

# NewOcean Energy Holdings Limited

(新海能源集團有限公司)\*

(Incorporated in Bermuda with limited liability)

(Stock Code: 342)

# **INTERIM RESULTS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 2006**

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

|  |             | six months<br>30 June |         |
|--|-------------|-----------------------|---------|
|  | 2006        | 2005                  |         |
|  | (unaudited) | (unaudited)           | Changes |
|  | HK\$'000    | HK\$'000              |         |
| Revenue  | 1,250,507   | 656,200               | +91%    |
| Profit attributable to equity holders of the Company   | 17,245      | 20,332                | -15%    |
| Profit attributable to equity holders of the Company<br>(excluding "share-based payment expenses" <sup>#</sup> |             |                       |         |
| in calculation)  | 23,100      | 20,332                | +14%    |
| EBITDA   | 38,782      | 29,545                | +31%    |
| EBITDA (excluding "share-based payment expenses"#  |             |                       |         |
| in calculation)  | 44,637      | 29,545                | +51%    |
| Basic earnings per share   | 3.58 cents  | 4.22 cents            | -15%    |

<sup>#</sup> "Share-based payment expenses" represents the estimated fair value of share options granted during the current period ended 30 June 2006 and is recognized in the income statement for the current period with the adoption of Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standard 2 effective from 1 January 2005 which have an effect on the result of the Group for the current period while no options were granted during the period ended 2005.

The Board of Directors (the "Board") of NewOcean Energy Holdings Limited (the "Company") presents the unaudited condensed consolidated interim results of the Company and its subsidiaries (the "Group") for the six months ended 30 June 2006 together with comparative figures for the corresponding period in 2005. These condensed consolidated interim results have not been audited, but have been reviewed by the Company's audit committee.

# CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT

|   | Notes | 6 months ended 6<br>30.06.2006<br>(Unaudited)<br><i>HK\$'000</i> | months ended<br>30.06.2005<br>(Unaudited)<br><i>HK\$'000</i> |
|---|-------|--|--|
| Revenue<br>Cost of sales                        | 3     | 1,250,507<br>(1,193,955)   | 656,200<br>(614,030)   |
| Cost of sales                                   |       | (1,193,955)  | (614,039)  |
| Gross profit                                    |       | 56,552   | 42,161   |
| Other income                                    | 4     | 12,186   | 871  |
| Selling and distribution expenses               |       | (12,170)   | (8,391)  |
| Administrative expenses                         |       | (20,312)   | (14,080)   |
| Share-based payment expenses                    | 5     | (5,855)  | —  |
| Finance costs                                   |       | (13,789)   | (2,703)  |
| Share of results of a jointly controlled entity |       | (248)  | (154)  |
| Profit before taxation                          | 6     | 16,364   | 17,704   |
| Taxation credit                                 | 7     | 881  | 2,757  |
| Profit for the period                           |       | 17,245   | 20,461   |
| Attributable to:                                |       |  |  |
| Equity holders of the Company                   |       | 17,245   | 20,332   |
| Minority interests                              |       |  | 129  |
|   |       | 17,245   | 20,461   |
| Earnings per share<br>Basic                     | 9     | 3.58 cents   | 4.22 cents   |
| Diluted   |       | 3.58 cents   | 4.22 cents   |

# CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

| CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET                  | 1      |                                |                              |
|---|--------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
|   |        | <b>30.06.2006</b>              | 31.12.2005                   |
|   | Notes  | (Unaudited)<br><i>HK\$'000</i> | (Audited)<br><i>HK\$'000</i> |
| Non-current assets                                    | IVOIES | ΠΙΚΦ 000                       | $\Pi K \phi 000$             |
| Property, plant and equipment                         |        | 178,692                        | 170,094                      |
| Prepaid lease payments for lands                      |        | 50,967                         | 46,899                       |
| Prepaid lease payments for coast                      |        | 12,032                         | 12,366                       |
| Investment properties                                 |        | 46,000                         | 46,000                       |
| Goodwill  |        | 87,787                         | 61,893                       |
| Interest in a jointly controlled entity               |        | 12,102                         | 12,350                       |
| Other assets  |        | 14,395                         | 18,754                       |
| Deferred tax assets                                   |        | 2,592                          | 2,326                        |
|   |        |                                |                              |
|   |        | 404,567                        | 370,682                      |
| Current assets  |        | 20 200                         | 40 107                       |
| Inventories<br>Trada daltare                          | 10     | 38,280                         | 40,197                       |
| Trade debtors   | 10     | 107,002                        | 50,340                       |
| Other debtors, deposits and prepayments               |        | 109,330                        | 100,928                      |
| Prepaid lease payments for lands                      |        | 1,980                          | 1,868                        |
| Prepaid lease payments for coast                      |        | 658                            | 653                          |
| Amount due from a jointly controlled entity           |        | 153                            | 153                          |
| Amount due from a former shareholder of a subsidiary  |        | 2,435                          | 2,435                        |
| Pledged bank deposits                                 |        | 394,559                        | 207,909                      |
| Bank balances and cash                                |        | 41,826                         | 57,479                       |
|   |        | 696,223                        | 461,962                      |
| Current liabilities                                   | 11     | 18 220                         | 62 246                       |
| Trade creditors and bills payable                     | 11     | 48,220                         | 63,246                       |
| Other creditors and accrued charges                   |        | 121,794                        | 26,046                       |
| Tax liabilities                                       |        | 9,133                          | 8,971                        |
| Borrowings, partly secured — repayable within one yea | r      | 493,917                        | 334,407                      |
|   |        | 673,064                        | 432,670                      |
| Net current assets                                    |        | 23,159                         | 29,292                       |
|   |        | 427,726                        | 399,974                      |
| Capital and reserves                                  |        |                                |                              |
| Share capital   |        | 48,168                         | 48,168                       |
| Share premium and reserves                            |        | 357,663                        | 340,764                      |
|   |        |                                |                              |
| Equity attributable to equity holders of the Company  |        | 405,831                        | 388,932                      |
| Minority interests                                    |        | 1,531                          | 1,531                        |
| Total agritty   |        | 407.262                        | 200 462                      |
| Total equity  |        | 407,362                        | 390,463                      |
| Non-current liabilities                               |        |                                |                              |
| Borrowings, unsecured — repayable over one year       |        | 11,333                         |                              |
| Deferred tax liabilities                              |        | 9,031                          | 9,511                        |
|   |        |                                |                              |
|   |        | 20,364                         | 9,511                        |
|   |        |                                | 200.07                       |
|   |        | 427,726                        | 399,974                      |

#### NOTES TO THE CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### 1. Basis of preparation and principal accounting policies

The unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Hong Kong Accounting Standard 34 "Interim Financial Reporting" issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (the "HKICPA") and the applicable disclosure requirements of Appendix 16 to the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities (the "Listing Rules") on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the "Stock Exchange"). The condensed consolidated interim financial statements should be read in conjunction with the annual financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2005.

The accounting policies and methods of computation used in the preparation of these unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements are consistent with those used in the annual financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2005.

#### 2. Changes in accounting policies

In the current period, the Group has adopted for the first time a number of new or revised Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards (HKFRSs), Hong Kong Accounting Standards (HKASs) and Interpretations (hereinafter collectively referred to as "new HKFRSs") issued by the HKICPA that are effective for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 December 2005 or 1 January 2006 respectively. The adoption of the new HKFRSs has had no material effect on how the results for the current or prior accounting periods are prepared and presented. Accordingly, no prior year adjustment has been required.

The HKICPA has issued the following new HKFRSs that are not yet effective. The Group has not early adopted these new HKFRSs. The directors of the Company anticipate that the application of these new HKFRSs will have no material impacts on the results and financial positions of the Group.

| HKAS 1 (Amendment) | Capital Disclosures <sup>1</sup>   |
|--------------------|--|
| HKFRS 7            | Financial Instruments: Disclosures <sup>1</sup>  |
| HK(IFRIC) — Int 7  | Applying the restatement approach under HKAS 29 Financial Reporting<br>in Hyperinflationary Economies <sup>2</sup> |
| HK(IFRIC) — Int 8  | Scope of HKFRS 2 <sup>3</sup>  |
| HK(IFRIC) — Int 9  | Reassessment of embedded derivatives <sup>4</sup>  |

- <sup>1</sup> Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2007.
- <sup>2</sup> Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 March 2006.
- <sup>3</sup> Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 May 2006.
- <sup>4</sup> Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 June 2006.

