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英達公路再生科技(集團)有限公司

Freetech Road Recycling Technology (Holdings) Limited (incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)
(stock code: 6888)

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTERIM RESULTS FOR THE SIX-MONTH PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

The board of directors (the "Board") of Freetech Road Recycling Technology (Holdings) Limited (the "Company") is pleased to announce the unaudited consolidated interim results of the Company and its subsidiaries (collectively the "Group") for the six-month period ended 30 June 2024 (the "Period").

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Six-month period ended 30 June			
	2024	2023	(Decrease)/
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Increase
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	
Revenue	155,477	164,043	(5.2%)
Gross profit	38,095	29,082	31.0%
(Loss)/Profit attributable to owners			
of the Company	(8,507)	2,277	(473.6%)
(Loss)/Earnings per share (Basic)			
(HK cents)	(0.85)	0.22	(486.4)%
Gross profit margin ¹	24.5%	17.7%	

⁽gross profit/revenue) x 100%

FINANCIAL RESULTS

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the six-month period ended 30 June 2024

	Six-month period ended		
	30 June		
	2024	2023	
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	
Notes	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	
3	155,477	164,043	
	(117,382)	(134,961)	
	38,095	29,082	
4	2,429	3,668	
5	(115)	2	
	8,676	45,180	
	(8,366)	(10,124)	
	(36,035)	(34,573)	
	(6,900)	(7,279)	
	(22)	(213)	
	(2,560)	(2,154)	
6	(1,810)	(1,745)	
7	(6,608)	21,844	
8	(1,424)	(387)	
	(8,032)	21,457	
	 3 4 5 	30 Ju 2024 (Unaudited) Notes 3	

Six-month period ended 30 June

2023 lited)
lited)
,
5'000
1,457
2,138)
(686)
2,824)
1,367)
2,277
9,180
1,457
7,534)
5,167
1,367)
cents
cents

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Notes	30 June 2024 (Unaudited) <i>HK</i> \$'000	31 December 2023 (Audited) <i>HK\$'000</i>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS Property, plant and equipment Investment property Right-of-use assets Goodwill Other intangible assets Interests in joint ventures Equity instruments at FVTOCI Prepayments and deposits for acquisition of leasehold land Deferred tax assets	11 11	107,516 137,971 12,291 6,150 614 5,255 5,162 3,509	119,649 140,859 11,499 6,150 922 6,818 6,127 3,598
		278,477	295,631
CURRENT ASSETS Inventories Bills and trade receivables Contract assets Prepayments, deposits and other receivables Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss Pledged bank deposits Restricted bank deposits Bank balances and cash	12 13	176,009 63,476 307,452 39,276 42,960 7,823 184 202,558	177,335 105,377 371,726 31,895 - 7,454 139 246,688 940,614
CURRENT LIABILITIES Bills, trade and other payables Contract liabilities Taxation payable Lease liabilities Bank borrowings	14	257,514 5,472 883 2,426 97,788 364,083	351,453 382 2,349 1,615 99,117 454,916
NET CURRENT ASSETS		475,655	485,698
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		754,132	781,329

	Notes	30 June 2024 (Unaudited) <i>HK\$</i> '000	31 December 2023 (Audited) <i>HK\$'000</i>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Deferred tax liabilities		16,072	17,029
Lease liabilities		1,386	985
		17,458	18,014
		736,674	763,315
CAPITAL AND RESERVES			
Share capital	15	107,900	107,900
Reserves		582,033	607,462
Attributable to owners of the Company		689,933	715,362
Non-controlling interests		46,741	47,953
Total equity		736,674	763,315

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. CORPORATE INFORMATION

The Company was incorporated as an exempted company with limited liability in the Cayman Islands on 8 June 2011 under the Companies Law, Chapter 22 of the Cayman Islands. The registered office of the Company is located at Cricket Square, Hutchins Drive, PO Box 2681, Grand Cayman, KY1-1111, Cayman Islands.

The Company is an investment holding company. During the period, the Group were principally engaged in the manufacturing and sale of road maintenance equipment, provision of road maintenance services, and development, sales and leasing of properties in the People's Republic of China (the "PRC").

2. BASIS OF PREPARATION AND ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, except for investment property and financial instruments which measured at fair values.

Other than changes in accounting policies resulting from application of new and amendments to Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards ("HKFRSs"), the accounting policies and methods of computation used in the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements for the six-month period ended 30 June 2024 are the same as those followed in the preparation of the Group's annual financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Application of new and amendments to HKFRSs

In the current interim period, the Group has applied, for the first time, the following new and amendments to HKFRSs issued by the HKICPA which are mandatory effective for the annual period beginning on or after 1 January 2024 for the preparation of the Group's condensed consolidated financial statements:

Amendments to HKAS 7 & HKFRS 7 Supplier Finance Arrangements

Amendments to HKFRS 16 Lease Liability in a Sale and Leaseback

Amendments to HKAS 1 Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current

Amendments to HKAS 1 Non-current Liabilities with Covenants

HK Interpretation 5 (Revised) Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current and

Non-current Liabilities with Covenants

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

3. REVENUE AND SEGMENT INFORMATION

For management purposes, the Group is organised into business units based on their products and services and has three reportable operating segments as follows:

Maintenance services — Provision of road maintenance services

Sale of equipment — Manufacturing and sale of road maintenance equipment

Properties — Development, sales and leasing of properties

Management monitors the results of the Group's operating segments separately for the purpose of making decisions about resources allocation and performance assessment. Segment performance is evaluated based on reportable segment profit, which is a measure of adjusted (loss)/profit before tax. The adjusted (loss)/profit before tax is measured consistently with the Group's (loss)/profit before tax except that interest income, exchange differences, share of losses of joint ventures, finance costs, as well as head office and corporate expenses are excluded from such measurement.

