

REGULATORY OVERVIEW

The following is a brief summary of the laws and regulations in the PRC that currently materially affect our Group and our operations. The principal objective of this summary is to provide potential investors with an overview of the key laws and regulations applicable to us. This summary does not purport to be a comprehensive description of all the laws and regulations applicable to the business and operations of our Group and/or which may be important to potential investors. Investors should note that the following summary is based on laws and regulations in force as at the date of this document, which may be subject to change.

This section sets out summaries of certain aspects of PRC laws and regulations, which are relevant to our business operations.

GOVERNMENT POLICIES RELATED TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE INDUSTRY

The rapid growth of China’s AI market is driven by multiple favorable factors, including government policies. On May 8, 2015, the State Council issued the notice on promulgating Made in China 2025 Plan (《中國製造2025》). Made in China 2025 Plan emphasizes on the acceleration of the promotion of integrated development of new generation information technology and manufacturing technology, and regards intelligent manufacturing as the main direction of comprehensive integration of informatization and industrialization. Meanwhile, it is underlined that efforts should be made to develop intelligent equipment and intelligent products, promote intelligent production process, cultivate new production methods, and comprehensively enhance the intelligent level of R&D, production, management and service of enterprises.

On March 21, 2016, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Finance issued the Robot Industry Development Plan 2016-2020 (《機器人產業發展規劃2016-2020》), and called to conduct research on cutting-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence related technology as well as planned to lead China’s robot industry into a higher level, covering more applicable industries in elderly caring, house services, medical rehabilitation, public securities, and so on, based on artificial intelligence technology.

On July 8, 2017, the State Council issued the Development Plan of A New Generation of Artificial Intelligence (《新一代人工智能發展規劃》). The plan pointed out three strategic steps in developing a new generation of artificial intelligence technology, and set goals to have China’s artificial intelligence technology reach leading level in the world and become one of the major artificial intelligence innovation centers in the world.

On November 15, 2017, the Ministry of Science and Technology launched the kick-off meeting on developing a new generation of artificial intelligence technology and important technology projects (新一代人工智能發展規劃暨重大科技項目啟動會). The meeting announced the first batch of four national artificial intelligence innovation platforms: Apollo autonomous driving platform by Baidu, ET by Alibaba Cloud, AI medical imaging platform by Tencent and intelligent speech platform by iFlyTek.

On April 2, 2018, the Ministry of Education issued the Plan for AI Innovation for Higher Educations (《高等學校人工智能創新行動計劃》) and called to build fifty artificial intelligence research centers and co-operation research institutions by 2020.

On November 8, 2018, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology issued the Plan for Key Tasks in a New Generation of AI Innovation (《新一代人工智能產業創新重點任務揭榜工作方案》)

REGULATORY OVERVIEW

and asked to select a batch of innovated companies that own key technologies based on artificial intelligence, and have them collectively focus on enhancing products, platforms, and services with advanced technologies and excellent performance.

On August 1, 2019, the Ministry of Science and Technology issued Guidelines for the Construction of the National New Generation of AI Open Innovation Platform (《國家新一代人工智能開放創新平臺建設工作指引》) and pointed out that “open and sharing” shall be the important philosophy in promoting artificial intelligence innovation and industry development in China, and encouraged to open innovation platforms for companies to do testing, and thus to form standard and modularized models, middleware and applications for providing services to the public in the form of open interfaces, model libraries, algorithm packages, etc.

On January 21, 2020, the Ministry of Education, the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Finance issued the Advice on Promoting Integration of Subjects and Speeding up Cultivating Graduate Students in AI Field (《關於“雙一流”建設高校促進學科融合加快人工智能領域研究生培養的若干意見》) and called to construct a training system that focuses on cultivating “AI+X” inter-disciplinary talents, emphasizing on improving training practices for graduate students in artificial intelligence field, in order to provide adequate talents in countries technology development.

On February 4, 2020, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology issued the Proposal of Fully Applying AI Technologies to Fight COVID-19 (《充分發揮人工智能賦能效應協力抗擊新型冠狀病毒感染的肺炎疫情倡議書》), and asked to fully apply artificial intelligence technologies in pandemic control, medical diagnosis, working, studying, and R&D in vaccines.

LAWS RELATED TO PRODUCT QUALITY

The Product Quality Law of the People’s Republic of China (《中華人民共和國產品質量法》) (the “**Product Quality Law**”), promulgated by the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (the “**SCNPC**”) on February 22, 1993 and last amended on December 29, 2018 is the principal governing law related to the supervision and administration of product quality. According to the Product Quality Law, manufacturers shall be liable for the quality of products produced by them and sellers shall take measures to ensure the quality of the products sold by them. A manufacturer shall be liable to compensate for any physical injuries or damage to property other than the defective product itself resulting from the defects in the product, unless the manufacturer is able to prove that: (1) the product has not been put into circulation; (2) the defects causing injuries or damage did not exist at the time when the product was put into circulation; or (3) the science and technology at the time when the product was put into circulation were at a level incapable of detecting the existence of the defect. A seller shall be liable to compensate for any physical injuries or damage to property of others caused by the defects in the product, if such defects are attributable to the seller. Where a product is defective due to a mistake made by the seller and such defect causes physical injury or damage to the property of others, the seller shall bear liability for compensation. A seller shall pay compensation if he fails to indicate neither the manufacturer nor the supplier of the defective product. A party that is injured or whose property is damaged by the defects in the product may claim for compensation from the manufacturer or the seller.

