



## TCL INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS LIMITED

(TCL 國際 控 股 有 限 公 司)

*(incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)*

(Stock Code: 1070)

### RESULTS ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 2004

#### FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>Change</b>
	<b>HK\$M</b>	<b>HK\$M</b>	<b>(%)</b>
Turnover	<b>7,845</b>	6,248	+26
Profit before tax	<b>449</b>	312	+44
Net profit attributable to shareholders	<b>383</b>	265	+45
Basic earnings per share (HK cents)	<b>14.08</b>	10.05	+40
Interim dividend per share (HK cents)	<b>4.00</b>	Nil	N/A

Proposed special dividend: a distribution in specie of shares in TCL Communication Technology Holdings Limited (See note 6) (2003: Nil)

The board of directors of TCL International Holdings Limited (the “Company”) is pleased to announce the unaudited consolidated results and financial position of the Company and its subsidiaries (the “Group”) for the six months ended 30 June 2004 with comparative figures for the previous year as follows:

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

		<b>6 months ended 30 June 2004 (unaudited) HK\$'000</b>	6 months ended 30 June 2003 (unaudited) HK\$'000	<b>3 months ended 30 June 2004 (unaudited) HK\$'000</b>	3 months ended 30 June 2003 (unaudited) HK\$'000
	<i>Notes</i>				
TURNOVER	2	<b>7,844,614</b>	6,247,682	<b>3,819,039</b>	2,770,741
Cost of sales		<u>(6,434,288)</u>	<u>(5,244,230)</u>	<u>(3,193,543)</u>	<u>(2,323,878)</u>
Gross profit		<b>1,410,326</b>	1,003,452	<b>625,496</b>	446,863
Other revenue and gains		<b>70,185</b>	59,633	<b>47,050</b>	39,690
Selling and distribution costs		<b>(782,305)</b>	(592,386)	<b>(369,526)</b>	(268,434)
Administrative expenses		<b>(316,278)</b>	(266,319)	<b>(157,231)</b>	(127,551)
Other operating expenses		<b>(25,635)</b>	(30,175)	<b>(15,915)</b>	(18,575)
Loss on disposal of a subsidiary		<u>(2,075)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>(2,075)</u>	<u>—</u>
PROFIT FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	2	<b>354,218</b>	174,205	<b>127,799</b>	71,993
Finance costs		<b>(7,936)</b>	(17,399)	<b>(4,601)</b>	(9,157)
Share of profits and losses of jointly-controlled entities	3	<b>141,537</b>	194,816	<b>48,270</b>	82,409
Amortisation of goodwill on acquisition of jointly-controlled entities		<u>(39,216)</u>	<u>(39,216)</u>	<u>(19,608)</u>	<u>(19,608)</u>
PROFIT BEFORE TAX		<b>448,603</b>	312,406	<b>151,860</b>	125,637
Tax	5	<u>(68,442)</u>	<u>(36,577)</u>	<u>(29,183)</u>	<u>(19,880)</u>
PROFIT BEFORE MINORITY INTERESTS		<b>380,161</b>	275,829	<b>122,677</b>	105,757
Minority interests		<u>3,114</u>	<u>(10,460)</u>	<u>7,620</u>	<u>(3,324)</u>
NET PROFIT FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES ATTRIBUTABLE TO SHAREHOLDERS		<u><b>383,275</b></u>	<u>265,369</u>	<u><b>130,297</b></u>	<u>102,433</u>
DIVIDENDS	6				
Interim		<u><b>109,511</b></u>	<u>Nil</u>		
EARNINGS PER SHARE	7				
— Basic		<u><b>14.08 cents</b></u>	<u>10.05 cents</u>		
— Diluted		<u><b>13.56 cents</b></u>	<u>9.70 cents</u>		

# CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

		<b>30 June 2004</b>	31 December 2003
		<b>(unaudited)</b>	(audited)
	<i>Notes</i>	<b>HK\$'000</b>	<b>HK\$'000</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Fixed assets		<b>895,147</b>	868,919
Trademarks		<b>25,320</b>	27,744
Goodwill		<b>231,511</b>	244,539
Interests in jointly-controlled entities		<b>1,632,202</b>	1,653,375
Long term investments		<b>1,682</b>	1,682
Prepayment for the acquisition of a subsidiary		<b>—</b>	47,815
Deferred tax assets		<b>10,278</b>	8,855
		<b><u>2,796,140</u></b>	<u>2,852,929</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Inventories		<b>3,114,811</b>	2,441,500
Trade and bills receivables	8	<b>1,783,434</b>	1,941,137
Other receivables		<b>664,225</b>	359,569
Pledged bank deposits		<b>—</b>	5,199
Cash and bank balances		<b>667,390</b>	1,069,562
		<b><u>6,229,860</u></b>	<u>5,816,967</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and bills payables	9	<b>3,098,189</b>	2,966,659
Tax payable		<b>66,715</b>	53,543
Other payables and accruals		<b>709,310</b>	684,235
Bank borrowings	10	<b>190,957</b>	113,929
		<b><u>4,065,171</u></b>	<u>3,818,366</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b><u>2,164,689</u></b>	<u>1,998,601</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b><u>4,960,829</u></b>	<u>4,851,530</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Bank borrowings	10	<b>235,294</b>	282,353
Convertible notes		<b>256,000</b>	347,000
Deferred tax liabilities		<b>1,847</b>	1,847
		<b><u>493,141</u></b>	<u>631,200</u>
<b>MINORITY INTERESTS</b>		<b><u>122,982</u></b>	<u>100,079</u>

	<u><b>4,344,706</b></u>	<u>4,120,251</u>
<b>CAPITAL AND RESERVES</b>		
Issued capital	273,773	268,133
Reserves	<u><b>4,070,933</b></u>	<u>3,852,118</u>
	<u><b>4,344,706</b></u>	<u>4,120,251</u>

Notes:

## 1. Basis of Preparation and Principal Accounting Policies

The interim financial report is unaudited, but has been reviewed by the Audit Committee.

The condensed financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Standard Accounting Practice No. 25 “Interim Financial Reporting” issued by the Hong Kong Society of Accountants. They have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The accounting policies used in the preparation of the interim financial statements are consistent with those adopted in the annual financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2003.

## 2. Segment Information

An analysis of the Group’s turnover and profit from operating activities by principal activities for the six months ended 30 June 2004 is as follows:

	<b>Turnover</b>		<b>Profit from operating activities</b>	
	<b>2004</b>	2003	<b>2004</b>	2003
	<i>HK\$’000</i>	<i>HK\$’000</i>	<i>HK\$’000</i>	<i>HK\$’000</i>
Television	<b>6,116,098</b>	5,179,358	<b>356,558</b>	211,418
Computers	<b>966,242</b>	728,320	<b>24,567</b>	12,864
Other audio-visual products	<b>530,682</b>	159,354	<b>14,404</b>	(7,791)
Others	<u><b>231,592</b></u>	<u>180,650</u>	<u><b>(3,800)</b></u>	<u>(16,364)</u>
	<u><b>7,844,614</b></u>	<u>6,247,682</u>	<b>391,729</b>	200,127
Interest Income			<b>4,773</b>	7,175
Amortisation of goodwill			<b>(17,096)</b>	(16,705)
Corporate expenses			<b>(23,113)</b>	(16,392)
Loss on disposal of a subsidiary			<u><b>(2,075)</b></u>	<u>—</u>
			<u><b>354,218</b></u>	<u>174,205</u>

## 3. Share of Profits and Losses of Jointly-controlled Entities

More than 90% of the Group’s share of results of its jointly-controlled entities was derived from Huizhou TCL Mobile Communication Co., Ltd (“TCL Mobile”) and its subsidiaries (together “TCL Mobile Group”), which are engaged in the manufacture and sale of mobile phones.

