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EAGLE NICE (INTERNATIONAL) HOLDINGS LIMITED

鷹美（國際）控股有限公司*

(incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)

(Stock Code: 02368)

INTERIM RESULTS ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Revenue for the six months ended 30 September 2023 slightly decreased by 1.0% to HK\$2,521,900,000 compared with HK\$2,547,600,000 for the corresponding period in 2022.
- Gross profit margin slightly decreased by 0.1% from 20.6% to 20.5% for the six months ended 30 September 2023 when compared with corresponding period in 2022.
- Profit attributable to owners of the Company was HK\$229,200,000 for the six months ended 30 September 2023, representing a decrease of 4.1% compared to HK\$239,100,000 for the corresponding period in 2022.
- The Board resolves to declare an interim dividend of HK30 cents per share for the six months ended 30 September 2023 (2022: HK30 cents per share).

* *For identification purposes only*

The board of directors (the “Board”) of Eagle Nice (International) Holdings Limited (the “Company”) is pleased to announce the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements of the Company and its subsidiaries (the “Group”) for the six months ended 30 September 2023 together with the comparative unaudited figures for the corresponding period in 2022 and the relevant explanatory notes.

**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT
FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023**

		Six months ended	
		30 September	
		2023	2022
		(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
	<i>Notes</i>	HK\$'000	<i>HK\$'000</i>
REVENUE	4	2,521,917	2,547,555
Cost of sales		<u>(2,004,054)</u>	<u>(2,023,767)</u>
Gross profit		517,863	523,788
Other income and gains, net	4	8,773	13,742
Selling and distribution expenses		(18,517)	(22,168)
Administrative expenses		(153,648)	(147,974)
Other operating expenses		(6,489)	(28,134)
Finance costs	5	<u>(21,397)</u>	<u>(7,667)</u>
PROFIT BEFORE TAX	6	326,585	331,587
Income tax expense	7	<u>(90,374)</u>	<u>(85,730)</u>
PROFIT FOR THE PERIOD		<u>236,211</u>	<u>245,857</u>
Attributable to:			
Owners of the Company		229,225	239,111
Non-controlling interests		<u>6,986</u>	<u>6,746</u>
		<u>236,211</u>	<u>245,857</u>
EARNINGS PER SHARE ATTRIBUTABLE TO OWNERS OF THE COMPANY	9		
Basic		<u>HK42.94 cents</u>	<u>HK44.79 cents</u>
Diluted		<u>HK42.94 cents</u>	<u>HK44.79 cents</u>

**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023**

	Six months ended	
	30 September	
	2023	2022
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
PROFIT FOR THE PERIOD	<u>236,211</u>	<u>245,857</u>
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE EXPENSE:		
Other comprehensive expense that will not be reclassified to profit or loss in subsequent periods:		
Actuarial loss on a defined benefit plan	(2,752)	-
Other comprehensive expense that may be reclassified to profit or loss in subsequent periods:		
Exchange differences on translation of foreign operations	<u>(84,142)</u>	<u>(136,560)</u>
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE EXPENSE FOR THE PERIOD, NET OF TAX	<u>(86,894)</u>	<u>(136,560)</u>
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD	<u>149,317</u>	<u>109,297</u>
Attributable to:		
Owners of the Company	145,682	107,973
Non-controlling interests	<u>3,635</u>	<u>1,324</u>
	<u>149,317</u>	<u>109,297</u>

**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2023**

		As at 30 September 2023 (Unaudited) <i>HK\$'000</i>	As at 31 March 2023 (Audited) <i>HK\$'000</i>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment		991,816	998,270
Right-of-use assets		246,082	263,657
Goodwill		104,076	104,076
Intangible assets		3,526	4,937
Deposits		20,102	41,611
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Total non-current assets</i>		1,365,602	1,412,551
		<hr/>	<hr/>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Inventories		489,359	677,184
Accounts receivable	10	698,854	345,113
Prepayments, deposits and other receivables		92,071	123,369
Restricted bank balances		1,074	1,143
Cash and bank balances		646,820	515,387
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Total current assets</i>		1,928,178	1,662,196
		<hr/>	<hr/>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable	11	344,348	375,744
Accrued liabilities and other payables		212,965	218,014
Interest-bearing bank borrowings	12	509,641	544,323
Lease liabilities		7,050	10,456
Tax payable		147,185	93,396
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Total current liabilities</i>		1,221,189	1,241,933
		<hr/>	<hr/>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		706,989	420,263
		<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		2,072,591	1,832,814
		<hr/>	<hr/>

