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Shanghai Conant Optical Co., Ltd. 上海康耐特光學科技集團股份有限公司

 $(A\ joint\ stock\ company\ incorporated\ in\ the\ People's\ Republic\ of\ China\ with\ limited\ liability)$

(Stock Code: 2276)

ANNOUNCEMENT OF UNAUDITED INTERIM RESULTS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

The board (the "Board") of directors (the "Director(s)") of Shanghai Conant Optical Co., Ltd. (上海康耐特光學科技集團股份有限公司) (the "Company", together with its subsidiaries, the "Group") is pleased to announce the unaudited consolidated results of the Group for the six months ended 30 June 2023, together with comparative figures for the same period in 2022.

In this announcement, "we", "us", and "our" refer to the Company and where the context otherwise requires, the Group.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Revenue for the six months ended 30 June 2023 amounted to approximately RMB831.2 million, representing an increase of approximately 11.3% as compared with the same period in 2022.
- Gross profit for the six months ended 30 June 2023 amounted to approximately RMB309.6 million, representing an increase of approximately 24.0% as compared with the same period in 2022.
- Profit attributable to owners of the parent for the six months ended 30 June 2023 amounted to approximately RMB158.6 million, representing an increase of approximately 34.3% as compared with the same period in 2022.
- Earnings per share for the six months ended 30 June 2023 amounted to approximately RMB0.37, representing an increase of approximately 32.1% as compared with the same period in 2022.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS

For the six months ended 30 June 2023

		ror the six	inontiis
		ended 3	0 June
		2023	2022
		RMB'000	RMB'000
	Notes	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
Revenue	3	831,156	746,622
Cost of sales		(521,507)	(496,843)
Gross profit		309,649	249,779
Other income and gains	3	36,711	13,634
Selling and distribution expenses		(44,527)	(36,586)
Administrative expenses		(73,191)	(62,607)
Impairment loss on financial assets		(30,948)	(3,207)
Other expenses		(2,071)	(15,638)
Finance costs	5	(7,455)	(14,706)
Share of gains/(losses) of:			
A joint venture		(50)	(30)
An associate		36	160
PROFIT BEFORE TAX	4	188,154	130,799
Income tax expense	6	(29,578)	(12,695)
PROFIT FOR THE PERIOD		158,576	118,104
Attributable to:			
Owners of the parent		158,576	118,104
EARNINGS PER SHARE ATTRIBUTABLE TO ORDINARY EQUITY HOLDERS OF THE PARENT			
Basic and diluted	8	RMB0.37	RMB0.28

For the six months

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the six months ended 30 June 2023

		For the six months ended 30 June	
		2023	2022
		RMB'000	RMB'000
	Notes	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
PROFIT FOR THE PERIOD		158,576	118,104
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Other comprehensive loss that may be reclassified to			
profit or loss in subsequent periods:			
Exchange differences on translation of			
foreign operations		(4,611)	(10,298)
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR			
THE PERIOD		153,965	107,806
Attributable to:			
Owners of the parent		153,965	107,806

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 30 June 2023

	Notes	30 June 2023 RMB'000 (Unaudited)	31 December 2022 RMB'000 (Audited)
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment		424,504	402,733
Investment properties		16,153	16,852
Right-of-use assets		7,815	8,551
Other intangible assets		297	309
Investment in a joint venture		2,248	2,299
Investment in an associate		60,266	60,230
Long-term prepayments		28,110	5,750
Deferred tax assets		18,865	28,460
Total non-current assets		558,258	525,184
CURRENT ASSETS			
Inventories	9	498,172	533,244
Trade and bills receivables	10	287,655	251,292
Due from related parties		1,390	2
Prepayments, deposits and other receivables		63,457	26,769
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss		15,000	116,523
Cash and cash equivalents		470,817	335,618
Total current assets		1,336,491	1,263,448
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade payables	11	95,206	94,132
Other payables and accruals		209,340	135,783
Interest-bearing bank and other borrowings		155,313	172,430
Lease liabilities		1,750	1,750
Due to related parties		365	214
Tax payable		13,874	17,317
Total current liabilities		475,848	421,626
NET CURRENT ASSETS		860,643	841,822
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,418,901	1,367,006

	30 June	31 December
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
Notes	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Interest-bearing bank and other borrowings	145,000	180,000
Defined benefit obligations	10,435	10,435
Lease liabilities	982	901
Deferred tax liabilities	17,148	18,457
Deferred income	9,746	11,599
Total non-current liabilities	183,311	221,392
NET ASSETS	1,235,590	1,145,614
EQUITY		
Equity attributable to owners of the parent		
Share capital	426,600	426,600
Reserves	808,990	719,014
TOTAL EQUITY	1,235,590	1,145,614

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1.1 BASIS OF PREPARATION

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRSs") (which include all standards and interpretations, International Accounting Standards ("IASs") and Standing Interpretations Committee interpretations) approved by the International Accounting Standards Board (the "IASB") and the disclosure requirements of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance. They have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for investment properties, derivative instruments and financial assets at fair value through profit or loss which have been measured at fair value. These financial statements are presented in Renminbi ("RMB") and all values are rounded to the nearest thousand except when otherwise indicated.

Basis of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the financial statements of the Company and its subsidiaries (collectively referred to as the "**Group**") for the six months ended 30 June 2023. A subsidiary is an entity (including a structured entity), directly or indirectly, controlled by the Company. Control is achieved when the Group is exposed, or has rights, to variable returns from its involvement with the investee and has the ability to affect those returns through its power over the investee (i.e., existing rights that give the Group the current ability to direct the relevant activities of the investee).

Generally, there is a presumption that a majority of voting rights results in control. When the Company has, directly or indirectly, less than a majority of the voting or similar rights of an investee, the Group considers all relevant facts and circumstances in assessing whether it has power over an investee, including:

- (a) the contractual arrangement with the other vote holders of the investee;
- (b) rights arising from other contractual arrangements; and
- (c) the Group's voting rights and potential voting rights.

