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CHINA MERCHANTS CHINA DIRECT INVESTMENTS LIMITED

招商局中國基金有限公司

(Incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)

(Stock Code: 133)

CONTINUING CONNECTED TRANSACTION

PROPOSED RE-APPOINTMENT OF

CHINA MERCHANTS CHINA INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LIMITED

AS INVESTMENT MANAGER

Financial adviser to the Company

ALTUS CAPITAL LIMITED

On 18 October 2024, the Company entered into the New Management Agreement with CMCIM in relation to the proposed re-appointment of CMCIM as the Company's investment manager for the Management Period. In order to align more closely with the market, offering competitiveness while maintaining the existing fee structure, a reduction of 25 basis points across the management fees was negotiated and agreed between the Company and CMCIM. Save for the aforesaid reductions, the terms of the New Management Agreement are in all material respects the same as those of the Existing Management Agreement which was approved by the Independent Shareholders in 2021.

CMCIM, as the investment manager of the Company since 1993, is a connected person of the Company pursuant to Rule 14A.08 of the Listing Rules. Accordingly, the transaction contemplated under the New Management Agreement constitutes a continuing connected transaction for the Company under Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules.

As one or more of the applicable percentage ratios in respect of the proposed annual caps for the fees payable under the New Management Agreement for each of the three years ending 31 December 2027 exceed 5%, the transaction contemplated thereunder is subject to the reporting, announcement, annual review and Independent Shareholders' approval requirements under the Listing Rules.

An independent board committee of the Company comprising all independent non-executive Directors, namely Mr. TSANG Wah Kwong, Dr. LI Fang, Dr. GONG Shaolin, Mr. Michael Charles VITERI and Mr. ZHU Qi, has been formed to advise the Independent Shareholders in respect of the New Management Agreement and the proposed annual caps. An independent financial adviser has been appointed by the Company to advise the Independent Board Committee and the Independent Shareholders in respect of the New Management Agreement and the proposed annual caps.

A circular containing, amongst other things, further details of the New Management Agreement, the recommendation of the Independent Board Committee, the advice of the independent financial adviser to the Independent Board Committee and the Independent Shareholders and a notice convening the extraordinary general meeting to approve the New Management Agreement and the proposed annual caps, will be distributed to the shareholders of the Company on or before 8 November 2024.

NEW MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

On 18 October 2024, the Company entered into the New Management Agreement with CMCIM in relation to the proposed re-appointment of CMCIM as the Company's investment manager for the Management Period, immediately following the expiry date of the Existing Management Agreement on 31 December 2024.

Principal terms

The principal terms of the New Management Agreement include:

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| Condition: | The New Management Agreement is conditional upon the approval of the Independent Shareholders at the extraordinary general meeting of the Company to be convened in accordance with the requirements of the Listing Rules. |
| Term of appointment: | The appointment of CMCIM is for a fixed term of three years, commencing on 1 January 2025 and ending on 31 December 2027. Thereafter, subject to the approval of the Independent Shareholders in accordance with the Listing Rules and compliance with all other applicable requirements under the Listing Rules, the appointment shall be renewed for further periods of three years after the expiry of each fixed term, unless either party shall at least six months prior to such expiry date give notice to the other party not to renew the appointment, whereupon the New Management Agreement will terminate at the end of the then current fixed period. |
| Services: | CMCIM shall undertake all investment and management duties arising pursuant to the operation of the Company and its responsibilities shall include identifying and evaluating investment opportunities, executing investment decisions, monitoring and enhancing investments of the Company, making decisions on investments and realisations for the Company in accordance with the investment objectives and policy of the Company as described in the Prospectus and as from time to time laid down by the Directors, managing the corporate affairs of the Company and dealing with its day-to-day administration. |

Remuneration: *Management fee:* The Company will pay to CMCIM an annual management fee in US dollars (or the HKD or RMB Equivalent of the same) equal to the aggregate of:

- (a) on the Invested Portion of the Assets of the Company represented by unlisted securities or interests: 1.75% of the book value (net of taxes); and
- (b) on the Invested Portion of the Assets of the Company represented by securities listed on a recognised stock exchange^(Note):
 - (i) during the lockup period following listing: 1.75% of the book value (net of taxes);
 - (ii) for the one year after the lockup period lapses: 1.50% of the book value (net of taxes);
 - (iii) thereafter: 1.25% of the book value (net of taxes);
 - (iv) in respect of listed securities purchased from the secondary securities market: 1.25% of the book value (net of taxes); and
- (c) on the Un-invested Portion of the Assets of the Company: zero,

in each case as at the last day of the relevant quarter. Such fee shall be payable on a quarterly basis within 15 calendar days after the last day of the first 3 quarters of each financial year and within 15 calendar days after the publication of the audited financial results of the Company for the relevant financial year on the websites of the Company and the Stock Exchange.

