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SINO-TECH INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS LIMITED

泰豐國際集團有限公司*

(Incorporated in Bermuda with limited liability)

(Stock Code: 724)

INTERIM RESULTS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

The board (the “Board”) of directors (the “Directors”) of Sino-Tech International Holdings Limited (the “Company”) is pleased to announce the unaudited consolidated interim results of the Company and its subsidiaries (collectively, the “Group”) for the six months ended 30 June 2014, together with the comparative figures for the corresponding period and selected explanatory notes as set out below.

RESULTS OVERVIEW

During the six months ended 30 June 2014 (the “Reporting Period”), the Group recorded a turnover from continuing operation of approximately HK\$304.8 million, representing a decrease of 5.5% as compared with approximately HK\$322.7 million for the six months ended 30 June 2013 (the “Corresponding Period”).

Loss from continuing operation for the Reporting Period increased to approximately HK\$16.0 million from approximately HK\$5.5 million in the Corresponding Period. Loss attributable to owners of the Company was approximately HK\$16.0 million for the Reporting Period as compared with approximately HK\$6.6 million in the Corresponding Period. The loss for the Reporting Period was mainly attributable to the imputed interest expenses on convertible notes, the decrease in the profit from the electronic products segment and the compensation for the loss of office by a former director and chief executive officer of the Company (“CEO”). The Group’s loss for the Reporting Period, however, was partly offset by the first interim dividend received from CITIC Logistics (International) Company Limited (“CLI”), which is in the process of winding up.

* For identification purpose only

Other than the gain on loss of control over subsidiaries and the imputed interest expenses on convertible notes which arose as a result of accounting treatment under the provisions of the applicable accounting standards, the Group made a net loss of approximately HK\$5.3 million in the Reporting Period, as compared with a net loss of approximately HK\$7.6 million in the Corresponding Period.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

	Six months ended 30 June	
	2014	2013
	<i>HK\$'000</i>	<i>HK\$'000</i>
Turnover from continuing operation	304,835	322,661
Gross profit from continuing operation	18,975	23,669
Loss for the period from continuing operation	(15,969)	(5,463)
Loss for the period from discontinued operation	–	(1,094)
Loss for the period	(15,969)	(6,557)
Gain on loss of control over subsidiaries	–	11,002
Imputed interest expenses on convertible notes	(10,682)	(9,928)
Net loss for the period before gain on loss of control over subsidiaries and imputed interest expenses on convertible notes	(5,287)	(7,631)

INTERIM DIVIDEND

The Board does not recommend the payment of an interim dividend for the six months ended 30 June 2014 (six months ended 30 June 2013: nil).

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS

For the six months ended 30 June 2014

	<i>Notes</i>	Six months ended 30 June	
		2014	2013
		HK\$'000	HK\$'000
		(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
Continuing operation			
Turnover	3	304,835	322,661
Cost of sales		<u>(285,860)</u>	<u>(298,992)</u>
Gross profit		18,975	23,669
Other income		7,543	76
Gain on loss of control over subsidiaries		–	11,002
Distribution costs		(5,353)	(6,517)
Administrative expenses		(26,447)	(23,502)
Share of results of joint ventures		(5)	(2)
Provision for financial guarantees		–	(260)
Finance costs	4	<u>(10,682)</u>	<u>(9,929)</u>
Loss before taxation	5	(15,969)	(5,463)
Taxation	6	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>
Loss for the period from continuing operation		<u>(15,969)</u>	<u>(5,463)</u>
Discontinued operation			
Loss for the period from discontinued operation		<u>–</u>	<u>(1,094)</u>
Loss for the period		<u><u>(15,969)</u></u>	<u><u>(6,557)</u></u>
Loss for the period attributable to owners of the Company		<u><u>(15,969)</u></u>	<u><u>(6,557)</u></u>
Loss per share			
	8		
From continuing and discontinued operations			
Basic and diluted (HK cents)		<u><u>(0.133)</u></u>	<u><u>(0.055)</u></u>
From continuing operation			
Basic and diluted (HK cents)		<u><u>(0.133)</u></u>	<u><u>(0.046)</u></u>

