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# STELUX Holdings International Limited

寶光實業(國際)有限公司\*

incorporated in Bermuda with limited liability

Website: <http://www.stelux.com>

Stock Code: 84

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2013

The directors of Stelux Holdings International Limited (the “Company”) are pleased to report the interim results and financial information of the Company and its subsidiaries (collectively the “Group”) for the six months ended 30th September 2013 as follows:

### CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2013

		Unaudited Six months ended 30th September	
		2013	2012
	Note	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Revenues	4,5	1,894,546	1,740,914
Cost of sales		(727,966)	(663,728)
Gross profit		1,166,580	1,077,186
Other (losses)/gains, net	6	(4,235)	22,304
Other income	7	13,254	10,540
Selling expenses		(819,418)	(762,486)
General and administrative expenses		(192,767)	(161,402)
Other operating expenses		(12,021)	(21,099)
Operating profit		151,393	165,043
Finance costs		(17,067)	(5,734)
Share of post-tax profits of associate		244	–
Profit before income tax	8	134,570	159,309
Income tax expense	9	(29,613)	(34,381)
Profit for the period		104,957	124,928

\* For identification purpose only

**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT (Continued)**

		<b>Unaudited</b>	
		<b>Six months ended</b>	
		<b>30th September</b>	
		<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
	<i>Note</i>	<i>HK\$'000</i>	<i>HK\$'000</i>
Attributable to:			
Equity holders of the Company		<b>104,706</b>	124,587
Non-controlling interests		<b>251</b>	341
		<u><b>104,957</b></u>	<u>124,928</u>
Dividends	<i>10</i>	<u><b>37,673</b></u>	<u>37,673</u>
		<i>HK cents</i>	<i>HK cents</i>
Earnings per share for profit attributable to the equity holders of the Company	<i>11</i>		
– Basic		<b>10.01</b>	11.91
– Diluted		<u><b>9.40</b></u>	<u>11.91</u>

**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2013**

	<b>Unaudited</b>	
	<b>Six months ended</b>	
	<b>30th September</b>	
	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
	<i>HK\$'000</i>	<i>HK\$'000</i>
Profit for the period	<b>104,957</b>	124,928
Other comprehensive income:		
Items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:		
Exchange differences	<b>(22,329)</b>	8,564
Other comprehensive income for the period, net of tax	<b>(22,329)</b>	8,564
Total comprehensive income for the period	<b>82,628</b>	133,492
Attributable to:		
Equity holders of the Company	<b>82,873</b>	133,083
Non-controlling interests	<b>(245)</b>	409
Total comprehensive income for the period	<b>82,628</b>	133,492

**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER 2013**

	<i>Note</i>	<b>Unaudited 30th September 2013 HK\$'000</b>	31st March 2013 HK\$'000
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment		507,571	511,416
Prepayment of lease premium		52,733	60,079
Intangible assets		62,911	60,497
Investment in associate		51,452	–
Deferred tax assets		60,430	60,416
Available-for-sale financial assets		15,617	15,617
Debtors, deposits and prepayments	12	123,818	183,580
		<u>874,532</u>	<u>891,605</u>
Current assets			
Stocks		1,158,437	1,167,029
Debtors, deposits and prepayments	12	433,816	314,565
Bank balances and cash		453,611	388,330
		<u>2,045,864</u>	<u>1,869,924</u>
Total assets		<u><b>2,920,396</b></u>	<u><b>2,761,529</b></u>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Capital and reserves attributable to the equity holders of the Company			
Share capital		104,647	104,647
Reserves		1,336,498	1,292,345
Shareholders' funds		1,441,145	1,396,992
Non-controlling interests		7,934	8,179
Total equity		<u>1,449,079</u>	<u>1,405,171</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Non-current liabilities			
Deferred tax liabilities		2,343	2,337
Borrowings		129,172	143,364
Convertible bonds		322,348	316,419
		<u>453,863</u>	<u>462,120</u>
Current liabilities			
Creditors and accruals	13	623,089	518,147
Income tax payable		38,494	24,811
Borrowings		355,871	351,280
		<u>1,017,454</u>	<u>894,238</u>
Total liabilities		<u>1,471,317</u>	<u>1,356,358</u>
Total equity and liabilities		<u><b>2,920,396</b></u>	<u><b>2,761,529</b></u>
Net current assets		<u><b>1,028,410</b></u>	<u><b>975,686</b></u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u><b>1,902,942</b></u>	<u><b>1,867,291</b></u>

## NOTES:–

### 1. BASIS OF PREPARATION

These unaudited condensed interim consolidated financial information 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”), and the applicable requirements of Appendix 16 of the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the “Stock Exchange”).

The condensed interim consolidated financial information should be read in conjunction with the 2013 annual financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with HKFRS.

Except as mentioned below, the accounting policies and methods of computation used in the preparation of these condensed interim consolidated financial information are consistent with those used in the annual financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2013.