Performance fee: Conditional upon the NAV at the end of each financial year (as Adjusted) exceeding the higher (the “**High Watermark**”) of:

- (a) the NAV for the Reference Year, and
- (b) the NAV of the most recent financial year after the Reference Year and in which a performance fee was paid,

the Company will pay to CMCIM an annual performance fee in US dollars (or the HKD or RMB Equivalent of the same) equal to 8% of the amount by which the NAV as at the end of the relevant financial year (as Adjusted) exceeds the High Watermark. Such fee shall be payable as soon as practicable after the publication of the audited financial results of the Company for the relevant financial year on the websites of the Company and the Stock Exchange, and in any event not later than 180 calendar days after the publication of the same.

For the purposes of calculating the management fee and/or the performance fee:

- (1) the NAV and, where applicable, the High Watermark shall be adjusted (“**Adjusted**”) in a fair and reasonable manner as the Company and CMCIM shall agree (or in default of agreement by the auditors of the Company acting as experts and not as arbitrators who shall be required to certify that such adjustment is fair and reasonable) so as to:
 - (a) take account of any adjustments to the share capital of the Company during any relevant financial year;
 - (b) take account of any buy-back or redemption of Shares during any relevant financial year; and
 - (c) take no account of (that is, include in the calculation of the NAV as if such distributions or fees had never been made or paid) any distributions or dividends made by the Company or any fees paid to CMCIM pursuant to the New Management Agreement during any relevant financial year(s);
- (2) the “**HKD or RMB Equivalent**” of a US dollar amount shall be determined by converting the US dollar amount into HKD or RMB (as the case may be) at the middle exchange rate between US\$ and HKD or RMB (as the case may be) published by the State Administration of Foreign Exchange of the PRC on the date of payment of the relevant sum, or if such date falls on a date other than a PRC Business Day, the immediately preceding PRC Business Day;
- (3) the “**Reference Year**” means the financial year ended 31 December 2021;
- (4) the “**Invested Portion of the Assets of the Company**” refers to the portion of the Assets of the Company invested in listed or unlisted securities or interests, whereas the “**Un-invested Portion of the Assets of the Company**” refers to the portion of those Assets other than the Invested Portion of the Assets such as cash and receivables;
- (5) the “**book value**” refers to the fair value amount of those Assets which are unlisted and the mark to market value amount of those Assets which are listed; and

- (6) the aggregate amount of annual management fee and performance fee payable by the Company to CMCIM each year under the New Management Agreement will not exceed the relevant annual cap to be approved by the Independent Shareholders at the extraordinary general meeting of the Company to be convened in accordance with the requirements of the Listing Rules.

Note: The Company and CMCIM regard a recognised stock exchange as any stock exchange operated by a recognised exchange company within the laws of the jurisdiction in which the stock exchange is incorporated or otherwise established, including but not limited to the Stock Exchange, the Shanghai Stock Exchange, the Shenzhen Stock Exchange, the National Equities Exchange and Quotations (NEEQ), the Beijing Stock Exchange, the New York Stock Exchange, NASDAQ and the London Stock Exchange.

Termination: Each of the Company and CMCIM may terminate the New Management Agreement with immediate effect if the other party goes into liquidation or is unable to pay its debts or otherwise becomes insolvent; or commits any material breach of the New Management Agreement which is not remedied within 60 days from the date of a written request that the breach be remedied.

The Company is also entitled to terminate the New Management Agreement at any time without compensation to CMCIM with the sanction of the shareholders of the Company in general meeting if the Company suffers major losses due to the gross negligence of CMCIM.

Comparison of terms under the New Management Agreement and Existing Management Agreement

In order to align more closely with the market, offering competitiveness while maintaining the existing fee structure, a reduction of 25 basis points across the management fees was negotiated and agreed between the Company and CMCIM as set out below:

The amount of annual management fee in US dollars (or the HKD or RMB Equivalent of the same) payable by the Company to CMCIM under		
	New Management Agreement	Existing Management Agreement
(a) on the Invested Portion of the Assets of the Company represented by unlisted securities or interests	1.75% of the book value (net of taxes)	2.00% of the book value (net of taxes)

(b) on the Invested Portion of the Assets of the Company represented by securities listed on a recognised stock exchange:

(i)	during the lockup period following listing	1.75% of the book value (net of taxes)	2.00% of the book value (net of taxes)
(ii)	for the one year after the lockup period lapses	1.50% of the book value (net of taxes)	1.75% of the book value (net of taxes)
(iii)	thereafter	1.25% of the book value (net of taxes)	1.50% of the book value (net of taxes)
(iv)	in respect of listed securities purchased from the secondary securities market	1.25% of the book value (net of taxes)	1.50% of the book value (net of taxes)

Save for the aforesaid reductions, the terms of the New Management Agreement are in all material respects the same as those of the Existing Management Agreement which was approved by the Independent Shareholders in 2021.