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the six months ended 30 June 2014

	Six months ended 30 June	
	2014	2013
	<i>HK\$'000</i>	<i>HK\$'000</i>
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
Loss for the period	<u>(15,969)</u>	<u>(6,557)</u>
Other comprehensive income (expenses)		
Items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:		
Exchange differences arising on translation of foreign operations		
Exchange gain (loss) arising during the period	<u>38</u>	<u>(49)</u>
Other comprehensive income (expenses) for the period	<u>38</u>	<u>(49)</u>
Total comprehensive expenses for the period attributable to owners of the Company	<u><u>(15,931)</u></u>	<u><u>(6,606)</u></u>

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 30 June 2014

	<i>Notes</i>	30 June 2014	31 December 2013
		<i>HK\$'000</i>	<i>HK\$'000</i>
		(Unaudited)	(Audited)
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	9	37,981	46,299
Interests in joint ventures		5,986	5,991
Deposits paid for acquisition of property, plant and equipment		—	470
		43,967	52,760
Current assets			
Inventories		117,796	136,779
Trade and bills receivables	10	201,225	194,157
Prepayments, deposits and other receivables		1,939	1,917
Amount due from a joint venture		26	10
Amounts due from former subsidiaries		—	—
Tax recoverable		4,910	2,515
Deposits in other financial institutions		446	446
Bank balances and cash		55,838	80,462
		382,180	416,286
Current liabilities			
Trade and bills payables	11	56,574	94,358
Other payables and accruals		14,928	11,830
Amounts due to former subsidiaries		4,417	7,379
Obligations under finance leases		5	5
Convertible notes		294,141	283,459
		370,065	397,031
Net current assets		12,115	19,255
Total assets less current liabilities		56,082	72,015

	30 June 2014 <i>HK\$'000</i> (Unaudited)	31 December 2013 <i>HK\$'000</i> (Audited)
Non-current liabilities		
Obligations under finance leases	2	4
Employee benefits	<u>101</u>	<u>101</u>
	<u>103</u>	<u>105</u>
Net assets	<u>55,979</u>	<u>71,910</u>
Capital and reserves		
Share capital	119,667	119,667
Reserves	<u>(63,688)</u>	<u>(47,757)</u>
Total equity	<u>55,979</u>	<u>71,910</u>

Notes:

1. BASIS OF PREPARATION

The condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Hong Kong Accounting Standard (“HKAS”) 34 “Interim Financial Reporting” issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (“HKICPA”) as well as with 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”).

Going concern basis

In preparing the condensed consolidated financial statements, the directors of the Company have given consideration to the future liquidity of the Group.

The Group incurred a loss of approximately HK\$15,969,000 for the six months ended 30 June 2014. In addition, the convertible notes with outstanding principal amount of HK\$302,400,000 will be matured on 15 November 2014 but the Group does not forecast that it can fully redeem the outstanding convertible notes by their maturity date (the “CN Issue”). The directors of the Company are of the opinion that it is still appropriate to prepare the condensed consolidated financial statements for the six months ended 30 June 2014 on a going concern basis by taking into consideration of the following.

During the Reporting Period, the Company has received a letter of undertaking from the sole holder of convertible notes who indicated that he would not request the Company to redeem the convertible notes prior to 31 December 2014 causing the Company insolvent. The Company has engaged a financial adviser to actively negotiate with the convertible notes holder on the CN Issue, and at the same time, the Company is also considering fund raising possibilities. The directors of the Company are hopeful that the CN Issue can be resolved amicably and the Group will be able to maintain itself as a going concern in the coming year. The condensed consolidated financial statements do not include any adjustments relating to the carrying amount and reclassification of assets and liabilities that might be necessary should the Group be unable to continue as a going concern.

2. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis.

