you will be spoilt for choice: established local banks operate alongside international brand names. Different banks offer their own unique set of advantages. For instance, some banks offer a full suite of digital services, while others boast an extensive network of branches throughout Asia, or the option to open a multi-currency account. To choose the right bank for you, refer to MAS' [financial institutions directory](#) for a list of local and international banks operating in Singapore.

As different banks require different documents to open a corporate bank account, verify the documents needed either through their websites, or with a bank representative.

Some documents typically requested include:

Original identification documents of all signatories	For Singapore residents, this could be an identity card. For foreigners, a passport and proof of residence suffice. It is important that all signatories to the account are present when opening the account.
Company's certificate of incorporation	This is a legal document related to the formation of a company. In Singapore, this is generated electronically by ACRA and emailed to the officers of the company.
Company's accounts and services resolution	This is a resolution by the board of directors approving the opening of a corporate bank account and specifying the signatories to the account. In practice, companies can draft their own resolution or use the pre-approved form provided by the bank.
Company's memorandum and articles of association (M&AA)	This sets out the company's structure and aims, and are the fundamental conditions upon which the company is incorporated. ACRA offers a sample M&AA for reference.

Tax advisory services

Businesses in Singapore are required to pay a corporate income tax, fixed at a competitive rate of 17 per cent. The same rate applies equally to tax resident and non-tax resident companies, and both Singapore-incorporated subsidiaries as well as branches of foreign companies. There are also various tax relief schemes that companies may enjoy.

For example, all companies can enjoy partial tax exemption on normal chargeable income of up to S\$300,000. For qualifying newly-incorporated companies, for each of its first three consecutive years of assessment, it can enjoy full tax exemption on the first S\$100,000 of chargeable income and 50 per cent exemption on the next S\$200,000 of chargeable income. Companies could also benefit from corporate income tax rebates. For more information on the latest [corporate tax rates, corporate income tax rebates and tax exemption schemes](#), visit the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS) website.

One thing to note: companies with a taxable turnover of more than S\$1 million must register for Goods and Services Tax (GST). Its customers will have to pay this broad-based consumption tax of seven per cent that is levied on nearly all goods and services in Singapore. You may visit IRAS's page on [registering for GST](#) for more information, and use their [GST Registration Calculator](#) for assistance in monitoring a company's GST registration liability.

A tax advisory firm can help you navigate Singapore's corporate tax framework.

More About The Government Agencies Involved

Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS)

The Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS) is a statutory board under the Ministry of Finance (MOF) and is the main tax administrator to the Government of Singapore.

Website: <https://www.iras.gov.sg/>

EDB's Network Of Partners

Accounting, Audit and Tax Advisory Services

These companies offer services that include **audit and assurance, accounting, compliance, mergers and acquisitions, restructuring and insolvency, risk and tax advisory**:

[MAZARS LLP](#)

[NEXIA TS](#)

[PRICEWATERHOUSE COOPERS](#)

[RSM](#)

Corporate and Business Banking

These companies offer services that include **account services, cash management, mergers and acquisitions, treasury services and trade and loans services**:

[DBS BANK LTD \(DBS\)](#)

[OVERSEA-CHINESE BANKING CORPORATION \(OCBC\)](#)

[SUMITOMO MITSUI BANKING CORPORATION \(SMBC\)](#)

[UNITED OVERSEAS BANK, FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENTS ADVISORY \(UOB FDI ADVISORY\)](#)

Space and utilities

Whether you are looking to set up a corporate office, research and development (R&D) centre, or a manufacturing plant, choices abound in Singapore's diverse business environment.

Commercial properties

Most companies locate their corporate functions in Singapore's central business district (CBD), in the vicinity immediately south of the Singapore River. The city's core financial and commercial hub, which includes the Downtown Core, Marina South, and Raffles Place, is a panoply of skyscrapers where some of the most prestigious companies have their offices. Besides the abundance of public transportation options concentrated there, the CBD is only a 20-minute drive from Singapore's Changi Airport.

Outside of the CBD, companies can explore business parks. These are more affordable alternatives where companies can be co-located with other industry stakeholders. For example, Changi Business Park, comprising a mix of high technology business, data and software enterprises, and R&D divisions, is home to companies such as IBM, Honeywell, Xilinx, Huawei, Ericsson, and Tata Consultancy Services. The burgeoning co-working space scene is also an option to consider if you are just starting out and require less space. You can use online property portals, engage firms specialising in office and space solutions services, or seek the help of a property agent to find office space that meets your needs.