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (continued)
AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

		As at 30 September 2023 (Unaudited) <i>HK\$'000</i>	As at 31 March 2023 (Audited) <i>HK\$'000</i>
	<i>Notes</i>		
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Pension scheme obligation		21,163	22,113
Interest-bearing bank borrowings	12	250,560	78,500
Lease liabilities		795	1,347
Deferred tax liabilities		43,242	48,608
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Total non-current liabilities</i>		315,760	150,568
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net assets		1,756,831	1,682,246
		<hr/>	<hr/>
EQUITY			
Equity attributable to owners of the Company			
Issued capital		5,338	5,338
Reserves		1,695,064	1,624,114
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		1,700,402	1,629,452
Non-controlling interests		56,429	52,794
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total equity		1,756,831	1,682,246
		<hr/>	<hr/>

NOTES TO THE CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. BASIS OF PREPARATION

The condensed consolidated interim financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the applicable disclosure requirements of the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the “Listing Rules”) and with Hong Kong Accounting Standards (“HKAS”) 34 Interim Financial Reporting issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (the “HKICPA”).

The condensed consolidated interim financial statements do not include all the information and disclosures required in the annual financial statements, and should be read in conjunction with the Group’s annual consolidated financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023. The condensed consolidated interim financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for financial assets at fair value through profit or loss which have been measured at fair value.

2. CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND DISCLOSURES

The accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the condensed consolidated interim financial statements are consistent with those applied in the preparation of the Group’s annual financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023, except for the adoption of the following new and revised Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards (“HKFRSs”) for the first time for the current period’s financial information.

HKFRS 17 and related amendments	<i>Insurance Contracts</i>
Amendments to HKAS 1 and HKFRS Practice Statement 2	<i>Disclosure of Accounting Policies</i>
Amendments to HKAS 8	<i>Definition of Accounting Estimates</i>
Amendments to HKAS 12	<i>Deferred Tax related to Assets and Liabilities arising from a Single Transaction; and International Tax Reform-Pillar Two Model Rules</i>

The adoption of the above revised standards had no material impact on the results and financial position for the current or prior accounting periods which have been prepared and presented.

3. OPERATING SEGMENT INFORMATION

The Group is solely engaged in manufacturing and trading of sportswear and garments. For management purposes, the Group determines that there are five reportable operating segments, based on location of customers (the destination of sales), including Mainland China, the United States of America (the “USA”), Europe, Japan and others. These segments are managed separately as each segment is subject to risks and returns that are different from one another.

The revenue and the result of each operating segment for the six months ended 30 September 2023 are as follows:

	Revenue		Segment result	
	Six months ended		Six months ended	
	30 September		30 September	
	(Unaudited)		(Unaudited)	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	<i>HK\$'000</i>	<i>HK\$'000</i>	<i>HK\$'000</i>	<i>HK\$'000</i>
Mainland China	1,474,210	1,195,852	313,129	275,440
USA	413,577	574,996	62,571	100,507
Europe	335,336	457,970	64,872	66,503
Japan	48,757	64,685	8,174	14,176
Others	250,037	254,052	45,305	41,572
	<u>2,521,917</u>	<u>2,547,555</u>	<u>494,051</u>	<u>498,198</u>
Interest income and other unallocated income and gains			8,773	13,742
Unallocated expenses			<u>(176,239)</u>	<u>(180,353)</u>
Profit before tax			326,585	331,587
Income tax expense			<u>(90,374)</u>	<u>(85,730)</u>
Profit for the period			<u>236,211</u>	<u>245,857</u>

4. REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME AND GAINS, NET

(a) An analysis of revenue is as follows:

	Six months ended 30 September	
	2023	2022
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Revenue from contracts with customers		
- sale of sportswear and garments	<u>2,521,917</u>	<u>2,547,555</u>

(b) An analysis of other income and gains, net is as follows:

	Six months ended 30 September	
	2023	2022
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Bank interest income	1,645	1,083
Income derived from financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	873	412
Government grants*	5,037	10,284
Others	<u>1,218</u>	<u>1,963</u>
	<u>8,773</u>	<u>13,742</u>

* The amount represents various government grants received by certain subsidiaries of the Group established in Mainland China and/or Hong Kong for promoting the manufacturing industry and maintaining the employment rate. There are no unfulfilled conditions or contingencies relating to these grants.

