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(Listed on the HK Stock Exchange main board)

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## **Leeport (Holdings) Limited Announces 2017 Annual Results**

- 2017 sales decreased 14.1% to HK\$614,370,000 (2016: HK\$715,113,000)
- Profit attributable to owners of the company increased 18.4% to HK\$28,031,000 (2016: HK\$23,673,000)
- Final dividend of HK3.5 cents per ordinary share recommended. Total dividend per ordinary share for the whole year will be HK8.0 cents increased by 23.1% (2016: HK6.5 cents)
- Net asset value of the Group increased 33.8% to HK\$519 million (2016:HK\$388 million)

(Hong Kong, 26 March 2018) Leeport (Holdings) Limited ("Leeport" or the "Group") (Stock Code: 387), which is principally engaged in the distribution of advanced manufacturing equipment and precision tools for the manufacturing industry, today announces its annual results for the year ended 31 December 2017. The Group's sales amounted to HK\$614,370,000 (2016: HK\$715,113,000), representing a decrease of 14.1%. The profit attributable to owners of the company was HK\$28,031,000 (2016: HK\$23,673,000), representing an increase of 18.4% from 2016.

The basic earnings per share were HK12.25 cents in 2017, compared with the figure of HK10.57 cents in 2016, representing an increase of 15.9%.

The Directors recommended a final dividend of HK3.5 cents per ordinary share (2016: HK3.0 cents per ordinary share). Together with the interim dividend per ordinary share of HK4.5 cents paid by the Group, the total dividend per ordinary share for the year will be HK8.0 cents (2016: HK6.5 cents per ordinary share), representing an increase of 23.1%.

In 2017, China's economy was stronger than in 2016. The demand for manufacturing equipment and tools was also good. Unfortunately, the Group's business in equipment sales was adversely affected by the delay of shipments from a Japanese supplier of some big orders. On the other hand, the sales of our cutting tools business increased 35.7% as compared with 2016, and the sales of measuring equipment increased 13.3% as compared with 2016.





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The share of profits of associates in 2017 was HK\$19,346,000, compared with HK\$11,279,000 in 2016, representing an increase of 71.5%. The business for Mitutoyo Leeport Metrology Corporation continued to increase in 2017 as compared with 2016. The business for OPS-Ingersoll Funkenerosion GmbH in 2017 was lower than in 2016. Due to the strong Euro in 2017, the business in the US market was adversely affected.

The business for Prima Power Suzhou Company Limited improved slightly in 2017 as compared with 2016. The plant still did not reach a level of economic scale, and the competition for metalforming machinery in China was keen.

Due to the significant increase in the share price, Leeport Group gained from the increase in valuation of shares in Prima Industrie S.p.A. amounting to HK\$89.9 million in 2017. Together with the increase in valuation of properties of the Group, and the increase in carrying amount of the investment in associates, the net asset value of Leeport Group increased by HK\$131 million in 2017.

Mr. Joseph Lee, Chairman of Leeport (Holdings) Limited commented, "Although the sales of the Group fell by 14.1% in 2017, the total value of the contracts signed was 3% higher than in 2016. This was due mainly to the strong performance of the business in cutting tools and measuring instruments. In the second half of 2017, all the business divisions, including equipment, made significant improvements in closing sales contracts.

We need to enhance the technology in our automation and new equipment business, for example, 3D printing equipment. We have established a strong team for our 3D printing equipment business, and we expect that it will have a bright future. Furthermore, we expect that the strength of our collaborations with current and new suppliers will bring us enormous business opportunities. The Group is in a healthy financial situation, which will allow us to invest in the existing businesses and acquire new businesses in the near future."

## **About Leeport (Holdings) Limited (Stock Code: 387)**

Established in 1967, Leeport is principally engaged in the trading and installation of machine tools, measuring instruments and related products, as well as equipment for the electronics industry. Over the years, Leeport has established long-term relationships with reputable leading global suppliers to provide a wide range of products and services. Leeport is committed to supplying advanced equipment and manufacturing solutions and providing quality customer services.



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