On 6 April 2004, TCL Communication Technology Holdings Limited (“TCL Communication”), the holding company of TCL Mobile, has applied for an advance booking to The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the “Stock Exchange”) for the listing of its shares on the main board of the Stock

Exchange. It is currently intended that the listing will be effected by way of an introduction. Further details of the proposed listing are set out in the Company's announcement dated 6 April 2004 and 2 August 2004.

The condensed summary of certain additional financial information of TCL Mobile Group is as follows:

*Results for the six months ended 30 June 2004:*

	<b>6 months ended 30 June 2004 (unaudited) HK\$'000</b>	6 months ended 30 June 2003 (unaudited) HK\$'000 <i>(note iii)</i>	<b>3 months ended 30 June 2004 (unaudited) HK\$'000</b>	3 months ended 30 June 2003 (unaudited) HK\$'000 <i>(note iii)</i>
TURNOVER	<b>3,488,020</b>	4,928,913	<b>1,531,639</b>	2,309,453
Cost of sales	<b>(2,702,952)</b>	(3,891,507)	<b>(1,235,914)</b>	(1,772,097)
Gross profit	<b>785,068</b>	1,037,406	<b>295,725</b>	537,356
Other revenue and gains	<b>32,786</b>	11,523	<b>22,388</b>	4,989
Selling and distribution costs	<b>(329,402)</b>	(439,087)	<b>(127,935)</b>	(244,274)
Research and development costs	<b>(76,320)</b>	(50,606)	<b>(46,099)</b>	(27,351)
Administrative and other operating expenses	<b>(79,967)</b>	(70,850)	<b>(40,654)</b>	(31,602)
<b>PROFIT FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>332,165</b>	488,386	<b>103,425</b>	239,118
Finance costs	<b>(2,877)</b>	(9,258)	<b>(1,766)</b>	(4,566)
<b>PROFIT BEFORE TAX</b>	<b>329,288</b>	479,128	<b>101,659</b>	234,552
Tax	<b>(26,962)</b>	(17,926)	<b>(5,465)</b>	(9,438)
<b>NET PROFIT</b>	<b>302,326</b>	461,202	<b>96,194</b>	225,114

*Financial position:*

	<b>30 June 2004 (unaudited) HK\$'000</b>	31 December 2003 (audited) HK\$'000
NON-CURRENT ASSETS	<u>285,891</u>	<u>259,598</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Inventories ( <i>note i</i> )	946,907	760,965
Trade receivables	63,628	392,021
Bills receivable	1,717,049	1,356,571
Cash and bank balances	669,431	858,454
Other current assets	<u>414,485</u>	<u>610,280</u>
	<u>3,811,500</u>	<u>3,978,291</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trust receipt loans	—	13,851
Trade and bills payable	1,061,434	1,340,978
Other payables and accruals	496,291	776,223
Other current liabilities ( <i>note ii</i> )	<u>1,869,760</u>	<u>92,610</u>
	<u>3,427,485</u>	<u>2,223,662</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>384,015</u>	<u>1,754,629</u>
	<u>669,906</u>	<u>2,014,227</u>
CAPITAL AND RESERVES		
Paid-up capital	232,215	232,215
Reserves	<u>437,691</u>	<u>1,782,012</u>
	<u>669,906</u>	<u>2,014,227</u>

*Note i:* Included in the inventories are raw materials of HK\$609,905,000 (31 December 2003: HK\$557,109,000), work in progress of HK\$99,337,000 (31 December 2003: HK\$78,868,000) and finished goods of HK\$237,665,000 (31 December 2003: HK\$124,988,000).

*Note ii:* Included in other current liabilities is HK\$1,376,132,000 (31 December 2003: Nil) dividend payable due to existing shareholders of TCL Mobile. It is currently the intention of all the shareholders of TCL Mobile that these dividend will be directly or indirectly re-invested in TCL Communication prior to its listing on the Stock Exchange.

*Note iii:* Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.