Except as described below, the accounting policies and methods of computation used in the condensed consolidated financial statements for the six months ended 30 June 2014 are the same as those followed in the preparation of the Group’s annual financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2013.

In the current interim period, the Group has applied, for the first time, the following new interpretation and amendments to Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards (“HKFRSs”) issued by the HKICPA that are relevant for the preparation of the Group’s condensed consolidated financial statements:

Amendments to HKFRS 10, HKFRS 12 and HKAS 27	Investment Entities
Amendments to HKAS 32	Offsetting Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities
Amendments to HKAS 36	Recoverable Amount Disclosures for Non-Financial Assets
Amendments to HKAS 39	Novation of Derivatives and Continuation of Hedge Accounting
Hong Kong (International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee) – Interpretation 21	Levies

The Group has not applied any new or revised HKFRSs that are not yet effective for the current interim period.

The application of the new interpretation and amendments to HKFRSs in the current interim period has had no material impact on the amounts reported in these condensed consolidated financial statements and/or disclosures set out in these condensed consolidated financial statements.

3. TURNOVER AND SEGMENT INFORMATION

As set out in the Company’s annual report for the year ended 31 December 2013, following the discontinuation of the property investment operation, the Group is principally engaged in the manufacturing and trading of electronic and electrical parts and components. Accordingly, the Group’s continuing operation is attributable to a single reportable and operating segment under HKFRS 8.

Specifically, the Group’s continuing and discontinued operations are as follows:

- (i) Continuing operation
 - Electronic products segment engages in the manufacturing and trading of electronic and electrical parts and components.
- (ii) Discontinued operation
 - Property investment segment engages in properties investments.

Turnover from continuing operation represents revenue arising from manufacturing and trading of electronic and electrical parts and components.

The following is an analysis of the Group's revenue and results by continuing and discontinued operations:

	Continuing operation		Discontinued operation		Total	
	Electronic products		Property investment			
	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
For the six months ended						
30 June						
Sales to external customers	304,835	322,661	-	-	304,835	322,661
Other income	862	67	-	76	862	143
Total segment revenue	<u>305,697</u>	<u>322,728</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>305,697</u>	<u>322,804</u>
Contribution to segment results	2,109	6,321	-	(1,094)	2,109	5,227
Gain on loss of control over subsidiaries	-	11,002	-	-	-	11,002
Segment results	<u>2,109</u>	<u>17,323</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,094)</u>	<u>2,109</u>	<u>16,229</u>
Unallocated corporate income					6,681	9
Share of results of joint ventures					(5)	(2)
Unallocated corporate expenses					(14,072)	(12,864)
Finance costs					<u>(10,682)</u>	<u>(9,929)</u>
Loss before taxation					<u>(15,969)</u>	<u>(6,557)</u>

4. FINANCE COSTS

	Six months ended 30 June	
	2014	2013
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
Continuing operation		
Borrowing costs on obligations under finance leases	-	1
Imputed interest expenses on convertible notes	<u>10,682</u>	<u>9,928</u>
	<u>10,682</u>	<u>9,929</u>

5. LOSS BEFORE TAXATION

Loss before taxation has been arrived at after charging (crediting):

	Six months ended 30 June	
	2014	2013
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
Continuing operation		
Bank interest income	(5)	(5)
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	13,265	13,300
Net exchange loss	58	783
Net (gain) loss on disposals of property, plant and equipment	(204)	519
Recovery of trade receivables previously written off	–	(37)
Reversal of impairment loss on trade receivables	–	(28)
Reversal of impairment loss on amount due from a former subsidiary	(6,662)	–
Reversal of impairment loss on other receivables	(14)	–
Write-offs of property, plant and equipment	9	16
	<u>9</u>	<u>16</u>

6. TAXATION

Continuing operation

No provision for Hong Kong Profits Tax has been made for the six months ended 30 June 2014 and 2013 as the Group either has no assessable profits arising in Hong Kong or has sufficient tax losses brought forward from previous years to offset the estimated assessable profits for both reporting periods. The tax rate of Hong Kong Profits Tax is 16.5%.