5. FINANCE COSTS

	Six months ended 30 September	
	2023	2022
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Interest on bank loans	21,246	7,396
Interest on lease liabilities	<u>151</u>	<u>271</u>
	<u>21,397</u>	<u>7,667</u>

6. PROFIT BEFORE TAX

The Group's profit before tax is arrived at after charging:

	Six months ended	
	30 September	
	2023	2022
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
	HK\$ '000	HK\$ '000
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	46,560	50,014
Depreciation of right-of-use assets	10,011	9,114
Amortisation of intangible assets	1,410	1,411
Foreign exchange loss, net	6,355	26,925
Loss on disposal and write-off of items of property, plant and equipment, net	<u>134</u>	<u>1,209</u>

7. INCOME TAX

Hong Kong profits tax has been provided at the rate of 16.5% (2022: 16.5%) on the estimated assessable profits arising in Hong Kong during the period, except for one subsidiary of the Group which is a qualifying entity under the two-tiered profits tax rates regime. The first HK\$2,000,000 (2022: HK\$2,000,000) of assessable profits of this subsidiary is taxed at 8.25% (2022: 8.25%) and the remaining assessable profits are taxed at 16.5% (2022: 16.5%). Taxes on profits assessable elsewhere have been calculated at the rates of tax prevailing in the countries in which the Group operates.

	Six months ended	
	30 September	
	2023	2022
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
	HK\$ '000	HK\$ '000
Current tax charge for the period:		
Hong Kong	9,049	18,471
Elsewhere	78,046	66,229
Deferred	<u>3,279</u>	<u>1,030</u>
Total tax charge for the period	<u>90,374</u>	<u>85,730</u>

8. INTERIM DIVIDEND

	Six months ended	
	30 September	
	2023	2022
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Interim dividend declared of HK\$0.30 per share (2022: HK\$0.30 per share)	<u>160,140</u>	<u>160,140</u>

The Board resolved that an interim dividend of HK\$0.30 per share for the six months ended 30 September 2023 to be paid to the shareholders of the Company whose names appear on the Company's register of member at the close of business on 28 November 2023. The interim dividend was declared after the period ended 30 September 2023, and therefore has not been included as a liability in the condensed consolidated statement of financial position.

9. EARNINGS PER SHARE ATTRIBUTABLE TO OWNERS OF THE COMPANY

The calculation of basic earnings per share is based on the profit for the period attributable to owners of the Company of HK\$229,225,000 (2022: HK\$239,111,000) and 533,800,000 (2022: 533,800,000) ordinary shares in issue during the period.

No adjustment has been made to the basic earnings per share amounts presented for the periods ended 30 September 2023 and 2022 as the Group had no potentially dilutive ordinary shares in issue during those periods.

10. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

	As at	As at
	30 September	31 March
	2023	2023
	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Accounts receivable	<u>698,854</u>	<u>345,113</u>

The Group's accounts receivable mainly relates to a few recognised and creditworthy customers. The credit period is generally for a period of 30 to 90 days. The Group seeks to maintain strict control over its outstanding receivable to minimise the credit risk. Overdue balances are regularly reviewed by the management of the Group. The Group does not hold any collateral or other credit enhancements over its accounts receivable balance. The accounts receivable is non-interest-bearing.

10. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE (continued)

An ageing analysis of the accounts receivable as at the end of reporting period, based on the invoice date, is as follows:

	As at 30 September 2023 (Unaudited) HK\$'000	As at 31 March 2023 (Audited) HK\$'000
Within 30 days	570,416	268,080
31 to 60 days	43,932	69,015
61 to 90 days	82,438	4,413
Over 90 days	2,068	3,605
	<u>698,854</u>	<u>345,113</u>

The accounts receivable balance is neither past due nor impaired. It relates to customers for which there is no recent history of default.

11. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

An ageing analysis of the accounts payable as at the end of reporting period, based on the invoice date, is as follows:

	As at 30 September 2023 (Unaudited) HK\$'000	As at 31 March 2023 (Audited) HK\$'000
Within 90 days	328,875	361,486
91 to 180 days	3,849	6,761
181 to 365 days	5,930	2,276
Over 365 days	5,694	5,221
	<u>344,348</u>	<u>375,744</u>

The accounts payable are non-interest-bearing and are normally settled on terms of 45 to 60 days.