Pursuant to the Civil Code of the People’s Republic of China (《中華人民共和國民法典》), promulgated by the National People’s Congress (the “**NPC**”) on May 28, 2020 and became effective on January 1, 2021, in the event of damages caused to other party due to product defect, the infringed

REGULATORY OVERVIEW

party may seek compensation from the manufacturer of the products or from the seller of the products and shall have the right to request the manufacturer and the seller to bear tortious liability such as cessation of infringement, removal of obstruction, elimination of danger, etc.

LAWS AND REGULATIONS RELATED TO THE PROTECTION OF CYBER SECURITY, DATA AND PRIVACY

The PRC government has enacted laws and regulations with respect to internet information security and protection of personal information from any abuse or unauthorized disclosure. Internet information in the PRC is regulated and restricted from a national security standpoint. The SCNPC enacted the Decision on the Maintenance of Internet Security (《關於維護互聯網安全的決定》) on December 28, 2000, which was amended on August 27, 2009 and may subject persons to criminal liabilities in the PRC for any attempt to undermine the safe operation of the internet, sabotage national security and social stability, hinder the order of the socialist market economy and social administration, or infringe personal, property and other legitimate rights and interests of individuals, legal persons and other organizations.

In addition, on December 16, 1997, the Ministry of Public Security issued the Administrative Measures on the Security Protection of Computer Information Network with International Connections (《計算機信息網絡國際聯網安全保護管理辦法》), which took effect on December 30, 1997 and were amended by the State Council on January 8, 2011. According to the aforementioned measures, no entity or individual shall make use of international connections to harm national security, leak state secrets, infringe on the national, social or collective interests or the legal rights and interests of citizens, or engage in other illegal or criminal activities. If relevant entities violate any provisions of the measures, such entities may be subject to order of rectification within a specified period, warning, confiscation of illegal income, cancellation of business permit or network connection qualifications.

The Administrative Measures for the Hierarchical Protection of Information Security (《信息安全等級保護管理辦法》) that was issued and took effect on June 22, 2007 requires the entities that operate and use information systems to fulfill the obligation of the hierarchical protection of information security. The operator or the user of the information systems at Grade II or above shall, within thirty days since the date when its security protection grade is determined, complete the record-filing procedures at the local public security authority at the level of city divided into districts or above.

The Cyber Security Law of the People’s Republic of China (《中華人民共和國網絡安全法》) (the “**Cyber Security Law**”), which was promulgated on November 7, 2016 and came into effect on June 1, 2017, requires that when constructing and operating a network, or providing services through a network, technical measures and other necessary measures shall be taken in accordance with laws, administrative regulations and the compulsory requirements set forth in national standards to ensure the secure and stable operation of the network, to effectively cope with cyber security events, to prevent criminal activities committed on the network, and to protect the integrity, confidentiality and availability of network data. The Cyber Security Law emphasizes that any individuals and organizations that use networks must not endanger network security or use networks to engage in unlawful activities such as those endangering national security, economic order and social order or infringing the reputation, privacy, intellectual property rights and other lawful rights and interests of others. The Cyber Security Law has also reaffirmed certain basic principles and requirements on personal information protection previously specified in other existing laws and regulations. Any violation of the provisions and requirements under the Cyber Security Law may subject an internet

REGULATORY OVERVIEW

service provider to rectifications, warnings, fines, confiscation of illegal gains, revocation of licenses, cancellation of qualifications, closedown of websites or even criminal liabilities.

The Data Security Law of the People’s Republic of China (《中華人民共和國數據安全法》) (the “**Data Security Law**”) was passed by the Standing Committee of the 13th NPC at the 29th Session on June 10, 2021 and came into effect on September 1, 2021. The Data Security Law requires the data processor to establish and improve a whole-process data security management system, organize data security education and training, and take corresponding technical measures and other necessary measures to safeguard data security. In conducting data processing activities by using the Internet or any other information network, the data processor shall perform the above data security protection obligations on the basis of the hierarchical cybersecurity protection system. Any violation of the provisions and requirements under the Data Security Law may subject a data processor to rectifications, warnings, fines, suspension of the related business, revocation of licenses or even criminal liabilities.

The Personal Information Protection Law of the People’s Republic of China (《中華人民共和國個人信息保護法》) (the “**Personal Information Protection Law**”) was passed by the Standing Committee of the 13th NPC at the 30th Session on August 20, 2021 and has come into effect on November 1, 2021. The Personal Information Protection Law reiterates the circumstances under which a personal information processor could process personal information and the requirements for such circumstances, such as when (1) the individual’s consent has been obtained; (2) the processing is necessary for the conclusion or performance of a contract to which the individual is a party; (3) the processing is necessary to fulfill statutory duties and statutory obligations; (4) the processing is necessary to respond to public health emergencies or protect natural persons’ life, health and property safety under emergency circumstances; (5) the personal information that has been made public is processed within a reasonable scope in accordance with this Law; (6) personal information is processed within a reasonable scope to conduct news reporting, public opinion-based supervision, and other activities in the public interest; or (7) under any other circumstance as provided by any law or regulation. It also stipulates the obligations of a personal information processor. Any violation of the provisions and requirements under the Personal Information Protection Law may subject a personal information processor to rectifications, warnings, fines, suspension of the related business, revocation of licenses, being entered into the relevant credit record or even criminal liabilities.