During the six months ended 30 June 2013, the Hong Kong Inland Revenue Department (the “IRD”) enquired a subsidiary of the Company in respect of its Hong Kong Profits Tax payable for the years of assessment 2006/07 to 2011/12 (the “Tax Enquiries”). As the assessment for the year of assessment 2006/07 would be statutorily time-barred by 31 March 2013, a protective assessment of approximately HK\$1,555,000 was raised by the IRD on 7 March 2013. The relevant subsidiary lodged an objection against the assessment and the IRD had held over the payment of the profits tax and an equal amount of tax reserve certificate was purchased and recorded as tax recoverable as at 31 December 2013 and 30 June 2014.

During the six months ended 30 June 2014, in respect of the Tax Enquiries, as the assessment for the year of assessment 2007/08 would be statutorily time-barred by 31 March 2014, a protective assessment of approximately HK\$2,395,000 was raised by the IRD on 18 March 2014. The relevant subsidiary lodged an objection against the assessment and the IRD had held over the payment of the profits tax and an equal amount of tax reserve certificate was purchased and recorded as tax recoverable as at 30 June 2014.

Under the Law of the People’s Republic of China (the “PRC” or “China”) on Enterprise Income Tax (the “EIT Law”) and Implementation Regulation of the EIT Law, the tax rate of the subsidiary registered in the PRC is 25% for the six months ended 30 June 2014 and 2013. No provision for the Enterprise Income Tax have been made for the six months ended 30 June 2014 and 2013 as the subsidiary of the Company has no assessable profits.

7. DIVIDENDS

No dividends were paid, declared or proposed during the interim period. The directors of the Company do not recommend the payment of an interim dividend for the six months ended 30 June 2014 (six months ended 30 June 2013: nil).

8. LOSS PER SHARE

From continuing and discontinued operations

The calculation of the basic and diluted loss per share from continuing and discontinued operations attributable to the owners of the Company is based on the loss for the period from continuing and discontinued operations of approximately HK\$15,969,000 (six months ended 30 June 2013: approximately HK\$6,557,000) and the weighted average number of approximately 11,966,699,000 (six months ended 30 June 2013: approximately 11,966,699,000) ordinary shares in issue during the period.

From continuing operation

The calculation of the basic and diluted loss per share from continuing operation attributable to the owners of the Company is based on the loss for the period from continuing operation of approximately HK\$15,969,000 (six months ended 30 June 2013: approximately HK\$5,463,000) and the weighted average number of approximately 11,966,699,000 (six months ended 30 June 2013: approximately 11,966,699,000) ordinary shares in issue during the period.

From discontinued operation

For the six months ended 30 June 2013, both basic and diluted loss per share from the discontinued operation attributable to the owners of the Company was HK0.009 cents per share (six months ended 30 June 2014: nil), based on the loss for the period from the discontinued operation of approximately HK\$1,094,000 for the six months ended 30 June 2013 (six months ended 30 June 2014: nil) and the denominators detailed above for both basic and diluted loss per share.

For the six months ended 30 June 2014 and 2013, the diluted loss per share is the same as the basic loss per share.

The computation of diluted loss per share for the six months ended 30 June 2014 and 2013 did not assume the exercise of the Company's share options as the exercise prices of the share options were higher than the average market price for shares. The computation of diluted loss per share for the six months ended 30 June 2014 and 2013 did not assume the conversion of the Company's outstanding convertible notes as the conversion of convertible notes would result in a decrease in loss per share.

9. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

During the six months ended 30 June 2014, the Group spent approximately HK\$5,214,000 on the addition of leasehold improvements and others (six months ended 30 June 2013: approximately HK\$17,042,000 for the acquisition of plant and machinery).