The financial statements of the subsidiaries are prepared for the same reporting period as the Company, using consistent accounting policies. The results of subsidiaries are consolidated from the date on which the Group obtains control, and continue to be consolidated until the date that such control ceases.

Profit or loss and each component of other comprehensive income are attributed to the owners of the parent of the Group and to the non-controlling interests, even if this results in the non-controlling interests having a deficit balance. All intra-group assets and liabilities, equity, income, expenses and cash flows relating to transactions between members of the Group are eliminated in full on consolidation.

The Group reassesses whether or not it controls an investee if facts and circumstances indicate that there are changes to one or more of the three elements of control described above. A change in the ownership interest of a subsidiary, without a loss of control, is accounted for as an equity transaction.

If the Group loses control over a subsidiary, it derecognises (i) the assets (including goodwill) and liabilities of the subsidiary, (ii) the carrying amount of any non-controlling interest and (iii) the cumulative translation differences recorded in equity; and recognises (i) the fair value of the consideration received, (ii) the fair value of any investment retained and (iii) any resulting surplus or deficit in profit or loss. The Group's share of components previously recognised in other comprehensive income is reclassified to profit or loss or retained profits, as appropriate, on the same basis as would be required if the Group had directly disposed of the related assets or liabilities.

1.2 CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND DISCLOSURES

The condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis except for certain financial instruments, which are measured at fair values.

Other than additional accounting policies resulting from application of amendments to IFRSs disclosed below, the accounting policies and methods of computation used in the condensed consolidated financial statements for the six months ended June 30, 2023 are the same as those presented in the Group's annual financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Application of amendments to IFRSs

In the current interim period, the Group has applied the following amendments to IFRSs issued by the IASB, for the first time, which are mandatorily effective for the annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2022 for the preparation of the Group's condensed consolidated financial statements:

IFRS 17 (including the June 2020 and Insurance Contracts

December 2021 Amendments to IFRS 17)

Amendments to IAS 8 Definition of Accounting Estimates

Amendments to IAS 12 Deferred Tax related to Assets and Liabilities

arising from a Single Transaction

Amendments to IAS 12 International Tax Reform-Pillar Two model Rules

The application of the amendments to IFRSs in the current interim period has no material impact on the Group's financial positions and performance for the current and prior periods and/or on the disclosures set out in these condensed consolidated financial statements.

2 OPERATING SEGMENT INFORMATION

The Group is principally engaged in the manufacture and sale of resin spectacle lenses.

IFRS 8 Operating Segments requires operating segments to be identified on the basis of internal reporting about components of the Group that are regularly reviewed by the chief operating decision-maker in order to allocate resources to segments and to assess their performance. The information reported to the directors of the Company, who are the chief operating decision-makers, for the purpose of the resource allocation and assessment of performance does not contain discrete operating segment financial information and the directors reviewed the financial results of the Group as a whole. Therefore, no further information about the operating segment is presented.

Geographical information

(a) Revenue from external customers

	Fo	or the six month	ns ended 30 June	
	2023		2022	
	RMB'000	% of total	RMB'000	% of total
	(Unaudited)	revenue	(Unaudited)	revenue
Mainland China	246,061	29.6	202,113	27.1
Asia (except mainland China)	200,876	24.2	184,260	24.7
Americas	189,890	22.8	190,100	25.4
Europe	144,387	17.4	140,491	18.8
Oceania	37,401	4.5	22,035	3.0
Africa	12,541	1.5	7,623	1.0
	831,156	100.0	746,622	100.0

The revenue information of continuing operations above is based on the locations of the customers.

(b) Non-current assets

	30 June	31 December
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
Mainland China	519,349	473,671
Japan	19,341	22,314
United States	643	670
Mexico	60	69
	539,393	496,724

The non-current asset information of continuing operations above is based on the locations of the assets and excludes deferred tax assets.

Information about major customers

For the six months ended 30 June 2023, revenue of approximately RMB94,419,000 (six months ended 30 June 2022: RMB101,640,000) was derived from a single customer, including sales to a group of entities which are known to be under common control with that customer.

3 REVENUE, OTHER INCOME AND GAINS

An analysis of revenue is as follows:

	For the six months ended 30 June	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
Revenue from contracts with customers	831,156	746,622
Disaggregated revenue information		
	For the si	x months
	ended 3	0 June
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
Type of goods or services		
Standardised lenses	657,415	602,480
Customised lenses	170,921	139,482
Others	2,820	4,660
	831,156	746,622
Geographical markets		
Mainland China	246,061	202,113
Asia (except Mainland China)	200,876	184,260
Americas	189,890	190,100
Europe	144,387	140,491
Oceania	37,401	22,035
Africa	12,541	7,623
Total revenue from contracts with customers	831,156	746,622
Total Tevende from contracts with customers		7.10,022
	For the si	v months
	ended 3	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
Timing of revenue recognition	(C.I.a.a.a.)	(S. Mariella)
Goods transferred at a point in time	831,156	746,622

An analysis of other income and gains is as follows:

		I of the st	a monus
		ended 30 June	
		2023	2022
		RMB'000	RMB'000
	Notes	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
Other income			
Government grants and subsidies			
related to income	(i)	1,607	598
related to assets	(ii)	1,070	1,060
Gross rental income from investment			
property operating leases		5,970	5,451
Bank interest income		2,281	900
Others		83	616
		11,011	8,625
Gains			
Foreign exchange differences, net		18,618	5,009
Fair value gain on financial assets at fair value			
through profit or loss		6,165	_
Fair value gain on derivative financial instruments		917	
		25,700	5,009
		36,711	13,634

For the six months

- (i) The government grants and subsidies related to income have been received principally to reward for the contribution to the local economic growth. These grants related to income are recognised in profit or loss upon receipt of these rewards. There are no unfulfilled conditions or contingencies relating to these grants.
- (ii) The Group has received certain government grants related to the investments in production bases.

 The grants related to assets were recognised in profit or loss over the useful lives of relevant assets.