The following amendments to standards and interpretations are mandatory for accounting periods beginning on or after 1st April 2013. The adoption of these amendments to standards and interpretations does not have any significant impact to the results and financial position of the Group.

HKFRS 1 (Amendment)	Government loans
HKFRS 7 (Amendment)	Financial instruments: Disclosures – Offsetting financial assets and financial liabilities
HKFRS 10	Consolidated financial statements
HKFRS 11	Joint arrangements
HKFRS 12	Disclosures of interests in other entities
HKFRS 13	Fair value measurement
HKFRS 10, HKFRS 11 and HKFRS 12 (Amendment)	Consolidated financial statements, Joint arrangements and Disclosure of interests in other entities: Transition Guidance
HKAS 1 (Amendment)	Presentation of financial statements
HKAS 19 (2011)	Employee benefits
HKAS 27 (2011)	Separate financial statements
HKAS 28 (2011)	Investments in associates and joint ventures
HK(IFRIC) – Int 20	Stripping costs in the production phase of a surface mine

The Group has not early adopted any new standards, amendments to standards and interpretations of HKFRS which have been issued but not yet effective for the financial year ending 31st March 2014.

Taxes on income in the interim periods are accrued using the tax rate that would be applicable to expected total annual earnings.

### 2. ESTIMATES

The preparation of interim financial information requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of accounting policies and the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expense. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

In preparing these condensed interim consolidated financial information, the significant judgements made by management in applying the Group’s accounting policies and the key sources of estimation uncertainty were the same as those that applied to the consolidated financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2013.

### **3. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT**

#### **3.1 Financial risk factors**

The Group's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks: foreign exchange risk, interest rate risk, credit risk and liquidity risk.

The condensed interim consolidated financial information do not include all financial risk management information and disclosures required in the annual financial statements, and should be read in conjunction with the Group's annual financial statements as at 31st March 2013.

There have been no changes in the risk management policies since year end.

#### **3.2 Fair value estimation**

The Group's financial instruments carried at fair value is analysed by valuation method. The different levels have been defined as follows:

- Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (level 1).
- Inputs other than quoted prices included within level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly (that is, as prices) or indirectly (that is, derived from prices) (level 2).
- Inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (that is, unobservable inputs) (level 3).

The Group's available-for-sale financial assets and liability components of convertible bonds are measured at fair value and are classified as level 3.

There were no movements in the available-for-sale financial assets during the period.

There was no transfer of financial instruments into or out of level 3 during the period.

The Group's level 3 instruments are determined by using valuation techniques including discount cash flow analysis, with reference to inputs such as dividend stream, discount rates and other specific input relevant to those particular financial instruments.

There were no changes in valuation techniques during the period.

#### **3.3 Group's valuation process**

The Group's finance department reviews the valuations of the Group's financial instruments that are stated at fair value for financial reporting purposes, including level 3 fair values. These valuation results are then reported to the chief financial officer and group senior management for discussions in relation to the valuation processes and the reasonableness of the valuation results.

#### **3.4 Fair value of financial assets and liabilities measured at amortised cost**

The carrying amounts of the Group's financial assets including cash and cash equivalents, deposits in approved financial institutions and debtors and financial liabilities including creditors and short-term borrowings, approximate their fair values due to their short maturities.

#### 4. SEGMENT INFORMATION

The chief operating decision-makers have been identified as the executive directors. The executive directors review the Group's financial information mainly from product and geographical perspective. From a geographical perspective, management assesses the performance of watch and optical operations in Hong Kong, Macau and Mainland China and rest of Asia.

Sales between operating segments are carried out on terms equivalent to those prevailing in arm's length transactions. The executive directors assess the performance of the operating segments based on a measure of adjusted earnings before interest and tax (EBIT). This measurement basis excludes unallocated income and net corporate expenses.

	Six months ended 30th September 2013						
	Watch retail		Optical retail				Group Total HK\$'000
	Hong Kong, Macau and Mainland China HK\$'000		Hong Kong, Macau and Mainland China HK\$'000		Wholesale trading HK\$'000	Other segment HK\$'000	
	Rest of Asia HK\$'000	Rest of Asia HK\$'000	Wholesale trading HK\$'000	Other segment HK\$'000			
<b>Revenues</b>							
Gross segment	792,924	233,216	489,337	153,748	405,058	8,459	2,082,742
Inter-segment	–	–	–	–	(179,737)	(8,459)	(188,196)
	<u>792,924</u>	<u>233,216</u>	<u>489,337</u>	<u>153,748</u>	<u>225,321</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>1,894,546</u>
<b>Segment results</b>	<u>121,056</u>	<u>(10,157)</u>	<u>21,288</u>	<u>4,327</u>	<u>52,078</u>	<u>(2,683)</u>	<u>185,909</u>
Unallocated income							–
Net corporate expenses							(34,516)
<b>Operating profit</b>							<u>151,393</u>
Finance costs							(17,067)
Share of post-tax profits of associate							244
<b>Profit before income tax</b>							<u>134,570</u>
Income tax expense							(29,613)
<b>Profit after income tax</b>							<u>104,957</u>