Geographic information

The Group's revenue from external customers is derived substantially from its operations in the PRC, and the non-current assets of the Group are substantially located in the PRC.

Information about major customers

Revenue from each major customer which accounted for 10% or more of the Group's revenue for the six-month period ended 30 June 2024 and 2023 is set out below:

	Six-month period ended 30 June	
	2024 (Unaudited) <i>HK\$</i> '000	2023 (Unaudited) <i>HK</i> \$'000
Customer A — Provision of road maintenance services	73,046	82,038

For the six-month period ended 30 June 2024

	Maintenance services (Unaudited) <i>HK\$</i> '000	Sale of equipment (Unaudited) HK\$'000	Properties (Unaudited) HK\$'000	Total (Unaudited) <i>HK\$</i> '000
Segment revenue:				
Sales to external customers Other revenue	143,686 357	11,791		155,477 357
Revenue Allocated corporate expenses	144,043 (122,812)	11,791 (28,902)	- (488)	155,834 (152,202)
Segment results	21,231	(17,111)	(488)	3,632
Reconciliation:				
Interest income				2,072
Foreign exchange losses, net				(51)
Finance costs				(1,810)
Unallocated corporate expenses				(7,891)
Share of losses of joint ventures				(2,560)
Loss before income tax expense				(6,608)
Other segment information:				
Impairment losses reversed in respect of trade receivables, contract assets and other				
receivables	(9,628)	1,029	(77)	(8,676)
Depreciation and amortisation	10,060	1,748	_	11,808
Capital expenditure*	3,912	512	255	4,679

^{*} Capital expenditure consists of additions to property, plant and equipment, investment property, right-of-use assets and other intangible assets.

For the six-month period ended 30 June 2023

	Maintenance services (Unaudited)	Sale of equipment (Unaudited)	Properties (Unaudited)	Total (Unaudited)
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Segment revenue:				
Sales to external customers	132,500	31,543	_	164,043
Other revenue	1,342	2		1,344
Revenue	133,842	31,545	_	165,387
Allocated corporate expenses	(104,000)	(31,467)	(272)	(135,739)
Segment results	29,842	78	(272)	29,648
Reconciliation:				
Interest income				2,324
Foreign exchange losses, net				(59)
Finance costs				(1,745)
Unallocated corporate expenses				(6,170)
Share of losses of joint ventures				(2,154)
Profit before income tax expense				21,844
Other segment information:				
Impairment losses reversed in				
respect of trade receivables,				
contract assets and other				
receivables	(45,536)	274	82	(45,180)
Depreciation and amortisation	9,556	1,664	_	11,220
Capital expenditure*	5,192	2,319	76	7,587

^{*} Capital expenditure consists of additions to property, plant and equipment, investment property, right-of-use assets and other intangible assets.

4. OTHER INCOME

	Six-month period ended	
	30 June	
	2024	2023
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Government grants (Note)	_	587
Interest income	2,072	2,324
Dividend income from equity instruments at FVTOCI	_	185
Others	357	572
	2,429	3,668

Note: The government grants mainly represent unconditional subsidies from PRC local governments to encourage the operations of certain subsidiaries. The government grants are accounted for as immediate financial support with no future related costs expected to be incurred and are not related to any assets.

5. OTHER GAINS AND LOSSES, NET

	Six-month period ended	
	30 June	
	2024	2023
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
(Loss)/Gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment	(64)	61
Foreign exchange losses, net	(51)	(59)
	(115)	2

6. FINANCE COSTS

	Six-month period ended 30 June	
	2024	2023
	(Unaudited) <i>HK\$'000</i>	(Unaudited) HK\$'000
Interest on: — Bank borrowings	1,719	1,663
— Lease liabilities	91	82
	1,810	1,745

7. (LOSS)/PROFIT BEFORE INCOME TAX EXPENSE

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

	Six-month period ended	
	30 June	
	2024	2023
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	10,121	9,766
Depreciation of right-of-use assets	1,399	1,154
Amortisation of other intangible assets	288	300
Short-term lease expenses	718	1,063
Loss/(Gain) on disposal of property, plant and equipment	64	(61)
Reversal of impairment losses on trade receivables and		
contract assets	(9,569)	(44,041)
Provision for/(Reversal of) impairment losses on other receivables	893	(1,139)
Foreign exchange losses, net	51	59

8. INCOME TAX EXPENSE

The charge comprises:

	Six-month period ended 30 June		
	2024 20:		
	(Unaudited) <i>HK\$'000</i>	(Unaudited) HK\$'000	
PRC Enterprise Income Tax ("EIT"):			
— Current tax	1,609	193	
— Under provision in prior years	134	284	
	1,743	477	
Deferred tax charge	(319)	(90)	
	1,424	387	

No provision for Hong Kong Profits Tax has been made since there is no tax assessable profit for the six-month period ended 30 June 2023 and 2024.

Except as described below, provision for PRC EIT is made based on the estimated taxable income for PRC taxation purposes at 25% pursuant to the Law of the PRC on Enterprise Income Tax and Implementation Regulation.

英達熱再生有限公司 Freetech Road Recycling Corporation was recognised as a High-Tech company in 2010, 2014, 2017 and 2022 respectively and the applicable tax rate is 15% from 1 January 2010 to 31 October 2020 and 18 November 2022 to 17 November 2025.

南京英達公路養護車製造有限公司 Nanjing Freetech Road Maintenance Vehicle Manufacturing Corporation was recognised as a High-Tech company in 2009, 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2022 respectively and the applicable tax rate is 15% from 1 January 2009 to 28 November 2021 and 12 December 2022 to 11 December 2025.

