

CONNECTED TRANSACTIONS

Pursuant to Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules, the following transaction that we enter into with our connected persons will constitute connected transaction upon the [REDACTED].

SUMMARY OF OUR CONTINUING CONNECTED TRANSACTION

We have entered into the following transactions that will constitute continuing connected transaction under Rule 14A.31 of the Listing Rules upon [REDACTED]:

| Transaction | Applicable Listing Rule | Waiver sought | Proposed annual cap for the year ending December 31, (RMB) | | |
|--|--|---|--|------|------|
| | | | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
| Non-exempt continuing connected transaction | | | | | |
| 1. Contractual Arrangements | Rule 14A.35 Rule 14A.36 Rule 14A.52 Rule 14A.53 Rule 14A.105 | Announcement and independent shareholders’ approval, circular, annual cap, limiting the term to three years | N/A | N/A | N/A |

NON-EXEMPT CONTINUING CONNECTED TRANSACTION

Contractual Arrangements

As disclosed in the section headed “Contractual Arrangements”, due to regulatory restrictions on foreign ownership in the PRC, we conduct certain business through our Consolidated Affiliated Entities in the PRC.

We do not hold any controlling equity interests in our Consolidated Affiliated Entities. The Contractual Arrangements among the WFOE, our Consolidated Affiliated Entities and the Registered Shareholders of our Consolidated Affiliated Entities enable us to (i) receive substantially all of the economic benefits from our Consolidated Affiliated Entities in consideration for the services provided by the WFOE to the VIE; and (ii) hold an exclusive option to purchase all or part of the equity interests in the VIE when and to the extent permitted by PRC laws.

See the section headed “Contractual Arrangements” for detailed terms of the Contractual Arrangements.

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Listing Rules implications

For the purposes of Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules, and in particular the definition of “connected person”, the Consolidated Affiliated Entities will be treated as our Company’s wholly-owned subsidiaries, and its directors, chief executives or substantial shareholders (as defined in the Listing Rules) and their respective associates will be treated as our Company’s “connected persons.”

The transactions contemplated under the Contractual Arrangements are continuing connected transactions of the Company. The highest applicable percentage ratios (other than the profits ratio) under the Listing Rules in respect of the transactions associated with the Contractual Arrangements are expected to be more than 5%. As such, the transactions will be subject to the reporting, annual review, announcement and independent shareholders’ approval requirements under Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules.

Waiver Application

Our Directors (including the independent non-executive Directors) are of the view that the Contractual Arrangements and the transactions contemplated therein are fundamental to our legal structure and business operations. Our Directors also believe that our structure, whereby the financial results of our Consolidated Affiliated Entities are consolidated into our financial statements as if they were our Company’s wholly-owned subsidiaries, and all the economic benefits of their business flows to our Group, places our Group in a special position in relation to the connected transactions rules. Accordingly, notwithstanding that the transactions contemplated under the Contractual Arrangements and any new transactions, contracts and agreements or renewal of existing transactions, contracts and agreements to be entered into, among others, by our Consolidated Affiliated Entities and any member of our Group from time to time (including the Consolidated Affiliated Entities) (the “**New Intergroup Agreements**”) technically constitute continuing connected transactions under Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules, our Directors consider that it would be unduly burdensome and impracticable, and would add unnecessary administrative costs to our Company, for all such transactions to be subject to strict compliance with the requirements set out under Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules, including, among other things, the announcement and independent shareholders’ approval requirements.

WAIVERS

1. Contractual Arrangements

In respect of the Contractual Arrangements and the New Intergroup Agreements, we have applied for, and the Stock Exchange [has granted] us, waivers from strict compliance with (i) the announcement, circular and independent shareholders’ approval requirements pursuant to Rule 14A.105 of the Listing Rules, (ii) the requirement to set annual caps under Rule 14A.53 of the Listing Rules, and (iii) the requirement to limit the term to three years or less under Rule 14A.52 of the Listing Rules, for so long as our Class A Ordinary Shares are listed on the Stock Exchange subject to the following conditions.

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No change without independent non-executive Directors' approval

Save as described below, no change to the Contractual Arrangements (including with respect to any fees payable to the WFOE thereunder) will be made without the approval of our independent non-executive Directors.

No change without independent Shareholders' approval

Save as described below, no change to the agreements governing the Contractual Arrangements will be made without the approval of our independent Shareholders. Once the independent Shareholders' approval of any change has been obtained, no further announcement or approval by the independent Shareholders will be required under Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules unless and until further changes are proposed. The periodic reporting requirement regarding the Contractual Arrangements in the annual reports of our Company will however continue to be applicable.