12. INTEREST-BEARING BANK BORROWINGS

	Effective interest rate %	Maturity	As at 30 September 2023 (Unaudited) HK\$'000	Effective interest rate %	Maturity	As at 31 March 2023 (Audited) HK\$'000
Current						
Bank loans	4.93% to 6.13%	Within 1 year or on demand	<u>509,641</u>	3.53% to 5.58%	Within 1 year or on demand	<u>544,323</u>
Non-current						
Bank loans	6.05%	2025-2026	<u>250,560</u>	5.58%	2024-2025	<u>78,500</u>

As at 30 September 2023, bank borrowings of HK\$760,201,000 (31 March 2023: HK\$622,823,000) were supported by corporate guarantees executed by the Company and certain subsidiaries of the Company.

As at 30 September 2023, HK\$409,901,000 (31 March 2023: HK\$454,123,000) of the bank borrowings were denominated in US\$.

Based on the maturity terms of the bank borrowings, HK\$509,641,000 (31 March 2023: HK\$544,323,000) of the Group's bank borrowings are repayable within one year or on demand.

13. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Certain comparative figures for the last period have been reclassified to conform with the current period's presentation. In the opinion of the directors of the Company, this presentation would better reflect the financial performance of the Group.

14. APPROVAL OF THE CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The condensed consolidated interim financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on 8 November 2023.

MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

In 2023, slowdown in economic recovery resulted from such factors as escalating inflation and interest rates. At the same time, political unrest and geopolitical tensions have also cast uncertainties on global economy as well as the Group's business prospects. The management continues to monitor the changes in the global economic landscape to enhance strategic planning and top-level design. On the back of its competitive strengths, the Group will uphold its core business and address any challenges by identifying and reacting to changes accurately and scientifically, and through proactive change. The Group is adamant that with the benefit of united and coordinated teamwork, it will be able to seize opportunities amidst risks and take its development to another level in adherence to the principles of ongoing innovation and professionalism.

BUSINESS REVIEW

During the period under review, the business environment of the sportswear market became extremely competitive under the combined effect of declining consumer demand and adjustments to high inventory levels. Nevertheless, the Group delivered stable results owing to the tireless effort of the management and the staff. Persistently adhering to the customer-centric principle, the Group vigorously implemented the strategy of diversified deployment and mechanical production in line with its customers' product positioning and strategic developments. Over the past two years, the Group has further acquired three factories in addition to its existing production bases in Mainland China, Vietnam and Indonesia, enhancing its overall production capacity.

During the period, the Group's Foshan Factory located in Mainland China was successfully incorporated into the Group's business system with a special focus on domestic market development. The Group's Bandung Factory located in Indonesia has commenced production and has been engaged in new customer development with a view to profit growth. The Group's Long An Factory located in Vietnam has generally completed its reconstruction project, and recruitment and training of workers will commence in the second half of the year. The three new factories will drive growth in the Group's production capacity and reduce policy risks and other adversities relating to the business environment, while facilitating the sharing of resources and technologies which will enhance the Group's operating flexibility and overall competitiveness.

In an ongoing endeavour to optimise its production planning and management model, the Group has been actively driving the development of smart operation, in order to increase its flexibility and scalability in product design. To this end, the Group has built a more extensive automated manufacturing system and a digital smart warehouse. While the Group recorded higher loan interest costs for the period due to increased investment in resources, such resources committed to optimisation measures will help building the foundation of a business regime underpinned by sophisticated integration of digital and physical operations, which is crucial to the Group's competitive edge in future market competition. The optimisation measures will enable the Group to maintain its leading position and achieve sustainable development amidst intensive market competition.