4. PROFIT BEFORE TAX

The Group's profit before tax is arrived at after charging/(crediting):

		For the six ended 3	
		2023	2022
		RMB'000	RMB'000
	Notes	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
Cost of inventories sold*		521,507	496,843
Research and development costs		30,699	25,615
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment		25,165	22,795
Depreciation of right-of-use assets		737	816
Depreciation of investment properties		699	698
Amortisation of intangible assets		12	205
Lease payments not included in the measurement of lease liabilities		881	930
Employee benefit expense (including directors' and chief executive's remuneration):			
Wages, salaries and other allowances		136,295	138,565
Pension scheme contributions and social welfare		41,598	30,957
		177,893	169,522
Foreign exchange differences, net		(18,618)	(5,009)
Fair value (gain)/loss on financial instruments		(6,165)	13,091
Impairment of trade and other receivables		30,948	3,207
Write-down of inventories to net realisable value		338	(791)
Direct operating expenses (including repairs and maintenance)			
arising from rental-earning investment properties		73	76

^{*} During the six months ended 30 June 2023, employee benefit expense of RMB118,613,000 (six months ended 30 June 2022: RMB113,032,000), and write-down of inventories to net realisable value of RMB338,000 (six months ended 30 June 2022: RMB(791,000)) were included in cost of inventories sold disclosed above.

5. FINANCE COSTS

An analysis of finance costs is as follows:

	For the six months	
	ended 30 June	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
Interest on bank loans	7,393	14,134
Interest on other loans	_	479
Interest on lease liabilities	33	64
Interest on defined benefit obligations	29	29
	7,455	14,706

6. INCOME TAX

Jiangsu Conant Optics Co., Ltd. was accredited as a "High and New Technology Enterprise" in 2020, and therefore the Company is entitled to a preferential EIT rate of 15% for the six months ended 30 June 2023 (six months ended 30 June 2022: 15%). "High and New Technology Enterprise" qualifications are subject to review by the relevant tax authority in the PRC for every three years.

Shanghai Conant Optics Co., Ltd. was accredited as a "High and New Technology Enterprise" in 2021, and therefore the Company is entitled to a preferential EIT rate of 15% for the six months ended 30 June 2023 (six month ended 30 June 2022: 15%). "High and New Technology Enterprise" qualifications are subject to review by the relevant tax authority in the PRC for every three years.

Other subsidiaries located in Mainland China were subject to corporate income tax at the statutory rate of 25% under the income tax rules and regulations in the PRC.

Hong Kong profits tax was provided at the rate of 16.5% on the estimated taxable income arising in Hong Kong for the six months ended 30 June 2023.

Pursuant to the relevant tax laws, the subsidiary incorporated in the United States was subject to federal corporation income tax at the rate of 21% (six months ended 30 June 2022: 21%) on the federal taxable income as well as Georgia's state corporate income tax at the rate of 5.75% (six months ended 30 June 2022: 5.75%) on its Georgia taxable income for the six months ended 30 June 2023.

According to prevailing Mexican tax law, the subsidiaries located in Mexico were subject to federal corporate income tax at a rate of 30% for the six months ended 30 June 2023 (six months ended 30 June 2022: 30%).

Pursuant to the rules and regulations of Japan, the subsidiary incorporated in Japan was subject to corporate tax, inhabitant tax and enterprise tax, and the effective statutory tax rates for these taxes were 34.26% for the six months ended 30 June 2023 (six months ended 30 June 2022: 34.26%).

	For the six months ended 30 June	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
Current – Mainland China	13,508	12,203
Current – Hong Kong	663	617
Current – Japan	3,563	_
Current – Mexico	_	_
Current – United States	1,121	1,720
Deferred tax expense	10,723	(1,845)
Total tax charge for the period	29,578	12,695

A reconciliation of tax expense applicable to profit before tax at the statutory rate for the jurisdictions in which the Company and the majority of its subsidiaries are domiciled to the income tax expense at the effective tax rate, and a reconciliation of the applicable rates (i.e., the statutory tax rates) to the effective tax rates, are as follows:

	For the six months	
	ended 30 June	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
Profit before tax	188,154	130,799
Tax at the statutory tax rate of 25%	47,039	32,700
Impact of different tax rates applied to subsidiaries	(16,989)	(11,427)
Effect of withholding tax at 5% on the distributable profits of		
the Group's subsidiaries	663	617
Gains/(losses) attributable to a joint venture and an associate	3	(19)
Income not subject to tax	(160)	(185)
Expenses not deductible for tax	245	283
Additional deduction on research and development expenses	(4,386)	(3,650)
Unrecognised deductible temporary differences	1,608	69
Tax losses not recognised	1,451	(5,929)
Others	104	236
Tax charge at the Group's effective rate	29,578	12,695

7. DIVIDENDS

During the six months ended 30 June 2023, a final dividend for the year 2022 of RMB0.15 (tax inclusive) per ordinary share, amounting to a total of RMB63,990,000, proposed to the shareholders of the Company was approved at the annual general meeting held on 14 June 2023, which will be fully paid on 14 August 2023.

The Board did not recommend the payment of an interim dividend for the six months ended 30 June 2023 (six months ended 30 June 2022: nil).

8. EARNINGS PER SHARE ATTRIBUTABLE TO ORDINARY EQUITY HOLDERS OF THE PARENT

The calculation of the basic earnings per share amounts is based on the profit for the period attributable to ordinary equity holders of the parent, and the weighted average number of ordinary shares of 426,600,000 (six months ended 30 June 2022: 426,600,000) in issue during the six months ended 30 June 2023.

The Group had no potentially dilutive ordinary shares in issue during the six months ended 30 June 2022 and 2023.

9. INVENTORIES

	30 June	31 December
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
Raw materials	245,973	286,387
Finished goods	240,596	232,646
Work in progress	11,603	14,211
	498,172	533,244

10. TRADE AND BILLS RECEIVABLES

	30 June	31 December
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
Trade receivables	324,521	288,262
Bills receivables	505	_
Impairment	(37,371)	(36,970)
	287,655	251,292

The Group's trading terms with its customers are mainly on credit, except for new customers, where payment in advance is normally required. The credit period is generally three months. Most of customers have a maximum credit limit.

