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IN CONSTRUCTION HOLDINGS LIMITED 現恆建築控股有限公司

(Incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)
(Stock code: 1500)

ANNOUNCEMENT OF UNAUDITED INTERIM RESULTS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

INTERIM RESULTS

The board of directors (the "Board") of In Construction Holdings Limited (the "Company") is pleased to present the unaudited consolidated interim results of the Company and its subsidiaries (collectively, the "Group") for the six months ended 30 September 2024, together with the comparative figures for the corresponding period in 2023 as follows:

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the six months ended 30 September 2024 (Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

		Six months 30 Septen	
		2024	2023
	Note	\$'000	\$'000
Revenue	3	138,092	141,308
Direct costs	_	(147,469)	(162,797)
Gross loss		(9,377)	(21,489)
Other revenue	4	1,450	530
Administrative and other operating expenses	_	(9,248)	(11,277)
Loss from operations		(17,175)	(32,236)
Finance costs	5(a) _		(106)
Loss before taxation	5	(17,175)	(32,342)
Income tax	6	(73)	(51)
Loss and total comprehensive income for the period	=	(17,248)	(32,393)
Loss per share (Hong Kong cents)			
Basic and diluted	7	(2.08)	(3.90)

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 30 September 2024 (Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

	Note	At 30 September 2024 (unaudited) \$'000	At 31 March 2024 (audited) \$'000
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment Deferred tax assets		10 242	33 241
		252	274
Current assets			
Contract assets Inventories Lease receivables Trade and other receivables Tax recoverable Cash and bank balances	8	234,845 16,757 - 82,591 - 58,638	247,602 18,399 65 50,348 11 78,565
		392,831	394,990
Current liabilities			
Contract liabilities Trade and other payables Tax payables Lease liabilities Loan from a shareholder	9	13,271 122,417 63 - 13,000 148,751	6,727 113,892 - 65 13,000
Net current assets		244,080	261,306

	At 30 September 2024 (unaudited) \$'000	At 31 March 2024 (audited) \$'000
NET ASSETS	244,332	261,580
CAPITAL AND RESERVES		
Share capital Reserves	8,300 236,032	8,300 253,280
TOTAL EQUITY	244,332	261,580

Notes:

1. GENERAL INFORMATION AND BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The Group is principally engaged as a contractor in the foundation industry in Hong Kong. The Company was incorporated in the Cayman Islands as an exempted company with limited liability on 29 September 2014 under the Companies Law, Cap. 22 (Law 3 of 1961, as consolidated and revised) of the Cayman Islands.

The Company's shares were listed on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the "Stock Exchange") on 16 April 2015.

The interim results set out in this announcement do not constitute the Group's financial statements for the six months ended 30 September 2024 but are extracted from the interim financial report.

The interim financial report has been prepared in accordance with the applicable disclosure provisions of the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on the Stock Exchange (the "Listing Rules"), including compliance with Hong Kong Accounting Standard ("HKAS") 34, *Interim financial reporting*, issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (the "HKICPA").

The interim financial report has been prepared in accordance with the same accounting policies adopted in the 2024 annual financial statements, except for the accounting policy changes that are expected to be reflected in the 2025 annual financial statements. Details of any changes in accounting policies are set out in note 2.

The interim financial report is unaudited, but has been reviewed by KPMG in accordance with Hong Kong Standard on Review Engagements 2410, *Review of interim financial information performed by the independent auditor of the entity*, issued by the HKICPA.

2. CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The HKICPA has issued certain amendments to HKFRSs that are first effective for the current accounting period of the Group.

- Amendments to HKAS 1, Presentation of financial statements: Classification of liabilities as current or non-current
- Amendments to HKAS 1, Presentation of financial statements: Non-current liabilities with covenants
- Amendments to HKFRS 16, Leases: Lease liability in a sale and leaseback
- Amendments to HKAS 7, Statement of cash flows and HKFRS 7, Financial instruments: Disclosures Supplier finance arrangements

None of these developments have had a material effect on how the Group's results and financial position for the current or prior periods have been prepared or presented in this interim financial report. The Group has not applied any new standard or interpretation that is not yet effective for the current accounting period.

3. REVENUE AND SEGMENT INFORMATION

Revenue represents revenue from construction contracts earned during the period.

Segment information

The chief operating decision-maker regards the Group's business as a single operating segment and reviews financial statements accordingly. Also, the Group only engages its business in Hong Kong. Therefore, no segment information is presented.