#### 3. Segmental information

The Group is principally engaged in sale and distribution of liquefied petroleum gas ("LPG"), sale of electronic products and leasing of investment properties, property, plant and equipment. These businesses are the basis on which the Group reports its primary segment information.

Leasing of

Segment information about these businesses is presented below:

#### **Business segments**

Six months ended 30.06.2006 (Unaudited)

| Six months children 50.00.2000 (Cr | Sale and<br>distribution<br>of LPG<br>HK\$'000 | Sale of<br>electronic<br>products<br><i>HK\$'000</i> | Leasing of<br>investment<br>properties,<br>property,<br>plant and<br>equipment<br><i>HK\$'000</i> | Unallocated<br><i>HK\$'000</i> | Consolidated<br><i>HK\$'000</i> |
|------------------------------------|--|--|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Segment revenues                   | 1,216,496                                      | 31,864   | 2,147   |                                | 1,250,507                       |
| Segment results                    | 41,882   | 347  | 1,757   | 10                             | 43,996                          |
| Unallocated corporate expenses     | _  | _  | _   | (7,740)                        | (7,740)                         |
| Share-based payment expenses       | _  |  | _   | (5,855)                        | (5,855)                         |
| Finance costs                      | _  |  | _   | (13,789)                       | (13,789)                        |
| Share of results of a jointly      |  |  |   |                                |                                 |
| controlled entity                  | (248)  |  |   |                                | (248)                           |
| Profit/(loss) before taxation      | 41,634   | 347  | 1,757   | (27,374)                       | 16,364                          |
| Taxation credit                    |  |  |   |                                | 881                             |
| Profit for the period              |  |  |   |                                | 17,245                          |

Six months ended 30.06.2005 (Unaudited)

|   | Sale and<br>distribution<br>of LPG<br><i>HK\$'000</i> | Sale of<br>electronic<br>products<br><i>HK\$'000</i> | investment<br>properties,<br>property,<br>plant and<br>equipment<br><i>HK\$'000</i> | Unallocated<br>HK\$'000 | Consolidated<br><i>HK\$'000</i> |
|---|---|--|---|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Segment revenues                                | 564,336   | 81,264   | 2,951   | 7,649                   | 656,200                         |
| Segment results                                 | 14,709  | 9,820  | 222   | 765                     | 25,516                          |
| Unallocated corporate expenses                  |   |  |   | (4,955)                 | (4,955)                         |
| Finance costs                                   |   |  |   | (2,703)                 | (2,703)                         |
| Share of results of a jointly controlled entity |   |  |   | (154)                   | (154)                           |
| Profit/(loss) before taxation                   | 14,709  | 9,820  | 222   | (7,047)                 | 17,704                          |
| Taxation credit                                 |   |  |   |                         | 2,757                           |
| Profit for the period                           |   |  |   |                         | 20,461                          |

#### 4. Other income

|  | 6 months ended<br>30.06.2006<br>(Unaudited) | 6 months ended<br>30.06.2005<br>(Unaudited) |
|--|---|---|
|  | HK\$'000                                    | HK\$'000                                    |
| Interest earned on bank deposits       | 4,348                                       | 100   |
| Net exchange gain                      | 6,632                                       | _   |
| Waiver of outstanding debts by vendors | 546   | _   |
| Other                                  | 660   | 771   |
|  | 12,186                                      | 871   |

#### 5. Share-based payment transactions

#### Equity-settled share option scheme

On 15 May 2006, share options entitling the holders to subscribe for a total of 30,500,000 shares were granted by the Company to the directors and senior management/other participants of the Group under the New Option Scheme at a nominal consideration of HK\$1 payable by each grantee. These options may be exercised at any time commencing 17 June 2006 to 31 December 2015, at the exercise price of HK\$0.69 per share. The number of share options granted to Mr. Shum Siu Hung, Mr. Chiu Sing Chung, Raymond, Mr. Cheung Kwan Hung, Anthony and Mr. Ma Man Hoi, Joseph were approved at the special general meeting of the Company held on 16 June 2006.

#### Valuation of options

According to the Black-Scholes pricing model (the "Model"), the estimated fair value of the share options granted during the period was HK\$5,855,000. The following table lists the weighted average inputs to the model used for the period ended 30 June 2006.

| Weighted average share price | HK\$0.73 |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Exercise price               | HK\$0.69 |
| Expected volatility          | 59.36%   |
| Expected life in years       | 1        |
| Risk free rate               | 4.57%    |
| Expected dividend yield      | 1.50%    |

Expected volatility was determined by calculating the historical volatility of the Company's share price over the previous one year. The expected life used in the model was based on management's best estimation taking into account non-transferability and other behavioral consideration. Risk free rate was determined by reference to the yield of 1 year Exchange Fund Notes at the date of grant. Expected dividend yield was based on historical dividend yield of the shares of the company.