On December 13, 2005, the Ministry of Public Security issued the Regulations on Technological Measures for Internet Security Protection (《互聯網安全保護技術措施規定》) (the “**Internet Protection Measures**”) which came into effect on March 1, 2006. The Internet Protection Measures require internet service providers and online entity users to take proper measures including anti-virus, data back-up and other related measures, and to keep records of certain information of users (including user registration information, log-in and log-out time, advocate calls, accounts, internet web addresses or domain names and log files of system maintenance) for at least sixty days, discover and detect illegal information, stop transmission of such information, and keep relevant records. Internet service providers and online entity users shall establish corresponding administration systems. Any user registration information shall not be publicized or divulged without users’ approval, unless it is otherwise stipulated by any law or regulation.

Under the Several Provisions on Regulating the Market Order of Internet Information Services (《規範互聯網信息服務市場秩序若干規定》) that was issued by Ministry of Industry and Information Technology on December 29, 2011 and came into effect on March 15, 2012, internet information

REGULATORY OVERVIEW

services providers are prohibited from collecting or providing any information that is relevant to the users and can be, solely or together with other information, used to identify the users to third parties without users’ consent unless otherwise required by laws and administrative regulations. Internet information services providers must expressly inform their users of the methods, contents and usages of collecting and processing of users’ personal information and may only collect information necessary for providing services. Internet information services providers are also required to properly store the users’ personal information, and in case of any leak or possible leak of information, internet information services providers must take remedial measures immediately and report any leak of information that may result in serious consequences to the telecommunications regulatory authorities.

In addition, the Decision on Strengthening Network Information Protection (《關於加強網絡信息保護的決定》), promulgated by the SCNPC on December 28, 2012 with immediate effect, emphasizes the need to protect electronic information that contains individual identification information and other private data. This decision requires internet information services providers and other enterprises, public institutions to publish policies regarding the collection and use of personal electronic information and to take necessary measures to ensure information security and to prevent any information leak, damage or loss. Furthermore, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology’s Rules on Protection of Personal Information of Telecommunications and Internet Users (《電信和互聯網用戶個人信息保護規定》), which was promulgated on July 16, 2013 and came into effect on September 1, 2013, contains detailed requirements on the collection and use of personal information as well as the security measures to be taken by internet information services providers. “Personal information” includes the user’s name, birth date, identification card number, address, phone number, account name, password and other information that can be used for identifying a user either independently or in combination with other information as well as the time, place, etc. for the use of services by the users. Collection and use of user personal information by internet information services providers are subject to users’ consent and should abide by the principles of legality, appropriateness and necessity and be within the specified methods, scopes and purposes that are required to be published by such internet information services providers. Internet information services providers and their staff members shall strictly keep confidential the personal information of users collected or used in the course of providing services, and shall not divulge, tamper with, damage, sell or illegally provide others with the same. Internet information services providers should also provide their staff with knowledge and trainings in terms of the knowledge, skills and security responsibilities relating to the protection of the personal information of users.

On September 15, 2018, the Ministry of Public Security issued the Regulations for Internet Security Supervision and Inspection by Public Security Organs (《公安機關互聯網安全監督檢查規定》) (the “**Inspection Regulations**”) which took effect on November 1, 2018. Pursuant to the Inspection Regulations, public security authorities shall conduct supervision and inspection on the internet service providers and network users that provide the following services: (1) internet connection, internet data centers, content distributions and domain name services; (2) internet information services; (3) public internet access services; and (4) other internet services. The inspection may relate to whether the internet service providers and network users have fulfilled the cyber security obligations under applicable laws and regulations, such as to formulate and implement cyber security management systems and operational procedures, determine the person responsible for cyber security, and to take technical measures to record and retain user registration information and online log information etc.

REGULATORY OVERVIEW

Pursuant to the Announcement of Launching Special Crackdown against Illegal Collection and Use of Personal Information by Apps (《關於開展App違法違規收集使用個人信息專項治理的公告》) that was issued and took effect on January 23, 2019, and the Guideline to the Self-Assessment of Illegal Collection and Use of Personal Information by Apps (《App違法違規收集使用個人信息自評估指南》) that was issued and took effect on March 3, 2019, the App operators shall check whether their privacy policies include the elements that are required to be disclosed to the users.

Internet information service providers may be subject to criminal penalty for failure to protect personal information. The Amendment IX to the Criminal Law of the People’s Republic of China (《中華人民共和國刑法修正案(九)》), which was promulgated by the Standing Committee on August 29, 2015 and came into effect on November 1, 2015, provides that selling or providing personal information of citizens in violation of relevant national provisions shall be subject to criminal penalty.

On December 28, 2021, thirteen PRC governmental and regulatory agencies, including the CAC, promulgated the Measures for Cyber Security Review (《網絡安全審查辦法》), which will come into effect on February 15, 2022. The Measures for Cyber Security Review specifies that the procurement of network products and services by operator of critical information infrastructure and the activities of data process carried out by Internet platform operator that raise or may raise “national security” concerns are subject to strict cyber security review by Office of Cyber Security Review established by the CAC. Before critical information infrastructure operator purchases internet products and services, it should assess the potential risk of national security that may be caused by the use of such products and services. If such use of products and services may give raise to national security concerns, it should apply for a cyber security review by the Cyber Security Review Office and a report of analysis of the potential effect on national security shall be submitted when the application is made. In addition, Internet platform operators that possess the personal data of over one million users must apply for a review by the Cyber Security Review Office, if they plan listing of companies in foreign countries. The CAC may voluntarily conduct cyber security review if any network products and services and activities of data process affects or may affect national security. The cyber security review focuses on the assessment of risk factors include (i) the risk of critical information infrastructure being illegally controlled, interfered or destroyed as a result of the use of the products or services; (ii) the continuous harm to the business of critical information infrastructure by the interruption of provision of products or services; (iii) the security, openness, transparency, diversity of sources, reliability of supply and potential supply interruptions of products and services due to political, diplomatic or international trade issues; (iv) whether the products and services provider comply with PRC laws and regulations; (v) the risk of core data, important data or a large amount of personal information being stolen, leaked, destroyed, illegally utilized or exited the country; (vi) regarding to listing, there are risks of critical information infrastructure, core data, important data or a large amount of personal information being influenced, controlled or maliciously used by foreign governments, as well as network information security risks; and (vii) other factors that may endanger the security of critical information infrastructure, cyber security and data security. It may take approximately 70 business days in maximum for the general cybersecurity review upon the delivery of their applications, which may be subject to extensions for a special review.

