

WAIVERS FROM STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH THE HONG KONG LISTING RULES

In preparation of the [REDACTED], the Company has sought the following waivers from strict compliance with the relevant provisions of the Hong Kong Listing Rules.

WAIVER IN RESPECT OF MANAGEMENT PRESENCE IN HONG KONG

Rules 8.12 and 19A.15 of the Hong Kong Listing Rules provide that a new applicant for listing on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange must have a sufficient management presence in Hong Kong and, under normal circumstances, at least two of the new applicant’s executive directors must be ordinarily resident in Hong Kong. Rule 19A.15 of the Hong Kong Listing Rules further provides that the requirement in Rule 8.12 of the Hong Kong Listing Rules may be waived by having regard to, among other considerations, the Company’s arrangements for maintaining regular communication with the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

The Company’s headquarters are based, and most of the business operations of the Group, are managed and conducted in the PRC. The executive Directors ordinarily reside in the PRC, as the Board believes it would be more effective and efficient for the executive Directors to be based in a location where the Group’s substantial operations are located. As such, the Company does not and, in the foreseeable future, will not be able to comply with the requirements of Rules 8.12 and 19A.15 of the Hong Kong Listing Rules for sufficient management presence in Hong Kong.

Accordingly, pursuant to Rule 19A.15 of the Hong Kong Listing Rules, the Company has applied to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange for, and the Hong Kong Stock Exchange [has granted], a waiver from strict compliance with the requirements under Rules 8.12 and 19A.15 of the Hong Kong Listing Rules, provided that the Company implements the following arrangements:

- (i) the Company has appointed Mr. Zhang Yuhui and Mr. Chen Yi (“**Mr. Chen**”) as the authorized representatives of the Company (the “**Authorized Representatives**”) for the purpose of Rule 3.05 of the Hong Kong Listing Rules. The Authorized Representatives will serve as the Company’s principal channel of communication with the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. They can be readily contactable by phone and email to deal promptly with enquiries from the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and will also be available to meet with the Hong Kong Stock Exchange to discuss any matters on short notice. The contact details of the Authorized Representatives have been provided to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange;
- (ii) all the Directors who are not ordinarily resident in Hong Kong possess or can apply for valid travel documents to visit Hong Kong and can meet with the Hong Kong Stock Exchange within a reasonable period. In addition, each Director has provided his/her contact details, including office phone numbers, mobile phone numbers and email addresses (if any), to the Authorized Representatives and to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, so that each of the Authorized Representatives and the Hong Kong Stock Exchange would be able to contact all the Directors (including the independent non-executive Directors) promptly at all times if and when the Hong Kong Stock Exchange wishes to contact the Directors;
- (iii) the Company has appointed Somerley Capital Limited as its Compliance Advisor for the period commencing on the [REDACTED] and ending on the date on which the Company complies with Rule 13.46 of the Hong Kong Listing Rules in respect of the Company’s financial results for the first full financial year commencing after the [REDACTED], or until the agreement is terminated, whichever is earlier. The Compliance Advisor will act as the Company’s additional and alternative channel of communication with the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, and its representatives will be readily available to answer enquiries from the Hong Kong Stock Exchange; and

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- (iv) the Company has appointed designated staff members as the responsible communication officers at the Company’s headquarters to oversee regular communication with the Authorized Representatives and the Company’s professional advisors in Hong Kong, including its legal advisors and the Compliance Advisor, keep abreast of any correspondence and/or inquiries from the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and report to the executive Directors, streamlining communication between the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and the Company following the [REDACTED].

WAIVER IN RESPECT OF JOINT COMPANY SECRETARIES

Pursuant to Rules 3.28 and 8.17 of the Hong Kong Listing Rules, the company secretary must be an individual who, by virtue of his or her academic or professional qualifications or relevant experiences, is, in the opinion of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, capable of discharging the functions of the company secretary. Pursuant to Note 1 to Rule 3.28 of the Hong Kong Listing Rules, the Hong Kong Stock Exchange considers the following academic or professional qualifications to be acceptable:

- (i) a member of The Hong Kong Chartered Governance Institute;
- (ii) a solicitor or barrister (as defined in the Legal Practitioners Ordinance); and
- (iii) a certified public accountant (as defined in the Professional Accountants Ordinance).

Pursuant to Note 2 to Rule 3.28 of the Hong Kong Listing Rules, in assessing “relevant experience,” the Hong Kong Stock Exchange will consider the individual’s:

- (i) length of employment with the issuer and other issuers and the roles he played;
- (ii) familiarity with the Hong Kong Listing Rules and other relevant law and regulations including the SFO, Companies Ordinance, Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance, and the Takeovers Code;
- (iii) relevant training taken and/or to be taken in addition to the minimum requirement under Rule 3.29 of the Hong Kong Listing Rules; and
- (iv) professional qualifications in other jurisdictions.