#### 6. Profit before taxation

Profit before taxation is stated after charging the following items:

|  | 6 months ended | 6 months ended |
|--|----------------|----------------|
|  | 30.06.2006     | 30.06.2005     |
|  | (Unaudited)    | (Unaudited)    |
|  | HK\$'000       | HK\$'000       |
| Depreciation of property, plant and equipment    | 7,338          | 7,926          |
| Amortisation of prepaid lease payments for lands | 962            | 888            |
| Amortisation of prepaid lease payments for coast | 329            | 324            |
| Total depreciation and amortisation              | 8,629          | 9,138          |

#### 7. Taxation Credit

|   | 6 months ended | 6 months ended |
|---|----------------|----------------|
|   | 30.06.2006     | 30.06.2005     |
|   | (Unaudited)    | (Unaudited)    |
|   | HK\$'000       | HK\$'000       |
| Current tax:  |                |                |
| Hong Kong   | _              |                |
| Other regions in the People's Republic of China ("PRC") | (33)           | (54)           |
| Deferred tax  | 914            | 2,811          |
|   |                |                |
|   | 881            | 2,757          |

No provision for Hong Kong Profits Tax has been made in the financial statements as the Company's subsidiaries operating in Hong Kong incurred a tax loss for the period.

The current tax for other regions in the PRC represents PRC enterprise income tax, which is calculated at the rates prevailing, in respect of the Company's subsidiaries operating in the PRC.

#### 8. Dividend

On 23 June 2006, a dividend of HK1.2 cents per share (2005: HK1 cent per share of HK\$0.10 each) was paid to shareholders as the final dividend for 2005.

The directors do not recommend the payment of an interim dividend for the six months ended 30 June 2006 (six months ended 30 June 2005: nil).

#### 9. Earnings per share

The calculation of the basic and diluted earnings per share attributable to the ordinary equity holders of the Company is based on the following data:

|   | 6 months ended | 6 months ended |
|---|----------------|----------------|
|   | 30.06.2006     | 30.06.2005     |
|   | (Unaudited)    | (Unaudited)    |
|   | HK\$'000       | HK\$'000       |
| Earnings  |                |                |
| Earnings for the purposes of basic and diluted earnings per share         |                |                |
| (net profit for the period attributable to equity holders of the Company) | 17,245         | 20,332         |
| Number of shares  |                |                |
| Weighted average number of ordinary shares for the purposes               |                |                |
| of basic earnings per share   | 481,676,687    | 481,676,687    |
| Effect of dilutive potential ordinary shares: share options               | 259,636        | 123,911        |
| Weighted average number of ordinary shares for the purposes               |                |                |
| of diluted earnings per share   | 481,936,323    | 481,800,598    |

#### 10. Trade Debtors

11.

The credit terms of the Group range from 0 to 180 days. The aged analysis of trade debtors is as follows:

|   | 30.06.2006<br>(Unaudited)<br><i>HK\$'000</i> | 31.12.2005<br>(Audited)<br><i>HK\$'000</i> |
|---|--|--|
| 0 to 30 days  | 102,500                                      | 21,624                                     |
| 31 to 60 days                                       | 1,357  | 16,230                                     |
| 61 to 90 days                                       | 1,680  | 2,003                                      |
| 91 to 120 days                                      | 871  | 3,716                                      |
| More than 120 days                                  | 594  | 6,767                                      |
|   | 107,002                                      | 50,340                                     |
| Trade Creditors and Bills Payable                   |  |  |
| The aged analysis of trade creditors is as follows: |  |  |
|   | 30.06.2006                                   | 31.12.2005                                 |
|   | (Unaudited)                                  | (Audited)                                  |
|   | HK\$'000                                     | HK\$'000                                   |
| 0 to 30 days  | 16,926                                       | 18,340                                     |
| 31 to 60 days                                       | 44   | 3,154                                      |
| 61 to 90 days                                       | 3  | 35   |
| 91 to 120 days                                      | _  | —  |
| More than 120 days                                  | 502  | 394  |
|   | 17,475                                       | 21,923                                     |
| Bills payable                                       | 30,745                                       | 41,323                                     |
|   | 48,220                                       | 63,246                                     |