In addition, on November 14, 2021, the Administration Regulations on Cyber Data Security (Draft for Comments) (《網絡數據安全管理條例(徵求意見稿)》) (the “**Draft Regulation**”) was proposed by the CAC for public comments until December 13, 2021. The Draft Regulation reiterate that data processors which process the personal information of at least one million users must apply for

REGULATORY OVERVIEW

a cybersecurity review if they plan listing of companies in foreign countries, and the Draft Regulation further require the data processors that carry out the following activities to apply for cybersecurity review in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations: (i) the merger, reorganization or division of internet platform operators that have gathered a large number of data resources related to national security, economic development and public interests affects or may affect national security; (ii) the listing of the data processor in Hong Kong affects or may affect the national security; and (iii) other data processing activities that affect or may affect national security. Any failure to comply with such requirements may subject us to, among others, suspension of services, fines, revoking relevant business permits or business licenses and penalties. Since the CAC is still seeking comments on the Draft Regulation from the public as of the date of the Document, the Draft Regulation (especially its operative provisions) and its anticipated adoption or effective date are subject to further changes with substantial uncertainty.

According to the Draft Regulation, data processors who use networks to carry out data processing activities shall be subject to the Draft Regulation. As a data processor, we are required to perform the following obligations after the Draft Regulation is formally adopted:

- to establish and improve the data security management system and technical protection mechanism in accordance with the provisions of relevant laws and regulations;
- to conduct data processing activities in a manner that respects social morality and ethics and does not contravene prohibitions stipulated in the Draft Regulation or other laws and regulations;
- to comply with the requirements of cybersecurity classified protection system;
- to establish emergency response mechanisms for cyber security and data security, data security complaint and reporting channels and other relevant measures;
- to acquire personal information without authorization and to preserve relevant evidence for data collection, especially user consent; and
- to establish protocols to process personal information with clear and reasonable purposes and follow the principles of legality, rightfulness and necessity.

We have adopted the Data Protection Guidelines and relevant measures required by the Draft Regulation and other relevant laws and regulations.

According to the Draft Regulation, if a data processor processes critical data or core data, processes cross-border data transmission or is an Internet platform operator, it shall comply with relevant obligations as provided in the Draft Regulation. Further, given that the data processed by the Group shall not fall into the categories of critical data or core data as provided in Article 73 of the Draft Regulation, we do not process cross-border data transmission in our business operations, and we are not Internet platform operator. Therefore, we are not required to perform its obligations in accordance with the relevant requirements of the Draft Regulation.

The Administrative Provisions on Security Vulnerability of Network Products (《網絡產品安全漏洞管理規定》) (the “**Provisions**”) was jointly promulgated by the MIIT, the CAC and the Ministry of Public Security on July 12, 2021 and came into effect on September 1, 2021. Network product providers, network operators as well as organizations or individuals engaging in the discovery, collection, release and other activities of network product security vulnerability are subject to the

REGULATORY OVERVIEW

Provisions and shall establish channels to receive information of security vulnerability of their respective network products and shall examine and fix such security vulnerability in a timely manner. In response to the Cyber Security Law, network product providers are required to report relevant information of security vulnerability of network products with the MIIT within two days and to provide technical support for network product users. Network operators shall take measures to examine and fix security vulnerability after discovering or acknowledging that their networks, information systems or equipment have security loopholes. According to the Provisions, the breaching parties may be subject to monetary fine as regulated in accordance with the Cyber Security Law. Since the Provisions is relatively new, uncertainties still exist in relation to its interpretation and implementation.

During the Track Record Period and up to the Latest Practicable Date, we had not engaged in the relevant businesses provided in the Provisions.

The Administrative Provisions on Algorithm Recommendation of Network Information Services (《互聯網信息服務算法推薦管理規定》) (the “Administrative Provisions”) was jointly promulgated by the CAC, the MIIT, the Ministry of Public Security and the State Administration for Market Regulation on December 31, 2021 and will come into effect on March 1, 2022. The Administrative Provisions are applicable to algorithm recommendation service providers, i.e., enterprises that provide internet information services to users by applying algorithm technologies such as generation-synthesis, personalized push, sorting and selection, retrieval and filtering, and scheduling and decision-making.

During the Track Record Period and up to the Latest Practicable Date, we had not engaged in the relevant businesses provided in the Administrative Provisions.

During the Track Record Period and up to the Latest Practicable Date, we have implemented comprehensive internal policies and measures on protection of cybersecurity, data privacy and personal information to ensure continuous regulatory compliance. See “Business — Data Privacy and Protection.”

As of the [date of this Document], we have not received any investigation, notice, warning, or sanction from applicable government authorities (including the CAC) with regard to our business operations concerning any issues related to cybersecurity and data security. In addition, we have not been involved in any review, investigation, enquiry, penalty, or other legal proceedings initiated by applicable governmental or regulatory authorities or third parties in relation to in relation to cyber security or data protection.

