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新創建 NWS

新創建集團有限公司*
NWS HOLDINGS LIMITED

(incorporated in Bermuda with limited liability)
(stock code: 00659)

ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) UPDATE ON STATUS OF PUBLIC FLOAT

(2) APPLICATION FOR THE EXTENSION OF WAIVER FROM STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH THE MINIMUM PUBLIC FLOAT REQUIREMENT

References are made to (i) the composite offer and response document dated 13 October 2023 and jointly issued by CTFE, the Offeror and NWS Holdings Limited (the “**Company**”) in relation to the NWS Offers; (ii) the announcement dated 23 November 2023 jointly issued by CTFE, the Offeror and the Company, in relation to the close of the NWS Offers (the “**Close of Offers Announcement**”); (iii) the announcement dated 5 December 2023 issued by the Company in respect of the grant of a temporary waiver from strict compliance with the minimum public float requirement (the “**Waiver Announcement**”); (iv) the circular dated 18 March 2024 issued by the Company in relation to the scrip dividend scheme for the interim ordinary dividend and special dividend for the year ending 30 June 2024; and (v) the announcement dated 19 April 2024 issued by the Company in respect of, among others, the update on the status of the public float of the Company (the “**Update Announcement**” and together with (i) to (iv), the “**Announcements**”). Unless otherwise defined, capitalised terms herein shall have the same meanings as those defined in the Announcements.

UPDATE ON STATUS OF PUBLIC FLOAT

As disclosed in the Close of Offers Announcement, immediately following the close of the NWS Offers and subject to the due registration by the Registrar of the transfer of the Acceptance NWS Shares to the Offeror, 867,159,074 NWS Shares, representing approximately 22.17% of the issued share capital of the Company as at the date of the Close of Offers Announcement, were held by the public (within the meaning of the Listing Rules).

Accordingly, the minimum public float requirement of 25% of the NWS Shares as set out in Rule 8.08(1)(a) of the Listing Rules was not satisfied as at the date of the Close of Offers Announcement. The Company has therefore applied to the Stock Exchange for a temporary waiver (the “**Waiver**”) from strict compliance with the public float requirements under Rule 8.08(1)(a) and Rule 13.32(1) of the Listing Rules. As disclosed in the Waiver Announcement, on 4 December 2023, the Stock Exchange granted the Waiver to the Company for a period from 23 November 2023 to 23 May 2024.

Following the grant of the Waiver and as disclosed in the Update Announcement, on 19 April 2024, the Company issued and allotted 85,629,736 NWS Shares, representing approximately 2.14% of the total issued Shares of the Company as at the date of this announcement, to Shareholders who have elected to receive the interim ordinary dividend and special dividend for the year ending 30 June 2024 wholly or partly in scrip form.

To the best knowledge, information and belief of the Company, as at the date of this announcement, the public float of the Company is approximately 23.83%, which remains slightly below the minimum public float requirement of 25% prescribed in Rule 8.08(1)(a) of the Listing Rules.

APPLICATION FOR THE EXTENSION OF WAIVER FROM STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH THE MINIMUM PUBLIC FLOAT REQUIREMENT

As the Waiver will expire on 23 May 2024, the Company has made an application to the Stock Exchange for an extension of the Waiver.

The Company and the Offeror are taking appropriate steps to restore the required minimum public float as soon as reasonably practicable. Further announcement(s) will be made by the Company regarding the results of the application and the restoration of the public float as and when appropriate in compliance with the Listing Rules.

By Order of the Board
Dr. Cheng Kar Shun, Henry
Chairman

Hong Kong, 23 May 2024

As at the date of this announcement, (a) the executive Directors are Dr. Cheng Kar Shun, Henry, Mr. Cheng Chi Ming, Brian, Mr. Ho Gilbert Chi Hang, Mr. Lam Jim and Mr. Cheng Chi Leong, Christopher; (b) the non-executive Directors are Dr. Cheng Chi Kong, Adrian, Mr. William Junior Guilherme Doo (alternate director to Mr. William Junior Guilherme Doo: Mr. Lam Wai Hon, Patrick) and Mr. Tsang On Yip, Patrick; and (c) the independent non-executive Directors are Mr. Shek Lai Him, Abraham, Mr. Lee Yiu Kwong, Alan, Mrs. Oei Wai Chi Grace Fung, Mr. Wong Kwai Huen, Albert, Professor Chan Ka Keung, Ceajer and Ms. Ng Yuen Ting, Yolanda.

* For identification purposes only