STARCOIN GROUP LIMITED
星 太 鏈 集 團 有 限 公 司

(Formerly known as Innovative Pharmaceutical Biotech Limited 領航醫藥及生物科技有限公司)
(Incorporated in the Cayman Islands and continued in Bermuda with limited liability)
(Stock Code: 399)

VOLUNTARY ANNOUNCEMENT

SPONSORED RESEARCH AND STRATEGIC ADVISORY AGREEMENT

Reference is made to the announcement of Starcoin Group Limited (the "**Company**", and together with its subsidiaries, the "**Group**") dated 17 October 2025 (the "**October Announcement**") in relation to, among others, the entering into of the Memorandum of Understanding in relation to Possible Institutional Research with Scaling Lab, a laboratory operated by Dr. J. Hunter Young ("**Dr. Young**") at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine ("**JHU**"). Unless otherwise defined, capitalised terms used herein shall have the same meaning as those defined in the October Announcement.

The Board is pleased to announce that following on the October Announcement, the Company entered into the Sponsored Research and Strategic Advisory Agreement (the "**Agreement**") with the Scaling Lab to further implement and strengthen the collaboration initiatives between the Company and JHU on 17 December 2025.

The principal terms of the Agreement are as follows:

(1) The Scaling Lab will conduct non-clinical, non-regulatory sponsored research relating to cardiovascular and cardiometabolic diseases, including diabetes, non-injectable diabetes treatment pathways, aquaporins (AQP), and related metabolic research;

(2) Dr. Young and his team will provide strategic scientific advisory services to support the Group's research and development efforts in oral diabetes drug, oral peptide therapeutics, and drug-delivery systems; and

(3) Intellectual property generated by the Scaling Lab will be owned by JHU, but the Group will receive preferential and commercially reasonable licensing rights, including a preferential right to negotiate a worldwide license for relevant technologies.

The Agreement shall have a term of five years commencing from 16 October 2025, being the effective date of the Agreement.

FURTHER INFORMATION OF THE SCALING LAB

Founded in 1876, the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine is internationally recognized as one of the world's leading medical research institutions. It has consistently ranked among the top medical schools in the United States and is widely regarded as a global pioneer in biomedical research, medical education, and translational science. JHU is part of the broader Johns Hopkins Medicine system, which includes the renowned Johns Hopkins Hospital and multiple research institutes. Each year since 1979, John Hopkins University has been the leading recipient of research funding form the federal government.

The Scaling Lab. is a laboratory operated by Dr. Hunter Young at the JHU. The Scaling Lab, led by Dr. Young, an Associate Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology, conducts advanced academic research in genetic epidemiology, cardiovascular physiology, diabetes, obesity, and cardiometabolic diseases. Dr. Young's team specialises in metabolic pathways, aquaporins (AQP) and mechanisms relevant to diabetes and obesity, which are areas with strong alignment aligned with the Group's research focus under its research and development business segment (the "**R&D Business**"), in particular, for its ongoing research, development and aimed commercialisation of the oral insulin product (the "**Product**").

REASONS FOR AND BENEFITS OF ENTERING INTO THE AGREEMENT

The R&D Business has all along been the primary focus of the Group. Since the acquisition of Smart Ascent Limited in July 2014, and despite the adversities and unavoidable disruptions faced by the Group arising from the extended lockdown and cessation of much of the activities during the COVID-19 outbreak, the Group remained committed to proceed with the clinical trials in relation to the Product and to further enhance the overall safety and quality of the clinical researches. The collaboration with the Scaling Lab of JHU, a prominent medical research institute worldwide, represents a true effort and commitment of the Group in terms of quality research for a successful commercialisation of the Group, and bring upon significant scientific and strategic advantages to the Group. The Scaling Lab's expertise in metabolic physiology, diabetes mechanisms, and aquaporin-related pathways provides a strong scientific foundation that complements the Group's ongoing development of oral insulin and oral peptide therapeutics. Dr. Young's advisory role under the Agreement will enhance the Group's ability to evaluate emerging technologies, optimize research direction, and accelerate innovation in non-injectable diabetes treatments. Collaboration with a top-tier institution such as JHU, recognized globally for its biomedical research excellence, significantly elevates the Group's scientific standing and supports future international collaborations.

The Group's favourable right to negotiate licensing of intellectual property developed under the Agreement may create opportunities to secure exclusive or advantageous rights to novel technologies relevant to oral insulin and drug-delivery systems.

Further, the Agreement establishes a five-year research framework, enabling sustained collaboration, knowledge transfer, and pipeline development that may contribute to the Group's long-term competitiveness in the global diabetes therapeutics market. The Agreement represents the Group's effort to promoting the feasibility and sustainable development of its R&D Business.

GENERAL

This announcement is made by the Company on a voluntary basis. The purpose of this announcement is to keep the shareholders and potential investors of the Company informed of the latest business development of the Group.

By order of the Board
Starcoin Group Limited
Yeung Yung
Chairman

Hong Kong, 18 December 2025

As at the date of this announcement, the Board comprises, Dr. Yeung Yung (Chairman and executive Director), Mr. Gao Yuan Xing (executive Director), Mr. Tang Rong (executive Director), Ms. Qi Shujuan (executive Director), Dr. Long Fan (executive Director), Dr. Wu Ming (executive Director), Mr. Zhang Shen (executive Director), Mr. Zhang Yi (non-executive Director), Ms. Chen Weijun (independent non-executive Director), Mr. Wang Rongliang (independent non-executive Director), Mr. Chen Jinzhong (independent non-executive Director), Dr. Xia Tingkang, Tim (independent non-executive Director) and Ms. Sun Sizheng (independent non-executive Director).

Please also refer to the published version of this announcement on the Company's website: starcoingroup.com.