LAWS AND REGULATIONS RELATED TO ANTI-UNFAIR COMPETITION

Anti-Monopoly Law

According to the Anti-Monopoly Law of the People’s Republic of China (《中華人民共和國反壟斷法》) (the “**Anti-Monopoly Law**”) which was promulgated by the SCNPC on August 30, 2007 and implemented on August 1, 2008, the Anti-Monopoly Law applies to the monopolistic practices in domestic economic activities in China as well as the monopolistic practices outside China which have exclusion or restriction effects on domestic market competition. The monopolistic practices under the Anti-Monopoly Law include any monopoly agreement reached by any operators, abuse of market-dominating position by any operators and any concentration of operators which has an effect of eliminating or restricting competition. The agencies designated by the State Council are responsible for

REGULATORY OVERVIEW

enforcement of the Anti-Monopoly Law. The anti-monopoly enforcement agencies of the State Council may, according to work requirements, delegate relevant anti-monopoly enforcement tasks to the corresponding agencies of the people’s governments of provinces, autonomous regions and centrally-administered municipalities pursuant to the provisions of Anti-Monopoly Law. Operators who violate the provisions of the Anti-Monopoly Law will be ordered by the enforcement agencies to stop the illegal act, be imposed a fine or be subject to other restrictive measures.

Anti-Unfair Competition Law

According to the Anti-Unfair Competition Law of the People’s Republic of China (《中華人民共和國反不正當競爭法》) (the “**Anti-Unfair Competition Law**”) which was promulgated by the SCNPC on September 2, 1993 and last revised on April 23, 2019, operators shall comply with the principle of voluntariness, equality, fairness, integrity and abide by laws and business ethics in production and business operation. Under the Anti-Unfair Competition Law, unfair competition refers to an operator who disrupts the market competition order and damages the legitimate rights and interests of other operators or consumers in violation of the provisions of the Anti-Unfair Competition Law in their production and business operation. Operators who violate the Anti-Unfair Competition Law shall bear corresponding civil, administrative or criminal responsibilities depending on the specific circumstances.

LAWS AND REGULATIONS RELATED TO INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Trademarks

The Trademark Law of the People’s Republic of China (《中華人民共和國商標法》) (the “**Trademark Law**”) became effective on March 1, 1983 and was last amended on April 23, 2019, and the Implementation Rules of the Trademark Law of the People’s Republic of China (《中華人民共和國商標法實施條例》) became effective on September 15, 2002 and was last amended on April 29, 2014. The Trademark Law and its implementation rules provide the basic legal framework for the regulation of trademarks in the PRC, covering registered trademarks, including commodity trademarks, service trademarks, collective marks and certificate marks. Registered trademarks are protected under the Trademark Law and related rules and regulations. Trademarks are registered with the Trademark Office of the National Intellectual Property Administration. Where registration is sought for a trademark that is identical or similar to another trademark that has already been registered or given preliminary examination and approved for use on the same or similar commodities or services, the application for registration of such trademark may be rejected. Trademark registrations are effective for a renewable ten-year period, unless otherwise revoked.

Patents

Pursuant to the Patent Law of the People’s Republic of China (《中華人民共和國專利法》) promulgated by the SCNPC on March 12, 1984, last amended on October 17, 2020 and effective from June 1, 2021 and the Implementation Rules of the Patent Law of the People’s Republic of China (《中華人民共和國專利法實施細則》) promulgated by the State Council on June 15, 2001, and last amended on January 9, 2010, there are three types of patents, namely, invention, utility model and design. Invention patents are valid for twenty years, while design patents are valid for fifteen years and utility model patents are valid for ten years, from the date of application. The PRC patent system adopts a “first come, first file” principle, which means that where more than one person files a patent application for the same invention, a patent will be granted to the person who files the application first.

REGULATORY OVERVIEW

To be patentable, invention or utility models must meet three criteria: novelty, inventiveness and practicability. Unless otherwise stipulated by relevant laws and regulations, a third party must obtain consent or a proper license from the patent owner to use the patent. Otherwise, the use constitutes an infringement of the patent rights.

Copyright and Software Copyright

Copyright (including software copyright) is mainly protected by the Copyright Law of the People’s Republic of China (《中華人民共和國著作權法》) as promulgated on September 7, 1990 and last amended on November 11, 2020 by the SCNPC and the Implementing Rules of the Copyright Law of the People’s Republic of China (《中華人民共和國著作權法實施條例》) as promulgated on August 2, 2002 and last amended on January 30, 2013 by the State Council. Such law and rules prescribe that Chinese citizens, legal persons or other organizations enjoy copyright protection over their works, whether published or not, in the domain of literature, art and science.

In addition, internet activities, products disseminated over the internet and software products also enjoy copyright. Pursuant to the Measures for the Registration of Computer Software Copyright (《計算機軟件著作權登記辦法》) promulgated by the National Copyright Administration on February 20, 2002 and the Regulation on Protection of Computer Software (《計算機軟件保護條例》) promulgated by the State Council on June 4, 1991 and last amended by the State Council on January 30, 2013, the National Copyright Administration is mainly responsible for the registration and management of software copyright in China and recognizes the China Copyright Protection Center as the software registration organization. The China Copyright Protection Center shall grant certificates of registration to computer software copyright applicants in compliance with the regulations of the Measures for the Registration of Computer Software Copyright and the Regulation on Protection of Computer Software.