天津市高速公路養護有限公司 Tianjin Expressway Maintenance Limited was recognised as a High-Tech company in 2020 and 2023 respectively and the applicable tax rate is 15% from 1 January 2020 to 30 November 2023 and from 8 December 2023 to 7 December 2026.

9. DIVIDENDS

At a meeting of the board of directors held on 30 August 2024, the directors resolve not to pay any interim dividend to shareholders (six-month period ended 30 June 2023: Nil).

10. (LOSS)/EARNINGS PER SHARE

The calculation of the basic and diluted (loss)/earnings per share attributable to the owners of the Company is based on the following data:

(Loss)/Profit

	Six-month period ended 30 June	
	2024	2023
	(Unaudited) HK\$'000	(Unaudited) HK\$'000
(Loss)/Profit for the purposes of calculating basic and		
diluted (loss)/earnings per share — attributable to the owners of the Company	(8,507)	2,277
Number of shares		
	_	eriod ended Tune
	2024 (Unaudited)	2023 (Unaudited)
Weighted average number of ordinary shares in issue less shares held under share award scheme during the period for		
the purpose of calculating basic (loss)/earnings per share	1,003,411,789	1,015,329,894
Effect of dilutive potential ordinary shares: Unvested share award		5,920,028
Weighted average number of ordinary shares for the purpose		
of calculating diluted (loss)/earnings per share	1,003,411,789	1,021,249,922

The computation of diluted loss per share for the six-month period ended 30 June 2024 did not assume the vesting of the Company's outstanding share awards as that would decrease the loss per share for the year presented.

11. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT AND INVESTMENT PROPERTY

During the six-month period ended 30 June 2024, the Group acquired property, plant and equipment, and investment property of HK\$1,994,000 and HK\$255,000, respectively (six-month period ended 30 June 2023: HK\$7,511,000 and HK\$76,000).

The fair value of the Group's investment property was arrived at on the basis of a valuation carried out at the end of the reporting period by Beijing Huaya Zhengxin Assets Appraisal Co., Ltd. (北京華亞正信資產評估有限公司), who is a firm of independent valuer qualifications, on income capitalisation basis. There is no changes in fair value of investment property for the six-month period ended 30 June 2024 (six-month period ended 30 June 2023: Nil).

12. BILLS AND TRADE RECEIVABLES

	30 June 2024	31 December 2023
	(Unaudited) HK\$'000	(Audited) HK\$'000
Trade receivables Bills receivables	63,143 333	103,505 1,872
	63,476	105,377

The following is an aging analysis of bills receivables at the end of the reporting period:

2024 2023 (Unaudited) (Audited) HK\$'000 HK\$'000 0 to 180 days 333 1,872	30 Ju	ne	31 December
HK\$'000 HK\$'000	20	24	2023
	(Unaudite	d)	(Audited)
0 to 180 days 333 1,872	HK\$'0	00	HK\$'000
0 to 180 days 333 1,872			
	0 to 180 days 3	33	1,872

The Group's trading terms with its customers are mainly on credit, except for new customers, where payment in advance is normally required. The Group's trade customers are principally government agencies. The credit period is determined on a case by case basis, subject to the fulfillment of conditions as stipulated in the respective sales contracts. The Group seeks to maintain strict control over its outstanding receivables and has a credit control department to minimise credit risk. Overdue balances are reviewed regularly by senior management.

The following is an aging analysis of trade receivables net of allowance for doubtful debts presented based on the invoice date at the end of the reporting period, which approximated the respective revenue recognition dates:

	30 June	31 December
	2024	2023
	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Within 3 months	14,150	8,042
3 to 12 months	15,533	38,743
1 to 2 years	18,603	33,291
Over 2 years	14,857	23,429
	63,143	103,505

As at 30 June 2024, included in the trade receivables are amounts due from the Group's related companies of HK\$461,000 (31 December 2023: HK\$4,733,000), which are repayable on credit terms similar to those offered to the major customers of the Group.

13. PREPAYMENTS, DEPOSITS AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

	30 June	31 December
	2024	2023
	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Other receivables	11,730	8,823
Prepayments and deposits	24,288	19,731
Other tax recoverable	3,258	3,341
	39,276	31,895

As at 30 June 2024, included in the prepayments, deposits and other receivables are amounts due from the Group's related companies of HK\$383,000 (31 December 2023: HK\$1,091,000), which are unsecured, interest-free and have no fixed terms of repayment.

14. BILLS, TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

	30 June	31 December
	2024	2023
	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Bills payable	3,941	5,497
Trade payables	187,016	268,887
Other tax payables	22,115	25,502
Other payables and accrued charges	44,442	51,567
	257,514	351,453
The following is an aging analysis of bills payable at the end of the rep	porting period:	
	30 June	31 December
	2024	2023
	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
0 to 180 days	3,941	5,497

An aging analysis of the Group's trade payables at the end of the reporting period, based on the invoice date, is as follows:

	30 June	31 December
	2024	2023
	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Within 3 months	36,361	124,679
3 to 12 months	95,702	77,932
1 to 2 years	29,793	37,129
Over 2 years	25,160	29,147
	187,016	268,887

The trade payables are non-interest-bearing and are normally settled on terms ranging from 30 to 180 days.

As at 30 June 2024, included in the Group's trade payables are amounts due to related companies of approximately HK\$161,000 (31 December 2023: HK\$351,000), which are repayable within 90 days, which represents credit terms similar to those offered by the related companies to their major customers.

As at 30 June 2024, included in the Group's other payables and accrued charges is an amount due to a non-controlling shareholder of approximately HK\$24,900,000 (31 December 2023: HK\$24,900,000) which is unsecured, interest-free and have no fixed terms of repayment.

