

Research on the Effect and Optimization Measures of Tax Preference on High-tech Enterprises

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Abstract: Strengthen the dominant position of scientific and technological innovation of enterprises, give play to the leading and supporting role of key scientific and technological enterprises, create a good environment conducive to the growth of small and medium-sized scientific and technological enterprises, and promote the deep integration of capital chain and talent chain in innovation chain industrial chain. High-tech enterprises are the main force of high-quality development. China has issued a series of preferential tax policies to support and encourage high-quality development of high-tech enterprises. However, there are still some areas that need to be improved and optimized in the formulation, implementation and practical application of tax-related policies in China. This paper mainly analyzes the existing problems from three dimensions: corporate income tax, personal income tax and value-added tax, and puts forward some suggestions and opinions, with a view to realizing more scientific and rational tax preferential policies for high-tech enterprises.

Keywords: High-tech industry; Tax preference; Problems; Measure

1. Research background of preferential tax policies for high-tech enterprises

With the transformation of China's economic growth mode, the quantity and quality of high-tech enterprises in China have been steadily improved, but there are practical problems such as unbalanced industry distribution in high-tech enterprises. According to relevant official statistics, nearly half of the enterprises are located in the fields of electronic information, advanced manufacturing and automation, and some high-tech enterprises have some problems such as small scale, low efficiency, low popularity, heavy burden on enterprises, weak ability to resist risks and insufficient innovation ability, especially facing the downward pressure of the economy, some high-tech enterprises have difficulties in development and are struggling. To this end, the state has issued a series of relief policies, such as preferential tax policies for high-tech enterprises to support and encourage high-quality development of high-tech enterprises. China put forward: "Create a good environment conducive to the growth of small and medium-sized scientific and technological enterprises, and promote the deep integration of innovation chain's industrial chain capital chain talent chain." Tax preference is an important measure to promote the development of high-tech enterprises. The tax policy specifically includes two-year exemption and eight-year reduction of corporate income tax for newly recognized productive high-tech enterprises, and two-year reduction of corporate income tax for existing high-tech enterprises in addition to the original "two exemptions and six reductions". These tax policies have played a great role in helping high-tech enterprises develop healthily, and the effect is very obvious^[1].

2. Current preferential policies and existing problems of tax incentives for high-tech enterprises

2.1 Current tax preferential policies for high-tech enterprises

2.1.1 Preferential tax policies for enterprise income tax

There are many forms of preferential policies for high-tech enterprise income tax in China, the main forms are enterprise income tax rate, R&D expenses plus deduction and accelerated depreciation of fixed assets. In terms of enterprise income tax rate, Article 28 of the Enterprise Income Tax Law stipulates that the state needs to give priority to supporting high-tech enterprises and levy enterprise income tax at a reduced rate of 15%. It is 10 percentage points lower than the tax rate of 25% of ordinary enterprises. The implementation scope of the 15% tax rate has been abolished, and the original policy was limited to

high-tech enterprises in national high-tech development zones. The new law has expanded this preferential policy to the whole country.

In the aspect of enterprise R&D expenses plus deduction, it is a preferential tax policy to promote enterprises to increase R&D investment, improve their independent innovation ability and accelerate industrial restructuring. If it is a general enterprise, from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2023, if the research and development expenses of the enterprise have not formed intangible assets and are included in the current profits and losses, it will be deducted according to 75% of the actual amount on the basis of actual deduction according to regulations; Where intangible assets are formed, they shall be amortized according to 175% of the intangible assets. If it is a manufacturing and technology-based small and medium-sized enterprise, if the intangible assets are not included in the current profits and losses, it will be deducted before tax according to 100% of the actual amount; Where intangible assets are formed, 200% of the intangible assets shall be amortized before tax^[2].

In terms of accelerated depreciation of fixed assets, if the unit value of new equipment and appliances purchased by high-tech enterprises during the period from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2023 does not exceed 5 million yuan, it is allowed to be included in the current cost at one time, and depreciation is no longer calculated by year. High-tech enterprises that meet the requirements of the tax law choose the preferential policy of accelerated depreciation and enjoy the pre-tax deduction policy of R&D expenses.

2.1.2 Preferential tax policies for individual income tax

The preferential policies of high-tech enterprises in personal income tax mainly reflect two aspects.

First, when transferring share capital to individuals, you can choose to pay taxes within 5 years. If small and medium-sized high-tech enterprises use the enterprise's provident fund and enterprise profits to transfer their share capital to individual shareholders, it is difficult for individual shareholders to pay them all at once because of the large amount, so there is a five-year buffer period to help individual shareholders relieve their pressure. When shareholders increase their shares, they need to pay personal income tax at the rate of 20%. After filing with the tax authorities, it can be paid within 5 years.