The Group seeks to maintain strict control over its outstanding receivables and reconciled the balance to customers monthly. Overdue balances are reviewed regularly by sales and financial department. In view of the aforementioned and the fact that the Group's trade receivables relate to a large number of diversified customers, there is no significant concentration of credit risk. The Group does not hold any collateral over its trade receivable balances. In order to protect the default risk of customers, the Group has purchased certain insurance against credit risk. Trade receivables are non-interest-bearing.

An ageing analysis of the trade receivables as at the end of the reporting period, based on the invoice date and net of loss allowance, is as follows:

	30 June	31 December
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
Within 3 months	248,628	214,035
3 to 6 months	28,425	27,160
6 to 12 months	5,929	5,986
1 to 2 years	3,626	3,948
2 to 3 years	542	163
	287,150	251,292

The movements in the loss allowance for impairment of trade receivables are as follows:

	30 June	31 December
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
At beginning of year/period	36,970	44,087
Impairment losses recognised	4,110	7,216
Exchange realignment	1,070	1,879
Amount written off as uncollectible	(4,779)	(16,212)
At the end of year/period	37,371	36,970

Bills receivable are bank acceptance bills that are unconditionally accepted by banks within the maturity period, and there is no loss allowance for impairment of bills receivable.

An impairment analysis is performed at each reporting date using a provision matrix to measure expected credit losses. The provision rates are based on days past due for groupings of various customer segments with similar loss patterns (i.e., by geographical region, customer type and rating). The calculation reflects the probability-weighted outcome, the time value of money and reasonable and supportable information that is available at the reporting date about past events, current conditions and forecasts of future economic conditions. Generally, trade receivables are written off if past due for more than three years and are not subject to enforcement activity.

Set out below is the information about the credit risk exposure on the Group's trade receivables using a provision matrix:

As at 30 June 2023 (unaudited)

	Less than 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 12 months	1 to 2 years	2 to 3 years	Over 3 years	Total
Expected credit loss rate	3.6%	15.0%	20.0%	24.9%	67.7%	100.0%	11.5%
Gross carrying amount (RMB'000)	257,859	33,441	7,411	4,831	1,680	19,299	324,521
Expected credit loss (RMB'000)	9,231	5,016	1,482	1,205	1,138	19,299	37,371

As at 31 December 2022 (audited)

	Less than 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 12 months	1 to 2 years	2 to 3 years	Over 3 years	Total
Expected credit loss rate	3.9%	11.4%	21.4%	30.1%	90.2%	100.0%	12.8%
Gross carrying amount (RMB'000)	227,291	25,597	7,616	5,647	1,659	20,452	288,262
Expected credit loss (RMB'000)	8,765	2,928	1,630	1,699	1,496	20,452	36,970

11. TRADE AND BILLS PAYABLES

An ageing analysis of the trade and bills payables as at the end of the reporting period, based on the invoice date, is as follows:

	30 June	31 December
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
Within 3 months	77,958	82,553
3 to 6 months	14,348	10,739
6 to 12 months	2,376	193
Over 1 year	524	647
	95,206	94,132

Trade payables are non-interest-bearing and are normally settled on 90-day terms.

BUSINESS REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

Overview

We are a leading resin spectacle lens manufacturer in the People's Republic of China (the "PRC"). With the production facilities in our three production bases, namely the Shanghai Production Base, the Jiangsu Production Base in the PRC and the Sabae Production Base in Japan, our Group is capable of manufacturing resin spectacle lenses of various specifications. We offer a wide range of resin spectacle lenses to our customers including standardised lenses and customised lenses. We pride ourselves on our broad network of trusted customers worldwide which include some of the most renowned spectacle lens brand owners and international ophthalmic optic companies. Leveraging on our extensive experience in the spectacle lens industry, we have currently produced and sold quality products to over 90 countries, including but not limited to the PRC, the United States, Japan, India, Australia, Thailand, Germany and Brazil.

In the first half of 2023, our domestic and overseas businesses expanded steadily with sales continued to grow. In particular, the proportion of sales generated from customised lenses increased, together with that of standardised lenses with refractive index of 1.60 and 1.74, which further increased our gross profit margin. We also strove to optimise the allocation of resources, synergise production and management in line with the concept of cost efficiencity, which in turn facilitates our profit growth. Our revenue increased by 11.3% from RMB746.6 million for the six months ended 30 June 2022 to RMB831.2 million for the six months ended 30 June 2023, and our profit increased by 34.3% from RMB118.1 million for the six months ended 30 June 2022 to RMB158.6 million for the six months ended 30 June 2023, primarily because (i) the average prices per unit of each product by refractive index have all increased as a result of exchange rate influence and the adjustment of our product portfolio sold. The increased proportion of sales generated from multifunctional lenses, customised products and lenses with high refractive index led to our overall sales growth and increase in gross profit margin and (ii) we have further optimised our financing scale, reduced financing costs and interest expenses. In the first half of 2023, we also recorded gains from foreign exchange differences. The total production volume of our three production bases reached 85.9 million pieces in the first half of 2023, which remained relatively stable compared with the same period in 2022.

Outlook

After the H shares of the Company were listed on the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the "Stock Exchange") in 2021, the Company has steadily promote various investment projects to enhance production capacity, product development capability, technology in craftsmanship and brand reputation in 2022 and 2023, which has achieved positive results. So far, our investment in these projects have been well underway and entered the second half of the journey. Going forward, we will continue to strengthen the management of our investment plans and use of funds, effectively apply our increased production capacity, improved technology as well as our market promotion to launch more products with new designs and new functions that meet the market needs and strengthen our market position and increase our market share by pursuing the following strategies:

Enhancing our production capacity. To capture our possible business growth, we plan to enhance the production capacity of our Shanghai Production Base for the production of customised lenses and Jiangsu Production Base for the production of standardised lenses. At present, the production capacity enhancing plan is being implemented steadily, with the various production equipment we invested basically achieving the expected production capacity growth. In the second half of 2023, we will continue to implement the remaining unfinished parts of the plan, which is expected to complete within this year, and will increase the production capacity, optimise production efficiency and promote automation of the production line. Going forward, we will actively look for suitable suppliers of automation equipment for jointly developing customised automation equipment to streamline our labour-intensive production processes. We plan to deploy the aforementioned customised automation equipment on our production line in the near future in order to save labour hours and improve our production efficiency.