#### 4. Depreciation and Amortization

During the period, depreciation of HK\$81,744,000 (2003: HK\$69,577,000) was charged to the profit and loss account in respect of the Group's property, plant and equipment; and amortisation of HK\$57,847,000 (2003: HK\$57,369,000) was charged to the profit and loss account in respect of the Group's intangible assets and goodwill arising on consolidation.

## 5. Tax

Hong Kong profits tax has been provided at the rate of 17.5% (2003: 17.5%) on the estimated assessable profits arising in Hong Kong during the period. Taxes on profits assessable elsewhere have been calculated at the rates of tax prevailing in the countries in which the Group operates, based on existing legislation, interpretations and practices in respect thereof:

	Six months ended 30 June	
	2004 (unaudited) HK\$'000	2003 (unaudited) HK\$'000
Group:		
Current — Hong Kong	20,815	7,270
— Elsewhere	37,469	21,274
Deferred	<u>(1,423)</u>	<u>—</u>
	56,861	28,544
Share of tax attributable to:		
Jointly-controlled entities	<u>11,581</u>	<u>8,033</u>
Total tax charge for the period	<u><u>68,442</u></u>	<u><u>36,577</u></u>

## 6. Dividends

The directors of the Company (“Directors”) recommend the payment of an interim dividend of 4.0 HK cents per share (2003: Nil) to shareholders on the register of members on 22 September 2004.

In addition, subject to, among others, the approval by the shareholders at the extraordinary general meeting to be held on 9 September 2004, the Directors proposed the payment of a special dividend in the form of distribution in specie of shares of TCL Communication (the “Distribution”). For indicative purpose only, on the basis of a total of 2,737,768,993 outstanding issued shares as at 11 August 2004, the latest practicable date for the purpose of approving the Distribution, the Directors expect that 42 shares of TCL Communication be distributed for every 100 shares held by the shareholders. The Company will in due course inform the shareholders of the date for ascertaining the entitlement of shareholders to the Distribution.

## 7. Earnings per Share

The calculation of basic earnings per share is based on the net profit attributable to shareholders for the period of HK\$383,275,000 (2003: HK\$265,369,000) and the weighted average of 2,721,745,496 (2003: 2,640,504,430) shares in issue during the period.

The calculation of diluted earnings per share is based on the net profit attributable to shareholders for the period of HK\$383,275,000 (2003: HK\$265,369,000), adjusted by the reduction of interest expenses of HK\$3,757,000 (2003: HK\$5,250,000) relating to the convertible notes. The weighted average number of shares used in the calculation is 2,721,745,496 (2003: 2,640,504,430) shares in issue during the period, as used in the basic earnings per share calculation; the weighted average of 20,243,451 (2003: 12,673,692) shares assumed to have been issued at no consideration on the deemed exercise of all share options during the period; and the weighted average of 111,622,728 (2003: 136,932,707) shares on the deemed conversion of all convertible notes during the period.

## 8. Trade and Bills Receivables

The majority of the Group's sales in China were made on cash-on-delivery basis and on commercial bills guaranteed by banks with credit period ranging from 30 days to 90 days. For overseas sales, the Group usually requires settlement by letter of credit with tenure ranging from 90 days to 180 days. Sales to certain long term strategic customers were also made on open-account basis with credit term of no more than 90 days. An aged analysis of the trade and bills receivables as at the balance sheet date, based on the invoice date and net of provisions, is as follows:

	<b>30 June 2004 (unaudited) HK\$'000</b>	31 December 2003 (audited) HK\$'000
Current to 90 days	<b>1,330,229</b>	1,779,018
91 days to 180 days	<b>429,721</b>	130,542
181 days to 365 days	<b>23,190</b>	22,606
Over 365 days	<b>294</b>	8,971
	<b><u>1,783,434</u></b>	<b><u>1,941,137</u></b>

## 9. Trade and Bills Payables

The aged analysis of the trade and bills payables as at the balance sheet date, based on invoice date, is as follows:

	<b>30 June 2004 (unaudited) HK\$'000</b>	31 December 2003 (audited) HK\$'000
Current to 90 days	<b>2,884,624</b>	2,211,432
91 days to 180 days	<b>103,688</b>	701,627
181 days to 365 days	<b>101,850</b>	47,095
Over 365 days	<b>8,027</b>	6,505
	<b><u>3,098,189</u></b>	<b><u>2,966,659</u></b>



## 10. Bank Borrowings

	<b>30 June 2004 (unaudited) HK\$'000</b>	31 December 2003 (audited) HK\$'000
Bank loans:		
Secured	—	943
Unsecured	<u>426,251</u>	<u>395,339</u>
	<u><b>426,251</b></u>	<u><b>396,282</b></u>
Bank loans repayable:		
Within one year	190,957	113,929
In the second year	94,118	94,118
In the third to fifth year, inclusive	<u>141,176</u>	<u>188,235</u>
	426,251	396,282
Portion classified as current liabilities	<u>(190,957)</u>	<u>(113,929)</u>
	<u><b>235,294</b></u>	<u><b>282,353</b></u>

At 31 December 2003, certain bank loans were secured by the Group's bank deposits with a net book value of HK\$472,000.

## 11. Capital Commitments

The Group had the following commitments at the balance sheet date:

	<b>30 June 2004 (unaudited) HK\$'000</b>	31 December 2003 (audited) HK\$'000
Contracted, but not provided for	<u>146,634</u>	<u>187,436</u>

In addition, the Group's share of capital commitments of jointly-controlled entities not included in the above is as follows:

	<b>30 June 2004 (unaudited) HK\$'000</b>	31 December 2003 (audited) HK\$'000
Contracted, but not provided for	<u>7</u>	<u>4,418</u>

## 12. Contingent Liabilities

At the balance sheet date, the Group had contingent liabilities not provided for in the financial statements in respect of:

	<b>30 June 2004 (unaudited) HK\$'000</b>	31 December 2003 (audited) HK\$'000
Bills discounted with recourse	<u><b>562,605</b></u>	<u>64,882</u>

In addition, the Group's share of contingent liabilities of jointly-controlled entities not included above is as follows:

	<b>30 June 2004 (unaudited) HK\$'000</b>	31 December 2003 (audited) HK\$'000
Bills discounted with recourse	<u><b>277,132</b></u>	<u>—</u>

## BUSINESS REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

### Operational Highlights

	<b>Unaudited results for the six months ended 30 June</b>		
	<b>2004 ( '000 sets)</b>	2003 ( '000 sets)	<b>Change (%)</b>

TV — PRC market	<b>3,747</b>	3,251	+15
TV — Overseas market	<b>2,219</b>	1,472	+51
Mobile Handset	<b>4,401</b>	4,725	-7
PC	<b>309</b>	209	+48

#### — *TV Business*

- TV sales posted strong growth, with total sales volume reaching about 6 million sets. Unit sales in the PRC and overseas markets surged by 15% and 51% respectively
- High-end TV products maintained rapid growth. Effort to constantly enhance product mix boosted gross profit margin by 2.9% to 20.2%
- TCL leads the PRC domestic TV market with a dominant 19% share. In the rear-projection TV segment, TCL is also ranked the premier player with a solid 17% share
- TTE Corporation (“TTE”), the TCL-Thomson joint venture, commenced operations in early August 2004, establishing a solid foundation for the development of TCL's overseas business

#### — *Handset Business*

- Amidst fierce market competition, sales of handsets declined in the first half of the year. Despite this, the implementation of effective cost control measures resulted in a higher gross profit margin, up 1.5% to 22.5%

- TCL is ranked No. 3 in the PRC domestic handset market with an 8% share

— *PC Business*

- Unit sales of PC continued to grow significantly, posting a strong growth of 48%
- Gross margin increased to 9.3% due to the surge in sales of high-end products

## **Future Outlook**

### *TV Business*

TTE commenced operations in early August 2004. The Group is confident that it will achieve synergies by integrating the resources from Thomson into its own ones, and eventually generate enormous shareholder value. TTE, with a worldwide manufacturing platform, will benefit from a highly competitive cost structure. Possessing a number of reputable brands and a diversified product portfolio, TTE will adopt a multi-brand strategy to tap the potential of different markets. It will promote the TCL brand mainly in Asia and the emerging markets, the Thomson brand in the European market, and the RCA brand in North America. It will also promote other brands possessed by TCL and Thomson according to the needs of different markets.