15. SHARE CAPITAL

Shares

	30 June 2024 (Unaudited) <i>HK\$</i> '000	31 December 2023 (Audited) <i>HK</i> \$'000
Authorised: 10,000,000,000 (31 December 2023: 10,000,000,000) ordinary shares of HK\$0.10 each	1,000,000	1,000,000
Issued and fully paid: 1,079,000,000 (31 December 2023: 1,079,000,000) ordinary shares of HK\$0.10 each	107,900	107,900

16. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

The Group had the following capital commitments as at the end of the reporting period:

	30 June 2024	31 December 2023
	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Contracted, but not provided for:		
Leasehold land	14,035	14,391
Property, plant and equipment	974	1,073
Construction contract	290,409	296,551
	305,418	312,015

BUSINESS REVIEW

The board of directors (the "Board") is pleased to present the unaudited consolidated interim results of Freetech Road Recycling Technology (Holdings) Limited (the "Company") and its subsidiaries (collectively, the "Group") for the six-month period ended 30 June 2024 (the "Period").

According to the "Guiding Opinions of Seven Departments Including the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology on Accelerating the Green Development of the Manufacturing Industry", China will orient its future economic development towards "thoroughly implementing the spirit of the Party's 20th National Congress to accelerate the green and advanced level development of emerging industries, discerningly shape the landscape of the future industries in the green and low carbon sectors, and cultivate new business models that integrate green, digital, and service-oriented development". In the long run, the underlying momentum of China's economy continuing to improve remains unchanged, with the central government persisting in strengthening the development strategy of ecological civilization construction without changing its course. Furthermore, China remains on course towards its green and low carbon transition at the economic and social levels, with the environmental protection industry improving in both quality and efficiency. Therefore, the total service area of the "Hot-in-Place" project under the asphalt pavement maintenance ("APM") services sector of the Group recorded an increase during the Period under review and resulted its gross profit margin recorded an increase. The APM equipment segment of the Group recorded decrease in revenue during the Period under review due to (i) the new products launched by the Group were only able to create success sales record in the second half of 2024; and (ii) the corresponding period in 2023 was included the sale a set of modular series equipment. During the Period under review, the Group also recorded a decrease in reversal of expected credit loss of trade receivables and contracts assets for the Period.

During the Period, the Group's operating revenue was approximately HK\$155.5 million, representing a decrease of approximately 5.2%, as compared to the corresponding period in 2023. Total loss attributable to owners of the Company was approximately HK\$8.5 million, representing an decrease of approximately 473.6% as compared to total profit attributable to owners of the Company of approximately HK\$2.3 million for the sixmonth period ended 30 June 2023.

APM Services

The revenue for this segment increased as compared with that of the corresponding period in 2023 due to the effect of: (i) the revenue of the "Hot-in-Place" projects recorded increase during the Period because increase in the total service area of the Group's "Hot-in-Place" projects; and (ii) more road renovation maintenance work will be performed by Tianjin Expressway Maintenance Company Limited* (天津市高速公路 養護有限公司) ("Tianjin Expressway Maintenance") in the second half of 2024, the revenue of non-"Hot-in-Place" projects recorded a decrease during the Period.

The APM services segment recorded revenue of approximately HK\$143.7 million, representing an increase of 8.4% as compared to the corresponding period in 2023. The gross profit margin of this segment was increased from 10.6% for the six-month period ended 30 June 2023 to 23.1% during the Period due to an increase in the total service area of the Group's "Hot-in-Place" projects. The Group has continued to be a leading integrated solution provider using "Hot-in-Place" recycling technology in the APM industry in the PRC.

APM Equipment

The APM equipment segment of the Group recorded revenue of HK\$11.8 million, representing decrease of 62.6% as compared to the corresponding period in 2023. The decrease in revenue was due to the new products launched by the Group were only able to create success sales record in the second half of 2024 and the Group had successfully sold a set of modular series equipment during the corresponding period in 2023.

Research and Development

To maintain our leading position in using "Hot-in-Place" recycling technology in the APM industry, the Group continued to place emphasis on technological innovation.

New Patents

During the Period, the Group continued to invest resources in research and development. As at 30 June 2024, it had registered 250 patents (as at 31 December 2023: 238), of which 34 were invention patents (as at 31 December 2023: 30), 189 were utility model patents (as at 31 December 2023: 181) and 27 were design patents (as at 31 December 2023: 27). Besides, it had 28 pending patent applications (as at 31 December 2023: 22), of which 16 invention patents (as at 31 December 2023: 20), 9 utility model patents (as at 31 December 2023: 2) and 3 design patents (as at 31 December 2023: nil).

^{*} For identification purpose only

During the Period under review, the first innovative automatic hot-in place recycling patching vehicle in the industry PM800 was developed. It can be remotely operated just by a single operator for the entire hot-in place patching process. It integrated a LiDar scanning system to recognize the size and position of pavement, automatic self-driven system, intelligent heat cycle control, scarify, spray emulsion, material auto-weighing and adding system, as well as self-leveling screed to pave the patching area. System also collects all data of defects, repair parameters, consumables for management analysis.

Facing to the abnormal climate challenge causing severe flooding, the Group developed high-capacity flooding control vehicle FDR3000. It consists of main unit and track-driven remote unit so they can adapt to various flooding environment and provide fast water pumping process.

Both products had already been created success sales record once it launched.

Others

With strong research and development capabilities, the Group is able to adopt the most advanced technologies in the APM industry, provides customised solutions to its clients and maintain its competitive edges and leading status in the APM industry by using the recycling technology.

