

PRE-CONDITIONAL VOLUNTARY CASH OFFER

By



UNITED OVERSEAS BANK LIMITED

(Registration No 193500026Z)

(Incorporated in Singapore)

for and on behalf of

BRC ASIA LIMITED

(Company Registration No. 193800054G)

(Incorporated in Singapore)

to acquire all the issued and paid-up ordinary shares in the capital of

LEE METAL GROUP LTD

(Company Registration No. 198205439C)

(Incorporated in Singapore)

other than those already owned, controlled or agreed to be acquired by the Offeror

PRE-CONDITIONAL OFFER ANNOUNCEMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Pre-Conditional Voluntary Cash Offer

United Overseas Bank Limited ("**UOB**") wishes to announce, for and on behalf of BRC Asia Limited ("**Offeror**") that, subject to the fulfilment or waiver of the Pre-Conditions (as defined in paragraph 2.1 below), the Offeror will make a voluntary conditional cash offer ("**VGO**") for all the issued and paid-up ordinary shares ("**Shares**") in the capital of Lee Metal Group Ltd ("**Company**") other than those already owned, controlled or agreed to be acquired by the Offeror ("**Offer Shares**") in accordance with Rule 15 of the Singapore Code on Take-overs and Mergers ("**Code**").

THE VGO WILL NOT BE MADE UNLESS AND UNTIL THE PRE-CONDITIONS ARE FULFILLED OR WAIVED. ACCORDINGLY, ALL REFERENCES TO THE VGO IN THIS ANNOUNCEMENT REFER TO A POSSIBLE VOLUNTARY CASH OFFER WHICH WILL ONLY BE MADE IF AND WHEN SUCH PRE-CONDITIONS ARE FULFILLED (OR WAIVED, AS APPLICABLE).

1.2 No Holding

As at the date of this Announcement ("**Announcement Date**"), the Offeror does not own or control, directly or indirectly, any Shares.

2. PRE-CONDITIONS

2.1 Pre-Conditions

The making of the VGO is subject to the fulfilment (or waiver, as applicable) of the following conditions within six calendar months of this Announcement:

- (a) the Competition Commission of Singapore having made a favourable decision that the VGO will not, if validly accepted and/or carried into effect, infringe the prohibition under Section 54 of the Competition Act (Cap. 50B of Singapore);
- (b) the approval of the Singapore Exchange Securities Trading Limited ("SGX-ST") for the despatch of the circular to shareholders of the Offeror convening a general meeting of the Offeror to approve the Offeror undertaking the acquisition of all the Shares pursuant to the VGO in accordance with the listing rules of the SGX-ST; and
- (c) no governmental authority or court of competent jurisdiction having enacted, issued, promulgated, enforced or entered any law, rule, regulation, judgment, decree, executive order or award having the effect of making the VGO illegal or otherwise prohibiting consummation thereof

(collectively "**Pre-Conditions**").

In accordance with the Code, the Pre-Conditions shall not be relied upon to cause the VGO to lapse unless: (i) the Offeror has demonstrated reasonable efforts to fulfil the Pre-Conditions within the time frame specified; and (ii) the circumstances that give rise to the right to rely upon the Pre-Conditions are material in the context of the VGO.

2.2 Formal Offer Announcement

If and when all the Pre-Conditions have been fulfilled (or waived as applicable), the Offeror will announce its firm intention to undertake the VGO ("**Formal Offer Announcement**"). The VGO offer document ("**Offer Document**") and the appropriate forms of acceptance for the VGO will be despatched to the shareholders of the Company ("**Shareholders**") not earlier than 14 days and not later than 21 days from the date of the Formal Offer Announcement.

However, if any of the Pre-Conditions are not fulfilled (or waived as applicable), the VGO will not be made and UOB will issue an announcement, for and on behalf of the Offeror, to update Shareholders as soon as reasonably practicable.

3. INFORMATION ON THE OFFEROR AND THE COMPANY

(Information relating to the Company has been extracted from publicly available sources.)

3.1 Offeror

The Offeror is an established pioneer in prefabricated steel reinforcement, which has been listed on the SGX-ST Mainboard since 2000. Since its incorporation in 1938, it has developed its expertise to become a leading provider of Just-In-Time Total Reinforcing Steel Solutions to the Singapore construction sector. The Offeror currently operates in Singapore, Malaysia and the PRC with more than 700 employees. In Singapore, the Offeror operates out of three factories and a storage area spanning a total land area of about 80,000 square metres. These facilities are equipped with state-of-the-art mesh welding machines as well as fully automated shear lines, benders and other ancillary equipment for the fabrication of a full range of steel reinforcement products designed to help builders construct Better, Faster, Cheaper.. The Offeror is an ISO9002 certified and bizSAFE Level Star company, and a recipient of the Singapore Quality Mark.