In terms of synergies, it is expected that TTE will achieve tremendous synergies in procurement by leveraging on greater economies of scale and standardization of components. It will also achieve manufacturing synergies via the optimization of its global manufacturing facilities. Furthermore, through combining the strengths of TCL and Thomson, TTE possess a global sales network and has a complete product offering from OEM to class A branded products, which is poised to drive revenue growth.

In addition, TTE will have five profit centers, based on geographical region and business nature — (1) Europe; (2) North America; (3) PRC; (4) Emerging Markets; and (5) OEM/Private Label. In the US and European markets, TTE is committed to enhancing its operational efficiencies and tightening cost control to enhance its competitive edge. Major initiatives included: (a) Sourcing suitable components and reducing cost of chassis to boost the profit margin of Thomson and RCA; (b) introducing low cost products for B branded market in the US and Europe; (c) leveraging on the strengths of all R&D resources; (d) negotiating with suppliers to acquire beneficial terms. In the PRC, TTE will introduce high-end products such as LCD, Plasma as well as DLP rear projection TVs, with the aim of increasing its market share in the high-end market. Moreover, strategic regional expansion and further review of the pricing strategy are also on top of TTE's management task list. The Group believes that via the implementation of the aforesaid initiatives, TTE targets to turn the North America and Europe operations profitable within 18 months.

Looking into the second half of the year, the Group will ride on the establishment of TTE to step up overseas promotion and expansion. It will also tap the opportunities in India, Thailand, Mexico, Australia, South Africa, etc. to strengthen its brand presence in overseas markets. As for the Schneider business, the Group expects to see improvements, along with the launch of new product lines that cater to market needs. In the second half of 2004, it plans to launch a total of 30 new TV models for the overseas markets, strengthening the promotion of its diversified product offerings. The Group will also promote functionally advanced and reasonably priced chassis to further enhance its product mix and cost structure.

For the domestic TV market, it is expected that the digital & high-definition TVs market will continue to grow rapidly. Super large, ultra-thin, high definition and intelligent TVs will remain the focus of the market. 3C convergence is also expected to speed up. Looking into the second half

of the year, the Group will roll out even more new digital high-definition TVs and continue to develop a complete range of high-definition products. High-end products scheduled to be launched include DLP rear-projection and flat TVs. TCL will continue to outshine its peers with new breakthroughs in three aspects — distinguished high-definition, outstanding 3C functions and prominent audio systems.

## **Handset Business**

TCL expects that competition in the handsets market will further intensify. Different brands and manufacturers will continue to compete in terms of product functions and designs. The Group will therefore deploy resources to strengthen its brand value. Plans to achieve higher sales will be implemented through the rationalization of product offerings, strengthening the execution capability of its sales agents, enhancing its economies of scale and leveraging its cost advantages. TCL will also seize the opportunities brought forth by important holidays to fortify sales and promotion of the Group's products. In the meantime, the TCL Communication Group is committed to integrating the resources of the joint venture formed with Alcatel to lower cost, develop new sales channels and eventually boost sales.

## **PC Business**

TCL will develop the consumer PC business via the introduction of LCD strategies to boost both sales and brand awareness. The Group will take the lead in emerging markets by product differentiation. As for the commercial PC market, the Group will continue to develop different market segments, including the education sector, and explore new markets such as the Government procurement, SMEs, etc. according to the trends in business development. The Group will also strengthen its client-oriented resources allocation and operational management to enhance the customer service skills of its commercial sales team. As for notebook computers, the Group will kick off promotions for new products to increase the competitiveness of its products. Coupled with TCL's edges in sales channels, the PC business is expected to perform even better in the second half of 2004.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **Results**

The Group achieved a turnover of approximately HK\$7,845 million for the first half of 2004, representing a year-on-year increase of 26%. Profit attributable to shareholders increased by 45% to HK\$383 million.