#### 4. SEGMENT INFORMATION (Continued)

	Six months ended 30th September 2012						
	Watch retail		Optical retail		Wholesale trading	Other segment	Group Total
	Hong Kong, Macau and Mainland China	Rest of Asia	Hong Kong, Macau and Mainland China	Rest of Asia			
	<i>HK\$'000</i>	<i>HK\$'000</i>	<i>HK\$'000</i>	<i>HK\$'000</i>	<i>HK\$'000</i>	<i>HK\$'000</i>	<i>HK\$'000</i>
Revenues							
Gross segment	676,550	253,820	438,939	154,298	437,554	8,049	1,969,210
Inter-segment	–	–	–	–	(221,027)	(7,269)	(228,296)
	<u>676,550</u>	<u>253,820</u>	<u>438,939</u>	<u>154,298</u>	<u>216,527</u>	<u>780</u>	<u>1,740,914</u>
Segment results	<u>87,906</u>	<u>1,991</u>	<u>26,957</u>	<u>10,929</u>	<u>57,442</u>	<u>15,654</u>	200,879
Unallocated income							13
Net corporate expenses							(35,849)
Operating profit							165,043
Finance costs							(5,734)
Profit before income tax							159,309
Income tax expense							(34,381)
Profit after income tax							<u>124,928</u>

There has been no material changes in total assets and total liabilities from the amount disclosed in the last annual financial statements.

#### 5. REVENUES

	Six months ended 30th September	
	2013 <i>HK\$'000</i>	2012 <i>HK\$'000</i>
Turnover		
Sales of goods	1,894,546	1,740,134
Gross rental income	–	780
	<u>1,894,546</u>	<u>1,740,914</u>

## 6. OTHER (LOSSES)/GAINS, NET

	Six months ended 30th September	
	2013	2012
	<i>HK\$'000</i>	<i>HK\$'000</i>
Loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment, net	(855)	(713)
Fair value gain of an investment property	–	17,000
Exchange (loss)/gain, net	(3,380)	6,017
	<u>(4,235)</u>	<u>22,304</u>

## 7. OTHER INCOME

	Six months ended 30th September	
	2013	2012
	<i>HK\$'000</i>	<i>HK\$'000</i>
Building management fee income	1,170	1,071
Interest income	460	280
Sundries	11,624	9,189
	<u>13,254</u>	<u>10,540</u>

## 8. EXPENSES BY NATURE

Expenses included in arriving at the profit before income tax are analysed as follows:

	Six months ended 30th September	
	2013	2012
	<i>HK\$'000</i>	<i>HK\$'000</i>
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment		
– Owned	58,943	54,366
– Leased	140	207
Amortisation of prepayment of lease premium	3,671	3,676
Operating leases	340,971	300,914
Provision for stocks	1,610	10,089
Donation	5,000	5,000
Employee benefit expense	337,084	311,337
	<u>337,084</u>	<u>311,337</u>

## 9. INCOME TAX EXPENSE

Hong Kong profits tax has been provided at the rate of 16.5% on the estimated assessable profits for the six months ended 30th September 2013 (2012: 16.5%) less relief for available tax losses. Taxation on overseas profits has been calculated on the estimated assessable profits for the six months ended 30th September 2013 at the rates of taxation prevailing in the territories in which the Group operates.

The amount of income tax charged to the consolidated income statement represents:

	<b>Six months ended</b>	
	<b>30th September</b>	
	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
	<b>HK\$'000</b>	<b>HK\$'000</b>
Current income tax		
Hong Kong profits tax	<b>19,355</b>	20,600
Overseas profits tax	<b>10,878</b>	12,161
Over provisions in respect of prior years	<b>(367)</b>	(287)
	<b>29,866</b>	32,474
Deferred income tax	<b>(253)</b>	1,907
Income tax expense	<b>29,613</b>	34,381

## 10. DIVIDENDS

	<b>Six months ended</b>	
	<b>30th September</b>	
	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
	<b>HK\$'000</b>	<b>HK\$'000</b>
Interim, declared, of HK\$0.036 (2012: HK\$0.036) per ordinary share	<b>37,673</b>	37,673

At a meeting held on 28th November 2013, the directors declared an interim dividend of HK\$0.036 per ordinary share. This dividend is not recognized as a liability at the balance sheet date but will be reflected as an appropriation of retained earnings for the year ending 31st March 2014.

## 11. EARNINGS PER SHARE

### Basic

Basic earnings per share is calculated by dividing the profit attributable to equity holders of the Company by the weighted average number of ordinary shares in issue during the period.

	<b>Six months ended 30th September</b>	
	<b>2013</b>	2012
Weighted average number of ordinary shares in issue (thousands)	<b>1,046,474</b>	1,046,474
Profit attributable to equity holders of the Company (HK\$'000)	<b>104,706</b>	124,587
Basic earnings per share (HK cents)	<b>10.01</b>	11.91

### Diluted

Diluted earnings per share is calculated by adjusting the weighted average number of ordinary shares outstanding to assume conversion of all dilutive potential ordinary shares. The Group's dilutive potential ordinary shares in existence represent convertible bonds. The convertible bonds are assumed to have been converted into ordinary shares, and the net profit is adjusted to eliminate the expense relating to the convertible bonds less the tax effect.