COMMITMENT TO CHARITY

This year, the Eagle Nice Volunteers, which is formed by the staff of the Group, performed their community welfare initiatives under the theme of “Caring for the Future Masters of Our Community”. On the eve of Father’s Day, the volunteers of Hong Kong team organised a visit to “Cheerful Place”, a centre for the care of people with mild intellectual disability, and worked with the students there to make preserved flowers as a Father’s Day gift to show appreciation for the never-failing love shown by all fathers to their children. During the Dragon Boat Festival and the Mid-Autumn Festival, the volunteers in Mainland China, Hong Kong and Indonesia paid visits to local welfare homes and special schools and brought festive gift packs to such underprivileged groups as local children and senior citizens as a token of blessing. The Group’s skilled sewing workers even mended worn-out clothes for them on the spot. These community welfare activities have been a fine testimony to the positive image of the Group’s employees: compassionate, generous and eager to help. In addition to regular community welfare activities, the Group’s factories have also kept offering jobs to disabled persons so that they had the chance to achieve self-reliance and attain self-fulfillment. Through solid actions, the Group has highlighted its support for the underprivileged in the spirit of compassion, solidarity and sharing.

REVIEW OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

For the period under review, the Group’s total sales remained stable at HK\$2,521,900,000 (2022: HK\$2,547,600,000), with a slight decrease in sales of HK\$25,700,000 or 1.0%. Gross profit decreased slightly by HK\$5,900,000 or 1.1% to HK\$517,900,000 (2022: HK\$523,800,000), while gross profit margin mildly decreased by 0.1% from 20.6% to 20.5%. The Group’s profit before tax decreased slightly by HK\$5,000,000 or 1.5% to HK\$326,600,000 (2022: HK\$331,600,000), while profit before tax margin mildly decreased by 0.1% from 13.0% to 12.9%.

The Group reported revenue growth in the previous year as the demand for consumer goods rose amidst global economic recovery following the easing of the pandemic in 2022. However, there was a slowdown in market demand for consumer goods in 2023 as the global economy continued to be adversely affected by high interest rates. The major markets for the Group’s sales are Mainland China, the United States (the “U.S.”) and Europe. The sportswear market in Mainland China has a lower market penetration rate than developed countries in Europe and the U.S. and therefore still holds out better potential for growth. Moreover, the domestic sportswear brands of Mainland China have become increasingly popular among domestic consumers, and Mainland China has become one of the world’s major consumer markets for sporting goods. For the period under review, sales in Mainland China increased substantially by HK\$278,400,000 as compared to the previous period and increased by 11.6% from 46.9% to 58.5% as a percentage of the Group’s total sales, with notable increases in sales orders of Mainland China from both international sportswear brands and domestic sportswear brands during the period under review. In contrast, sales from the U.S. and European markets decreased by HK\$161,400,000 and HK\$122,600,000 and by 6.2% and 4.7% as a percentage of the Group’s total sales, respectively, as consumers were turning cautious under the impact of high interest rates in these markets. With growth in Mainland China and decline in the U.S. and Europe offsetting each other, the Group’s total sales for the period remained stable compared to the corresponding period of last year.

Owing to political and economic considerations, the Group has adopted a policy of diversified production bases. The Group's production bases are located in Mainland China, Indonesia and Vietnam, each of which possesses unique advantages in terms of geographic location, government policies and production technology, allowing flexible allocation of the Group's orders to maximise profit while offering convenience to the Group's customers and meeting their business need. This has contributed to stability in the Group's sales against the slowdown in demand in the consumer market and the ongoing devaluation of Renminbi ("RMB"). During the period under review, the appreciation of U.S. Dollar ("USD") and devaluation of non-U.S. currencies, to various extents, continued as a result of USD interest rate hikes. As the Group's production costs are mainly settled in RMB, Indonesian Rupiah ("IDR") and Vietnamese Dong ("VND"), the devaluation of these currencies has lowered the Group's production costs, while the ongoing devaluation of RMB has also lowered the sales amount from Mainland China reported in HKD, resulting in the Group's profit before tax margin remaining stable compared to the corresponding period of last year.

The amount of the Group's selling and distribution expenses for the period under review decreased by HK\$3,700,000 (or 16.5%), which was mainly attributable to an increasing proportion of sales to Mainland China, for which particular Mainland China customers elected to make their own transportation arrangements, thereby resulting in the decrease in the Group's freight costs. Administrative expenses as a whole increased by HK\$5,700,000 (or 3.8%), owing to the increase in staff remuneration and benefits after annual adjustments and the hiring of additional staff to cope with business growth and production process optimization. Other operating expense decreased by HK\$21,600,000 (or 76.9%) mainly due to decrease of HK\$20,600,000 in exchange loss incurred during the period under review compared to the corresponding period of last year as a result of the devaluation of non-U.S. currencies. In respect of finance costs, interest expenses increased substantially by HK\$13,700,000 (or 179.1%) compared to the corresponding period of last year, as the Group increased its bank loans significantly in recent years to finance the acquisition of several new production bases and optimisation of production equipment for the purpose of production capacity expansion, while the loan interest rate for the period was significantly higher as U.S. interest rate hikes continued during the period. As for taxation, the Group's overall tax expenses for the period increased by HK\$4,600,000 (or 5.4%) on an effective tax rate of 27.7%, an increase by 1.8% over 25.9% for the corresponding period of last year, which was mainly due to a higher percentage of share of profit from Mainland China (which is subject to a higher tax rate) as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