Additional information on the Offeror can be found at its website at www.brc.com.sg.

3.2 Company

The Company was incorporated in December 1982 and is an established distributor and fabricator of steel products as well as a recognised international trader of steel and steel related products in the region. It employs over 500 employees and has a presence in Singapore, Malaysia, and Hong Kong. In Singapore, the Company's primary business activity is fabrication of reinforcement steel products for the construction and building industry. Its reinforcement steel products, including stock lengths, cut-and-bend fabricated bars and steel welded mesh, are used in the domestic construction industry in both public and private sectors, including HDB and SMRT projects.

Additional information on the Company can be found at its website at www.leemetalgroup.com.

4. OFFER TERMS

Subject to and contingent upon the satisfaction (or waiver) of the Pre-Conditions, the Offeror will make the VGO for all the Offer Shares on the following terms and conditions:

4.1 Offer Shares

The VGO will be made for all the Offer Shares in accordance with Rule 15 of the Code and subject to the terms and conditions to be set out in the Formal Offer Announcement and the Offer Document.

4.2 Offer Price

The consideration for each Offer Share is ("**Offer Price**"):

For each Offer Share: S\$0.42 in cash.

4.3 No Encumbrances

The Offer Shares will be acquired:

- (a) properly and validly issued and fully paid-up;
- (b) free from all mortgages, assignments, debentures, liens, hypothecation, charges, pledges, adverse claims, rent-charge, title retention, claims, equity, options, pre-emption rights, rights to acquire, security agreement and security interest or other rights of whatever nature; and
- (c) together with all rights, benefits and entitlements attached thereto as at the date of the Formal Offer Announcement.

As such, if the books closure date for determination of entitlements to any dividend, right or other distribution or return of capital (collectively "Distributions") by the Company ("Books Closure Date") falls on or after the date of the Formal Offer Announcement, the Offeror reserves the right to reduce the Offer Price payable to such accepting Shareholder by an amount equivalent to such dividend, right, other distribution or return of capital, as follows:

- (i) **if the settlement date for acceptance of the VGO falls on or before the Books Closure Date, no adjustment to the Offer Price will be made, as the Offeror will receive the Distribution (and not the accepting Shareholder); and**

- (ii) **if the settlement date for acceptance of the VGO falls after the Books Closure Date, the Offer Price will be reduced by an amount equivalent to the Distribution, as the Distribution will be received by the accepting Shareholder (and not the Offeror).**

4.4 Minimum Acceptance Condition

The VGO (if and when made) will be conditional upon the Offeror receiving, valid acceptances in respect of such number of Offer Shares which, when taken together with the Shares owned, controlled or agreed to be acquired by the Offeror and parties acting in concert with it (either before or during the VGO and pursuant to the VGO or otherwise), would result in the Offeror holding such number of Shares carrying more than 50% of the voting rights attributable to the issued Shares (excluding treasury shares), by the closing date of the VGO ("**Closing Date**").

4.5 Undertakings

The Offeror has received irrevocable undertakings from the following Shareholders to accept the VGO (if and when made) in respect of an aggregate 228,052,952 Shares (comprising 48.06% of the entire issued Shares):

- (a) Lee Lin Poey, in respect of 83,888,608 Shares;
- (b) Lee Hock Seng, in respect of 49,060,453 Shares;
- (c) Lee Heng Thiam, in respect of 46,597,471 Shares;
- (d) Lee Siew Khim, in respect of 24,592,310 Shares; and
- (e) Lee Siew Choo, in respect of 23,914,110 Shares,

(collectively "**Undertakings**"),

which Undertakings are valid for the period until the earlier of lapse or close of the VGO.