	<b>Six months ended 30th September</b>	
	<b>2013</b>	2012
Number of ordinary shares in issue throughout the year (thousands)	<b>1,046,474</b>	1,046,474
Effect of conversion of convertible bonds (thousands)	<b>190,268</b>	–
Weighted average number of ordinary shares adjusted for effect of dilution (thousands)	<b>1,236,742</b>	1,046,474
Profit attributable to equity holders of the Company (HK\$'000)	<b>104,706</b>	124,587
Borrowing cost on convertible bonds (HK\$'000)	<b>12,579</b>	–
Tax relief thereon (HK\$'000)	<b>(1,071)</b>	–
Adjusted profit attributable to equity holders of the Company (HK\$'000)	<b>116,214</b>	124,587
Diluted earnings per share (HK cents)	<b>9.40</b>	11.91

There were no dilutive potential ordinary shares in existence during the six months ended 30th September 2012.

## 12. DEBTORS, DEPOSITS AND PREPAYMENTS

	<b>30th September 2013 HK\$'000</b>	31st March 2013 HK\$'000
Trade debtors, gross	205,233	171,580
Provision for impairment of trade debtors	(712)	(630)
Trade debtors, net	<u>204,521</u>	<u>170,950</u>
Deposits, prepayments and other debtors	<u>353,113</u>	<u>327,195</u>
	<b>557,634</b>	<b>498,145</b>
Less: non-current portion Deposits and prepayments	<u>(123,818)</u>	<u>(183,580)</u>
Current portion	<u><u>433,816</u></u>	<u><u>314,565</u></u>
Trade debtors analysed by invoice date (note):		
Below 60 days	97,151	63,393
Over 60 days	<u>108,082</u>	<u>108,187</u>
	<u><u>205,233</u></u>	<u><u>171,580</u></u>

*Note:*

The Group allows an average credit period of 60 days from the invoice date to its trade debtors.

## 13. CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS

	<b>30th September 2013 HK\$'000</b>	31st March 2013 HK\$'000
Trade creditors analysed by invoice date:		
Below 60 days	259,790	194,783
Over 60 days	<u>25,357</u>	<u>47,573</u>
	<b>285,147</b>	<b>242,356</b>
Other creditors and accruals	<u>337,942</u>	<u>275,791</u>
	<u><u>623,089</u></u>	<u><u>518,147</u></u>

## 14. COMMITMENTS

	30th September 2013 <i>HK\$'000</i>	31st March 2013 <i>HK\$'000</i>
<b>Capital commitments for property, plant and equipment:</b>		
Contracted but not provided for	15,411	22,256
Authorised but not contracted for	–	24,420
	<u>15,411</u>	<u>46,676</u>

## MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Stelux Holdings International Limited (the “Company”) is pleased to announce the unaudited consolidated results of the Company and its subsidiaries (collectively, the “Group”) for the six months ended 30 September 2013.

### BUSINESS REVIEW

- *Group turnover up 8.8%*
- *Adjusted Net Profit up 15.2% to HK\$117.0 million*

For the period under review, the Group reported a turnover of HK\$1,894.5 million (2012: HK\$1,740.9 million), a moderate increase of 8.8% from the corresponding interim period. Group gross profit margin remained stable at 61.6% (2012: 61.9%). Our operations in Greater China contributed nearly 74.0% to the total turnover reported.

The net profit attributable to equity holders posted a decrease of 16.0% to HK\$104.7 million (2012: HK\$124.6 million).

The Group also reported an Adjusted Net Profit of HK\$117.0 million (2012: HK\$101.6 million) representing a growth of 15.2% against that of the corresponding six months after excluding the following items:

- the non-cash expenses arising from convertible bonds of HK\$8.9 million recognised in the current interim period;
- a fair value gain of an investment property of HK\$17.0 million in the last interim period (nil in current interim period); and
- an exchange loss of HK\$3.4 million (2012: gain of HK\$6.0 million).

## DRIVING TRANSFORMATION AND ADDING VALUE

- *Completed key management team building across Group*
- *Group wide ERP system implementation on schedule*
- *Net cash inflow of HK\$204.8 million due to improving inventory management*

The Group operates around 650 stores across Asia through its optical and watch retail chains, namely, “CITY CHAIN”, “OPTICAL 88” and “eGG”. Targeting the middle income consumer, our retail businesses have a prominent presence in the mid-tier lifestyle accessories market.

In the Group’s interim report FY12/13, we stated that a core objective in the near to medium term was to drive improvements in operational efficiencies and financial results within our businesses so as to provide long term sustainable growth for our shareholders.

Starting from May this year, as part of this process for change, key management across the Group, beginning with our watch retail management team on the Mainland, was restructured, and this crucial team building work was completed very recently.