Other income and gains amounted to HK\$8,800,000 (2022: HK\$13,700,000), comprising mainly government incentives or subsidies amounting to HK\$5,000,000 (2022: HK\$10,300,000) and bank interest income of HK\$1,600,000 (2022: HK\$1,100,000).

Profit attributable to owners of the Company amounted to HK\$229,200,000 for the six months ended 30 September 2023, representing a decrease of HK\$9,900,000 or 4.1% compared to HK\$239,100,000 for the corresponding period of last year. For the period under review, profit margin attributable to owners of the Company decreased by 0.3% from 9.4% to 9.1%. Basic earnings per share attributable to owners of the Company for the period amounted to HK42.94 cents compared to HK44.79 cents for the corresponding period of last year. The Board proposed to recommend payment of an interim dividend of HK30 cents (2022: HK30 cents) per share for the six months ended 30 September 2023, the dividend payout ratio being 69.9% (2022: 67.0%).

OUTLOOK

Notwithstanding uncertainties in the overall economic environment and lacklustre consumer demand, the Board remains cautiously optimistic about the Group's business prospect. With a view to bolstering our vigour and strengths for development, the management will continue to monitor the market trends and stringently implement cost control measures to further optimise and strengthen the Group's diversified production bases. The management firmly believes that, on the back of the collective effort of the teams, the Group will dauntlessly embark on new journeys of growth against risks and challenges in adherence to the principles of ongoing innovation and professionalism.

LIQUIDITY AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES

During the period under review, the Group continued to maintain a healthy liquidity position. The Group generally finances its operations with internally generated resources and banking facilities. As at 30 September 2023, the Group had cash and bank balances amounting to HK\$646,800,000 (31 March 2023: HK\$515,400,000) mainly denominated in Hong Kong dollars, RMB, USD, IDR and VND.

As at 30 September 2023, the Group's banking facilities of HK\$1,106,100,000 (31 March 2023: HK\$1,108,500,000) were supported by the corporate guarantees of HK\$1,106,100,000 (31 March 2023: HK\$1,108,500,000) executed by the Company and certain subsidiaries of the Company. As at 30 September 2023, an aggregate amount of the Group's banking facilities of HK\$760,200,000 (31 March 2023: HK\$622,800,000) was utilised.

The management believes that the Group's existing financial resources will be sufficient to meet its existing operations as well as existing and future expansion plans and, if necessary, the Group will be able to obtain additional financing on favourable terms. There is no material effect of seasonality on the Group's borrowing requirements.

Gearing ratio of the Group is defined as net debt (represented by bank borrowings net of cash and bank balances) divided by the total equity. The Group's gearing ratio as at 30 September 2023 was 6.5% (31 March 2023: 6.4%).

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RISK MANAGEMENT

The Group has transactional currency exposures as substantial portion of sales or purchases are denominated in USD and RMB. As such, the Group is exposed to foreign exchange risk arising from such exposure to USD and RMB. Although the Group has strived to maintain the balance of its sales and purchases in the same currency, as the foreign currency risks generated from the sales and purchases can only be partially set off with each other, financial instruments may be employed when necessary to manage the Group's exposure to the potential foreign exchange risk.

The Group will continue to monitor its foreign exchange exposures and use appropriate tools to manage and minimise its foreign exchange risk.

MATERIAL ACQUISITION OR DISPOSAL

During the six months ended 30 September 2023, there were no material acquisitions or disposals of subsidiaries. During the six months ended 30 September 2022, other than the asset acquisition of a factory located in Vietnam through acquisition of subsidiaries as detailed in the announcement of the Company dated 7 April 2022, there were no material acquisitions or disposals of subsidiaries.