During the period under review, the TV business remained the Group's major profit contributor as sales revenue increased by 18% as compared to that the previous year, accounting for approximately 78% of the total turnover. With the increase in sales of high-end products and the improvement in sales mix, the overall gross profit margin went up 2.9% to 20.2%.

The Group recorded satisfactory sales performance in the overseas markets during the first half of the year. Sales amounted to HK\$1,539 million, representing an increase of 52%. To a certain extent, however, the losses incurred by the Schneider business affected the profit margin of the overseas business. Nonetheless, improvements in supply chain management and better cost control contributed to improvement of the gross margin from 9.7% to 14.1%.

The handset business contributed HK\$79 million in profits, accounting for 21% of total net profit. With effective cost control initiatives, the overall gross profit margin for the handset business increased 1.5% to 22.5%.

The PC business achieved remarkable progress during the year. Turnover increased by 33% to HK\$966 million, while the gross profit margin increased to 9.3%.

Upon TTE's commencement of operations, the Group expected that the synergies generated by the resulting economies of scale will gradually be seen. The combined R&D strengths of TCL and Thomson will also put the Group at the forefront of the industry. The Group has every confidence in fully realizing the synergies within 18 months and turning the loss making operations in Europe and the US profitable, thereby continuing to reward shareholders with good returns.

## **Significant Investments and Acquisition**

During the period under review, TCL achieved significant progress in the establishment of TTE which combines TV businesses of TCL and Thomson. The transaction was completed on 30 July 2004 and TTE, in which TCL holds a majority 67% interest and Thomson holds the remaining 33% interest, formally started operation in early August. Details of the future operation of TTE are set out in the section headed "Future Outlook" above.

On 24 April 2004, TCL Communication, the holding company of TCL Mobile, entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Alcatel SA ("Alcatel") to form a joint venture for the development, manufacture and distribution of mobile handsets and related products. TCL Communication and Alcatel each contributes Euro 55 million and Euro 45 million respectively and in return owns a 55% and 45% interest respectively in the joint venture. It is expected that closing will take place in the third quarter. More details of the transaction are set out in the announcement dated 26 April 2004.

## **Proposed Listing of TCL Mobile Interest and Special Dividend**

As a result of the Company's plan to restructure its portfolio of business to focus primarily on multi-media electronic products, TCL Communication, the holding company of TCL Mobile, has applied for a proposed listing of its shares on the Stock Exchange. It is currently intended that such listing will be effected by way of an introduction. To take advantage of this excellent opportunity to divest its interest in the mobile business, the Company proposes to declare a special dividend to its shareholders which will be satisfied by a distribution in specie of its entire interest in TCL Communication (the "Distribution"). For indicative purpose only, on the basis of a total of 2,737,768,993 shares in issue as at 11 August 2004, the latest practicable date for the purpose of approving the Distribution, the Directors expect that 42 shares of TCL Communication be distributed for every 100 shares held by the shareholders, subject to the terms and conditions described in the Circular dated 18 August 2004.

The Company will in due course inform the shareholders of the timetable relating to the Distribution and/or the Proposed Listing (including the date for ascertaining the entitlement of shareholders to the Distribution, and the dates on which share certificates of TCL Communication will be dispatched and dealings in shares of TCL Communication on the Stock Exchange will commence).

## **Liquidity and Financial Resources**

The Group consistently maintained a strong liquidity position throughout the period. Through its centralized treasury function, the Group was able to make efficient allocation of its financial resources and reduced any unnecessary financial expenses. The cash and bank balances as at the period end amounted to HK\$667 million, of which 46% was maintained in Hong Kong Dollars, 10% in US Dollars, 36% in Renminbi and 8% was held in other currencies for the overseas operations. The Group's gearing ratio at the period end was 0.16 which is calculated based on the Group's total interest-bearing borrowings at approximately HK\$682 million and the shareholders' funds of approximately HK\$4,345 million.