#### 12. Post balance sheet events

- 1. On 3 September 2006, Sound Electronics (Shenzhen) Co., Ltd. (the "Vendor"), an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company entered into an agreement with an independent third party, Madam Li Yianling (the "Purchaser") whereby the Vendor agreed to sell a property located in Nan She Gang, Huang Tian Zhong Wu Cun, Xi Xiang Zhen, Bao An District, Shenzhen, the PRC to the Purchaser for a cash consideration of RMB52,000,000 (approximately HK\$49,904,030). An announcement containing details of the disposal was released on 6 September 2006 and a circular will be dispatched as soon as practicable.
- 2. On 14 August 2006, the Company entered into a facility agreement (the "Facility Agreement") with a number of banks (the "Banks") whereby the Banks agreed to make available the facility in the amounts of US\$22,000,000 (equivalent to an aggregate amount of approximately HK\$171,600,000) (the "Facility") to the Company upon the terms and conditions as stated therein. The Facility is a transferable term loan facility which shall be repaid by the Company by installments according to the repayment schedule with the last installment due on the date falling 60 months after the date of the Facility Agreement.
- 3. The Company and Caltex South China Investments Limited entered into a Share Transfer and Option Agreement on 22 June 2006 relating to the establishment of a joint venture to develop and operate an 80,000 metric ton depot for petroleum products at the Group's Gaolan Harbour Terminal in Zhuhai. Please refer to the circular dated 12 July 2006 for further details.

# **INTERIM DIVIDEND**

The Board does not recommend the payment of interim dividend for the six months ended 30 June 2006 (six months ended 30 June 2005: nil).

# MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

#### General

The Group again achieved high business growth in the first half of 2006. It recorded a turnover of approximately HK\$1,250,507,000 for the period ended 30 June 2006, a substantial increase of 91% comparing with the turnover of approximately HK\$656,200,000 for the period ended 30 June 2005. The net profit for the period ended 30 June 2006 after the estimated fair value of share options granted during the period as required under Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards amounted to approximately HK\$17,245,000 (Net profit before deducting the estimated fair value of share options amounted to approximately HK\$23,100,000), a drop of 15% in comparison with the net profit of approximately HK\$20,332,000 in the same period of 2005 in which no share options were granted (a 14% increase comparing with net profit before deduction of the estimated fair value of share options). As at the end of 30 June 2006, the Company has issued and paid up 481,676,687 of ordinary shares. Basic earning per share for the period ended 30 June 2006 was HK3.58 cents, a drop of 15% comparing with the basic earnings per share for the period ended 30 June 2005 (when calculated on the basis of net profit before deducting the estimated fair value of share for the period ended 30 June 2005 (when calculated on the basis of net profit before deducting the estimated fair value of share for the period ended 30 June 2005 (when calculated on the basis of net profit before deducting the estimated fair value of share options, the earnings per share for the period ended 30 June 2005 (when calculated on the basis of net profit before deducting the estimated fair value of share options, the same period ended 30 June 2006 was HK4.80 cents, an increase of 14% in comparison with the same period of 2005).

## **Business Review and Analysis**

## Group Business Overview

For the purpose of representing more clearly its business development direction, the Company announced on 28 April 2006 to change its name from "NewOcean Green Energy Holdings Limited" to "NewOcean Energy Holdings Limited". The Group has set the development of ENERGY as its long term business strategy, and has formulated a series of business plans accordingly. The execution of these plans produced preliminary accomplishments in the first half of 2006.

- 1. In six months, total LPG sales volume (including wholesaling and retailing) reached about 275,000 tons, a significant growth of 72% comparing with 160,000 tons achieved in the first half of 2005. The import volume of Zhuhai Terminal reached 220,000 tons making it one of the big 5 LPG importers (in terms of import volume) in China. It is anticipated that the import volume of Zhuhai Terminal will be around 450,000 tons to 500,000 tons for the whole year representing 7.5% to 8.3% of China's estimated total import in 2006;
- 2. The storage capacity expansion project which started in November 2005 has been progressing smoothly without any hiccup and not affecting the day to day LPG wholesaling operation. The first phase of construction is expected to complete by the end of 2006. The storage capacity will then be expanded from currently 2,100 tons to 9,600 tons and will provide more favorable conditions for Zhuhai Terminal to strengthen its throughput capability.
- 3. The Group started its discussions with banks on financing the storage expansion project of the Zhuhai Terminal since April 2006. A loan agreement was signed in August pursuant to which the syndicate has committed to provide a US\$22,000,000 five years term loan facility to the Company.