4. OTHER REVENUE

	Six months ended	
	30 September	
	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Bank interest income	311	285
Interest income from lease receivables	_	94
Sales of scrap materials	1,100	151
Others		
	1,450	530

5. LOSS BEFORE TAXATION

Loss before taxation is arrived at after charging:

	Six months	s ended
	30 September	
	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Finance costs		
Interest on lease liabilities		106
Staff costs (including directors' remuneration)		
_	357	394
Salaries, wages and other benefits	17,040	16,039
	17,397	16,433
Other items		
Depreciation	33	51
Lease payments relating to short-term leases	596	596
Impairment losses on trade and other receivables		
and contract assets	9	33
	Staff costs (including directors' remuneration) Contributions to defined contribution retirement plans Salaries, wages and other benefits Other items Depreciation Lease payments relating to short-term leases Impairment losses on trade and other receivables	Staff costs (including directors' remuneration) Contributions to defined contribution retirement plans Salaries, wages and other benefits Other items Depreciation Lease payments relating to short-term leases Impairment losses on trade and other receivables

6. INCOME TAX

Income tax in the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income represents:

	Six months ended 30 September	
	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Current tax		
Provision for Hong Kong Profits Tax for the period	74	59
Deferred tax		
Origination and reversal of temporary differences	(1)	(8)
	73	51

Notes:

- (i) Pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Cayman Islands and the British Virgin Islands ("BVI"), the Group is not subject to any income tax in the Cayman Islands and the BVI.
- (ii) The provision for Hong Kong Profits Tax for 2024 is calculated at 16.5% (six months ended 30 September 2023: 16.5%) of the estimated assessable profits for the period, except for the Company which is a qualifying corporation under the two-tiered Profits Tax rate regime.

For the Company, the first 2 million of assessable profits are taxed at 8.25% and the remaining assessable profits are taxed at 16.5%.

7. LOSS PER SHARE

(a) Basic loss per share

The calculation of basic loss per share for the six months ended 30 September 2024 is based on the loss attributable to equity shareholders of the Company of \$17,248,000 (six months ended 30 September 2023: \$32,393,000) and the weighted average of 830,000,000 shares (six months ended 30 September 2023: 830,000,000 shares) in issue during the period.

(b) Diluted loss per share

There were no diluted potential shares in existence during the six months ended 30 September 2024 and 2023.

8. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

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

At	At
30 September	31 March
2024	2024
\$'000	\$'000
40,253	14,223
57	8,757
	827
40,310	23,807
5,054	7,102
37,227	19,439
82,591	50,348
	30 September 2024 \$'000 40,253 57 - 40,310 5,054 37,227

Notes:

- (i) Trade debtors are normally due within 30 days from the date of billing.
- (ii) As at 30 September 2024, except for the amount of \$3,538,000 (31 March 2024: \$3,613,000) which was expected to be recovered or recognised as expense after one year, all of the remaining balances were expected to be recovered or recognised as expense within one year.
- (iii) As at 30 September 2024, deposits of \$3,828,000 (31 March 2024: \$5,158,000) were pledged to secure the issuance of performance bonds.
- (iv) All of the retentions receivable as at 30 September 2024 and 31 March 2024 were expected to be recovered within one year.

9. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

As of the end of the reporting period, the ageing analysis of trade creditors, based on the invoice date, is as follows:

	At	At
	30 September	31 March
	2024	2024
	\$'000	\$'000
Within 1 month	22,247	3,049
Over 1 month but within 2 months	14,988	49,612
Over 2 months but within 3 months	11,669	2,010
Over 3 months	14,762	5,213
Trade creditors	63,666	59,884
Other payables and accruals	22,298	34,613
Provision for construction works	36,037	19,395
Amounts due to directors (note)	416	
	122,417	113,892

Note: The amounts due to directors as at 30 September 2024 were unsecured, interest-free and repayable on demand.

10. DIVIDENDS

The board of directors has resolved not to declare any interim dividend for the six months ended 30 September 2024 and 2023.

11. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

At 30 September 2024, the Group had contingent liabilities in respect of performance bonds to guarantee due and proper performance of the obligations undertaken by the Group's subsidiary for projects amounting to \$58,524,000 (31 March 2024: \$112,229,000) in its ordinary course of business. The performance bonds are expected to be released in accordance with the terms of the respective construction contracts.

MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Group is principally engaged as a contractor in the foundation industry in Hong Kong, undertaking foundation works as well as associated works including demolition works, site formation works, ground investigation field works and general building works for local customers.