OUTLOOK

Currently, China faces more adverse impacts from changes in external environment, and effective domestic demand remains insufficient. There are still various risks and potential dangers in major sectors, as well as challenges resulting from the replacement of traditional growth drivers with new ones. However, China's economy has been generally stable and made progress since the start of this year. In addition, China has sustained the momentum of economic recovery and moved faster to foster new growth drivers and competitive edges. China's GDP expanded 5 percent year on year in the first half of 2024, aligning with the economic target set at the beginning of the year. According to the "Work Plan to Accelerate the Establishment of a Dual-Control System for Carbon Emissions" recently released by the State Council of China, this system will focus on the intensity of carbon emissions as well as measuring overall emissions. The carbon budgets will be created by China's provinces and municipalities, and the budgeting system will be trialed before the end of 2025. Policies to accelerate the green transition could not only help China to progress toward its dual carbon targets achieving peak carbon emissions before 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2060 — but also create more demand of green technology products. With our patent "Hot-in-Place" recycling technology and other new products, the Group will benefit from the increasing demand for APM and the favourable environment in the PRC, especially those using the recycling technologies.

First, as at 31 December 2023, China has the longest expressway and the second longest highway (in terms of mileage) in the world. The overall growth of the APM industry in the PRC remains sustainable and the existing penetration rate of recycling technology (including the Group's "Hot-in-Place" recycling technology) is still minimal and has significant potential for expansion. Secondly, the Group had developed part of the South China market which enables the Group to perform APM services during slack season. Third, subsequent to the Company's sale of a modular series equipment to a customer in the Republic of Korea and standard series equipment to customers in Macau, Malaysia and Taiwan, the Company will continue to explore the overseas business opportunities and strategic cooperation with other companies, such as some listed companies and large-scale or state-owned enterprises. Fourth, the Group will continue to leverage on its state-owned partners' overseas channels to explore overseas business opportunities. The Group is making an effort to promote its overseas business opportunities in the countries along the "One Belt One Road" and four Asian tigers. In light of these, the Group is well positioned to benefit from the government's policies and the positive development prospects in the environmental protection sector.

As a leading provider of the "Hot-in-Place" recycling technology in the APM sector and a provider of one-stop solution covering "testing, planning, equipment and construction", the Group will leverage on its competitive advantages and implement favourable policies to achieve a healthy growth in its business. The Group plans to enhance its market position, enter into new markets and enlarge its share in existing markets by the following means:

- 1. it will increase market penetration, particularly in cities where the use of "Hot-in-Place" recycling technology is currently relatively limited;
- 2. it will focus on the cities which will hold major events to gain and complete projects of high awareness;
- 3. it will diversify its product range and develop new product in road industry;
- 4. it will continue to invest in its testing and planning department by devoting more equipment and staff in it so as to enhance its one-stop solution and generate new revenue stream which is road doctor consultant services;
- 5. it will further optimize its techniques and technologies to lower the construction costs; and
- 6. it will leverage on its state-owned partners' overseas channels to expand the international APM equipment and services market.

In addition, the construction work of the investment property acquired by the Group at lot 04–05 and 04–06 of Jiangxinzhou, Jianye District, Nanjing, the PRC (中國南京市建鄴區江心洲) in December 2016 has commenced in first quarter of 2022. The investment property will not only enable the Group to enhance its research and development capabilities, but will also bring additional income streams to the Group in future.

Looking into the future, the Group holds confidence in its business prospects and will strive to provide higher returns for its shareholders with the principle of "Efficient use of technology to create multi-win situations" ("善用科技,共創多赢").

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW

The Group consists of two main business segments: the APM service segment, where it provides APM services under its registered trademark 公路電空 (Road Doctor) to repair damaged asphalt pavement surfaces, and the APM equipment segment, where it manufactures and sells a wide range of APM equipment.

The following is a description of the Group's operating activities during the Period, with comparisons against the corresponding period in 2023.

REVENUE

a. APM Services

	Six-month period ended 30 June				
	20)24	20)23	
		Area		Area	
		serviced		serviced	
	Unaudited	(square	Unaudited	(square	Increase/
	HK\$'000	meters'000)	HK\$'000	meters'000)	(decrease)
Revenue (net of VAT)					
"Hot-in-Place" Projects Non-"Hot-in-Place"	58,509	1,164	30,125	520	94.2%
Projects	85,177		102,375	-	(16.8%)
Total	143,686		132,500		8.4%

Six-month period ended 30 June				e	
	2024	4	2023	3	
	Unaudited		Unaudited		
	HK\$'000	Margin	HK\$'000	Margin	Increase
Gross profit					
"Hot-in-Place" Projects	26,631	45.5%	8,330	27.7%	219.7%
Non-"Hot-in-Place"					
Projects	6,546	7.7%	5,669	5.5%	15.5%
Total	33,177	23.1%	13,999	10.6%	137.0%
10141	30,177	23.1 /0	13,777	10.070	157.070

Revenue for this segment increased as compared with that of the corresponding period in 2023 due to the net effect of: (i) the revenue of the "Hot-in-Place" projects recorded increase during the Period because increase in the total service area of the Group's "Hot-in-Place" projects; and (ii) as more road renovation maintenance work will be performed by Tianjin Expressway Maintenance in the second half of 2024, the revenue of non-"Hot-in-Place" projects recorded a decrease during the Period.