While commercial properties can be purchased or rented from the private sector, vacant state properties not earmarked for immediate development may also be rented. The rental of these properties is managed by the Singapore Land Authority (SLA) and its agents. For more information on the available properties and the procedures for rental, refer to the [SLA website](#). If you intend to develop your own commercial or office building, you can bid for state land released through the [Government Land Sales \(GLS\) programme](#) announced every six months.

Research and development

If you plan to open an R&D centre here, being in one of our specialised hubs allows you to harness synergies from a close-knit, sector-specific ecosystem.

The S\$570 million Biopolis is one such hub, bringing together laboratories of world-renowned research institutions and multinational companies such as Procter & Gamble, GlaxoSmithKline, Merck, Chugai, and Takeda. Here, an international community of scientists from both the public and private sectors work side-by-side, an arrangement which has been a boon for biomedical industry players seeking collaboration.

CleanTech Park, Singapore's first eco-business park, is another example. The 50-hectare park, located adjacent to Nanyang Technological University, allows businesses to develop and testbed novel technologies such as driverless vehicles for early adoption.

Did you know?

NEWater, Singapore's brand of high-grade, ultra-clean reclaimed water produced using advanced membrane technologies, is ideal for industrial use.

NEWater has passed more than 150,000 scientific tests and meets the World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines for drinking water.

Manufacturing

If you intend to open a manufacturing plant, you should consider areas zoned for industrial use. To identify the right zone for your specific activities, refer to the [Master Plan](#) to view the allowable land use for developments in Singapore. The Master Plan is a statutory land use plan that guides Singapore's development over the next 10 to 15 years.

Jurong Island, one of the world's leading chemical manufacturing sites, is zoned for industrial use. Opened in 2000, the 32 square kilometres of land now hosts over 100 global petroleum, petrochemical and specialty chemical companies such as Sumitomo Chemicals, Dupont, and Mitsui Chemicals. This off-shore man-made island boasts state-of-the-art integrated infrastructure including service corridors, warehousing, and logistics solutions, and also provides third-party utilities for businesses to share.

Beyond zones, manufacturing companies can rent or lease industrial properties held by the government through JTC Corporation (JTC), subject to certain criteria being met. For more information, refer to JTC's website for [available properties](#) and their [allocation criteria](#). Companies may also bid for industrial land released through the [Industrial Government Land Sales \(IGLS\) programme](#). JTC, as a land sales agent for the government, regularly releases industrial land for development via public tenders.

In setting up your manufacturing plant here, you should also consider how your operations may affect the environment. Singapore's National Environmental Agency (NEA) regulates air, water and noise pollution, chemical safety, radiation protection as well as waste collection and disposal. NEA's [website](#) offers various environmental requirements (guidelines, codes of practice, legislations, etc.) that companies are expected to adhere to.

Did you know?

Singapore's electricity grid has an average interruption time of less than one minute per customer a year and is more reliable than Tokyo (four minutes), New York (20.53 minutes), Hong Kong (23.40 minutes), and London (33.60 minutes).

Water, electricity and gas

The Public Utilities Board (PUB) manages Singapore's water supply network. PUB's [handbook](#) outlines key procedures for the [application of water supply](#). More information on [procedures for the design and installation of water service installations within a customer's premises](#) can also be found on PUB's website.

Electricity can be purchased from retailers or from the wholesale electricity market if you are a contestable consumer. Most commercial and industrial users fall into this category. To be a contestable consumer, you need to either:

- Have an average monthly electricity consumption of at least 2,000 kWh; or
- Take high tension supplies (6.6kV and above)

If you are not a contestable consumer, you may buy electricity from [SP Group](#) at the regulated tariff. You may find more information about [Singapore's electricity market](#) on the Energy Market Authority (EMA) website.

The gas system in Singapore consists of two separate gas pipeline networks: the town gas pipeline network and the natural gas pipeline network. Town gas, used mainly for cooking and water heating by domestic and commercial customers, is manufactured by [City Gas Pte Ltd](#). Natural gas, from which about 95 per cent of Singapore's electricity is generated, is imported into Singapore from Malaysia and Indonesia via four offshore pipelines, as well as through the Singapore LNG Corporation Pte Ltd's import terminal. You can obtain natural gas by contacting a gas importer. Please refer to [EMA's website](#) for a list of licensed natural gas importers.

More About The Government Agencies Involved

Energy Market Authority (EMA)

The Energy Market Authority (EMA) is a statutory board under the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) responsible for ensuring a reliable and secure energy supply, promoting effective competition in the energy market and developing a dynamic energy sector in Singapore.