There was no material change in available credit facilities when compared with 2003. Convertible notes were subject to fixed interest rate at 3% per annum. During the period, a total amount of HK\$91 million convertible notes were exercised and converted into 35,602,496 shares of the Company at an exercise price of HK\$2.556 per share.

Subsequent to the balance sheet date on 3 August 2004, the Company as borrower entered into a facility agreement with two banks in relation to a bridging loan facility of up to US\$180 million (the "Facility"), which is unsecured and interest bearing, to be repaid on the date falling 6 months from the date of the facility agreement. The Company is also negotiating with other banks in respect of a medium term syndicated loan to refinance the Facility. The purpose of the Facility is to fund the operation of TTE, the joint venture company established for the combination of the respective TV businesses and assets of the Group and the Thomson Group.

## **Foreign Exchange Exposure**

Since most business transactions conducted by the Group and payments made to suppliers are made in either Hong Kong Dollars, US Dollars or Renminbi, use of financial instruments for hedging purposes is now considered unnecessary. In the future, with the draw down of the Facility and the operations of TTE in the European and North America markets in full swing, the Group will make the necessary arrangements so as to minimize its foreign exchange exposure.

## **Employees and Remuneration Policy**

The Group had a total of 23,000 dynamic and talented employees, of which approximately 3% was management staff, 25% technical staff, 5% clerical staff, 26% sales & marketing staff, and 41% workers. They were all dedicated to advancing the quality and reliability of our operations. Total staff costs for the period was HK\$316 million. Remuneration policy was reviewed regularly, making reference to current legislation, market condition and both the individual and company performance. In order to align the interests of staff with those of shareholders, share options were granted to employees under the Company's share option schemes. Total outstanding share options at the period end amounted to 52,542,500 units.

## **PURCHASES, SALE OR REDEMPTION OF SHARES**

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

## **CODE OF BEST PRACTICE**

In the opinion of the Directors, the Company has complied with the Code of Best Practice as set out in Appendix 14 of the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on the Stock Exchange during the period.

## **CLOSURE OF REGISTER OF MEMBERS**

The register of members will be closed on 22 September 2004, during that day no transfer of shares will be effected. In order to qualify for interim dividend, all completed transfer forms accompanied by the relevant share certificates must be lodged with the Company's share registrar, Tengis Limited at Ground Floor, Bank of East Asia Harbour View Centre, 56 Gloucester Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong for registration not later than 4:00 p.m. on 21 September 2004. The latest date of dealings in the shares of the Company cum-entitlements to the interim dividend is 17 September 2004 and the first day of dealings in the shares of the Company ex-entitlements to the interim dividend is 20 September 2004. The record date for entitlements to the interim dividend is 22 September 2004.

Please note that the aforesaid book closure is in addition to the book closure scheduled from 8 September 2004 to 9 September 2004 for ascertaining the entitlement to voting at the extraordinary general meeting to be held on 9 September 2004 as mentioned in the announcement and circular of the Company dated 18 August 2004.

As at the date of this announcement, the board of directors is composed of Li Dong Sheng, Lu Zhong Li, Hu Qiu Sheng, Zhao Zhong Yao, Yan Yong and Suen Hay Wai as executive directors and Hon Fong Ming and Albert Thomas da Rosa, Junior as independent non-executive directors.

On behalf of the Board  
**LI Dong Sheng, Tomson**  
Chairman

Hong Kong, 26 August 2004

*A detailed results announcement containing all the information required by paragraph 46(1) to 46(6) inclusive of Appendix 16 of the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on the Stock Exchange will be published on both the Company's website ([www.tclhk.com](http://www.tclhk.com)) and the Stock Exchange's website ([www.hkex.com.hk](http://www.hkex.com.hk)) in due course.*

*Please also refer to the published version of this announcement in the (**South China Morning Post**)*