Due to the increase in the total service area of the Group's "Hot-in-Place" projects, the gross profit margin of this segment was increased from 10.6% for the six-month period ended 30 June 2023 to 23.1% during the Period.

b. APM Equipment

	Six-month period ended 30 June					
	2024		2023			
	Unaudited <i>HK\$</i> '000	units/ sets	Unaudited <i>HK</i> \$'000	units/ sets	Decrease	
Revenue (net of VAT)						
Standard series	10,951	7	12,400	10	(11.7%)	
Modular series	_	_	17,369	1	N/A	
Repair and maintenance	840	N/A	1,774	N/A	(52.6%)	
Total	11,791		31,543		(62.6%)	

	Six-1				
	2024		2023		
	Unaudited	Unaudited			
	HK\$'000	Margin	HK\$'000	Margin	Decrease
Gross profit					
Standard series	4,429	40.4%	5,445	43.9%	(18.7%)
Modular series	_	_	8,511	49.0%	N/A
Repair and maintenance	489	58.2%	1,127	63.5%	(56.6%)
Total	4,918	41.7%	15,083	47.8%	(67.4%)

Revenue for the APM equipment segment for the Period decreased by 62.6% as compared to the corresponding period for 2023 was mainly due to the new products launched by the Group were only able to create success sales record in the second half of 2024 and the corresponding period in 2023 was included the sale a set of modular series equipment. Due to the corresponding period in 2023 was included the sale of a set of modular series equipment, the gross profit margin for the APM equipment segment was decreased from 47.8% for the six-month period ended 30 June 2023 to 41.7% during the Period.

OTHER INCOME

Other income was decreased by approximately HK\$1.3 million from HK\$3.7 million for the six-month period ended 30 June 2023 to HK\$2.4 million for the Period, primarily due to the decrease in the deposit interest rate and the government grants.

REVERSAL OF IMPAIRMENT LOSSES ON FINANCIAL AND CONTRACT ASSETS

The reversal of the expected credit loss allowance on financial and contract assets decreased from HK\$45.2 million for the six-month period ended 30 June 2023 to HK\$8.7 million during the Period, primarily due to the effect of (i) the reversal of the expected credit loss allowance of trade receivables and contract assets decreased; and (ii) expected credit loss allowance on other receivables recognized.

SELLING AND DISTRIBUTION COSTS

The selling and distribution costs decreased by approximately HK\$1.7 million from HK\$10.1 million for the six-month period ended 30 June 2023 to HK\$8.4 million for the Period and was mainly due to the effect of (i) more travelling and entertainment expenses were incurred in the corresponding period in 2023 after strict COVID-19 pandemic control implemented in the first half of 2022 had been relieved in the fourth quarter of 2022; and (ii) according the Group's plan, more marketing and promotion activities will be conducted in the second half of 2024.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Administrative expenses increased by approximately HK\$1.4 million, from HK\$34.6 million for the six-month period ended 30 June 2023 to HK\$36.0 million for the Period primarily due to the increase in the staff costs as the salary level of the Group had been adjusted during the Period.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COSTS

Research and development costs decreased by approximately HK\$0.4 million, from HK\$7.3 million for the six-month period ended 30 June 2023 to HK\$6.9 million for the Period, primarily due to some of the Group's new product had been launched in the market.

FINANCE COSTS

Finance costs increased by approximately HK\$0.1 million, from HK\$1.7 million for the six-month period ended 30 June 2023 to HK\$1.8 million for the Period, primarily due to the increase in bank borrowings.

SHARE OF LOSSES OF JOINT VENTURES

The Group's share of losses from the joint ventures was approximately HK\$2.6 million for the Period, increased by approximately HK\$0.4 million, as compared to the corresponding period in 2023.

INCOME TAX EXPENSE

Income tax expense increased by approximately HK\$1.0 million, from income tax expense of approximately HK\$0.4 million for the six-month period ended 30 June 2023 to HK\$1.4 million for the Period, which is mainly due to the increase in the profit before tax of the PRC's subsidiaries during the Period.

LOSS

Loss attributable to owners of the Company amounted to HK\$8.5 million for the Period compared with profit attributable to owners of the Company of approximately HK\$2.3 million for the six-month period ended 30 June 2023, primarily due to the effect of (i) the increase in revenue of APM services segment; (ii) the decrease in revenue of APM equipment segment; and (iii) the decrease in the recognition of reversal of expected credit loss allowance of trade receivables and contract assets.

LIQUIDITY AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND CAPITAL STRUCTURE

As at 30 June 2024, the Group's bank balances and cash, restricted bank deposits, financial assets at fair value through profit or loss and pledged bank deposits ("Cash and Bank") amounted to approximately HK\$253.5 million (as at 31 December 2023: HK\$254.3 million). The decrease was primarily due to the net effect of (1) net cash flows generated from operating activities; and (2) changes in foreign currency translation as a result of the depreciation of RMB against Hong Kong dollars as most of the Cash and Bank are denominated in RMB, but for the purpose of presenting consolidated financial statements, these assets and liabilities are translated into Hong Kong dollars. As at 30 June 2024, the bank borrowings of the Group amounted to HK\$97.8 million (as at 31 December 2023: HK\$99.1 million). As at 30 June 2024 and 31 December 2023, the Group was in a net cash position.

Due to the effect of (i) the most of the long outstanding balances of Tianjin Expressway Maintenance had been recovered during the Period; and (ii) the decrease in the revenue during the period, the trade receivables and contract assets balances was decreased by HK\$120.3 million, or approximately 16.1%, from HK\$748.9 million as of 31 December 2023 to HK\$628.6 million as of 30 June 2024. The contract assets balance also includes some retention money withheld by the customers (5% to 10%) of the contract price which is to be paid after the expiration of the warranty period and was not yet past due. As at the latest practicable date, customers had subsequently settled trade receivables amounting to HK\$25.3 million (equivalent to approximately RMB23.5 million).

As at 30 June 2024, the Group's liquidity position remained stable and the Group strives to efficiently use its financial resources and adopts a prudent financial policy in order to maintain a healthy capital ratio and support its business expansion requirements.