Strengthening our product development capability. We consider our research and development capacity crucial to our success in business operation and market competitiveness. With the continuous investment in research and development projects, the Company has gained advantages in certain products and technological innovations, which have continuously improved the overall quality of our products. We intend to upgrade our research and development centre to a state-level research and development centre by scaling up our research and development centre in terms of equipment, manpower and area, which is expected to enhance our research and development capabilities and help maintain our competitiveness in the market. The Company's upgrade project on its research and development centre has been gradually implemented, and we plan to apply for relevant certifications after upgrading our research and development centre to the state-level standard. Moreover, the Company has been researching and developing new functions of different refraction index, new types of products, and enhancing and upgrading the existing products including anti-defocus lenses for youth, anti-infrared, and anti-blue light products.

Expansion of customer base in the PRC market and promotion of our brands. We plan to allocate more resources on sales and marketing. As for offline marketing, our current strategies include participation in industry exhibitions, event organisation and customer visits, and collaboration with ophthalmology service providers and retailers for boosting sales to spectacle lens brand owners, wholesalers, retailers and authorised distributors. We also plan to enhance our online marketing strategies by increasing our online advertising and promotion on multiple platforms and adopt new sales channel such as live streaming e-commerce. The Company currently adopt a vigorous strategy for brand promotion to attract the attention of the market and consumers. The Company has continued its efforts on brand promotion in an orderly manner. We actively participated in various trade fairs, organisational activities and customer visits, and we also established in-hospital ophthalmology centres through collaboration with hospitals to provide customers with one-stop integrated ophthalmology services for diagnosis, treatment, examination and fitting. Meanwhile, hospitals are usually regarded as the authoritative institutes in ophthalmology, which would bring customers sufficient trust and confidence and in turn contribute to enhance the overall image of the brand and the products of the Company. For the second half of 2023, we will focus on enhancing our online marketing strategy by utilising new marketing channels such as Douyin and WeChat mini programme to further promote the Company's brand image.

Advancing our technology in craftsmanship and production process. Our Directors consider that it is important to keep pace with the technological advancement on the production facilities in order to maintain our competitiveness. In this connection, we have (i) enhanced the photochromic production line of the Shanghai Production Base and (ii) upgraded the cold mould processing technology of the Jiangsu Production Base. We will continue to enhance these projects in the second half of 2023. We are committed to enhancing production processes and techniques, keeping our products in line with market and consumer demands, and continuously enhancing product quality. We plan to adopt advanced mould processing equipment to further expand the categories of our high-end mould products in the next two years, effectively improving the accuracy of craftsmanship of our existing high-value-added products and ensuring the processing accuracy required for our newly developed products.

MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Revenue

We generate revenue primarily through the sales of our resin spectacle lenses. Our revenue increased by 11.3% from RMB746.6 million for the six months ended 30 June 2022 to RMB831.2 million for the six months ended 30 June 2023.

We principally sell our products to customers in the PRC, other Asian countries such as India and Japan, the United States and Europe such as the Netherlands, Germany and Italy. Our sales in most geographic location increased in the first half of 2023 as compared to the first half of 2022, primarily attributable to (i) sales growth through different channels and (ii) the continuous upgrades of our products and services and optimisation of our product mix.

We recorded an increase in our revenue in both the standardised lens segment and customised lens segment. The increase in revenue from standardised lenses was primarily attributable to our promotion of high-end lenses, such as high refractive index lenses and multifunctional lenses. In particular, revenue from standardised lenses with refractive index of 1.60 and 1.74 increased by 12.0% and 23.1% in the first half of 2023, respectively, as compared to that in the first half of 2022. Revenue from customised lenses increased by 22.5% in the first half of 2023 as compared to that in the first half of 2022. Such increases were mainly due to the expansion of our customer base of customised lenses.

Cost of Sales

Our cost of sales increased by 5.0% from RMB496.8 million for the six months ended 30 June 2022 to RMB521.5 million for the six months ended 30 June 2023, which was generally in line with our sales growth.

Gross Profit and Gross Profit Margin

As a result of the foregoing, our gross profit increased by 24.0% from RMB249.8 million for the six months ended 30 June 2022 to RMB309.6 million for the six months ended 30 June 2023. Our overall gross profit margin increased from 33.5% for the six months ended 30 June 2022 to 37.3% for the six months ended 30 June 2023, primarily due to an increase in the proportion of sales of customised lenses which had higher selling prices.

The gross profit margin of our standardised lenses increased from 28.6% for the six months ended 30 June 2022 to 31.4% for the six months ended 30 June 2023, primarily due to an increase in the proportion of sales of high-end products, such as lenses with higher refractive indices and multifunctional lenses.

The gross profit margin of our customised lenses increased from 54.2% for the six months ended 30 June 2022 to 59.9% for the six months ended 30 June 2023, primarily due to (i) an increase in the proportion of sales of high-end customised products and (ii) the enhancement in our production efficiency.

Other Income and Gains

Our other income increased by 169.3% from RMB13.6 million for the six months ended 30 June 2022 to RMB36.7 million for the six months ended 30 June 2023, primarily due to (i) an increase in net foreign exchange gain in the sum of RMB18.6 million as a result of the appreciation of U.S. dollar against Renminbi and (ii) an increase in fair value gain on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss of RMB6.2 million recorded from our investment in Viner Total Investments Fund (please refer to the announcement of the Company dated 3 January 2022 for details).

Selling and Distribution Expenses

Our selling and distribution expenses increased by 21.7% from RMB36.6 million for the six months ended 30 June 2022 to RMB44.5 million for the six months ended 30 June 2023. The increase was primarily due to the increases in advertisement expenses, travel expenses and sales commissions for business expansion.

