

SIN China enables UK innovators to access Shanghai government datasets and funding



SIN China worked with the Shanghai local government over two years to enable UK companies to participate in the Shanghai Open Data Apps (SODA) Contest, a flagship annual open data innovation challenge, leading to access to funding and datasets for UK companies. Access to local government data is beneficial

because it enables UK companies to explore localisation of data-driven products and services for Chinese cities.

In 2015 the Chinese government published a strategy and timeline for opening up government data to support better digital products and services.

SIN China identified this as an opportunity for UK companies and experts, and funded a UK-China Open Data project to share UK experience in open government data, tackle the technical challenges Chinese government was facing and build relationships with both central government and local government. UK experts from the Open Data Institute helped the Shanghai Government to tackle the challenges and successfully open up its 10 transport-related datasets, ensuring that the data was accessible for SODA. SIN and DIT worked together with SODA team to provide English translations of the competition resources, to ensure UK companies could also access and use the data.

As a result of SIN's work, local government data was made available to competition participants, and UK companies were able to access the competition, leading to prize money and further investment. A UK data solutions company won the second prize and received £70,000 grant funding in the 2016 competition.

SODA continues to open up more government datasets and welcomes UK start-ups to participate. SODA offers to help SMEs and university teams who win the prize to find local business partners and investors, presenting an opportunity for innovative UK start-ups looking to enter the Chinese market.

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