INVESTMENT PROPERTY

As at 30 June 2024, the Group's investment property is measured using the fair value model and was approximately HK\$138.0 million (as at 31 December 2023: HK\$140.9 million). The decrease in the Group's investment property was the result of the depreciation of RMB against Hong Kong dollar as the assets and liabilities of the Group are denominated in RMB, but for the purpose of presenting consolidated financial statements, these assets and liabilities are translated into Hong Kong dollars. The investment property is a parcel of land and is located at lot 04-05 and 04-06 of Jiangxinzhou, Jianye District, Nanjing, the PRC (中國南京市建鄴區江心洲). It was acquired by the Group in December 2016 and shall be developed for research and development use. The construction work of the investment property had commenced in the first quarter of 2022. Due to the strict COVID 19 pandemic control in second quarter of 2022 and some changes of the construction plan, the expected completion date of the investment property has delayed from fourth quarter 2023 to fourth quarter of 2025. The Group intends to fund 80% of the contract cost by bank financing and 20% by its internal resources. The site area of the investment property is approximately 35,673 square meters, with plot ratio not more than 1.2 and gross floor area permissible for sale is no more than 40% of the total gross floor area. The investment property will be developed into the global technology research and development centre of the Group, two main office buildings with total gross floor area of approximately 25,696 square meter (the "Main Buildings") and seventeen small office buildings with total gross floor area of approximately 17,055 square meter (the "Office Buildings") will be developed. Upon the completion of the construction, the Group intends to lease the some office spaces of the Main Buildings to third parties, which will bring additional income streams to the Group. The Group also decides to sell the Office Buildings to repay the construction cost. During the year ended 31 December 2021, as the management of the Group had decided to sell Office Buildings upon completion and the investment property of approximately HK\$136.5 million had been transferred to inventories. The Group intends to develop the investment property to bring additional income to the Group, it is an oneoff transaction and the Group does not have the intention to enter into real estate development industry.

INTEREST-BEARING BANK BORROWINGS

As at 30 June 2024, the Group had total debt of HK\$97.8 million (as at 31 December 2023: HK\$99.1 million), which was comprised of secured interest-bearing bank borrowings of HK\$55.4 million (as at 31 December 2023: HK\$44.6 million) and unsecured interest-bearing bank borrowings of HK\$42.4 million (as at 31 December 2023: HK\$54.5 million).

As at 30 June 2024, bank balances of approximately HK\$7.8 million (as at 31 December 2023: HK\$7.5 million) was pledged to secure general banking facilities granted to the Group.

The maturity profile of the interest-bearing bank borrowings as at 31 December 2023 and 30 June 2024 were repayable within one year or demand.

USE OF PROCEEDS RAISED FROM INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING ("IPO")

The Group received approximately HK\$687.0 million net proceeds, after deducting underwriting fees and other related expenses, from the Company's IPO. 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 27 November 2023, the unutilised net proceeds of approximately HK\$79.7 million for establishing joint ventures and expanding APM service teams and acquisitions of other APM service providers had been re-allocated for investment in research and development activities, constructing new production facility and general corporate purposes and working capital requirements of HK\$30.0 million, HK\$14.7 million and HK\$35.0 million, respectively. For further details in respect of the change in use of proceeds from the IPO, please refer to the announcement of the Company dated 27 November 2023 (the "Change in Use of Proceeds Announcement") and clarification announcement of the Company dated 28 November 2023 (the "Clarification Announcement").

These net proceeds were applied up to the period ended 30 June 2024 in the manner as stated in the prospectus of the Company dated 14 June 2013, the Change in Use of Proceeds Announcement and the Clarification Announcement, as follows:

	HK\$ million	Net proceeds utilised during the Period HK\$ million	Net proceeds utilised up to 30 June 2024 HK\$ million	Unutilised HK\$ million	Expected timeline for unutilised net proceeds
Investment in research and					
development activities	167.4	7.2	147.4	20.0	End of 2025
Establishing joint ventures and					
expanding APM service teams	99.9	_	99.9	_	
Manufacturing APM equipment					
and expanding our APM					
service teams	103.1	_	103.1	_	
Acquisitions of other APM					
service providers	60.8	_	60.8	_	
Constructing new production					
facility	83.4	0.2	68.9	14.5	End of 2025
Establishing sales offices in					
new markets and marketing					
expenses	68.7	_	68.7	_	
General corporate purposes and					
working capital requirements	103.7	5.5	77.2	26.5	End of 2025
	687.0	12.9	626.0	61.0	

The unutilised net proceeds have been deposited into short-term deposits with licensed banks and authorised financial institutions in Hong Kong and the PRC.

SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENTS HELD, MATERIAL ACQUISITIONS AND DISPOSALS OF SUBSIDIARIES, ASSOCIATES AND JOINT VENTURES, AND FUTURE PLANS FOR MATERIAL INVESTMENTS OR CAPITAL ASSETS

During the Period under review, there were no other significant investments held, nor were there any material acquisitions or disposals of any subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures during the Period. There was no concrete plan authorised by the Board for other material investments or additions of capital assets as at the date of this announcement.

CAPITAL COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The Group's capital commitments are set out in note 16 to these condensed consolidated interim unaudited financial statements.

As at 30 June 2024, the Group did not have any material contingent liabilities.

FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

The Group's business is exposed to a variety of financial risks, such as interest rate risk, foreign currency risk and credit risk.

The Group's exposure to the risk of changes in market interest rates relates primarily to the Group's bank borrowings with a floating interest rate. As at 30 June 2024, 73.1% and 26.9% (as at 31 December 2023: 88.9% and 11.1%) of the Group's bank borrowings are at fixed interest rate and floating interest rate, respectively. The Group has not used any interest rate swaps to hedge its interest rate risk.