- 4. The plan to cooperate with international partner on the oil products storage project had substantial progress in the first half of 2006. A cooperation agreement was finally signed with Caltex South China Investment Ltd. in June. The construction of the oil depot is planned to commence in the second half of the year.
- 5. The group continued to curtail all electronics related business. Investment properties (currently for leasing only) will be disposed at market price in the second half of the year.

# LPG Business

#### Market Situation

In the first half of 2006, the international market price of LPG hovered at the high price range. One after another, domestic refineries in China increased their LPG production and activated more the shift of LPG from the North to the South. Due to the increased supply of domestic LPG, importers were unable to adjust their sales price in line with the increase in import cost; wholesale and retail margin therefore were further squeezed generally. On the demand side, given that LPG has become one of the important energy sources of households in the cities, and industrial and automobiles users of LPG have been increasing speedily, the market had very strong demand for LPG despite the high price. Following such development trend, a market segregation will soon evolve, where general households will be served by domestic LPG and industrial and automobile users can only be served by imported LPG. Domestic and imported LPG to have different prices is very likely to happen in Southern China. First class LPG terminals (for berthing of 10,000 tons class refrigerated vessels) will have to focus more on sales to industrial and automobile users while the traditional second class terminals (for berthing of 1,000 tons class pressurized ships) will focus on sales to general households.

## LPG Wholesaling

The Group continued to achieve high growth of LPG wholesaling in the first half of 2006. Zhuhai Terminal recorded an import volume of 220,000 tons in the first half of the year, an increase of 93% comparing with the 114,000 tons of import volume in the same period of 2005. In 2006, Zhuhai Terminal concentrated on the purchase of refrigerated cargo thus saving costs moderately in comparison with the same period of 2005, when the bulk of the purchases was pressurized cargo. With respect to sales, Zhuhai Terminal had entered into term supply contracts on cost plus basis with reliable local customers (including the operators of auto-gas refueling stations in Guangzhou) and successfully established the channels for export to Hong Kong (for taxi LPG refueling), Philippines and Vietnam. These measures effectively mitigated the impact of domestic LPG in the local market and maintained a profitable operation.

#### LPG Retailing

The Group achieved a retailing volume of about 100,000 tons in the first half of 2006, an increase of about 43% comparing with 70,000 tons in the same period of 2005. The 8 bottle filling plants already in operation contributed about 90,000 tons of sales (an increase of about 28%) and the Shenzhen Baorun Bottle Filling Plant ("Baorun") which the group acquired in April contributed 10,000 tons of sales in just 3 months. Due to the size of Baorun's operation in Shenzhen, there was a notable increase in selling expanses and administration cost of the Group when compared with the same period last year, but the increase was more than compensated by the increased turnover and operating profit brought about by Baorun. It is anticipated that the Group's retailing volume will very likely exceed 200,000 tons in the whole year of 2006. In respect of sourcing, about 45% was supplied by Zhuhai Terminal and 55% was purchased by the bottle filling plants themselves from the local refineries. As the price of import LPG remained high, bottle filling plants in the Group will be buying and selling local LPG mainly.

# **Oil Products Storage Project**

In respect of the Oil Products Storage Project in cooperation with Caltex South China Investment Ltd., a new joint venture will be established for the project development. Zhuhai Terminal will be one of the shareholders. It will inject a parcel of land of about 36,000 square meters as its equity contribution to become 35% equity holder of the joint venture. The joint venture will build 80,000 tons storage for diesel and gasoline. The project design and planning has been completed. Construction is anticipated to commence in the second half of 2006 and be completed for operation in one year.

# **Electronics**

Starting from January 2003, the Group contracted out the manufacture and sales of the electronics business. In the first half of 2006, income from leasing of investment properties was about HK\$2,147,000. In September, the Group sold the investment properties that were formerly the operating assets of the manufacturing business. The Group can concentrate more resources and management effort on the LPG operation after the disposal of these investment properties. In the whole of the first half of 2006, the Group only maintained general trading of electronic components.