Domain Names

Internet domain name registration and related matters are regulated by the Administrative Measures on Internet Domain Names (《互聯網域名管理辦法》) promulgated by Ministry of Industry and Information Technology on August 24, 2017 and taking into effect on November 1, 2017, and the Implementation Rules for the Registration of National Top-level Domain Names (《國家頂級域名註冊實施細則》) promulgated by China Internet Network Information Center and taking into effect on June 18, 2019. Domain name owners are required to register their domain names and the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology is in charge of the administration of PRC internet domain names. The domain name services follow a “first come, first file” principle. The applicants will become the holders of such domain names upon the completion of the registration procedure.

LAWS AND REGULATIONS RELATED TO LABOR PROTECTION, SOCIAL INSURANCE AND HOUSING PROVIDENT FUNDS

General Labor Contract Rules

Labor contracts must be concluded in writing if labor relationships are to be or have been established between enterprises, individual economic organizations, private non-enterprise entities, etc. and the employees under the Labor Contract Law of the People’s Republic of China (《中華人民共和國勞動合同法》), promulgated on June 29, 2007 and last amended on December 28, 2012. Employers are forbidden to force employees to work overtime or to do so in a disguised manner and employers must

REGULATORY OVERVIEW

pay employees overtime wages in accordance with national regulations. In addition, wages may not be lower than local standards on minimum wages and must be paid to the employees timely. According to the Labor Law of the People’s Republic of China (《中華人民共和國勞動法》), promulgated on July 5, 1994 and last amended on December 29, 2018, employers shall establish and improve a system of labor safety and sanitation and shall strictly abide by national rules and standards on labor safety and sanitation and educate employees on labor safety and sanitation so as to prevent accidents during work and reduce occupational hazards. Labor safety and sanitation facilities shall comply with national standards. The employers must also provide employees with labor safety and sanitation conditions that are in compliance with national standards and necessary articles for labor protection.

Social Insurance and Housing Provident Fund

According to the Social Insurance Law of the People’s Republic of China (《中華人民共和國社會保險法》) passed by the SCNPC on October 28, 2010 and amended on December 29, 2018, each employer and individual in the PRC shall make social insurance contributions, including basic pension insurance, basic medical insurance, work injury insurance, unemployment insurance and maternity insurance. Employer who fails to promptly pay social insurance contributions in full amount shall be ordered to pay or supplement within a prescribed period, and shall be subject to a late payment fine computed from the due date at the rate of 0.05% per day; where payment is not made within the stipulated period, the relevant administrative authorities shall impose a fine ranging from one to three times the amount of the amount in arrears.

According to the Administrative Regulations on the Housing Provident Fund (《住房公積金管理條例》) passed by the State Council on April 3, 1999 and last amended on March 24, 2019, each employer and individual in the PRC shall make housing provident fund contributions. Where, in violation of the provisions of the regulations, an employer is overdue in the contribution of, or underpays, the housing provident fund, the housing provident fund management center shall order it to make the contribution within a prescribed time limit; where the contribution has not been made after the expiration of the time limit, an application may be made to a people’s court for compulsory enforcement.

LAWS AND REGULATIONS RELATED TO FOREIGN EXCHANGE

The principal law governing foreign currency exchange in the PRC is the Regulations of the People’s Republic of China on Foreign Exchange Administration (《中華人民共和國外匯管理條例》) (the “**Forex Regulations**”), promulgated on January 29, 1996 and last amended on August 5, 2008. According to the Forex Regulations currently in effect, international payments in foreign currencies and transfers of foreign currencies under current account shall not be subject to any state control or restriction. Foreign currency transactions under the capital account, such as direct investment and capital contribution, are still subject to restrictions and require approvals from, or registration with, the foreign exchange administrative authorities.

According to the Circular of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange on Issues concerning the Administration of Foreign Exchange Involved in Overseas Listing (《國家外匯管理局關於境外上市外匯管理有關問題的通知》) announced by the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (the “**SAFE**”) on February 1, 2005 and amended on December 26, 2014, the SAFE and its branch offices and administrative offices shall oversee, regulate and inspect domestic companies regarding their business registration, opening and use of accounts, trans-border payments and receipts, exchange

REGULATORY OVERVIEW

of funds and other conduct involved in overseas listing. The domestic company shall, within fifteen working days upon the end of its overseas public offering, handle registration formalities for overseas listing with the foreign exchange authority at its place of registration with the required materials.

According to the Circular of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange on Reforming and Regulating Policies for the Administration over Foreign Exchange Settlement of Capital Accounts (《國家外匯管理局關於改革和規範資本項目結匯管理政策的通知》), the foreign exchange receipts under capital accounts of domestic institutions are subject to discretionary settlement policies. The foreign exchange receipts under capital accounts (including foreign exchange capital, foreign debts, and repatriated funds raised through overseas listing) subject to discretionary settlement as expressly prescribed in the relevant policies may be settled with banks according to the actual need of the domestic institutions for business operation. Domestic institutions may, at their discretion, settle up to 100% of foreign exchange receipts under capital accounts for the time being. The SAFE may adjust the above proportion in due time according to balance of payments. While being eligible for discretionary settlement of foreign exchange receipts under capital accounts, domestic institutions may also opt to use their foreign exchange receipts according to the payment-based settlement system. A bank shall, in handling each transaction of foreign exchange settlement for a domestic institution according to the principle of payment-based settlement, review the authenticity and compliance of the use of the fund settled in the previous foreign exchange settlement (including discretionary settlement and payment-based settlement) of such domestic institution. Domestic institutions’ foreign exchange receipts under the capital account and the RMB funds obtained from the settlement thereof shall not, directly or indirectly, be used for expenditure beyond the enterprise’s business scope or expenditure prohibited by laws and regulations of the state. Unless otherwise specified, the funds shall not, directly or indirectly, be used for investments in securities or other investments or wealth management other than banks’ principal-secured products. The funds shall not be used for the granting of loans to non-affiliated enterprises, except where it is expressly permitted in the business scope. The funds shall not be used for the construction or purchase of real estate for purposes other than self-use (except for real estate enterprises).