Further in the period under review, we have started developing a Group wide enterprise resource planning (ERP) system with application from SAP. This IT investment is necessary for our future development as it will greatly improve efficiencies and streamline business processes across the Group.

This infrastructure will improve our demand forecasting, inventory management and customer relationship management, which are fundamental for the Group to grow its POS network from the current 650 stores to well beyond 1,000 stores.

This ERP system is also a necessary infrastructure for supporting the Group’s planned expansion of its e-commerce businesses.

Further, this planned ERP project is scheduled for completion in early 2016 and will go live in phases. The initial phase comprising of finance and business intelligence in Hong Kong HQ successfully went live in October 2013. To date project implementation is running smoothly and we shall begin to see the initial positive impact from this investment in FY14/15.

Also, we are beginning to see the positive effects from tightened controls in inventory management as net cash inflow from operating activities increased to HK\$204.8 million (2012: HK\$8.6 million).

## INTERIM DIVIDEND

- *Interim dividend HK\$0.036*

The Board recommends the payment of an interim dividend of HK\$0.036 (2012: HK\$0.036) per ordinary share representing a payout of 36.0% to the net profit attributable to equity holders for the six months ended 30 September 2013 (2012: 30.2%).

## **WATCH RETAIL BUSINESS – “CITY CHAIN”**

- *City Chain Group turnover up 10.3%*
- *City Chain Group EBIT up 23.4% to HK\$110.9 million*
- *Gross profit margin 62%*

Our watch retail business which accounts for 54.2% of our total Group turnover (2012: 53.4%) recorded a modest increase in turnover of 10.3% to HK\$1,026.1 million (2013: HK\$930.4 million).

Earnings before interest and tax (“EBIT”) of HK\$110.9 million, representing a robust increase of 23.4% over the same period last year was posted (2012: HK\$89.9 million) as gross profit margin remained unchanged at around 62%.

### **Hong Kong and Macau – “CITY CHAIN”**

- *Turnover up 18.4%*
- *EBIT up 22.6% to HK\$148.6 million*

Our “CITY CHAIN” operations in Hong Kong and Macau outperformed the generally soft retail market due to the slowdown in spending by Mainland shoppers. Accounting for around 37.4% of Group turnover, “CITY CHAIN” Hong Kong and Macau saw strong sales driven by improved efficiencies with turnover up 18.4%.

Profitability also improved as EBIT increased by 22.6% to HK\$148.6 million (2012: HK\$121.2 million) due to several factors like improvements in store leasing strategies, improvements in same store productivity, tightened costs control and the successful marketing strategies adopted for our house brands, in particular, “Solvil et Titus”.

So far the new travel regulations implemented by the Mainland authorities have not affected our operations in Hong Kong and Macau. With slowing rental growth in Hong Kong and the continued adoption of effective marketing and other operational strategies, we expect the momentum to carry through into the second half of FY13/14.

As of 30 September 2013, “CITY CHAIN” has 108 stores (2012: 109) in Hong Kong and Macau.

### **Mainland China – “CITY CHAIN”**

- *Turnover up 8.4%*
- *Losses narrowed by 17.1% to HK\$27.6 million*
- *Remain committed to break even by FY14/15*

Despite the prolonged slowdown on the Mainland, which sharpened during the reporting period, our “CITY CHAIN” operations recorded a turnover of HK\$85.1 million (2012: HK\$78.5 million), a rise of 8.4%, that was achieved from a lesser number of stores.

Various initiatives introduced in the current interim period to improve operating efficiencies proved effective as losses narrowed by 17.1% to HK\$27.6 million (2012: HK\$33.3 million) compared to the corresponding interim period. These measures included:

- appointing a PRC CEO in May this year and strengthening the management team by setting up a PRC CEO office;
- centralised product procurement managed from Hong Kong HQ by a strong and experienced team;
- revised store opening strategies by focusing on second and third tier cities;
- accelerated closure of poorly performing stores with a net reduction of shop months by around 8%;
- improvements in store productivity;
- revised store staff KPI schemes;
- increased sales force training; and
- stringent cost control measures undertaken by the new management team.

We will continue with these and other initiatives and strategies in the second half of FY13/14. Further, marketing campaigns to strengthen the brand value of “CITY CHAIN” and “Solvil et Titus” will be unveiled nationwide.

Our goal to achieve breakeven was set in early 2012, when the external operating environment was much more favourable. However, we do remain committed to achieving breakeven results by FY14/15 although this is more challenging in view of the fragile retail conditions on the Mainland.

Our e-commerce “Solvil et Titus” flagship store on T-Mall went live in August. The response so far has been very encouraging and turnover is up to expectation. As online shopping on the Mainland is proving to be popular, our e-commerce business has a huge potential for growth and will become an important contributor to our watch retail business.

As of 30 September 2013, “CITY CHAIN” has 88 stores (2012: 92) in Mainland China.