The Company has appointed Mr. Chen as one of the joint company secretaries. Mr. Chen joined the Group in December 2024. He currently also holds the position of a senior vice president, general manager of internal control department and general manager of legal department of the Company. See “Directors and Senior Management” in this Document for further biographical details of Mr. Chen. Although Mr. Chen does not possess the qualifications set out in Rule 3.28 of the Hong Kong Listing Rules, the Company believes that it would be in the best interests of the Company and the corporate governance of the Group to have Mr. Chen as its joint company secretary who is familiar with the Group’s internal operation and management and possesses professional knowledge and experience in handling corporate governance and compliance, legal affairs and public relationship related matters. The Company has also appointed Mr. Chow Tsz Ho (“**Mr. Chow**”) to act as the other joint company secretary to assist Mr. Chen in discharging the duties of a company secretary of the Company. Mr. Chow is an associate member of both The Hong Kong Chartered Governance Institute and The Chartered Governance Institute in the United Kingdom and is therefore qualified under Rule 3.28 of the Hong Kong Listing Rules to act as a joint company secretary of the Company. See “Directors and Senior Management” for further biographical details of Mr. Chow.

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Since Mr. Chen does not possess the formal qualifications required of a company secretary under Rule 3.28 of the Hong Kong Listing Rules, the Company has applied to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange for, and the Stock Exchange [has granted], a waiver from strict compliance with the requirements under Rules 3.28 and 8.17 of the Hong Kong Listing Rules for a period of three years since the [REDACTED] on the following conditions: (i) Mr. Chen must be assisted by Mr. Chow who possesses the qualifications or experience as required under Rule 3.28 of the Hong Kong Listing Rules and is appointed as a joint company secretary throughout the waiver period; and (ii) the waiver can be revoked in the event of a material breach of the Hong Kong Listing Rules by the Company.

In support of the waiver application, the Company has adopted, or will adopt the following arrangements:

- (i) in preparation of the application of the [REDACTED], Mr. Chen has attended training on the respective obligations of the Directors, senior management and the Company under the relevant Hong Kong laws and the Hong Kong Listing Rules organised by the Hong Kong legal advisors to the Company;
- (ii) Mr. Chow will work closely with Mr. Chen to jointly discharge the duties and responsibilities as the joint company secretaries and to assist Mr. Chen in acquiring the relevant experience as required under the Hong Kong Listing Rules for an initial period of three years from the [REDACTED], a period which should be sufficient for Mr. Chen to acquire the relevant experience as required under the Hong Kong Listing Rules;
- (iii) the Company will ensure that Mr. Chen continues to have access to the relevant training and support in relation to the Hong Kong Listing Rules and the duties required for a company secretary of an issuer listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. Furthermore, both Mr. Chen and Mr. Chow will seek advice from the Company’s Hong Kong legal and other professional advisors as and when required. Mr. Chen also undertakes to take no less than 15 hours of relevant professional training in each financial year of the Company; and
- (iv) at the end of the three-year period, the qualifications and experience of Mr. Chen and the need for ongoing assistance of Mr. Chow will be further evaluated by the Company. The Company will then endeavour to demonstrate to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange’s satisfaction that Mr. Chen, having had the benefit of the assistance of Mr. Chow for the immediately preceding three years, has acquired the relevant experience (within the meaning of Note 2 to Rule 3.28 of the Hong Kong Listing Rules) such that a further waiver from Rules 3.28 and 8.17 of the Hong Kong Listing Rules will not be necessary. The Company understands that the Hong Kong Stock Exchange may revoke the waiver with immediate effect if Mr. Chow ceases to provide assistance to Mr. Chen during the three-year period.

Prior to the expiry of the three-year period, the Company will demonstrate to and seek confirmation from the Hong Kong Stock Exchange that Mr. Chen, having had the benefit of the assistance of Mr. Chow for the immediately preceding three years, has acquired the relevant experience within the meaning of Note 2 to Rule 3.28 of the Hong Kong Listing Rules and is capable of discharging the functions of company secretary.

WAIVERS IN RESPECT OF CONTINUING CONNECTED TRANSACTIONS

The Company has entered into certain transactions which would constitute continuing connected transactions under the Hong Kong Listing Rules following completion of the [REDACTED]. The Company has applied to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange for, and the Hong Kong Stock Exchange [has granted], waivers from strict compliance with certain requirements set out in Chapter 14A of the Hong Kong Listing Rules for certain continuing connected transactions. See “Connected Transactions” for further details.