HC GROUP INC.
慧聰集團有限公司
(incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)
(Stock Code: 02280)

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT FORENSIC INVESTIGATOR AND APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT INTERNAL CONTROL CONSULTANT

This announcement is made by HC Group Inc. (the "**Company**", together with its subsidiaries, the "**Group**") pursuant to Rules 13.09(2)(a) and 13.24A of the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities (the "**Listing Rules**") on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the "**Stock Exchange**") and the Inside Information Provisions (as defined in the Listing Rules) under Part XIVA of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Chapter 571 of the Laws of Hong Kong).

References are made to the Company's announcements dated 17 March 2026, 23 March 2026, 30 June 2026 and 8 July 2026 in relation to, among others, the delay in publication of the 2025 Results, the suspension of trading of the shares of the Company, the Resumption Guidance, and the establishment of an independent investigation committee (collectively as the "**Announcements**"). Unless otherwise defined, capitalized terms used in this announcement shall have the same meaning as those defined in the Announcements.

As disclosed in the announcement of the Company dated 30 June 2026, the Company has engaged Grant Thornton Advisory Services Limited ("**GT Advisory**") as the independent investigator to conduct independent investigations over the Prepayments.

As one of the conditions for the resumption of trading in the shares of the Company as stated in the Resumption Guidance disclosed in the announcement of the Company dated 30 June 2026, the Stock Exchange requested the Company to, among others, (i) conduct an appropriate independent forensic investigation into the Prepayments (the "**Forensic Investigation**"), assess the impact on the Company's business operation and financial position, announce the findings and take appropriate remedial actions; and (ii) engage an independent internal control consultant to conduct an independent internal control review (the "**IC Review**").

Appointment of Independent Forensic Investigator

On 10 July 2026, the Investigation Committee has, for and on behalf of the Company, entered into a supplemental agreement with GT Advisory to engage GT Advisory as the independent forensic investigator to conduct the Forensic Investigation.

Having considered that, to the best of the knowledge of the Investigation Committee and having made reasonable enquiries:

(i) GT Advisory is a third party independent of and not connected with the Company and its connected person, and GT Advisory does not have any business relationship with the Group that would reasonably be considered to impair its independence in performing the Forensic Investigation;

(ii) GT Advisory is experienced in conducting forensic investigations for publicly listed companies in Hong Kong. According to the statistics from Webb-site Report, GT Advisory ranked number one amongst forensic reviewers in Hong Kong in terms of number of cases engaged between 1 January 2022 and 31 March 2025;

(iii) a team comprising of, among others, partners and senior managers, all of whom are qualified accountants with years of experience is assigned to undertake the Forensic Investigation; and

(iv) GT Advisory has committed to a pragmatic timetable which aligns with the Company's timetable for fulfilment of the Resumption Guidance,

the Investigation Committee concluded that GT Advisory is independent and possesses the credentials, qualifications, experience and resources to conduct the Forensic Investigation.

Appointment of Independent Internal Control Consultant

On 10 July 2026, the audit committee of the Company (the "**Audit Committee**") has, for and on behalf of the Company, engaged GT Advisory as the independent internal control consultant to conduct the IC Review.

Having considered that, to the best of the knowledge of the Audit Committee and having made reasonable enquiries:

(i) GT Advisory is a third party independent of and not connected with the Company and its connected person, and GT Advisory does not have any business relationship with the Group that would reasonably be considered to impair its independence in performing the IC Review;

(ii) GT Advisory is experienced in conducting internal control reviews for publicly listed companies in Hong Kong;

(iii) a team comprising of, among others, partners and senior managers, all of whom are qualified accountants with years of experience is assigned to undertake the IC Review; and

(iv) GT Advisory has committed to a pragmatic timetable which aligns with the Company's timetable for fulfilment of the Resumption Guidance,

the Audit Committee concluded that GT Advisory is independent and possesses the credentials, qualifications, experience and resources to conduct the IC Review.

Further announcement(s) will be made by the Company as and when appropriate and in accordance with the requirements of the Listing Rules to update its Shareholders and potential investors on the material progress and developments regarding the Forensic Investigation and the IC Review and the compliance with the Resumption Guidance.

CONTINUED SUSPENSION OF TRADING

At the request of the Company, trading in the shares of the Company on the Stock Exchange has been suspended with effect from 9:00 a.m. on 18 March 2026 pending the publication of the 2025 Results, and will remain suspended until the fulfilment of the Resumption Guidance.

Shareholders and potential investors are reminded to exercise caution when dealing in the securities of the Company.

By order of the Board
HC GROUP INC.
Liu Jun
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Hong Kong, 10 July 2026

As at the date of this announcement, the Directors are:

Mr. Liu Jun (Chairman, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer)
Mr. Zhang Yonghong (Executive Director)
Mr. Guo Fansheng (Non-executive Director)
Mr. Lin Dewei (Non-executive Director)
Mr. Xing Jingfeng (Non-executive Director)
Mr. Zhang Ke (Independent non-executive Director)
Mr. Zhang Tim Tianwei (Independent non-executive Director)
Ms. Qi Yan (Independent non-executive Director)