Business Review

The Group has been engaged to undertake foundation and associated works in private sector construction projects in Hong Kong, with an emphasis on design and build projects and undertaking the role as a main contractor.

The Group places emphasis on design and build projects because of the flexibility and capability in coming up with foundation design plan that suits its customers' requirements and the site conditions. During the six months ended 30 September 2024, the Group has successfully carried out construction works with alternative design which not only complies with the technical requirements but is also more cost efficient for "design and build" contracts.

During the six months ended 30 September 2024, no new project was awarded to the Group. As at 30 September 2024, six projects with the outstanding contract sum of HK\$523.1 million were all in progress.

Year/Period of award/ project	Type of contract	Status as at 30 September 2024
Year 2020-2021 Wo Shang Wai Des Voeux Road Central	Monitoring and maintenance Design and build	Work in progress Work in progress
Year 2022-2023 Robinson Road 27D-F	Design and build	Work in progress
Year 2023-2024 Robinson Road 105 Tai Po Kau 234 Coombe Road 38	Design and build Design and build Design and build	Work in progress Work in progress Work in progress

Financial Review

During the six months ended 30 September 2024, there were 10 projects contributing revenue of approximately HK\$138.1 million, whereas revenue for the corresponding period in 2023 of approximately HK\$141.3 million was contributed by 9 projects. The top five projects contributed revenue amounted to approximately HK\$136.2 million (2023: approximately HK\$125.7 million), in which the top project contributed 34.4% of the total revenue.

The Group recorded a decrease in contract revenue for the six months ended 30 September 2024 by approximately HK\$3.2 million as compared with that of the corresponding period in 2023. Gross loss decreased by approximately HK\$12.1 million to approximately HK\$9.4 million for the current period, from approximately HK\$21.5 million for the corresponding period in 2023. Gross loss margin decreased from 15.2% for the corresponding period in 2023 to 6.8% for the current period. Such decrease in gross loss was primarily attributable to, among other factors, less foundation projects having delays in progress and successfully obtained some extension of time for delays in progress of certain foundation projects during the period.

Administrative and other operating expenses decreased by approximately HK\$2.1 million to approximately HK\$9.2 million, compared with approximately HK\$11.3 million for the corresponding period in the prior year, which was mainly due to decrease in foreign exchange loss arising from bank deposits denominated in Renminbi.

As a result, loss for the period decreased by HK\$15.2 million or 46.9% to HK\$17.2 million, from the corresponding period in the prior year of HK\$32.4 million.

LIQUIDITY, FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND CAPITAL STRUCTURE

	As at	As at
	30 September	31 March
	2024	2024
Current ratio	2.6	3.0
Gearing ratio ¹	5.3%	5.0%

Note:

1. Gearing ratio is calculated based on debts including lease liabilities and shareholder's loan divided by the total equity as at the reporting dates.

Gearing ratio increased by 0.3 percentage point to 5.3% as at 30 September 2024 as compared to that as at 31 March 2024 was mainly due to decreased in equity as a result of loss incurred during the six months ended 30 September 2024.

As at 30 September 2024, the Group had cash and bank balances of approximately HK\$58.6 million (31 March 2024: HK\$78.6 million), of which approximately HK\$42.1 million (31 March 2024: HK\$43.9 million) were restricted bank deposits. Such restricted bank deposits were held for the purpose of the issuance of surety bonds for our projects and requirement of our general banking facilities. As at 30 September 2024 and 31 March 2024, the Group had no bank overdraft.

The capital structure of the Group consisted of equity of HK\$244.3 million, with HK\$13.0 million debts as at 30 September 2024.

The Group adopts a prudent approach in cash management. Apart from the shareholder's loan, the Group did not have any material outstanding debts as at 30 September 2024. Payment to settle trade payable represented a significant part of the cash outflow of the Group. Taking into account the light debt leverage, the Group is able to generate cash and meet upcoming cash requirements. In any case, the Group may utilise its banking facilities of HK\$190.0 million, of which the unutilised and unrestricted banking facilities amounted to approximately HK\$150.1 million at 30 September 2024.

EMPLOYEES

The Group had 49 full-time employees as at 30 September 2024 (31 March 2024: 48). The Group offers a competitive remuneration package that is based on overall market rates and employee performance, as well as the performance of the Group. The remuneration package comprised of salary, performance-based bonus, and other benefits including training and mandatory provident funds.

CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

The Group had no capital commitments as at 30 September 2024.

CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Save as disclosed in note 11 to this announcement, the Group had no other contingent liabilities as at 30 September 2024.

SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENTS HELD, MATERIAL ACQUISITIONS OR DISPOSALS OF SUBSIDIARIES AND AFFILIATED COMPANIES, AND PLANS FOR MATERIAL INVESTMENTS OR CAPITAL ASSETS

There were no significant investments held, material acquisitions or disposals of subsidiaries and affiliated companies during the six months ended 30 September 2024. There is no other plan for material investments or capital assets as at 30 September 2024.

FUTURE PROSPECTS

Taking into account the recent Chief Executive's Policy Address of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in increasing land supply and commitment to infrastructure investments, the Group expects a rebound in the foundation industry in the coming years. Despite vigorous competition in the construction industry in Hong Kong, the Board is confident with the Group's future development in its scale of operations and profitability due to its long established reputation, the listing platform and its healthy financial position. To maintain its competitive edge, the Group will continue to adhere to its business strategy, by expanding its capacity to capture more business opportunities, reinforcing its capability in foundation design and project management skills, and offering qualitative and flexible solutions to its customers.

INTERIM DIVIDEND

The Board has resolved not to pay any interim dividend for the six months ended 30 September 2024 (six months ended 30 September 2023: HK\$nil).

PURCHASE, SALE OR REDEMPTION OF THE COMPANY'S LISTED SECURITIES

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

EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

The Board is not aware of any significant event requiring disclosure that has taken place subsequent to 30 September 2024 and up to the date of this report.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Company recognises the importance of corporate transparency and accountability. The Company is committed in achieving a high standard of corporate governance and leading the Group to attain better results and improve its corporate image with effective corporate governance procedures.

Since Listing, the Board is of the opinion that the Company had adopted, applied and complied with the code provisions as set out in the Corporate Governance Code (the "Code") contained in Appendix C1 to the Listing Rules, except for the deviation from provision C.2.1 of the Code which is explained below:

According to provision C.2.1 of the Code, the roles of chairman and chief executive officer should be separate and should not be performed by the same individual. Mr. Lau Pak Man is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, responsible for overall strategic development, project management and client management of the Group. The Board believes that vesting the roles of both Chairman and Chief Executive Officer in Mr. Lau Pak Man has the benefit of ensuring consistent and continuous planning and execution of the Company's strategies. The Board considers that the balance of power and authority, accountability and independent decision-making under the present arrangement will not be impaired in light of the diverse background and experience of the independent non-executive Directors, and the composition of the Board which comprises equal number of independent non-executive Directors and executive Directors also provides added independence to the Board. Further, the audit committee of the Company (the "Audit Committee"), which is composed exclusively of independent non-executive Directors, has free and direct access to the Company's external auditors and independent professional advisers when it considers necessary.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE MODEL CODE FOR SECURITIES TRANSACTIONS BY DIRECTORS

The Company has adopted the Model Code for Securities Transactions by Directors of Listed Issuers contained in Appendix C3 to the Listing Rules as its own code of conduct of dealings in securities of the Company by Directors (the "Model Code"). Upon specific enquiries of all the Directors, each of them confirmed that they had complied with the required standards set out in the Model Code during the six months ended 30 September 2024.

REVIEW OF INTERIM RESULTS

The interim financial report for the six months ended 30 September 2024 is unaudited, but has been reviewed by KPMG, in accordance with Hong Kong Standard on Review Engagements 2410 "Review of interim financial information performed by the independent auditor of the entity" issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants, whose unmodified review report is included in this report.

The Audit Committee has reviewed the accounting principles and practices adopted by the Group and has reviewed the interim results and financial report of the Group for the six months ended 30 September 2024.

PUBLICATION OF INTERIM RESULTS AND INTERIM REPORT

This results announcement is published on the Company's website at www.inconstruction.hk and the Stock Exchange's website at www.hkexnews.hk. The interim report will be despatched to shareholders upon request and will also be published on the websites of both the Stock Exchange and the Company in due course.

APPRECIATION

The Board would like to express its sincere gratitude to the management of the Group and all the staff for their hard work and dedication, as well as its shareholders, business associates and other professional parties for their support throughout the period.

By order of the Board
In Construction Holdings Limited
Lau Pak Man
Chairman

Hong Kong, 29 November 2024

As at the date of this announcement, the Board comprises Mr. Lau Pak Man, Mr. Cheng Wing Cheong and Ms. Kwan Kit Sum Kit as executive Directors; Mr. Leung Chi Kin, Mr. Lam Chi Hung Louis and Ms. Mok Kam Sheung as independent non-executive Directors.