Second, the equity reward for technical personnel of high-tech enterprises can be paid in installments. Scientific research institutions, colleges and universities transform their scientific and technological achievements and high-tech enterprises give individuals equity rewards, allowing individuals to postpone paying personal income tax until they get dividends or transfer their equity. After the relevant information is submitted to the tax authorities, it can be paid on average within 5 years^[3].

2.1.3 Preferential policies for value-added tax

This paper analyzes the preferential policies of value-added tax in the preferential tax policies of high-tech enterprises, taking the analysis of enterprises that independently develop animation products and software products as examples.

For animation products enterprises, from May 1, 2018 to December 31, 2023, the animation software independently produced and developed by the animation enterprises will be sold, and the VAT will be levied at the rate of 13%, and the part whose actual VAT tax burden exceeds 3% will be refunded immediately. The export of animation software is exempt from VAT.

For enterprises that produce software products, if they sell their own software products or sell them after localization (redesign, conversion, improvement, etc.), they will be subject to VAT at the rate of 13%, and the part whose actual VAT tax burden exceeds 3% will be refunded immediately.

2.2 Problems in preferential tax policies for high-tech enterprises

At present, although China has issued a large number of preferential policies to support the development of high-tech enterprises, with outstanding achievements and obvious effects, there are still some problems, which are summarized as follows:

2.2.1 Insufficient support

As we all know, science and technology is an important internal driving force to promote development. Therefore, the state has continuously introduced various support policies to encourage enterprises in new-generation information technology, new materials, high-end equipment manufacturing industries and other high-tech fields to innovate and research, give generous benefits to the recognized "national high-tech enterprises", and give financial assistance to outstanding innovative research and development

achievements according to the actual expenditure in research and development. However, the preferential treatment for high-tech enterprises can be further increased. If the tax preference is short, take the preferential policy of deducting equipment and appliances purchased by high-tech enterprises as an example. According to the provisions of Caishui [2022] No.28, the newly purchased equipment and appliances of high-tech enterprises during the period from October 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 are allowed to be deducted in full in the current year when calculating the taxable income, and 100% additional deduction is allowed before tax. This policy can be applied to all enterprises with high-tech enterprise qualification in the fourth quarter of 2022. If an enterprise is qualified as a high-tech enterprise in August, it cannot enjoy this preferential policy. In addition, if a qualified enterprise blindly purchases equipment in the last two months of 2022, it will undoubtedly increase the short-term behavior of the enterprise, regardless of the real needs of the enterprise in order to enjoy the preferential policies.

2.2.2 Policy decentralization

As the international situation is complicated and changeable, and the national macro-policy is updated and iterated, the tax preferential policies also need to keep pace with the times and release the latest preferential policies according to the national macro-control. The preferential tax policies for high-tech enterprises are distributed in the documents of the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Science and Technology and other state organs. Enterprises need to carefully consider each document and pay attention to the policies issued daily, which undoubtedly increases the workload of high-tech enterprises.

It is the common responsibility of all enterprises to learn new policies every day, and it is also a necessary choice related to their own interests, but it is difficult to grasp the information suitable for their own development in real time. Because high-tech enterprises need to control costs, and the workload of each department is huge, there will be problems in the timely updating of policies. Once the information is backward, the development of enterprises will also lag behind. Therefore, preferential policies are delivered to all enterprises timely, fully and accurately, which plays an extremely important role in the development of high-tech enterprises.

2.2.3 Enterprise's understanding of policies is not in place

Preferential tax policies are generally issued by the Ministry of Finance, the State Administration of Taxation and the Ministry of Science and Technology. Macro policies are applicable to all parts of the country, but it is difficult for some enterprises to interpret and apply the policies. High-tech enterprises are mostly small and medium-sized enterprises, and there is no professional department to interpret the policies issued by the state in detail. Only functional departments can interpret them according to their own experience, which is easy to lead to over-understanding, insufficient understanding, partial understanding and even misunderstanding. Inadequate policy interpretation has affected the specific application and self-development of enterprises. If enterprises blindly interpret policies and apply them to various businesses according to their own understanding, it will lead to a series of irreparable consequences. In order to enjoy the benefits and benefits brought by preferential policies, some enterprises even apply the policies to themselves stiffly and take advantage of opportunities.

3. Measures to improve the preferential tax policies for high-tech enterprises

3.1 Increase policy and financial support

3.1.1 Extension of preferential treatment

Time limit can further widen the interval of preferential time. Too harsh time limit is not conducive to high-tech enterprises to show their talents and exert their fists. Relaxing time can enable enterprises to make full enterprise planning and strategic layout, and at the same time avoid short-term behavior and establish a good image of enterprises^[4].