Property, plant and equipment with a net carrying value of approximately HK\$235,000 were disposed of by the Group during the six months ended 30 June 2014 (six months ended 30 June 2013: approximately HK\$519,000) for cash proceeds of approximately HK\$439,000 (six months ended 30 June 2013: nil), resulting in a net gain on disposals of approximately HK\$204,000 (six months ended 30 June 2013: net loss on disposals of approximately HK\$519,000).

10. TRADE AND BILLS RECEIVABLES

The Group allows an average credit period of 30 to 120 days (31 December 2013: 30 to 120 days) to its trade customers.

The following is an aged analysis of trade and bills receivables, net of impairment, presented based on the due date at the end of the reporting periods:

	30 June 2014 <i>HK\$'000</i> (Unaudited)	31 December 2013 <i>HK\$'000</i> (Audited)
Current	171,501	163,605
Overdue:		
– within 3 months	17,422	27,067
– 4 - 6 months	11,116	2,494
– 7 - 12 months	1,186	991
	29,724	30,552
	201,225	194,157

11. TRADE AND BILLS PAYABLES

The following is an aged analysis of trade and bills payables presented based on the due date at the end of the reporting periods:

	30 June 2014 <i>HK\$'000</i> (Unaudited)	31 December 2013 <i>HK\$'000</i> (Audited)
Current	51,802	85,958
Overdue:		
– within 3 months	4,438	7,493
– 4 - 6 months	161	800
– 7 - 12 months	70	–
– over 12 months	103	107
	56,574	94,358

12. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND COMMITMENTS

- (a) On 15 July 2009, one of the subsidiaries of Classic Line International Limited (“Classic Line”), a former subsidiary of the Company, has been and is the subject of a judgement (in the amount of US\$13.5 million) obtained in a United States court in an action in respect of damages allegedly arising out of use of fire lighters sold by the subsidiary of Classic Line. The Company is one of the co-defendants in the case. On 28 September 2009, the Company entered into an agreement to dispose of the entire equity interest in Classic Line and the disposal was completed on 31 October 2009.

Based on the legal advice received by the Company, the directors of the Company considered that the Company has valid grounds in opposing the enforcement of any judgement of the said case against the Company, if obtained, in Hong Kong and Bermuda. Accordingly, no provision has been made in the condensed consolidated financial statements.

- (b) At 30 June 2014, the Group had no capital expenditure contracted for but not provided in the condensed consolidated financial statements (31 December 2013: approximately HK\$3,997,000 in respect of acquisition of property, plant and equipment).

MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Business and Financial Review

The electronic products segment (the continuing operation of the Group) recorded a decrease of 5.5% in turnover to approximately HK\$304.8 million in the Reporting Period from approximately HK\$322.7 million in the Corresponding Period. The decrease was mainly attributable to the drop in turnover from the PRC and other Asia Pacific markets, as the continued slowdown of the PRC economy posed a negative impact on the semiconductor industry in general. The price and profit margin of electronic products have been going downtrend, which weakened the electronic products segment's profitability and resulted in the decrease in the overall gross profit to cover the fixed production costs. During the Reporting Period, the electronic products segment reported a profit of approximately HK\$2.1 million in terms of contribution to segment results as compared with approximately HK\$6.3 million in the Corresponding Period.

During the Corresponding Period, a gain of approximately HK\$11.0 million was recorded upon the disposal of 50% equity interest in a subsidiary of the Company to an independent third party. However, no similar gain was recorded for the Reporting Period. As at the date of this announcement, the winding-up of CLI is still in process. During the Reporting Period, as informed by the liquidators of CLI, the entire 90% equity interest in CITIC Logistics Company Limited was being disposed of. The Group received from CLI the first interim dividend of approximately HK\$6.7 million in respect of the admitted claims against CLI by the Company and Top Victory Industries Limited (a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company), both are the creditors of CLI. At this stage, the Company is unable to ascertain the extent of recovery from CLI for the remaining balance given that CLI is still in the process of winding up. During the Reporting Period, the Company made the compensation of approximately HK\$4.1 million for the loss of office by a former director and CEO.