Website: <https://www.ema.gov.sg/>

JTC Corporation (JTC)

JTC Corporation is a statutory board under the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) that spearheads the planning and development of industrial infrastructure to support and catalyse the growth of industries and enterprises in Singapore. JTC oversees the development of over 8,000 hectares of industrial land and 6 million square metres of ready-built facilities.

Website: <https://www.jtc.gov.sg/>

The National Environment Agency (NEA)

The National Environment Agency (NEA) is a statutory board under the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources (MEWR) responsible for keeping Singapore clean and green. It implements a range of environment-related programmes and initiatives through partnerships with both the public and private sector.

Website: <https://www.nea.gov.sg/>

Public Utilities Board (PUB)

The Public Utilities Board (PUB) is a statutory board under the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources (MEWR). It is the national water agency that manages Singapore's water supply, water catchment and used water in an integrated way. PUB has ensured a diversified and sustainable supply of water for Singapore with the Four National Taps (local catchment water, imported water, NEWater, desalinated water).

Website: <https://www.pub.gov.sg/>

Singapore Land Authority (SLA)

The Singapore Land Authority (SLA) is a statutory board under the Ministry of Law that oversees the optimisation of land resources for the economic and social development of Singapore.

Website: <https://www1.sla.gov.sg/>

Urban Redevelopment Authority of Singapore (URA)

The Urban Redevelopment Authority of Singapore (URA) is a statutory board under the Ministry of National Development, and is Singapore's land use planning and conservation agency. URA strives to create an endearing home and a vibrant and sustainable city through long-term planning and innovation, in partnership with the community. As the main government land sales agent, URA manages the sale and development of State land to support planning, economic and social objectives. In shaping a distinctive city, URA also promotes architecture and urban design excellence.

Website: <https://www.ura.gov.sg/>

EDB's Network Of Partners

Connections for Startups

These companies offer services that include **support for business set-up**, **support for co-working spaces** and the **provision of networks and contacts**:

[JUSTCO](#)

[FOUND8](#)

[PWC VENTURES](#)

[GOLDEN EQUATOR GROUP](#)

[WEWORK SINGAPORE](#)

Office Space Solutions

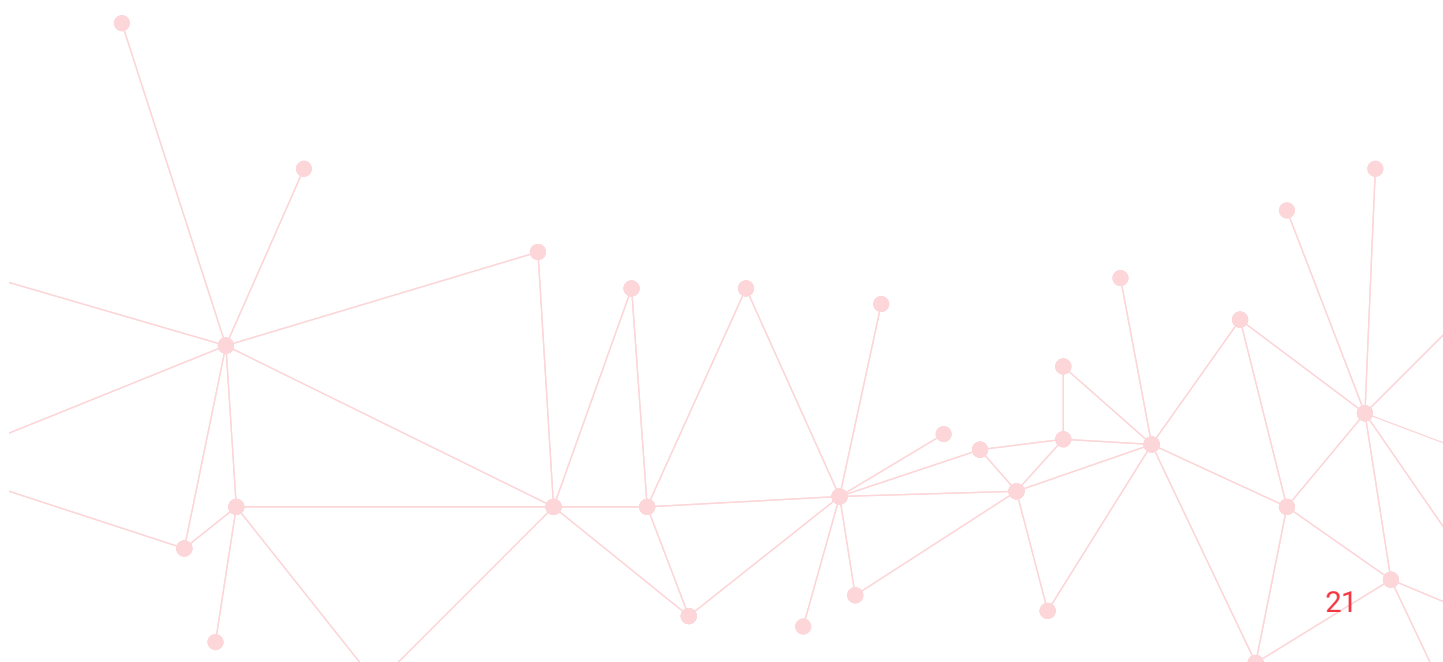
These companies offer services that include **commercial leases**, **industrial leases** and **market research**:

[ASCENDAS-SINGBRIDGE](#)

[COLLIERS INTERNATIONAL \(SINGAPORE\)](#)

[CORPORATE LOCATIONS](#)

[EDMUND TIE & CO](#)



Conclusion

We hope you have found our guide useful.

Through EDB's role in facilitating local and regional economic development, we have built up a wealth of business insights and a comprehensive network of contacts that new companies setting up in Singapore can leverage.

You can sign up [here](#) to read our carefully curated selection of trends and insights about the Asian business landscape.

You can also explore a full glossary of our partners and the corresponding range of services they offer in the next section.

Setting up a business here is just the beginning of a journey.

Embark on an adventure to discover all that Singapore and Asia have to offer!

Glossary: Our network of partners

New businesses looking to set up in Singapore may connect with EDB's curated network of partners through our online service, the Connections Concierge.

To get in touch with partners through the Connections Concierge, you may submit an enquiry [here](#).

Accounting, Audit and Tax Advisory Services

Services include:

1. Audit & Assurance
2. Accounting
3. Compliance
4. Mergers & Acquisitions
5. Restructuring & Insolvency
6. Risk
7. Tax

MAZARS LLP

NEXIA TS

PRICEWATERHOUSE COOPERS

RSM

Corporate and Business Banking

Services include:

1. Account Services
2. Cash Management
3. Mergers & Acquisitions
4. Treasury Services
5. Trade and Loans Services.

DBS BANK LTD (DBS)

OVERSEA-CHINESE BANKING CORPORATION (OCBC)

SUMITOMO MITSUI BANKING CORPORATION (SMBC)

UNITED OVERSEAS BANK, FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENTS ADVISORY (UOB FDI ADVISORY)

Incorporation and Corporate Secretarial Services

Services include:

1. Business Registration
2. Employment Pass Registration
3. Payroll Services.

HAWKSFORD SINGAPORE

IN.CORP GLOBAL

TMF GROUP

SLEEK

VISTRA

Office Space Solutions

Services include:

1. Commercial Leases
2. Industrial Leases
3. Market Research

ASCENDAS-SINGBRIDGE

COLLIERS INTERNATIONAL (SINGAPORE)

CORPORATE LOCATIONS

EDMUND TIE & CO

Recruitment and Executive Search

Services include:

1. Recruitment Consultancy
2. Executive Search & Selection

ADECCO GROUP

HRNETGROUP

SALT

MORGAN MCKINLEY



Connections for Startups

Services include:

1. Support for Business Set-up
2. Support for Co-working Spaces
3. Provision of Networks & Contacts.

JUSTCO

FOUND8

PWC VENTURES

GOLDEN EQUATOR GROUP

WEWORK SINGAPORE

KAISHI PARTNERS

Legal Services

Services include:

1. Mergers & Acquisitions
2. Capital Markets
3. Restructuring & Insolvency
4. Arbitration
5. Employment & Compensation
6. Intellectual Property
7. Private Client & Wealth Management.

BAKER MCKENZIE WONG & LEOW

DENTONS RODYK & DAVIDSON

DUANE MORRIS & SELVAM

RAJAH & TANN ASIA

Acknowledgements

We would also like to thank the following agencies for their valuable inputs to this guide book:

- Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA)
- Energy Market Authority (EMA)
- Enterprise Singapore (ESG)
- Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS)
- JTC Corporation (JTC)
- Legal Services Regulatory Authority (LSRA)
- Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS)
- Ministry of Law (MinLaw)
- Ministry of Manpower (MOM)
- National Environment Agency (NEA)
- Public Utilities Board (PUB)
- Singapore Land Authority (SLA)
- Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA)



CONTACT US

Singapore Economic Development Board

250 North Bridge Road
#28-00 Raffles City Tower
Singapore 179101

You may submit questions or comments via client_services@edb.gov.sg, or sign up [here](#) to receive the latest updates on the Asian business landscape.