3.1.2 Support and encourage enterprises to increase investment in R&D

Encourage high-tech enterprises to further increase investment in research and development, and the deduction standard of R&D expenses can be further improved. Technology is of great significance to promoting the high-quality economic development of China and enhancing the comprehensive strength of China. At present, the international science and technology game is becoming increasingly fierce, and the world's major innovative countries have accelerated the layout of cutting-edge science and technology and seized the commanding heights of science and technology competition. Therefore, R&D has become the primary goal of high-tech enterprises, and only when R&D is done well can high-tech enterprises

develop in the long run.

3.1.3 Further improve the financial market

To launch related financial products for high-tech enterprises, capital is the blood of enterprises, and financing has become an important way for the healthy growth of high-tech enterprises. It is necessary to encourage the establishment of credit guarantee institutions specifically for the development of high-tech industries. It is easier for high-tech enterprises to raise funds, and they will be more confident and motivated to devote themselves to enterprise construction and scientific research and development. If the country wants to win the tough battle of technology, it needs the support of high-tech enterprises, solves the problem of high-tech enterprises "sticking their necks" and strategically deploys a number of technology research and development projects, so as to firmly grasp scientific and technological innovation in our own hands^[5].

3.2 Improve policy pertinence

3.2.1 For enterprises and tax types

Taxes are divided into 18 types, such as value-added tax, consumption tax and vehicle purchase tax, and each type of tax has its own unique preferential tax policies. For high-tech enterprises, not all preferential policies can be applied. Therefore, according to their own operating conditions, development strategies and enterprise types, we should filter out policies with low correlation and dig out preferential policies closely related to their core interests.

The government should take the initiative, be the "shop assistant" of a good enterprise, update and release the latest preferential policies in time, transmit the preferential policies to relevant enterprises in time, and clearly identify the policies that are no longer applicable. Finally, the policies that are still applicable today are summarized and classified according to the types of enterprises and taxes, so as to accurately implement policies and enhance the timeliness, pertinence and effectiveness of policy implementation.

3.2.2 For geographical distribution

Through the analysis of regional heterogeneity literature, it is found that the number and scale of high-tech enterprises in the eastern and southern coastal areas of China are larger than those in the western region, and preferential policies have stronger incentives for enterprises in coastal areas to innovate. Therefore, the tax policy should fully consider the regional differences among the eastern, central and western parts of China, and can adjust measures to local conditions for different economic conditions and strategic layout, and introduce preferential policies conducive to local development. For example, Hainan Province has established an "elite echelon" of high-tech enterprises. In 2021, Hainan issued the Implementation Plan of "Elite Action" for High-tech Enterprises in Hainan Province, proposing to select and cultivate a number of benchmark enterprises at different levels in terms of innovation ability, R&D level and development status, implement high-level "elite action" around key areas of high-tech industries such as three strategic emerging industries and three future industries, basically establish a training support system, and attract high-level retired talents to serve in Hainan. The western region can learn from Hainan's "elite action" and take targeted measures to attract innovative talents and promote the development of high-tech enterprises in light of the actual situation in the region. Therefore, differentiated measures can promote the coordinated development of various regions^[6].

3.3 Improve policy sensitivity

High-tech enterprises must attach importance to talent reserve, introduce and cultivate professional tax planning talents, and achieve a two-pronged approach, introducing and training simultaneously, and filling the shortcomings of talents.

3.3.1 Introduction of talents

Talent entry threshold needs to be strictly controlled, the selection of excellent tax planning staff, which not only requires employees to master the basic tax knowledge, but also be able to correctly understand the country's latest preferential policies, and a certain degree of understanding of the law and so on.

3.3.2 Cultivate talents

Talent training is a part of the enterprise that cannot be ignored. In tax planning, tax planners need to

master the various provisions of tax incentives, such as enterprise income tax technology transfer income exemption policy, employee education expenses deduction standards, special deductions, etc. [7].

Nowadays, the state has increased its support for high-tech enterprises. Therefore, financial personnel should cooperate with tax planners to screen out preferential policies that are in line with their own enterprises and reduce tax risks. The promulgation of the new policy will lead to the obsolescence of the old policy. How to make full use of the new policy requires the cooperation and discussion of professionals from all departments [8].

4. Conclusion

To sum up, the development of high-tech enterprises has become an important part of the country's economic development and an important force for the country to drive innovation and promote high-quality economic development. The state needs to increase its assistance to high-tech enterprises, especially small and medium-sized high-tech enterprises, and do subtraction for enterprises to help them tide over the difficulties. At the same time, high-tech enterprises should also increase their overall planning ability and make full use of preferential policies according to their own development needs. Only by strengthening cooperation between the government and enterprises can they achieve "win-win" [9].

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