5. FINANCIAL EVALUATION

The Offer Price represents the following premium over the historical transacted prices of the Shares on the SGX-ST:

Period	Benchmark Price⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ (S\$)	Premium over Benchmark Price⁽³⁾ (%)
Last traded price of the Shares on the SGX-ST on 20 February 2018 prior to the trading halt on the Shares, preceding the Announcement Date (" Last Trading Day ")	0.410	2.4

Period	Benchmark Price⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ (S\$)	Premium over Benchmark Price⁽³⁾ (%)
Last traded price of the Shares on 10 November 2017, being the last full market day prior to the announcement by the Company on notification by certain Shareholders of an unsolicited approach in relation to their Shares (" Last Undisturbed Trading Day ")	0.385	9.1
Volume weighted average price (" VWAP ") per Share for the one month period up to and including the Last Undisturbed Trading Day	0.368	14.1
VWAP per Share for the three month period up to and including the Last Undisturbed Trading Day	0.346	21.4
VWAP per Share for the six month period up to and including the Last Undisturbed Trading Day	0.332	26.5
VWAP per Share for the 12 month period up to and including the Last Undisturbed Trading Day	0.316	32.9

Notes:

(1) Based on data extracted from Bloomberg L.P..

(2) Figures rounded to the nearest three (3) decimal places.

(3) Percentage figures are rounded to the nearest one (1) decimal place.

6. RATIONALE FOR THE VGO AND THE OFFEROR'S INTENTIONS FOR THE COMPANY

6.1 Rationale

(a) Capitalise on the Company's well-established trading platform

The Company actively trades internationally in intermediate products such as reinforcement steel products, with customers comprising mainly of steel mills in the region. The Offeror believes that post successful completion of the VGO (if and when made), it will be well-positioned to capitalise on the Company's trading platform to expand its service / product offerings.

(b) *Combination of complementary business and expertise to realise potential synergies*

The Offeror is of the view that the Company's and their business are complementary and there are potential synergies that can be created, including cross-selling to an enlarged customer base, economies of scale, improvement of productivity and cost efficiency, as well as the sharing of domain knowledge such as know-hows and best practices.

(c) *Opportunity for Minority Shareholders to realise their Investment in the Shares at a Premium*

The Offer Price is at a premium above the historical market prices of the Shares of over the last 12 month period prior to the Announcement Date. The Offer Price represents an approximately 14.1%, 21.4%, 26.5% and 32.9% premium above the VWAP per Share for the one month, three month, six month and 12 month period prior to and including the

Last Undisturbed Trading Day, respectively.

Shareholders who tender their Shares pursuant to the VGO will have an opportunity to realise their investment in the Company for a cash consideration at a premium above the historical market share prices, without incurring any brokerage and other trading costs.

(d) ***Opportunity for Shareholders who may find it difficult to exit their investment in the Company due to low trading liquidity***

The historical trading liquidity of the Shares on the SGX-ST has been low. The average daily trading volume of the Shares over the last one month, three month, six month and 12 month periods up to and including the Last Trading Day are detailed in the table below:

	Average Daily Trading Volume ("ADTV")⁽¹⁾ (No. of Shares)	ADTV as a percentage of total number of issued shares⁽²⁾⁽³⁾ (%)
One month period up to and including the Last Trading Day	702,729	0.148
Three month period up to and including the Last Trading Day	681,333	0.144
Six month period up to and including the Last Trading Day	742,204	0.156
12 month period up to and including the Last Trading Day	654,805	0.138

Notes:

- (1) The figures set out in the table above are based on data extracted from Bloomberg L.P.. The average daily trading volume is computed based on the total trading volume of the Shares divided by the number of market days with respect to the relevant period immediately prior to and including the Last Trading Day.
- (2) Calculated using the average daily total volume of Shares traded divided by the total number of issued Shares.
- (3) Rounded to the nearest three (3) decimal places.

6.2 Offeror's intentions in relation to the Company

Upon completion of the VGO (if and when made), the Offeror may undertake a strategic and operational review of the Company and its subsidiaries with a view to realising synergies, scale, cost efficiencies and growth potential. The Offeror will also consider delisting the Company from the SGX-ST in the event it achieves the requisite acceptances for such delisting, in order to facilitate management and operational control and leverage over the Company and its subsequent developments.

The Offeror presently has no intention to introduce any major changes to the business of the Company, or to discontinue the employment of any of the existing employees of the Company or re-deploy any of the fixed assets of the Company, other than in the ordinary course of business.

The Offeror however retains the flexibility at any time to consider options or opportunities which may present themselves.