As set out in note 1 to the condensed consolidated financial statements in this announcement, on 19 November 2009, the Company issued unsecured convertible notes for the partial settlement of the consideration for the acquisition of CLI. As at 30 June 2014, the principal amount of convertible notes remained outstanding was HK\$302.4 million and the maturity date is 15 November 2014. In addition, the Group incurred a loss of approximately HK\$16.0 million for the Reporting Period and does not forecast that it can fully redeem the outstanding convertible notes by their maturity date. During the Reporting Period, however, the convertible notes holder indicated that he would not request the Company to redeem the convertible notes prior to 31 December 2014 causing the Company insolvent, as reported in the 2013 Annual Report of the Company.

The Company has engaged a financial adviser to actively negotiate with the convertible notes holder on the CN Issue, and at the same time, the Company is also considering fund raising possibilities. The directors of the Company are hopeful that the CN Issue can be resolved amicably and the Group will be able to maintain itself as a going concern in the coming year. Accordingly, the condensed consolidated financial statements for the Reporting Period have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Liquidity, Financial Resources and Capital Structure

The Group mainly finances its business operations with internally generated cash flows and shareholders' equity.

As at 30 June 2014, the Group had bank balances and cash of approximately HK\$55.8 million (31 December 2013: approximately HK\$80.5 million). The Group's current ratio (measured as total current assets to total current liabilities) was 1.0 time (31 December 2013: 1.0 time).

As at 30 June 2014, the Group had no outstanding bank borrowings (31 December 2013: nil). The gearing ratio, which is calculated by total interest bearing borrowings to total equity, was nil (31 December 2013: nil).

As at 30 June 2014, the Company had zero coupon convertible notes due on 15 November 2014 in the aggregate principal amount of HK\$302.4 million (31 December 2013: HK\$302.4 million) with an initial conversion price of HK\$0.12 per conversion share. During the Reporting Period, the convertible note holder indicated that he would not request the Company to redeem the convertible notes prior to 31 December 2014 causing the Company insolvent as reported in the 2013 Annual Report of the Company.

As at 30 June 2014, the Group had no capital expenditure commitments (31 December 2013: approximately HK\$4.0 million in respect of the acquisition of property, plant and equipment).

Significant Investments

The Group did not have any significant investments during the Reporting Period.

Material Acquisitions and Disposals of Subsidiaries and Associated Companies

The Company did not have any material acquisitions and disposals of subsidiaries and associated companies during the Reporting Period.

Charge on Group's Assets

As at 30 June 2014, the Group did not have any assets pledged (as at 31 December 2013: nil).

Foreign Exchange Exposures

The Group mainly earns revenue and incurs costs in Hong Kong dollars, U.S. dollars and Renminbi. The management is aware of the possible exchange rate exposure resulted from the fluctuation of Renminbi against the Hong Kong dollars and will closely monitor its impact on the performance of the Group to see if any hedging policy is necessary. With regard to the U.S. dollars, foreign exchange exposure would be minimal so long as the Hong Kong SAR Government's policy to peg the Hong Kong dollars to the U.S. dollars remains in effect.

Contingent Liabilities

Details of the contingent liabilities of the Group are set out in note 12 to the condensed consolidated financial statements in this announcement.

Employee and Remuneration Policy

As at 30 June 2014, the Group had 966 (30 June 2013: 1,799) full time employees in Hong Kong and the PRC. Total staff costs (including Directors' remuneration) for the Reporting Period amounted to approximately HK\$18.5 million (six months ended 30 June 2013: approximately HK\$14.6 million). The employees are remunerated with reference to the qualification, experience, responsibility and performance of the individual, the performance of the Group and the market practices. Apart from the basic remuneration package, the mandatory provident fund scheme and the central provident scheme in the PRC, the Company also operates a share option scheme based on which the Board may, at its discretion, grant options to eligible employees of the Group.