Administrative Expenses

Our administrative expenses increased by 16.9% from RMB62.6 million for the six months ended 30 June 2022 to RMB73.2 million for the six months ended 30 June 2023, primarily attributable to our continuous investment in research and development.

Other Expenses

Our other expenses decreased by 86.8% from RMB15.6 million for the six months ended 30 June 2022 to RMB2.1 million for the six months ended 30 June 2023, primarily because we recorded a fair value loss on derivative financial instruments of RMB13.1 million for the six months ended 30 June 2022, representing losses on fair value changes of cross-currency interest rate swaps, while we did not record such fair value loss for the six months ended 30 June 2023.

Impairment on Financial Assets

Our impairment loss on financial assets increased by 865.0% from RMB3.2 million for the six months ended 30 June 2022 to RMB30.9 million for the six months ended 30 June 2023. The increase was mainly due to the increase in the provision for impairment of receivables along with the increased gross amount of other receivables resulting from the redemption of our investment in Viner Total Investments Fund.

Finance Costs

Our finance costs decreased by 49.3% from RMB14.7 million for the six months ended 30 June 2022 to RMB7.5 million for the six months ended 30 June 2023, primarily due to a decrease in interest on bank loans of RMB6.7 million as a result of the reduction in external financing.

Income Tax Expenses

Our income tax increased by 133.0% from RMB12.7 million for the six months ended 30 June 2022 to RMB29.6 million for the six months ended 30 June 2023, primarily because (i) the unused tax loss of our Japanese subsidiary had been fully utilised in 2022 and (ii) our overall taxable income increased following our sales growth.

Profit for the Period

As a result of the foregoing, our profit for the period increased by 34.3% from RMB118.1 million for the six months ended 30 June 2022 to RMB158.6 million for the six months ended 30 June 2023.

Capital Structure

Our total assets increased by 5.9% from RMB1,788.6 million as at 31 December 2022 to RMB1,894.7 million as at 30 June 2023. Our total liabilities increased by 2.5% from RMB643.0 million as at 31 December 2022 to RMB659.2 million as at 30 June 2023. Liabilities-to-assets ratio decreased from 36.0% as at 31 December 2022 to 34.8% as at 30 June 2023.

The current ratio, being current assets divided by current liabilities as at the respective date, decreased from 3.0 times as at 31 December 2022 to 2.8 times as at 30 June 2023.

Liquidity and Financial Resources

The Group adopts a prudent funding and treasury policy with a view to optimise our financial position. We regularly monitor our funding requirements to support our business operations and perform ongoing liquidity review. Our primary uses of cash are to satisfy our working capital needs and our capital expenditure needs. For the six months ended 30 June 2023, we financed our operations primarily through internal resources and bank and other borrowings. Our cash and cash equivalents increased by 40.3% from RMB335.6 million as at 31 December 2022 to RMB470.8 million as at 30 June 2023, primarily attributable to an increase in our net cash generated from operating activities.

Our gearing ratio, which is calculated based on the total borrowings divided by the total equity and multiplied by 100%, decreased from 30.8% as at 31 December 2022 to 24.3% as at 30 June 2023 as a result of (i) the decrease in the total borrowings and (ii) the increase in total equity attributable to our increased retained profits.

As at 30 June 2023, the Group had interest-bearing and other borrowings of RMB300.3 million (as at 31 December 2022: RMB352.4 million), representing 45.6% (as at 31 December 2022: 54.8%) of its total liabilities as at the same date. Of all the borrowings of the Group as at 30 June 2023, RMB155.3 million were repayable within one year and RMB145.0 million were repayable beyond one year. The Group's bank borrowings amounting to RMB210.3 million as at 30 June 2023 (as at 31 December 2022: RMB240.5 million) were borrowings with floating interest rates.

Except for the bank and other loans amounting to RMB5.1 million as at 30 June 2023 (as at 31 December 2022: RMB6.8 million), which were denominated in Japanese Yen, all the Group's bank and other borrowings as at 30 June 2023 were denominated in Renminbi. The Group mainly uses Renminbi, Japanese Yen, U.S. dollar and Hong Kong dollar to make borrowings and loans and to hold cash and cash equivalents.

As at 30 June 2023, banking facilities of the Group totalling RMB547.3 million (as at 31 December 2022: RMB445.5 million) were utilised to the extent of RMB300.0 million (as at 31 December 2022: RMB351.8 million).

Capital Expenditures

Our capital expenditure increased by 36.3% from RMB26.7 million for the six months ended 30 June 2022 to RMB36.4 million for the six months ended 30 June 2023. Our capital expenditure was used primarily for the purchase of plant and machineries and other items of fixed assets. We financed our capital expenditure primarily through our cash flow generated from operating activities and bank borrowings.

Contingent Liabilities

As at 30 June 2023, the Group did not have any material contingent liabilities, guarantees or any litigations or claims of material importance, pending or threatened against any member of our Group that was likely to have a material and adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

Interim Dividend

The Board did not recommend the payment of an interim dividend for the six months ended 30 June 2023 (six months ended 30 June 2022: nil).

Pledge of Assets

As at 30 June 2023, the Group's property, plant and equipment with carrying values of RMB129.8 million (as at 31 December 2022: RMB136.4 million), investment properties with carrying values of RMB16.2 million (as at 31 December 2022: RMB16.9 million) and leasehold land with carrying values of RMB5.6 million (as at 31 December 2022: RMB5.7 million) were pledged to secure general banking facilities granted to the Group. The Company has pledged the equity interests in certain of its subsidiaries to secure the Company's bank loans of RMB210.3 million as at 30 June 2023.

Foreign Exchange Risk and Hedging

The Group has a significant amount of overseas sales from overseas customers and purchases of raw materials from overseas suppliers. Most of the Group's overseas sales are denominated in U.S. dollar. The Group's sales or purchases may also be denominated in U.S. dollar, Japanese Yen, Renminbi or Euro, which are the currencies other than local currency adopted by the relevant subsidiaries. As such, the Group is exposed to foreign currency risk. The Group currently does not have any hedging policy, but will closely monitor the exposure and will take measures when necessary to make sure the foreign exchange risks are manageable.