Historical figures of fees paid under the Existing Management Agreement

On 18 October 2021, the Company and CMCIM entered into the Existing Management Agreement for the appointment of CMCIM as the investment manager of the Company. The remuneration paid to CMCIM in the two financial years ended 31 December 2022 and 2023 were published in the annual reports of the Company for the relevant financial years and the remuneration paid to CMCIM for the six months ended 30 June 2024 was published in the 2024 interim report of the Company.

The following is a summary of the remuneration paid to CMCIM as extracted from the Company's financial statements:

	For the financial year ended 31 December		For the six months ended 30 June
	2022	2023	2024
	US\$	US\$	US\$
	(audited)	(audited)	(unaudited)
Management fee	11,154,282	10,458,859	5,090,487
Performance fee	-	-	-
Total remuneration payable	11,154,282	10,458,859	5,090,487

Proposed annual caps

The Directors noted that the utilisation rates of the annual caps under the Existing Management Agreement for the past two years were 15.49% and 14.13%, respectively, which were notably low.

The Company expects that the total annual remuneration payable to CMCIM under the New Management Agreement for the following periods will not exceed the following maximum amounts:

	US\$
For the year ending 31 December 2025	36,000,000
For the year ending 31 December 2026	36,000,000
For the year ending 31 December 2027	36,000,000

In computing the above proposed annual caps, the Directors have taken into account and made reference to (i) the Company's scale of operation as at 30 June 2024 (i.e. in terms of its AUM and net asset value); (ii) the potential growth in the underlying value of the investment portfolio of the Company, in particular, the potential increase in value as a result of the potential listing of some of its unlisted investments in the PRC or overseas and the potential increase in value of its listed and unlisted investments; (iii) the historical record of the management fee and performance fee received by CMCIM; (iv) the utilisation rates of the annual caps under the Existing Management Agreement; and (v) the fee rates under the New Management Agreement.

The above proposed annual caps in respect of the remuneration payable under the New Management Agreement are subject to the approval of the Independent Shareholders.

Condition of the New Management Agreement

The New Management Agreement is conditional upon the approval of the Independent Shareholders at the extraordinary general meeting to be convened by the Company.

REASONS FOR AND BENEFITS OF ENTERING INTO THE NEW MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH A THREE-YEAR TERM

The Company is aware of the request under a requisition issued by various company and entities which purport to hold certain shares in the Company (the validity of which is yet to be confirmed) for convening of a general meeting of the Company to consider a resolution to restrict renewal of the investment management agreement with CMCIM to a term of no more than 1 year. When considering the reasons for and benefits of the re-appointment of CMCIM as the investment manager of the Company, with (amongst other things) the aforesaid request in mind, the Directors have taken into account the following factors:

1. The Company's uniqueness amongst Chapter 21 companies

Amongst Chapter 21 companies – with the exception of those that have been suspended, are undergoing liquidation, or have not appointed an investment manager – the Company distinguishes itself through its significantly larger AUM, variable fee structure, risk exposure, and investment strategy, particularly in relation to its underlying assets, with a focus on unlisted investments.

2. Historical performance amongst Chapter 21 companies and the general stock market

Amongst Chapter 21 companies, the Company is the largest in terms of market capitalisation and is one of the largest in terms of net asset value and these can be attributed to the contributions made by CMCIM.

Amidst the market fluctuations in 2022 and 2023, as market sentiment in China recovers, the Company's NAV has experienced a significant turnaround. Over a five-year review period, the Company has outperformed both the Hang Seng Index and the MSCI China Index by 8.51% and 3.37%, respectively.

3. Length of service provided by CMCIM

With over 30 years of cooperation and a deep understanding of the Company's strategy, CMCIM has consistently delivered strong returns to the shareholders of the Company.