# **Business Outlook**

In the second half of 2006, the Group will endeavor to sustain a continuous growth in its LPG wholesaling and retailing. Concurrent to the increase in its local market share, the Group will explore more export opportunities and continue to source appropriate acquisitions of bottle filling plants. The sales volume in the whole year of 2006 is expected to exceed 500,000 tons and the turnover will likely reach HK\$2,500,000,000.

Apart from the above, the Group will effectively apply the loan provided by the syndicate of banks to speed up its storage expansion ensuring the completion of first phase construction (adding 7,500 tons of storage capacity) by the end of the year and the second phase construction (adding another 6,000 tons) not later than mid of next year. By then, the total LPG storage capacity of Zhuhai Terminal will be increased from 2,100 tons to 15,600 tons. The increase of storage capacity will help to shorten the laytime for cargo discharge at the terminal from now 5 days to ultimately 2 days. Shortening of the time of use of the vessel will effectively lower the cost of import (comprising vessel charges) by about US\$4 to US\$6 per ton. In line with this approach, the sales volume may possibly reach 700,000 tons in 2007 and the wholesale margin of the Zhuhai Terminal will be improved significantly.

Furthermore, the Group will also put the commencement of construction of the oil products storage construction within 2006 as one of its top priorities. Management of the Group planned to complete the construction work and start operation by the end of 2007 in order that the Group will have a new line of business (oil products) and an additional source of revenue in 2008.

# LIQUIDITY AND FINANCIAL REVIEW

At the period end, the Group maintained bank deposits and cash amounting to approximately HK\$436,385,000 (including pledged bank deposits of approximately HK\$394,559,000). (31.12.2005: HK\$265,388,000 including pledged bank deposits of HK\$207,909,000) Current ratio and gearing ratio were 1.03:1 (31.12.2005: 1.07:1) and 0.63:1 (31.12.2005: 0.53:1) respectively. The latter was calculated on the basis of total liabilities of approximately HK\$693,428,000 (31.12.2005: 442,181,000) divided by total assets of approximately HK\$1,100,790,000 (31.12. 2005: HK\$832,644,000).

#### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

As at 30 June 2006, the Group employed approximately 360 employees in Hong Kong and mainland China. The Group remunerated the employees based on their performance, experience and prevailing market practices.

# PURCHASE, SALE AND REDEMPTION OF THE COMPANY'S LISTED SECURITIES

Neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries purchased, sold or redeemed any of the Company's listed securities during the six months ended 30 June 2006.

## AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee has reviewed with the management the accounting principles and practices adopted by the Group and discussed internal controls and financial reporting matters with the directors, including a review of the unaudited condensed consolidated accounts for the six months ended 30 June 2006.

#### **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

The Company complied with the provision of the Code on Corporate Governance Practices (the "CG Code") as set out in Appendix 14 of the Listing Rules on the Stock Exchange throughout the six months ended 30 June 2006 with the exception that the independent non-executive directors are not appointed for a specific term as provided in the CG Code. Under the Bye-laws of the Company, independent non-executive directors of the Company shall retire by rotation and their appointment will be reviewed when they are due for re-election. In the opinion of the directors, this arrangement meets the same objectives as the CG Code.

# COMPLIANCE WITH THE MODEL CODE FOR SECURITIES TRANSACTIONS BY DIRECTORS

The Company had adopted the Model Code for Securities Transactions by Directors of Listed Issuers as set out in Appendix 10 of the Listing Rules as its own code of conducting regarding securities transactions (the "ST Code"). Having made specific enquiry of the directors, all directors of the Company had complied with the required standards as set out in the ST Code during the six months ended 30 June 2006.

By order of the Board Shum Siu Hung Chairman

Hong Kong, 7 September 2006

As at the date of this announcement, the Board of the Company comprises Mr. Shum Siu Hung, Mr. Raymond Chiu Sing Chung, Mr. Lawrence Shum Chun and Mr. Cen Ziniu, being the executive Directors, Mr. Wu Hong Cho, being non-executive Director, Mr. Anthony Cheung Kwan Hung, Mr. Joseph Ma Man Hoi, Mr. Benedict Chan Yuk Wai and Dr. Xu Mingshe being independent non-executive Directors.

\* for identification purpose only