## South East Asia – “CITY CHAIN”

- *Turnover down 8.1% due to worsening external factors*
- *Transformation accelerated*
- *Expect better performance in 2nd half FY13/14*

During the period under review, our watch retail operations in Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand which constitute an important and integral part of our business faced a difficult operating environment. Slow economic growth, poor retail sentiment owing to higher living costs, removal of government subsidies and the severe haze pollution affecting Singapore and Malaysia contributed to declining sales in these countries.

A turnover of HK\$233.2 million (2012: HK\$253.8 million) down by 8.1% and losses of HK\$10.2 million were reported (2012: EBIT of HK\$2.0 million).

Owing to the worsening external environment, we accelerated the transformation process in the current interim period identifying structural and operational inefficiencies which we are committed to address.

Therefore during the reporting period, we have restructured and strengthened all three management teams and centralised product buying. Further, relevant measures replicated from our “CITY CHAIN” operations on the Mainland have been adopted. The respective management teams have also developed new strategies to further develop our businesses. At this point in time, we expect this business segment to return a better performance in the second half of FY13/14. However, this will certainly prove more challenging should the political situation in Thailand deteriorate further. We will closely monitor the situation and where necessary implement appropriate measures to minimise any impact on our operations.

In the longer term, these enhanced efficiencies will add to our competitiveness and with our leading position in these countries, we look to gain market share and to see further improved results once market conditions turn favourable.

As of 30 September 2013, “CITY CHAIN” has 192 stores (2012: 199) in South East Asia.

## OPTICAL RETAIL BUSINESS – “OPTICAL 88”

- *Optical 88 Group turnover up 5.5%*
- *Optical 88 Group EBIT down 18.8% to HK\$35.8 million due to worsening external factors on Mainland and SEA*
- *Gross profit margin 62.6%*

Our “OPTICAL 88” business which accounts for 32.5% of total Group turnover posted a turnover of HK\$616.1 million, up by a slight 5.5% (2012: HK\$584.0 million). EBIT fell by 18.8% to HK\$35.8 million (2012: HK\$44.1 million) and gross profit margin fell from 63.3% to 62.6% with the results from our Mainland and South East Asia operations contributing to the decline.

## **Hong Kong and Macau – “OPTICAL 88”**

- *Turnover up 6.6%*
- *EBIT up 5.3% to HK\$42.0 million*
- *To implement new business development strategies*

“OPTICAL 88” in Hong Kong and Macau posted a rise in EBIT of 5.3% to HK\$42.0 million (2012: HK\$39.9 million) whilst turnover edged up by 6.6% to HK\$408.5 million (2012: HK\$383.2 million).

Our top line performance could have been better if not for the revamping works in certain important shopping malls impacting the performance of some of our major stores.

Further, unlike our watch retail business, “OPTICAL 88” in Hong Kong faces greater rental pressure as turnover growth is driven less by Mainland shoppers and this pressure affected EBIT growth. Strategies have already been formulated to address these issues.

Due to the nature of the optical business, the implementation of a Group wide ERP system will vastly improve the management of our customer data base. This will further differentiate us from our competitors and also enhance the standard of our eye care services. These improvements will strengthen our already leading position in the optical retail market in the longer term.

As of 30 September 2013, “OPTICAL 88” has 96 stores (2012: 95) in Hong Kong and Macau.

## **Mainland China – “OPTICAL 88”**

- *Turnover up 16% despite Mainland slowdown*
- *Losses of HK\$10.5 million*
- *Aim to break even in medium term by replicating City Chain Mainland measures*

Our “OPTICAL 88” business on the Mainland operates from three offices located in Guangzhou, Shanghai and Chongqing. In the period under review, turnover rose 16% but was slower than expected owing to deteriorating external conditions. Losses widened to HK\$10.5 million (2012: HK\$6.8 million) as costs from our new operations in Chongqing and additional stores in Shanghai added to losses already sustained by stores in Guangdong. Further store openings in Eastern China will be frozen until operating efficiencies improve.

We recognise that there are many areas which need improvement. With the aim of achieving breakeven results in the medium term, a raft of measures largely similar to the ones for our watch retail business will be implemented in the second half of FY13/14. Also, a CEO based in Guangzhou has recently been appointed to focus solely on “OPTICAL 88”’s operations on the Mainland.

As of 30 September 2013, “OPTICAL 88” has 48 stores (2012: 36) in Mainland China.

## South East Asia – “OPTICAL 88”

- *Turnover stable*
- *EBIT of HK\$4.3 million*
- *Expect better performance in 2nd half FY13/14*

Our optical retail operations in Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia were also adversely affected by the slowdown and no turnover growth was recorded. Turnover stood at HK\$153.7 million (2012: HK\$154.3 million) whilst EBIT was HK\$4.3 million (2012: HK\$10.9 million). Our optical business in these countries to a similar extent face the same problems as our watch retail business. The Group CEO office will work closely with our respective strengthened management teams in each country to eliminate inefficiencies and to drive change.