Economic benefits and flexibility

The Contractual Arrangements shall continue to enable our Group to receive the economic benefits derived by the Consolidated Affiliated Entities through (i) our Group's options (if and when so allowed under the applicable PRC laws) to acquire, all or part of the equity interests in the Consolidated Affiliated Entities for nil consideration or the minimum amount of consideration permitted by applicable PRC laws and regulations, (ii) the business structure under which the profit generated by the Consolidated Affiliated Entities is substantially retained by our Group, such that no annual cap shall be set on the amount of service fees payable to the WFOE by our Consolidated Affiliated Entities under the Contractual Arrangements, and (iii) our Group's right to control the management and operation of, as well as, in substance, a substantial portion of the voting rights of the Consolidated Affiliated Entities.

Renewal and reproduction

On the basis that the Contractual Arrangements provide an acceptable framework for the relationship between, on the one hand, our Company and the subsidiaries in which our Company has direct shareholding and, on the other hand, the Consolidated Affiliated Entities, this framework may be renewed and/or reproduced without an announcement, circular, or obtaining the approval of our Shareholders (i) upon the expiry of the existing arrangements, (ii) in connection with any changes to the shareholders or directors of, or of their shareholdings in, the Consolidated Affiliated Entities, or (iii) in relation to any existing, new or acquired wholly foreign-owned enterprise or operating company (including branch company) engaging in a business similar or relating to those of our Group.

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The directors, chief executive or substantial shareholders of any existing, new or acquired wholly foreign-owned enterprise or operating company (including branch company) engaging in a business similar or relating to those of our Group will, upon renewal and/or reproduction of the Contractual Arrangements, be treated as connected persons of our Group and transactions between these connected persons and our Group other than those under similar Contractual Arrangements shall comply with Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules.

This condition is subject to relevant PRC laws, regulations and approvals. Any such renewed or reproduced agreements will be on substantially the same terms and conditions as the existing Contractual Arrangements.

Ongoing reporting and approvals

We will disclose details relating to the Contractual Arrangements on an ongoing basis:

- the Contractual Arrangements in place during each financial period will be disclosed in our Company’s annual report and accounts in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Listing Rules;
- our independent non-executive Directors will review the Contractual Arrangements annually and confirm in our Company’s annual report that for the relevant year (i) the transactions carried out during such year have been entered into in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Contractual Arrangements, (ii) no dividends or other distributions have been made by our Consolidated Affiliated Entities to the holders of its equity interests which are not otherwise subsequently assigned or transferred to our Group, and (iii) any new contracts entered into, renewed or reproduced between our Group and the Consolidated Affiliated Entities are fair and reasonable, or advantageous to our Shareholders, so far as our Group is concerned and in the interests of our Shareholders as a whole;
- our Company’s auditor will carry out review procedures annually on the transactions carried out pursuant to the Contractual Arrangements and will provide a letter to our Directors with a copy to the Stock Exchange, confirming that the transactions have been approved by our Board, have been entered into in accordance with the relevant Contractual Arrangements and that no dividends or other distributions have been made by our Consolidated Affiliated Entities to the holders of its equity interests which are not otherwise subsequently assigned or transferred to our Group;
- for the purpose of Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules, and in particular the definition of ‘connected person’, our Consolidated Affiliated Entities will be treated as our Company’s wholly-owned subsidiaries, but at the same time, the directors, chief executives or substantial shareholders of the Consolidated Affiliated Entities and their associates will be treated as connected persons of our Company as applicable under the Listing Rules (excluding for this purpose, the Consolidated Affiliated Entities themselves), and therefore transactions between these connected persons

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and our Group (including for this purpose, the Consolidated Affiliated Entities), other than those under the Contractual Arrangements, will be subject to requirements under Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules; and

- our Consolidated Affiliated Entities will, for so long as our Class A Ordinary Shares are listed on the Stock Exchange, provide our Group's management and our Company's auditor with full access to their relevant records for the purpose of reporting on the connected transactions.

DIRECTORS' CONFIRMATION

Our Directors (including independent non-executive Directors) are of the view that: (i) the continuing connected transactions set out above have been and will be entered into in our ordinary and usual course of business on normal commercial terms or better, on terms that are fair and reasonable, and in the interests of our Company and our Shareholders as a whole; (ii) the proposed annual caps (if any) of the continuing connected transactions are fair and reasonable and in the interests of our Company and our Shareholders as a whole; and (iii) it is normal business practice for the Contractual Arrangements to be of a term longer than three years.

JOINT SPONSORS' CONFIRMATION

Based on the documentation and data provided by the Company and participation in the due diligence and discussion with the Company, the Joint Sponsors are of the view that: (i) the continuing connected transactions set out above have been and will be entered into in the Company's ordinary and usual course of business on normal commercial terms or better, on terms that are fair and reasonable, and in the interest of the Company and its Shareholders as a whole; (ii) the proposed annual caps (if any) of the continuing connected transactions are fair and reasonable and in the interest of the Company and the Shareholders as a whole; and (iii) it is normal business practice for the Contractual Arrangements to be of a term longer than three years.