Significant Investment

In the first half of 2023, the Group did not have any significant investment which exceeded 5% of the Group's total assets. As at 30 June 2023, the Group held financial assets at fair value through profit or loss of RMB15.0 million (as at 31 December 2022: RMB116.5 million), accounting for less than 5% of the Group's total assets as at the same date. Such financial assets included investments in various fund or wealth management products which were managed or issued by several major and reputable financial institution or commercial banks in the PRC. The value of such investments from any single financial institution or bank did not reach 5% of the Group's total assets as at 30 June 2023.

Material Acquisitions and Future Plans for Major Investment

The Group did not have any material acquisition and disposal of subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures in the first half of 2023. In addition, save for the expansion plans as disclosed in the sections headed "Business" and "Future Plans and Use of Proceeds" in the prospectus of the Company dated 30 November 2021 (the "**Prospectus**"), the Group has no specific plan for major investment or acquisition for major capital assets or other businesses. However, the Group will continue to identify new opportunities for business development.

Significant Events After the Reporting Period

Change of Auditor

On 18 July 2023, Ernst & Young tendered its resignation as the auditor of the Company with effect from 18 July 2023. On 21 July 2023, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu has been appointed as the auditor of the Company with effect from 21 July 2023 to fill the causal vacancy following the resignation of Ernst & Young and to hold office until the conclusion of the next annual general meeting of the Company. For details, please refer to the announcements of the Company dated 18 July 2023 and 21 July 2023.

Subscription of Wealth Management Products

On 4 July 2023, Shanghai Conant Optics Co., Ltd.* (上海康耐特光學有限公司), a subsidiary of the Company, subscribed for a number of wealth management products from Shanghai Rural Commercial Bank Co., Ltd. (上海農村商業銀行股份有限公司) in the aggregate principal amount of RMB160 million with the internal funds of the Group. For details, please refer to the announcement of the Company dated 4 July 2023.

Except as disclosed in this announcement, there are no material events subsequent to 30 June 2023 which could have a material impact on our operating and financial performance as at the date of this announcement.

Company Information

The Company was incorporated in the PRC on 20 June 2018 and is a joint stock company with limited liability. The H shares of the Company were listed on the Stock Exchange on 16 December 2021.

Employees

As at 30 June 2023, we had a total of 2,533 employees who were based in PRC, Japan, United States and Mexico.

The ability to recruit and retain experienced and skilled labour is crucial to our business development and growth. The remuneration payable to our employees generally includes basic salaries and discretionary bonuses. The basic salaries of our employees are generally determined by the employee's rank, position, qualification, experience and performance. The discretionary bonuses are paid on an annual basis, depending on the performance of the individual staff. In order to incentivise, attract and retain our employees, we assess the remuneration package offered to our employees on an annual basis to determine whether any adjustment to the basic salaries and bonus should be made. For the six months ended 30 June 2023, our employee benefit expenses including director's and chief executive's remuneration, wages salary, and other allowances amounted to approximately RMB177.9 million. The Group has provided various training opportunities including induction courses for new employees, training courses on management skills and technical skills.

No Material Change

Since the publication of the Group's audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 on 17 March 2023, there has been no material change to the Group's business.

Material Litigation

The Company was not involved in any material litigation or arbitration during the six months ended 30 June 2023. The Directors are also not aware of any material litigation or claims that are pending or threatened against the Company during the six months ended 30 June 2023.

Rounding

Certain amounts and percentage figures included in this announcement have been subject to rounding adjustments. Any discrepancies in any table between totals and sums of amounts listed therein are due to rounding.

OTHER INFORMATION

Compliance with the Corporate Governance Code

The Group is committed to maintaining high standards of corporate governance to safeguard the interests of the shareholders and to enhance corporate value and accountability. The Directors recognise the importance of good corporate governance in management and internal procedures so as to achieve effective accountability. The Company has adopted Corporate Governance Code (the "CG Code") contained in Appendix 14 to the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities (the "Listing Rules") on the Stock Exchange as its own code of governance. The Board is of the view that the Company has complied with all the code provisions as set out in the CG Code during the six months ended 30 June 2023, except for the deviation from code provision C.2.1 as explained below.

Mr. Fei Zhengxiang ("Mr. Fei") is the chairman the Board and the general manager of the Company and he has been managing the Group's business and supervising the overall operations of the Group since 2006. The Board considers that vesting the roles of the chairman of the Board and the general manager of the Company in Mr. Fei is beneficial to the management and business development of the Group and will provide a strong and consistent leadership to the Group. The Company believes that the balance of power and authority is ensured by the operation of the senior management and the Board, which comprises experienced and high-calibre individuals. As at the date of this announcement, the Board comprises four executive Directors (including Mr. Fei), two non-executive Directors and three independent non-executive Directors. The Board believes that this structure will not impair the balance of power and authority between the Board and the management of the Company, given that:

- i. there is sufficient check and balance in the Board as the decisions to be made by the Board require approval by at least a majority of the Directors;
- ii. Mr. Fei and the other Directors are aware of and undertake to fulfil their fiduciary duties as Directors, which require, among other things, that they act for the benefit and in the best interest of the Company and make decisions for the Company accordingly;
- iii. the balance of power and authority is ensured by the operations of the Board which comprises experienced and high-calibre individuals who meet regularly to discuss issues affecting the operations of the Company; and
- iv. the overall strategy and other key business, financial, and operational policies of the Company are made collectively after thorough discussion at both Board and senior management levels.

The Board will continue to review and consider splitting the roles of the chairman of the Board and the general manager at a time when it is appropriate and suitable by taking into account the circumstances of the Group as a whole.