Since the Company's inception in 1993, CMCIM has provided investment management services that significantly contributed to the Company's NAV growth from approximately US\$502 million at the end of December 2013 to approximately US\$806 million at the end of December 2021. Despite fluctuations in the NAV during the period of 2022 to 2023, with NAV reaching a low of approximately US\$542 million at the end of May 2023, CMCIM's performance has been satisfactory given the pressured market conditions as a result of China's recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, uncertainty in the real estate sector, etc. The Company's NAV at the end of December 2023 had improved to approximately US\$558 million (net of the dividends of approximately US\$32 million paid for the financial years of 2021 and 2022).

4. Source and deal origination capabilities of CMCIM

By leveraging the relationship with CMG and CMCIM's extensive connections in the PRC and alignment with the Company, the Company has strategically tapped into cutting-edge opportunities such as Pony AI Inc., Moonshot AI Ltd. and Flexiv Ltd. These investments are expected to strengthen growth and deliver satisfactory returns to the shareholders of the Company.

5. Range of services provided by CMCIM

CMCIM provides a comprehensive range of administrative services that are necessary for the Company's operation, including but not limited to, sourcing, executing and managing investment projects. Additionally, CMCIM also manages key responsibilities such as accounting, compliance and oversight of service providers.

6. Rationale of appointment with a three-year term

As mentioned below, the Company's investment objective is to acquire quality investments, principally in unlisted enterprises, in the PRC. For unlisted investments, it normally takes longer time to go through the investment process including origination, due diligence, negotiation, decision-making, execution and closing. Moreover, the investment horizon for unlisted investments can even last longer as investee companies need time to realise their growth potentials and the Company needs to capture the desirable window to conduct divestments. To meet the demand under these practices, CMCIM needs sufficient time to carry out the investment management functions more effectively and responsibly. Therefore, for all practical operational purposes and as a generally accepted market practice,

the Company believes a three-year term of the New Management Agreement better suits the nature of the Company's business operations as well as in compliance with the requirements under Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules.

Principally in view of the above, and also taking into account that the replacement of CMCIM would incur significant costs for the Company (including in identifying and selecting a new manager, due diligence and negotiation of a new agreement, and disruption of its investment activities considering CMCIM's knowledge of and relationships with the existing investee companies), the Board is of the view that it would be in the interests of the Company and its shareholders as a whole to continue with the existing relationship with CMCIM by means of the New Management Agreement with a three-year term.

LISTING RULE IMPLICATIONS

CMCIM, as the investment manager of the Company since 1993, is a connected person of the Company pursuant to Rule 14A.08 of the Listing Rules. Accordingly, the transaction contemplated under the New Management Agreement constitutes a continuing connected transaction for the Company under Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules.

As one or more of the applicable percentage ratios in respect of the proposed annual caps for the fees payable under the New Management Agreement for each of the three years ending 31 December 2027 exceed 5%, the transaction contemplated thereunder is subject to the reporting, announcement, annual review and Independent Shareholders' approval requirements under the Listing Rules.

VIEWS OF DIRECTORS

The Directors, excluding the independent non-executive Directors who will form their opinion after considering the advice from the independent financial adviser appointed by the Company, are of the view that the terms of and the transaction contemplated under the New Management Agreement are on normal commercial terms and in the ordinary and usual course of business of the Company and are fair and reasonable and in the interests of the Company and its shareholders as a whole; and that the proposed annual caps in respect of the fees payable under the New Management Agreement are fair and reasonable.

Ms. KAN Ka Yee, Elizabeth is interested in the New Management Agreement by virtue of her beneficial interest in CMCIM and has abstained from voting on (and has not been counted in the quorum for) the relevant resolutions of the Board approving the same.

INFORMATION IN RESPECT OF THE COMPANY AND CMCIM

The Company is an investment company, the Shares of which are listed on the Main Board of the Stock Exchange under Chapter 21 of the Listing Rules. The Company specialises in investing in the PRC. Its investment objective is to acquire quality investments, principally in unlisted enterprises, in the PRC. The Company may also invest in China-concept shares through the secondary securities market.

CMCIM is a fund management company which manages the investment portfolio and deals with day-to-day administration of the Company. Pursuant to the Existing Management Agreement, CMCIM is responsible for identifying and researching prospective investments for the Company. The Board is responsible for formulating the Company's overall investment strategy and guidelines that CMCIM shall follow in making investments.

GENERAL

An independent board committee of the Company comprising all independent non-executive Directors, namely Mr. TSANG Wah Kwong, Dr. LI Fang, Dr. GONG Shaolin, Mr. Michael Charles VITERI and Mr. ZHU Qi, has been formed to advise the Independent Shareholders in respect of the New Management Agreement and the proposed annual caps. An independent financial adviser has been appointed by the Company to advise the Independent Board Committee and the Independent Shareholders in respect of the New Management Agreement and the proposed annual caps.