And like our watch retail business, barring a further worsening of the political turmoil in Thailand, we expect to see improved results in the second half. Further, appropriate measures will be implemented where necessary to minimise any impact on our business. Looking forward into the longer term, these enhanced efficiencies will add to our competitiveness and yield satisfactory results once market conditions turn favourable.

As of 30 September 2013, “OPTICAL 88” has 92 stores (2012: 94) in South East Asia.

## OPTICAL RETAIL BUSINESS – “eGG”

- *HK same store sales up 48%*
- *Focus Mainland store expansion in second/third tier cities in 2nd half FY13/14*
- *Start “eGG” e-commerce in Q4 FY13/14*

Our “eGG” optical retail business performed within expectation with turnover increasing to HK\$26.9 million (HK: HK\$20.9 million; Mainland China: HK\$6.0 million). This turnover growth was driven mainly by the opening of new stores. Whilst a loss of HK\$10.2 million (HK: HK\$4.6 million; Mainland China: HK\$5.6 million) was sustained, the loss in Hong Kong has narrowed by 25.8% compared to the previous interim period as same store sales growth of 48% in Hong Kong was a positive contributing factor. There are now 10 stores (2012: 6) in Hong Kong with another 8 stores (2012: nil) on the Mainland. More stores will be opened in second and third tier cities on the Mainland in the second half of FY13/14 and the pace of expansion will be closely monitored.

With this planned business growth, the China team was strengthened by the addition of a new CEO based in Beijing to focus solely on the Mainland business.

Plans are in the pipeline to start an “eGG” e-commerce platform on the Mainland in Q4 FY13/14.

## SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT AND WHOLESALE TRADING

- *Turnover up 4.1%*
- *EBIT of HK\$52.1 million*

For the reporting period, this business segment accounted for nearly 12% of Group turnover. Turnover edged up slightly by 4.1% to HK\$225.3 million (2012: HK\$216.5 million) but EBIT fell 9.2% to HK\$52.1 million (2012: HK\$57.4 million).

Our wholesale trading business, the Thong Sia Group is the sole distributor for “SEIKO” watches and clocks in Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia and the distributor for the Group’s house brand “CYMA”. In the current interim period, the poor sentiment affected turnover, which rose slightly, and EBIT performance which was below expectation.

Our supply chain management unit which engages in product marketing, procurement management and the provision of ancillary value-added services for the Group’s watch business performed well as a healthy increase in EBIT was reported.

## LOOKING FORWARD

- *Moving in the right direction to achieve long term sustainable growth*

As we move forward to achieve long term sustainable growth for our shareholders, we are committed to raising levels of financial discipline and improving profitability within the Group.

In the past 12 months, we have embraced change in different ways to enhance efficiencies and processes within the Group. However, due to the poor operating environment not all expected operational efficiencies are immediately evident and fully reflected in these set of results, but, we do believe that the changes we have made so far are moving the Group in the right direction.

Barring a further deterioration in external conditions, we expect (i) the momentum for our operations in Hong Kong and Macau to continue and (ii) the performance of our operations in more challenging markets, like the Mainland and South East Asia to improve in the second half of FY13/14.

## FINANCE

The Group’s gearing ratio at balance sheet date was 25% (at 31st March 2013: 30%), which was calculated based on the Group’s net debt of HK\$353 million (at 31st March 2013: HK\$423 million) and shareholders’ funds of HK\$1,441 million (at 31st March 2013: HK\$1,397 million). The Group’s net debt was calculated based on the Group’s borrowings of HK\$485 million (at 31st March 2013: HK\$495 million) and convertible bonds of HK\$322 million (at 31st March 2013: HK\$316 million) less the Group’s bank balances and cash of HK\$454 million (at 31st March 2013: HK\$388 million). Of the Group’s borrowings at balance sheet date, HK\$355 million (at 31st March 2013: HK\$351 million) were repayable within 12 months.

Of the Group's borrowings, 7% (at 31st March 2013: 9%) were denominated in foreign currencies. The Group's bank borrowings denominated in Hong Kong Dollars were on a floating rate basis at either bank prime lending rates or short term inter-bank offer rates.

The Group does not use any financial instruments for hedging purposes.

The Group does not engage in speculative derivative trading.

As at 30th September 2013, the Group does not have any significant contingent liabilities.

The Group does not have plans for material investments or change of capital assets.

## **CAPITAL STRUCTURE OF THE GROUP**

There was no change in the capital structure of the Group during the period.

## **CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OF THE GROUP**

There was no change in the composition of the Group during the period.

## **NUMBER AND REMUNERATION OF EMPLOYEES, REMUNERATION POLICIES, BONUS AND TRAINING SCHEMES**

The Group's remuneration policies are reviewed on a regular basis and remuneration packages are in line with market practices in the relevant countries where the Group operates. As of 30th September 2013, the Group had 3,612 (at 30th September 2012: 3,578) employees.

## **DETAILS OF THE CHARGES ON GROUP ASSETS**

At 30th September 2013, certain of the Group's freehold land and buildings amounting to HK\$312 million (at 31st March 2013: HK\$285 million) and leasehold land amounting to HK\$6 million (31st March 2013: HK\$10 million) were pledged to secure banking facilities granted to the Group.