Compliance with the Model Code for Securities Transactions by Directors and Supervisors

The Company has adopted the Model Code for Securities Transactions by Directors of Listed Issuers set out in Appendix 10 to the Listing Rules (the "Model Code") as its model code of conduct for securities transactions by the Directors and supervisors (the "Supervisors") of the Company. Having made specific enquiry to all Directors and Supervisors, the Company confirms that the Directors and Supervisors have complied with the provisions regarding the securities transactions by Directors and Supervisors as set out in the Model Code for the six months ended 30 June 2023. No incident of non-compliance in relation to the guidelines of the Model Code by the Directors, Supervisors and relevant employees was noted by the Company during the six months ended 30 June 2023.

Purchase, Sale or Repurchase of Listed Securities of the Company

Neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries purchased, sold or redeemed any of the listed securities of the Company during the six months ended 30 June 2023.

Audit Committee and Review of Financial Statements

The Company has established an audit committee (the "Audit Committee") with written terms of reference in compliance with Rule 3.21 of the Listing Rules and the CG Code. As at the date of this announcement, the Audit Committee consists of three independent non-executive Directors, namely Mr. Chen Yi (chairman of the Audit Committee, and who possesses the appropriate professional qualifications and accounting and related financial management expertise), Dr. Xiao Fei and Mr. Jin Yiting. The primary duties of the Audit Committee are to review and supervise the financial reporting process and internal control system of the Group, oversee the audit process, review and oversee the existing and potential risks of the Group and perform other duties and responsibilities as assigned by the Board.

The Audit Committee has reviewed the Company's unaudited condensed consolidated interim results for the six months ended 30 June 2023, and confirms that the applicable accounting principles, standards and requirements have been complied with, and that adequate disclosures have been made.

Future Plans and Use of Proceeds

The H Shares were listed on the Stock Exchange in December 2021, and the Company obtained net proceeds of approximately HK\$473.5 million from the global offering (the "Global Offering"). In order to enhance the efficiency of the use of the net proceeds and to balance the use of the net proceeds in a more reasonable manner while aligning with the Company's business development need, coupled with the changes in external environmental factors, the Board has resolved on 29 November 2022 to utilise approximately HK\$36.9 million of the net proceeds (approximately RMB30.0 million and approximately 7.8% of the net proceeds) to repay existing bank borrowings of the Group. For further details in respect of the change in use of proceeds from the Global Offering, please refer to the announcement of the Company dated 29 November 2022 (the "Change in Use of Proceeds Announcement").

As at 30 June 2023, the Group has utilised approximately HK\$345.8 million of the net proceeds for the intended purposes set out in the Prospectus and the Change in Use of Proceeds Announcement, accounting for 73.0% of all raised funds, and the remaining unutilised net proceeds was approximately HK\$126.7 million. It is expected that the unutilised net proceeds from the Global Offering will continue to be used according to the purposes and proportions as disclosed in the Prospectus and the Change in Use of Proceeds Announcement. Details of the use of proceeds from the Global Offering are as follows:

Intended use of proceeds	Original allocation of net proceeds as stated in the Prospectus (HK\$million)	Revised allocation of net proceeds¹ (HK\$million)	Actual use of net proceeds up to 30 June 2023 (HK\$million)	Unutilised proceeds as at 30 June 2023 (HK\$million)	Expected timeline for use of unutilised proceeds
Increase the Group's production capacity of the Shanghai Production Base (as defined in the Prospectus) and the Jiangsu Production Base (as defined in the Prospectus)	219.7	219.7	163.1	56.6	Before December 2023
Strengthening the Group's research and development capability	94.2	94.2	46.0	48.2	Before December 2023 ²
Enhancing the Group's sales and marketing efforts	48.8	10.9	2.0	8.9	Before December 2023 ²

Intended use of proceeds	Original allocation of net proceeds as stated in the Prospectus (HK\$million)	Revised allocation of net proceeds¹ (HK\$million)	Actual use of net proceeds up to 30 June 2023 (HK\$million)	Unutilised proceeds as at 30 June 2023 (HK\$million)	Expected timeline for use of unutilised proceeds
Working capital and general corporate purposes	47.3	47.3	47.3	-	Not applicable
Enhance the Group's production efficiency and technology in craftsmanship	38.4	38.4	25.4	13.0	Before December 2023
Repayment of the Group's bank borrowings, while such borrowings were principally used to finance the Group's working capital to support its business operation	25.14	62.0 ³	62.0	-	Not applicable

Notes:

- 1. For the avoidance of doubt, any discrepancies between the total and the sums of the amounts listed in the table are due to rounding.
- 2. The Company expects to fully utilise the remaining unutilised net proceeds for (1) strengthening the Group's research and development capability; and (2) enhancing the Group's sales and marketing efforts by the second half of 2023, representing a one-year delay in its expected timeframe. The delay is primarily due to the adjustment of its business development strategy as affected by the social, economic and environmental impacts on the macroeconomic environment in China.
- 3. The Board has resolved on 29 November 2022 to utilise approximately HK\$36.9 million of the net proceeds (approximately RMB30.0 million and approximately 7.8% of the net proceeds) to repay existing bank borrowings of the Group. For further details in respect of the change in use of proceeds from the Global Offering, please refer to the Change in Use of Proceeds Announcement.
- 4. The net proceeds for the planned use under the original allocation, being approximately HK\$25.1 million, have been fully utilised for the repayment of the Group's bank borrowings as set out in the Prospectus.

Publication of Interim Results Announcement and Interim Report

This interim results announcement is published on the websites of the Stock Exchange (www.hkexnews.hk) and the website of the Company (www.conantoptical.com.cn), and the interim report of the Company for the six months ended 30 June 2023 containing all the information required by the Listing Rules will be dispatched to the shareholders and published on the above websites in due course.

By order of the Board

Shanghai Conant Optical Co., Ltd.

Fei Zhengxiang

Chairman

Hong Kong, 11 August 2023

As at the date of this announcement, the Board comprises Mr. Fei Zhengxiang, Mr. Zheng Yuhong, Mr. Xia Guoping and Mr. Chen Junhua as executive Directors; Dr. Takamatsu Ken and Ms. Zhao Xiaoyun as non-executive Directors; and Dr. Xiao Fei, Mr. Chen Yi and Mr. Jin Yiting as independent non-executive Directors.

* For identification purposes only.