The Group collects most of its revenue in Renminbi ("RMB") and most of its expenditures as well as capital expenditures are also denominated in RMB. The Group's exposures to foreign currency risk arises mainly from certain bank deposits and interest-bearing bank borrowings denominated in foreign currency of the relevant group entities. As at 30 June 2024, bank balances and cash, restricted bank deposits, pledged bank deposits and financial assets at fair value through profit or loss of approximately HK\$248,492,000 (as at 31 December 2023: HK\$249,327,000) are denominated in RMB, the remaining balances are mainly denominated in Hong Kong dollars. As at 30 June 2024, the Group's bank borrowings denominated in RMB amounted to HK\$97,788,000 (equivalent to RMB91,050,000) (as at 31 December 2023: HK\$99,117,000 (equivalent to RMB90,000,000)). The Group has not hedged its foreign currency risk. The changes in foreign currency translation reserve during the Period was the result of the depreciation of RMB against Hong Kong dollar as the assets and liabilities of the Group are denominated in RMB, but for the purpose of presenting consolidated financial statements, these assets and liabilities are translated into Hong Kong dollars.

The Group has policies in place to evaluate credit risk when accepting new business and to limit its credit exposure to individual customers.

EMPLOYEES AND REMUNERATION

As at 30 June 2024, the Group had a total of 478 full time employees (as at 31 December 2023: 475). Staff costs during the Period, including directors' emoluments, totalled HK\$38.4 million (six-month period ended 30 June 2023: HK\$38.3 million). The Group provides competitive remuneration packages to retain its employees including discretionary bonus schemes, medical insurance and other allowances and benefits in kind as well as mandatory provident fund schemes for employees in Hong Kong and state-managed retirement benefit schemes for employees in the PRC. The Group stresses the importance of staff development and provides training programmes on an ongoing basis.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE CODE

The Board is committed to achieving a high standard of corporate governance to safeguard the interests of the Company's shareholders and to enhance corporate value and accountability. During the Period, the Company has applied the principles and complied with the applicable code provisions of the Corporate Governance Code (the "CG Code") as set out in Appendix C1 to the Listing Rules, except code provision C.2.1 as more particularly described below.

CG Code provision C.2.1 provides that the roles of chairman and chief executive officer should be separated and should not be performed by the same individual. The Board considers that the Company is still in its growing stage and it would be beneficial to the Group for Mr. Sze Wai Pan ("Mr. Sze") to assume both roles as the chairman and chief executive officer of the Company since the two roles tend to reinforce each other and are mutually enhancing in respect of the Group's continual growth and development. When the Group has developed to a more sizeable organisation, the Board will consider separating the two roles to be assumed by two individuals. With the strong business experience of the directors of the Company, the Group does not expect any issues would arise due to the combined roles of Mr. Sze. The Group also has in place an internal control system to perform a check-and-balance function. There are also three independent non-executive directors on the Board offering strong, independent and differing perspectives. The Board is therefore of the view that there is an adequate balance-of-power and safeguards in place to enable the Company to make and implement decisions promptly and effectively.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

The audit committee of the Company has been set up in accordance with the Listing Rules. The audit committee comprises three independent non-executive directors, namely Ms. Yeung Sum (Chairman), Prof. Lau Chi Pang, J.P. and Prof. Lai Kin Keung (including one independent non-executive director with the appropriate professional qualifications).

At an audit committee meeting held on 30 August 2024, the audit committee, along with the management of the Company, reviewed the accounting principles and practices adopted by the Group and other financial reporting matters as well as the interim condensed consolidated unaudited financial statements for the Period. The audit committee was satisfied that the financial statements were prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and fairly present the Group's financial position and results for the Period.

MODEL CODE FOR SECURITIES TRANSACTIONS BY DIRECTORS

The Company has adopted the Model Code for Securities Transactions by Directors of Listed Issuers (the "Model Code") as set out in Appendix C3 to the Listing Rules.

A specific enquiry has been made to all the directors and the directors have confirmed that they have complied with the Model Code during the Period.

The Company has also established written guidelines on no less exacting terms than the Model Code for securities transactions by employees who are likely to be in possession of unpublished price-sensitive information of the Company (the "Employees Written Guidelines").

No incident of non-compliance with the Employees Written Guidelines was noted by the Company during the Period.

PURCHASE, REDEMPTION OR SALE OF LISTED SECURITIES OF THE COMPANY

Neither the Company, nor any of its subsidiaries purchased, redeemed or sold any of the Company's listed securities during the Period.

INTERIM DIVIDEND

The Board does not recommend the payment of an interim dividend for the Period (for the six-month period ended 30 June 2023: nil).

PUBLICATION OF INTERIM RESULTS AND REPORT

The interim results announcement is published on the website of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited at www.hkexnews.hk and the website of the Company at www.freetech-holdings.hk.

The interim report of the Company for the six-month period ended 30 June 2024 will be despatched to the shareholders of the Company and published on the above websites in due course.

APPRECIATION

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to our management and staff members for their dedication and hard work during the Period. We would like to extend our thanks to all our business partners, customers and shareholders for their support. We believe that they will continue to render support to the Group for our continuous growth and success in the future.

By order of the Board Freetech Road Recycling Technology (Holdings) Limited Sze Wai Pan

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Hong Kong, 30 August 2024

As at the date of this announcement, the executive Directors are Mr. Sze Wai Pan and Mr. Chan Kai King; the non-executive Directors are Ms. Sze Wan Nga, Mr. Zhou Jichang, Prof. Tong Wai Cheung Timothy and Dr. Chan Yan Chong; and the independent non-executive Directors are Ms. Yeung Sum, Prof. Lau Chi Pang and Prof. Lai Kin Keung.