Future Outlook

The global recovery regained strength in the second quarter of 2014, with the U.S. economy expanding by an annualised growth of 4.2% as compared with an annualised decline of 2.1% in the first quarter. According to the International Monetary Fund (the "IMF"), the global rebound in the second quarter is consistent with the view that the unexpected weakness in the first quarter was in large part temporary, because the impact of factors such as harsh winter weather and inventory correction will disappear and policies have already responded to weaker growth, including in China. Nonetheless, the first-quarter setback will only be partially offset as some of the demand weakness appears to be more persistent, especially in investment globally. To reflect both the legacy of the weak first quarter and a less optimistic outlook for several emerging markets, the IMF has marked down the global growth projection for 2014 by 0.3 percent points to 3.4%.

The IMF warned that downside risks remained a concern including geopolitical risks and financial market risks such as higher-than-expected U.S. long-term rates and a reversal of recent risk spread and volatility compression. Global growth could be weaker for longer, given the lack of robust momentum in advanced economies despite very low interest rates and the easing of other brakes to the recovery. In some major emerging market economies, the negative growth effects of supply-side constraints and the tightening of financial conditions over the past year could be more protracted. According to a report dated 11 August 2014 in the Financial Times (the “FT”), the Federal Reserve’s (the “Fed”) vice-chairman, Stanley Fischer, has pointed to weak labour force participation and a soft U.S. housing recovery as two reasons for disappointing global growth, saying this could be a long-term phenomenon. The comments reflected continuing concern about the economy that has fuelled debate over whether the Fed should move sooner than expected to raise interest rates, despite solid job growth and strong GDP expansion in the U.S..

China’s economy grew by 7.5% in the second quarter of 2014, accelerating slightly from the 18-month low of 7.4% in the first quarter and suggesting that stimulus efforts to stabilise growth have succeeded in offsetting the impact of a weak property market. China has sought to stimulate growth through limited and targeted policy measures including tax relief for small and medium enterprises, fiscal and infrastructure spending, and targeted cuts in required reserve ratio. As a further evidence that the economy is gaining momentum, the official manufacturing purchasing managers’ index rose to 51.7 in July 2014, the fastest pace in 27 months and up from 51 in June 2014. Economists expect Beijing to continue its mini-stimulus measures in a bid to hold economic growth above the central government’s bottom line given that it needs a stable economic and financial backdrop as it steps up its anti-corruption campaign.

Despite the rebound in the second quarter, economists have warned that supporting short-term growth could come at the expense of continuing China’s reliance on state-backed investment and adding to its worrying debt load, according to a report dated 16 July 2014 in the FT. While forecasting that China is likely to meet its annual target of around 7.5% this year, the IMF has urged Beijing to lower its growth target next year. As per a report dated 31 July 2014 in the South China Morning Post, the IMF warned China about the risks of relying on credit and investment expansion to defend a targeted growth rate at the cost of creating prolonged structural weakness in the economy. China remains heavily reliant on capital spending and credit, which has sustained rapid growth, but declining efficiency of investment, a significant buildup of debt, income inequality and environmental costs are threatening growth prospects.

Against this backdrop, the operating environment for manufacturers in the PRC is likely to remain challenging. Two key drivers of electronics and semiconductor growth over the last few years have been smartphones and tablets. Although both smartphones and tablets are expected to show healthy growth for the year of 2014, growing competition, market fluctuations and economic uncertainties may affect product demand and customer orders. Profit margin of the Group's electronic products has been squeezed by growing competition within the industry, fixed production costs as well as the increasing wages rate and continuous shortage of labour. As a result, the Group takes a cautious view of its business in the second half of 2014. The Group foresees that the turnover for the electronic products segment may continue to be affected in the second half of 2014.

In order to improve the operational performance of the electronic products segment, the Group will continue to impose conservative and stringent cost controls over its production costs. The Group will also streamline the operation and outsource the production process in order to lower the overall production costs. The Group will endeavour to trim excess manufacturing overheads, control production costs and improve productivity in view of the imminent raise in minimum wages rate and production costs for the PRC in the coming future.