An extraordinary general meeting will be convened at which ordinary resolution(s) will be proposed to consider and, if thought fit, approve the New Management Agreement and the proposed annual caps.

CMCIM is owned as to 55% by CMG (through its associates) and as to 45% by Victor Chu China Investment Limited. As at the date of this announcement, the associates of CMG collectively hold approximately 27.59% shareholding interests in the Company, whereas Victor Chu China Investment Limited and/or its associates collectively hold approximately 1.99% shareholding interests in the Company. Therefore, the respective associates of CMG and Victor Chu China Investment Limited and/or its respective associates, as the case may be, are deemed to have material interests in the transaction contemplated under the New Management Agreement and shall abstain from voting at the extraordinary general meeting.

A circular containing, amongst other things, further details of the New Management Agreement, the recommendation of the Independent Board Committee, the advice of the independent financial adviser to the Independent Board Committee and the Independent Shareholders and a notice convening the extraordinary general meeting to approve the New Management Agreement and the proposed annual caps, will be distributed to the shareholders of the Company on or before 8 November 2024.

DEFINITIONS

“Assets of the Company” or “Assets”	all the assets of any description of the Company and its subsidiaries, including but not limited to the interests held in jointly controlled entities and associated companies as shown in the accounts of the Company, wheresoever and howsoever located
“associates”	the same meaning as is provided in the Listing Rules
“AUM”	assets under management
“Board”	the board of directors of the Company from time to time
“Chapter 21 companies”	the investment companies, the shares of which are listed on the Main Board of the Stock Exchange pursuant to Chapter 21 of the Listing Rules

“CMCIM”	China Merchants China Investment Management Limited, a fund management company incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability and registered under the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Chapter 571 of the Laws of Hong Kong)
“CMG”	China Merchants Group Limited, a company incorporated in the PRC with limited liability which (through its associates) owns 55% of CMCIM and is also a substantial shareholder of the Company
“Company”	China Merchants China Direct Investments Limited, a company incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability, the shares of which are listed on the Stock Exchange (Stock Code: 00133)
“Directors”	the directors of the Company
“Existing Management Agreement”	the investment management agreement entered into between the Company and CMCIM dated 18 October 2021, the term of which will expire on 31 December 2024
“HKD”	Hong Kong Dollars, the lawful currency of Hong Kong
“Hong Kong”	the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the PRC
“Independent Board Committee”	the independent board committee of the Company comprising all independent non-executive Directors, namely Mr. TSANG Wah Kwong, Dr. LI Fang, Dr. GONG Shaolin, Mr. Michael Charles VITERI and Mr. ZHU Qi, to make recommendation to the Independent Shareholders in respect of the New Management Agreement and the proposed annual caps
“Independent Shareholders”	the shareholders of the Company other than the associates of CMG, Victor Chu China Investment Limited and/or its associates and those shareholders of the Company who have a material interest in the New Management Agreement or the transactions contemplated thereunder
“Listing Rules”	the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on the Stock Exchange, as amended from time to time
“Management Period”	the term of appointment of CMCIM under the New Management Agreement
“NAV”	the net asset value of the Company calculated on the basis as set out in the Prospectus

“New Management Agreement”	the investment management agreement dated 18 October 2024 entered into between the Company and CMCIM in relation to the provision of investment management services with effect from 1 January 2025
“PRC”	the People’s Republic of China, which for the purposes of this announcement, excludes Hong Kong, the Macau Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China and Taiwan
“PRC Business Day”	a day other than a Saturday, Sunday or a public holiday in the PRC
“Prospectus”	the prospectus dated 15 July 1993 issued by the Company in connection with the placing of Shares on the terms described therein
“RMB”	Renminbi, the lawful currency of the PRC
“Shares”	the ordinary shares in the issued share capital of the Company
“Stock Exchange”	The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited
“US\$” or “US dollar”	United States Dollars, the lawful currency of the United States of America
“%”	per cent

By Order of the Board
WANG Xiaoding
Director

Hong Kong, 18 October 2024

As at the date hereof, the Executive Directors of the Company are Mr. WANG Xiaoding and Ms. KAN Ka Yee, Elizabeth; the Non-executive Directors are Mr. ZHOU Xing, Mr. ZHANG Rizhong, Mr. KE Shifeng and Mr. TSE Yue Kit; and the Independent Non-executive Directors are Mr. TSANG Wah Kwong, Dr. LI Fang, Dr. GONG Shaolin, Mr. Michael Charles VITERI and Mr. ZHU Qi.