

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Trek partners Taiwan-listed Unimicron, to produce consumer SSDs for portable consumer electronics

- JV between Trek and Unimicron; leveraging on Trek's R&D technology expertise in SSD, EMMC and EMCP controllers for portable consumer electronics applications
- Asset-light business model with Trek providing engineering support and strategic supply of Memory Module (ASIC and Nand Flash) to the JV and manufacturing operations outsourced
- With Consumer SSDs steadily replacing low and mid range HDDs, this JV targets the Greater China market with a global demand worth US\$20.7 billion in 2016

SINGAPORE – October 29, 2014 - Trek 2000 International Ltd. ("Trek"), inventor and patent owner of the ThumbDrive<sup>™</sup> and FluCard<sup>®</sup>, board director of SD Card Association<sup>1</sup> and co-chairman of iSDIO forum, today announced that they have entered into a joint venture ("JV") cooperation with Taiwanlisted Unimicron Technology Corporation ("Unimicron"), a subsidiary of UMC, the world's largest printed circuit board manufacturer to produce solid-state drives ("SSDs") for portable consumer electronics. The new JV, UniMemory Technology (S) Pte Ltd ("UniMemory"), constitutes a partnership between Trek and Unimicron with a paid up capital of US\$5.0 million, of which Trek's share is US\$3.5 million or 70% stake in UniMemory.

In addition to providing technological expertise to UniMemory in the controlling areas of SSD, embedded multi-media controller ("EMMC") and embedded multi-media chips ("EMCP") which drive consumer electronics applications, Trek will also be supplying Memory Module to UniMemory. Unimicron will through its sales network distribute the products. Structured to be an asset-light business model, UniMemory will outsource its manufacturing operations to contract manufacturers.

This investment is expected to have an impact on the consolidated net tangible assets per share and earnings per share of Trek from FY2015 onwards.

"We are extremely excited about this JV as we forge another cross boundary cooperation to pursue growth opportunities within the dynamic SSD industry. The supply of hardware and impartment of technological expertise in the JV through our stake not only drives synergy for Trek but also reinforces our innovative capabilities."

- Mr Henn Tan, Executive Chairman and CEO of Trek 2000 International Ltd

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The SD Association is a global ecosystem of companies setting industry-leading memory card standards. (<u>https://www.sdcard.org/home/</u>)

Led by favourable short and long term drivers such as higher adoption rates of SSDs in consumer electronics - ultrabooks, ultrathin PCs, tablets and mobiles<sup>2</sup>, SSDs are typically more resilient to physical shocks while characterised by its low latencies and access times<sup>3</sup>. As such, SSDs are expected to replace low and mid range hard-disk drives ("HDDs") with the industry estimated to be worth US\$20.7 billion by 2016<sup>4</sup>.

"We are pleased to partner Trek to leverage on their existing R&D technological expertise and the versatility of their products. With our existing strong foundation in Taiwan, we are confident to be a good proxy to reach out to the Greater China market for the SSD market."

#### - Mr. T. J. Tseng, Chairman of Unimicron Technology Corporation

"IE Singapore partners Singapore companies to address the growing consumer electronics market in Asia Pacific, expected to worth US\$356 billion by 2017. Our partnership with Trek 2000 is a good example. We are supporting Trek's IP-centric asset light business model as they grow overseas, and the JV is a result of this strategy. Leveraging their R&D technology expertise in flash memory, Trek is now targeting the SSD market together with the world's largest PCB manufacturer. We are confident this will springboard Trek into a globally competitive technology company."

## - Mr. Jason Lim, Group Director for Technology Business, International Enterprise (IE) Singapore

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#### About Trek 2000 International Ltd

Trek 2000 International Ltd, an industry leader, innovator, original inventor and patent owner of the ThumbDrive<sup>®</sup> (i.e. USB Flash Drive) and FluCard<sup>®</sup> offers state-of-the-art design solutions ranging from Mobile Media Solutions, Wireless, Antipiracy, Compression and Encryption to sophisticated Enterprise Solutions all catering to the fast changing digital industry. Trek with its library of granted patents is represented all over the world and has offices in the U.S., Malaysia, Thailand, India, Hong Kong, Singapore, the Netherlands, China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia and Japan to serve the rapidly expanding markets across all regions.

A public listed company whose shares are quoted on the Singapore Stock Exchange (SGX:Trek), Trek 2000 International Ltd was named by Forbes Global as one of the Best Small Companies in the World of 2000 and 2002. Trek 2000 International Ltd was also ranked as the Best Managed small Company in Singapore by AsiaMoney (of Euromoney). Trek also received the INVENT Singapore AWARD 2008 and the ASEAN BUSINESS AWARDS for Innovation in 2011 and ASIA-PACIFIC ENTERPRISE LEADERSHIP AWARDS for Spirit of Innovation Award in 2013.

Trek<sup>®</sup>, ThumbDrive<sup>®</sup>, DivaDrive<sup>®</sup> and FluCard<sup>®</sup> are trademarks or registered trademarks of Trek Group of Companies in Singapore and / or other countries.

For more information, visit our website at <u>http://www.trek2000.com.sg</u>, <u>http://www.thumbdrive.com</u>, <u>http://www.flu-card.com</u>, <u>https://www.cloudstringers.com</u>

## About UTC

Founded on January 25 1990, Unimicron Technology Corporation is a leading global Printed Circuit Boards (PCBs) supplier with a well-established footprint in Taiwan and China. Listed on the Taiwan Stock Exchange, the Company has a market cap of close to USD\$1.1 billion. Unimicron is headquarted in Taoyuan, Taiwan, and has manufacturing facilities in Taiwan, China, Japan and Germany.

Unimicron specializes in the manufacturing, processing and distribution of a full range of products such as PCBs, High Density Interconnection (HDI), Flexible Print Circuits (FPC), Rigid-Flex boards, Carriers and IC burn-in. The Company currently employs more than 22,000 staff in Taiwan and China.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> "Computer storage industry declines in 2013 despite robust growth of solid-state drives", IHS Technology, February 2014

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> "SSD vs HDD price and performance study" – Dell technical white paper, June 2012

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> "Solid-state drive market revenue set to more than double this year on renewed ultrabook hopes", IHS Technology, January 2013

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The Company's dedication to Corporate Social Responsibility has resulted in it receiving the Deming Application Prize in 2011 for their application of Total Quality Management (TQM), National Quality Awards (NQA) Outstanding Management Award in 2008, and NQA in 2005.

For more information, visit UTC's website at <u>http://www.unimicron.com/en/</u>.

#### Issued for and on behalf of Trek 2000 International Ltd

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