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

During the Reporting Period, neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries purchased, sold or redeemed any of the listed securities of the Company.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE PRACTICES

During the Reporting Period, the Company has applied the principles of and complied with the code provisions (the "Code Provisions") set out in the Corporate Governance Code and Corporate Governance Report (the "CG Code") contained in Appendix 14 of the Listing Rules except for the following deviations:

Under the Code Provision A.4.1 of the CG Code, non-executive directors should be appointed for a specific term, subject to re-election. Mr. Ho Chi Fai, an independent non-executive Director, is not appointed for a specific term but his directorship is subject to retirement by rotation and re-election in accordance with the bye-laws of the Company (the "Bye-laws") and the Listing Rules. Under the Bye-laws, one-third of the Directors shall retire from office by rotation at each annual general meeting. This means a director's specific term of appointment cannot exceed three years for a total of six Directors.

Under the Code Provision A.2.1 of the CG Code, the roles of chairman and chief executive should be separate and should not be performed by the same individual. Given that Mr. Lim Chuan Yang (“Mr. Lim”) was not re-elected as a Director at the Company’s annual general meeting held on 9 June 2014 (“AGM”), the Board resolved that Mr. Lim should step down as the CEO with effect from 16 June 2014. The Board is presently identifying a suitable candidate to be appointed as the CEO. Prior to identifying a suitable candidate, the duties and responsibilities of the CEO will be shared among the members of the Board.

The Directors will continuously review and improve the corporate governance practices and standards of the Company to ensure that business activities and decision making process are regulated in a proper and prudent manner.

MODEL CODE FOR SECURITIES TRANSACTIONS BY DIRECTORS

The Company has adopted the Model Code for Securities Transactions by Directors of Listed Issuers (the “Model Code”) as set out in Appendix 10 of the Listing Rules as its own code of conduct regarding securities transactions by the Directors. Having made specific enquiry of the Directors, all the Directors confirmed that they had complied with the required standards as set out in the Model Code during the Reporting Period.

CHANGE IN DIRECTOR’S BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS

As stated in the circular of the Company dated 22 April 2014, Mr. Lim retired by rotation at the AGM in accordance with the Bye-laws. As resolution for his re-election was not passed by the shareholders of the Company at the AGM, Mr. Lim retired as an executive Director and ceased to be a member of the nomination committee of the Company (the “Nomination Committee”) with effect from 9 June 2014. In addition, with effect from 16 June 2014, Mr. Lim stepped down as the CEO and Mr. Wang Zhaofeng, an executive Director has been appointed as a member of the Nomination Committee.

Save as disclosed above, there is no other information regarding Directors that is required to be disclosed pursuant to Rule 13.51B(1) of the Listing Rules.

AUDIT COMMITTEE REVIEW

The audit committee of the Company (the “Audit Committee”) has reviewed with management the accounting principles and practices adopted by the Group, and discussed auditing, internal control and financial reporting matters including the review of the unaudited interim financial statements for the Reporting Period.

The members of the Audit Committee are Mr. Ho Chi Fai (Chairman of the Audit Committee), Ms. Liu Yanfang and Professor Ma Hongwei, the independent non-executive Directors.

PUBLICATION OF INTERIM RESULTS AND INTERIM REPORT

This results announcement is published on the Company's website at <http://www.irasia.com/listco/hk/sinotech> and the website of the Stock Exchange. The 2014 Interim Report will be despatched to the shareholders of the Company and will be available at the above websites in due course.

By order of the Board
Sino-Tech International Holdings Limited
Lam Yat Keung
President

Hong Kong, 29 August 2014

As at the date of this announcement, the Board comprises Mr. Lam Yat Keung (President), Mr. Huang Hanshui and Mr. Wang Zhaofeng as executive Directors; and Mr. Ho Chi Fai, Ms. Liu Yanfang and Professor Ma Hongwei as independent non-executive Directors.