According to the Circular on Optimizing Administration of Foreign Exchange to Support the Development of Foreign-related Business by the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (《國家外匯管理局關於優化外匯管理支持涉外業務發展的通知》) issued by the SAFE on April 10, 2020, eligible enterprises are allowed to make domestic payments by using receipts under capital accounts, such as their capital funds, foreign credits and the income from overseas listing, with no need to provide the evidentiary materials concerning authenticity on a transaction-by-transaction basis to banks in advance, provided that their capital use shall be authentic and in line with provisions, and conform to the prevailing administrative regulations on the use of receipts under capital accounts. Local foreign exchange authorities shall strengthen monitoring analysis and interim and post regulation.

LAWS AND REGULATIONS RELATED TO TAXATION

PRC Enterprise Income Tax Law

According to the Enterprise Income Tax Law of the People’s Republic of China (《中華人民共和國企業所得稅法》), as promulgated on March 16, 2007 and last amended on December 29, 2018, and the Implementing Rules of the Enterprise Income Tax Law of the People’s Republic of China (《中華人民共和國企業所得稅法實施條例》), as promulgated on December 6, 2007 and amended on April 23, 2019 (collectively the “**Enterprise Income Tax Law**”), enterprise income taxpayers shall include

REGULATORY OVERVIEW

resident and non-resident enterprises. Resident enterprise refers to an enterprise that is established within China, or is established under the law of a foreign country (region) but whose actual institution of management is within China. Non-resident enterprise refers to an enterprise established under the law of a foreign country (region), whose actual institution of management is not within China but has offices or establishments within China; or which does not have any offices or establishments within China but has incomes sourced from China. The rate of enterprise income tax shall be 25%. Qualified small low-profit enterprises are given the reduced enterprise income tax rate of 20%.

According to the Circular of the Ministry of Finance and the State Administration of Taxation on Implementing the Inclusive Tax Deduction and Exemption Policies for Small and Micro Enterprises (《財政部稅務總局關於實施小微企業普惠性稅收減免政策的通知》) promulgated on January 17, 2019, during January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2021, the annual taxable income of a small low-profit enterprise that is not more than RMB1 million shall be included in its taxable income at the reduced rate of 25%, with the applicable enterprise income tax rate of 20%; and the annual taxable income that is not less than RMB1 million nor more than RMB3 million shall be included in its taxable income at the reduced rate of 50%, with the applicable enterprise income tax rate of 20%.

Enterprises that are recognized as high-tech enterprises in accordance with the Administrative Measures on Accreditation of High-tech Enterprises (《高新技術企業認定管理辦法》) are entitled to enjoy the preferential enterprise income tax rate of 15%. The validity period of the high-tech enterprise qualification shall be three years from the date of issuance of the certificate of high-tech enterprise. The enterprise can re-apply for such recognition as a high-tech enterprise.

Value-Added Tax

According to the Interim Value-Added Tax Regulations of the People's Republic of China (《中華人民共和國增值稅暫行條例》), as announced by the State Council on December 13, 1993 and last amended on November 19, 2017, entities and individuals selling goods, providing labor services of processing, repairing or maintenance, selling services, intangible assets, real property in China, and importing goods to China, shall be identified as taxpayers of value-added tax.

Unless otherwise provided by laws, the value-added tax rate is: 17% for taxpayers selling goods, labor services, or tangible movable property leasing services or importing goods; 11% for taxpayers selling transportation, postal, basic telecommunication, construction, or immovable property leasing services, immovable property, transferring the rights to use land, or selling or importing specific goods; 6% for taxpayers selling services or intangible assets; 0% for domestic entities and individuals selling services or intangible assets within the scope prescribed by the State Council across national borders; 0% for exported goods, except as otherwise specified by the State Council.

Pursuant to the Circular on Comprehensively Promoting the Pilot Program of the Collection of Value-added Tax in Lieu of Business Tax (《財政部、國家稅務總局關於全面推開營業稅改徵增值稅試點的通知》), promulgated by the Ministry of Finance and the State Administration of Taxation on March 23, 2016 and as amended on July 11, 2017, December 25, 2017 and March 20, 2019 respectively, the pilot program of the collection of value-added tax in lieu of business tax shall be promoted nationwide in a comprehensive manner, and all taxpayers of business tax engaged in the building industry, the real estate industry, the financial industry and the life service industry shall be included in the scope of the pilot program with regard to payment of value-added tax instead of business tax.

REGULATORY OVERVIEW

According to the Circular on Policies for Simplifying and Consolidating Value-added Tax Rates (《財政部、國家稅務總局關於簡並增值稅稅率有關政策的通知》), announced by the Ministry of Finance and the State Administration of Taxation on April 28, 2017, the structure of value-added tax rates will be simplified from July 1, 2017, and the 13% value-added tax rate shall be canceled. The scope of goods with 11% value-added tax rate and the provisions for deducting input tax are specified.

According to the Circular of on Adjusting Value-added Tax Rates (《財政部、國家稅務總局關於調整增值稅稅率的通知》) announced by the Ministry of Finance and the State Administration of Taxation on April 4, 2018, from May 1, 2018, where a taxpayer engages in a value-added tax taxable sales activity or imports goods, the previous applicable 17% and 11% tax rates are adjusted to be 16% and 10% respectively.