## **CLOSURE OF REGISTER OF MEMBERS**

The Register of Members of the Company will be closed from 6 January 2014 (Monday) to 7 January 2014 (Tuesday) both days inclusive, during which period no transfer of shares will be effected. In order to qualify for the entitlement to the interim dividend, all transfers accompanied by the relevant share certificates must be lodged with the Company's Hong Kong Registrar, Computershare Hong Kong Investor Services Limited, 1712-1716, 17th Floor, Hopewell Centre, 183 Queen's Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong for registration no later than 4:30 p.m. on 3 January 2014 (Friday). The interim dividend will be paid on 17 January 2014 (Friday).

## **PURCHASE, SALE OR REDEMPTION OF LISTED SECURITIES**

The Company has not redeemed any of its shares during the period. Neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries has purchased or sold any of the Company's shares during the year.

## **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

During the six months ended 30 September 2013, the Company has complied with the Corporate Governance Code as set out in Appendix 14 of the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the "Code"), except for the following deviations:

### **Code Provision A.2.1**

Under Code Provision A.2.1 of the Code, the roles of chairman and chief executive officer ("CEO") should be separate and should not be performed by the same individual. Under the current organisation structure of the Group, Mr. Joseph C.C. Wong is both Chairman and CEO of the Group. The Board is of the opinion that vesting the roles of both Chairman and CEO in Mr. Joseph C.C. Wong has the benefit of ensuring consistent leadership within the Group thus enabling more effective and efficient strategic planning and execution for the Group. Under this arrangement, the Board also believes that the balance of power and authority will not be compromised and is adequately ensured by the existing Board which comprises experienced and competent individuals with one-third of the Board being independent non-executive directors.

### **Code Provision A.4.2**

Under Code Provision A.4.2, every director, including those appointed for a specific term, should be subject to retirement by rotation at least once every three years. Not all directors of the Company retire strictly under Code Provision A.4.2 but in accordance with the Company's Bye-Laws. Bye-Law 110(A) stipulates that one-third of the directors of the Company who have been longest serving in office since their last election, except the Chairman, Vice-Chairman or CEO, shall retire from office by rotation at each annual general meeting.

### **Code Provision B.1.2**

This Code deals with the terms of reference of a remuneration committee. The Company has adopted the terms of reference under Code Provision B.1.2(c)(i) except that the terms of reference do not include reviewing and determining the remuneration packages of senior management.

The Company believes that the remuneration packages of senior management should be the responsibility of the executive directors as they are in a better position to appraise their performance.

## **Audit Committee**

On 19 June 2013 and 25 November 2013, the Audit Committee together with the management of the Company reviewed the effectiveness of the systems of internal control throughout the Group for the six months ended 30 September 2013 and discussed auditing and financial reporting matters including review of the Group's results for the year ended 31 March 2013 and for the six months ended 30 September 2013 respectively before they were presented to the Board of directors for approval. The external auditors met with the Audit Committee on 19 June 2013 to discuss the Group's audit service plan during the meeting.

## **Remuneration Committee**

The Remuneration Committee met on 19 June 2013 to conduct a review on the salaries of the executive directors.

## **Model Code for Securities Transactions by Directors of Listed Issuers**

The Company has adopted the Model Code for Securities Transactions by Directors of Listed Companies contained in Appendix 10 of the Listing Rules (the "Model Code") as the code of conduct regarding director's securities transactions.

The Company has also made specific enquiry of all its directors to ascertain whether they have complied with or whether there has been any non-compliance with the required standard set out in the Model Code.

All directors complied with the provisions of the Model Code during the six months ended 30 September 2013.

## **PUBLICATION OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION AND INTERIM REPORT**

This results announcement is published on the website of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited at [www.hkex.com.hk](http://www.hkex.com.hk) under "Latest Listed Company Information" and the Company's website at [www.stelux.com](http://www.stelux.com). The Company's Interim Report for 2013/2014 will be despatched to the shareholders of the Company and will also be available on the above websites in due course.

On behalf of the Board  
**Joseph C. C. Wong**  
*Chairman and Chief Executive Officer*

"He who tills his land will be satisfied with bread,  
But he who follows frivolity is devoid of understanding."

Proverbs 12:11

Hong Kong, 28th November 2013

Directors of the Company as at the date hereof:

*Executive directors:*

Chumphol Kanjanapas (also known as Joseph C. C. Wong) (*Chairman and Chief Executive Officer*), Vincent Lau Tak Bui (*Chief Operating Officer*) and Wallace Kwan Chi Kin (*Chief Financial Officer*)

*Non-Executive directors:*

Sakorn Kanjanapas, Ma Xuezheng (also known as Mary Ma), Wong Yu Tsang Alex (also known as Alex Wong), Wu Chun Sang (*independent*), Lawrence Wu Chi Man (*independent*) and Agnes Kwong Yi Hang (*independent*)