EMPLOYEES AND REMUNERATION POLICIES

As at 30 September 2023, the Group employed a total of approximately 15,000 employees including the directors of the Company (the “Directors”) (31 March 2023: approximately 15,000).

The employees including the Directors are remunerated based on their working performance, professional experiences and the prevailing industry practice. The Group also makes contributions to the statutory mandatory provident fund scheme and defined contribution retirement benefits scheme for the employees of the Group in Hong Kong and to the pension scheme for the employees of the Group in Mainland China, Vietnam and Indonesia.

OTHER INFORMATION

PURCHASE, REDEMPTION OR SALE OF LISTED SECURITIES OF THE COMPANY

Neither the Company, nor any of its subsidiaries purchased, redeemed or sold any of the Company's listed securities during the six months ended 30 September 2023.

COMPLIANCE WITH CORPORATE GOVERNANCE CODE OF THE LISTING RULES

In the opinion of the directors, the Company has complied with the code provisions in the Corporate Governance Code (the "Code") as set out in Appendix 14 to the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on the Stock Exchange (the "Listing Rules") throughout the six months ended 30 September 2023, except for the deviations set out below:

Code Provision C.2.1 under Part 2 of the Code stipulates that the roles of chairman and chief executive officer should be separate and should not be performed by the same individual. Mr. Chung Yuk Sing, who has been the Chairman of the Board since 2002, was appointed as the chief executive officer of the Company with effect from 30 June 2013. Notwithstanding the aforesaid deviation, the Board considers that the present structure will not impair the balance of power and authority between the Board and the management of the Group as the Board assumes collective responsibility on the decision-making process of the Company's business strategies and operation. The principal divisions of the Group's businesses are managed by different directors.

MODEL CODE FOR SECURITIES TRANSACTIONS BY THE 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 to the Listing Rules as the Company's code of conduct for dealing in securities of the Company by the Directors. Based on specific enquiry of the Directors, the Directors confirmed that they had complied with the required standard set out in the Model Code during the six months ended 30 September 2023.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

The audit committee of the Company (the "Audit Committee") consists of three independent non-executive Directors, namely Mr. Chan Cheuk Ho, Mr. Lu Chi Chant and Ms. Tham Kit Wan. The chairman of Audit Committee, Mr. Chan Cheuk Ho, has appropriate professional qualifications and experience in financial matters. The Audit Committee has reviewed with management the Group's unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements for the six months ended 30 September 2023, including the accounting principles adopted by the Group, risk management and internal controls.

INTERIM DIVIDEND

The Board has resolved to declare an interim dividend of HK30 cents per share for the six months ended 30 September 2023 (2022: HK30 cents) to be payable to shareholders of the Company whose names appear on the register of members of the Company on Tuesday, 28 November 2023. The interim dividend will be payable on Monday, 11 December 2023.

CLOSURE OF REGISTER OF MEMBERS

The register of members of the Company will be closed from Friday, 24 November 2023 to Tuesday, 28 November 2023, both days inclusive, during which period no transfer of shares will be registered. In order to qualify for the entitlement of the interim dividend, all share transfer documents accompanied by the relevant share certificates must be lodged with the Company's branch share registrars and transfer office in Hong Kong, Tricor Tengis Limited, at 17/F., Far East Finance Centre, 16 Harcourt Road, Hong Kong for registration not later than 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, 23 November 2023.

PUBLICATION OF INTERIM REPORT

This results announcement is published on the websites of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (<http://www.hkexnews.hk>) and the Company (<http://www.eaglenice.com.hk>). The interim report containing the Group's financial statements and notes to the financial statements for the six months ended 30 September 2023 will be despatched to the shareholders of the Company and will be available on the aforesaid websites in due course.

On Behalf of the Board
Chung Yuk Sing
Chairman

Hong Kong, 8 November 2023

As at the date of this announcement, the Board comprises seven executive directors, namely, Mr. Chung Yuk Sing, Mr. Chen Hsiao Ying, Mr. Huang Yongbiao, Ms. Chen Fang Mei, Mr. Shih Chih-Hung, Mr. Chung Chi Kit and Mr. Hu Chia-Ho and four independent non-executive directors, namely, Mr. Chan Cheuk Ho, Mr. Lu Chi Chant, Ms. Tham Kit Wan and Mr. Leung Spencer Yu Cheong.