According to the Announcement of the Ministry of Finance, the State Taxation Administration and the General Administration of Customs on Relevant Policies for Deepening Value-Added Tax Reform (《關於深化增值稅改革有關政策的公告》) promulgated on March 20, 2019, with respect to value-added tax taxable sales or imported goods of a value-added tax general taxpayer, the originally applicable value-added tax rate of 16% shall be adjusted to 13%; the originally applicable value-added tax rate of 10% shall be adjusted to 9%.

REGULATIONS RELATED TO THE “FULL CIRCULATION” OF H-SHARE

On November 14, 2019, China Securities Regulatory Commission (the “CSRC”) announced the Guidelines for the “Full Circulation” Program for Domestic Unlisted Shares of H-share Listed Companies (《H股公司境內未上市股份申請“全流通”業務指引》) (the “**Guidelines for the Full Circulation**”). “Full circulation” means listing and circulating on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange of the domestic unlisted shares of a domestic joint stock company (the “**H-share listed company**”), including unlisted domestic shares held by domestic shareholders prior to overseas listing, unlisted domestic shares additionally issued after overseas listing, and unlisted shares held by foreign shareholders.

According to the Guidelines for the Full Circulation, shareholders of domestic unlisted shares may determine by themselves through consultation the amount and proportion of shares, for which an application will be filed for circulation, provided that the requirements laid down in the relevant laws and regulations and set out in the policies for state-owned asset administration, foreign investment and industry regulation are met, and the corresponding H-share listed company may be entrusted to file the application for “full circulation”. To file an application for “full circulation”, an H-share listed company shall file the application with the CSRC according to the administrative licensing procedures for the “examination and approval of public issuance and listing (including additional issuance) of shares overseas by a joint stock company”. An H-share listed company may apply for “full circulation” separately or when applying for overseas refinancing. An unlisted domestic joint stock company may apply for “full circulation” when applying for an overseas initial public offering and listing. After the application for “full circulation” has been approved by the CSRC, an H-share listed company shall submit a report on the relevant situation to the CSRC within fifteen days after the registration with the China Securities Depository and Clearing Corporation Limited (the “CSDC”) of the shares related to the application has been completed. After domestic unlisted shares are listed and circulated on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, they may not be transferred back to China.

On December 31, 2019, CSDC and Shenzhen Stock Exchange (the “SZSE”) jointly announced the Measures for Implementation of H-share Full Circulation Business (《H股“全流通”業務實施細

REGULATORY OVERVIEW

則》) (the “**Measures for Implementation**”). The businesses of cross-border transfer registration, maintenance of deposit and holding details, transaction entrustment and instruction transmission, settlement, management of settlement participants, services of nominal holders, etc. in relation to the H-share “full circulation” business, are subject to the Measures for Implementation. Where there is no provision in the Measures for Implementation, it shall be handled with reference to other business rules of the CSDC and China Securities Depository and Clearing (Hong Kong) Company Limited (the “**CSDC (Hong Kong)**”) and SZSE.

According to the Measures for Implementation, after having completed relevant information disclosure, the H-share listed companies with the approval of the CSRC to engage in the H-share “full circulation” business shall apply to the CSDC for the deregistration of part or all of the non-foreign listed shares, and shall re-register the fully circulated H-shares which are not pledged, frozen, restricted to transfer to the share register institutions in Hong Kong. Such shares shall become eligible for listing and circulation on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. Relevant securities are centrally deposited in CSDC for settlement. As the nominal holder of the above-mentioned securities, CSDC handles the depository and holding details maintenance, cross-border clearing and settlement and other businesses involved in the “full circulation” of H-shares, and provides nominal holder services for investors. The H-share listed company shall be authorized by “full circulation” shareholders to choose domestic securities companies that participate in the “full circulation” business of H-shares. “Full circulation” shareholders submit trading instructions of H-shares “full circulation” shares through domestic securities companies. Domestic securities companies shall select a Hong Kong securities company to submit trading instructions of their “full circulation” shareholders to Hong Kong Stock Exchange for trading. After the transaction is concluded, CSDC and CSDC (Hong Kong) shall handle the cross-border clearing and settlement of relevant shares and funds. The settlement currency of H-share “full circulation” transaction business is Hong Kong dollars. Where an H-share listed company entrusts CSDC to distribute cash dividends, it shall file an application with CSDC. An H-share listed company distributing cash dividends may apply to the CSDC for the holding details of relevant shareholders on the securities registration date of applying for cash dividends. The non-H-share “fully circulated” securities listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange obtained due to the distribution and conversion of H-share “fully circulated” securities may be sold but shall not be purchased. Where the right to subscribe for the shares listed on Hong Kong Stock Exchange is obtained and the subscription right is listed on Hong Kong Stock Exchange, such right may be sold, but shall not be exercised.

In order to fully promote the reform of H-shares “full circulation” and clarify the business arrangement and procedures for the relevant shares’ registration, custody, settlement and delivery, CSDC promulgated the Circular on Issuing the Guide to the Business for Full Circulation of H-shares (《關於發佈〈H股“全流通”業務指南〉的通知》) in February 7, 2020, which specified the business preparation, account arrangement, cross-border share transfer registration and overseas centralized custody, etc. In February 2020, CSDC (Hong Kong) also promulgated the Guide to the Business for Full Circulation of H-shares (《中國證券登記結算(香港)有限公司H股“全流通”業務指南》) to specify the relevant escrow, custody, agent service of CSDC (Hong Kong), arrangement for settlement and delivery and other relevant matters.