7. LISTING STATUS AND COMPULSORY ACQUISITION

7.1 Listing Status

Pursuant to Rule 1105 of the Listing Manual of the SGX-ST ("**Listing Manual**"), upon an announcement by the Offeror that acceptances have been received pursuant to the VGO that bring the holdings owned by the Offeror and parties acting in concert with it to above 90% of the total number of issued Shares (excluding treasury shares), the SGX-ST may suspend the trading of the Shares in the Ready and Unit Share markets until it is satisfied that at least 10% of the total number of issued Shares (excluding treasury shares) are held by at least 500 Shareholders who are members of the public. Rule 1303(1) of the Listing Manual provides that if the Offeror succeeds in garnering acceptances exceeding 90% of the total number of issued Shares (excluding treasury shares), thus causing the percentage of the total number of issued Shares (excluding treasury shares) held in public hands to fall below 10%, the SGX-ST will suspend trading of the Shares only at the Closing Date.

In addition, under Rule 724(1) of the Listing Manual, if the percentage of the total number of issued Shares (excluding treasury shares) held in public hands falls below 10%, the Company must, as soon as practicable, announce that fact and the SGX-ST may suspend the trading of all the Shares. Rule 724(2) of the Listing Manual states that the SGX-ST may allow the Company a period of three months, or such longer period as the SGX-ST may agree, to raise the percentage of Shares (excluding treasury shares) in public hands to at least 10%, failing which the Company may be removed from the official list of the SGX-ST.

7.2 Compulsory Acquisition

Pursuant to Section 215(1) of the Companies Act, Chapter 50 of Singapore ("**Companies Act**"), in the event that the Offeror receives valid acceptances pursuant to the VGO (or otherwise acquires Shares during the period when the VGO is open for acceptance) in respect of not less than 90% of the total number of issued Shares (other than those already held by the Offeror, its related corporations or their respective nominees as at the date of the VGO and excluding any Shares held by the Company as treasury shares), the Offeror would be entitled to exercise the right to compulsorily acquire all the Shares of the Shareholders who have not accepted the VGO ("**Dissenting Shareholders**") at a price equal to the Offer Price.

In addition, Dissenting Shareholders have the right under and subject to Section 215(3) of the Companies Act, to require the Offeror to acquire their Shares at a price equal to the Offer Price in the event that the Offeror, its related corporations or their respective nominees acquire, pursuant to the VGO, such number of Shares which, together with the treasury shares and the Shares held by the Offeror, its related corporations or their respective nominees, comprise 90% or more of the total number of issued Shares. Dissenting Shareholders who wish to exercise such rights are advised to seek their own independent legal advice.

7.3 Offeror's Intentions

As mentioned, above, subject to achieving the requisite acceptances, the Offeror will consider delisting the Company from the SGX-ST in the event it achieves the requisite acceptances for such delisting, in order to facilitate management and operational control and leverage over the Company and its subsequent developments. Consistent therewith, the Offeror, when entitled, intends to exercise its rights of compulsory acquisition under Section 215(1) of the Companies Act and does not intend to take steps for any trading suspension of the Shares by the SGX-ST to be

lifted in the event that, *inter alia*, less than 10% of the total number of Shares (excluding any Shares held by the Company as treasury shares) are held in public hands. In addition, the Offeror further reserves the right to seek a voluntary delisting of the Company from the SGX-ST pursuant to Rules 1307 and 1309 of the Listing Manual.

8. DISCLOSURE OF SHAREHOLDINGS AND DEALINGS

8.1 Holdings of Company Securities

As at the Announcement Date, and based on the latest information available to the Offeror, none of Esteel Enterprise Pte. Ltd. ("**Esteel**", being the controlling shareholder of the Offeror), the Offeror, the wholly owned subsidiaries of the Offeror, the directors of the Offeror and Esteel, and UOB (as financial adviser to the Offeror in connection with the VGO) ("**Relevant Persons**") owns, controls or has agreed (other than pursuant to the Undertakings) to acquire any:

- (a) Shares;
- (b) securities which carry voting rights in the Company; or
- (c) convertible securities, warrants, options or derivatives in respect of the Shares or securities which carry voting rights in the Company,

(collectively "**Company Securities**").

8.2 Dealings in Company Securities

None of the Relevant Persons has dealt for value in any Company Securities during the three month period immediately preceding the Announcement Date and up to the Announcement Date ("**Reference Period**").

8.3 Irrevocable Undertakings

Save for the Undertakings, none of the Relevant Persons has received any irrevocable undertaking from any party to accept or reject the VGO as at the Announcement Date.

8.4 Other Arrangements

Save as disclosed in this Announcement, as at the Announcement Date and based on the latest information available to the Offeror, none of the Relevant Persons has:

- (a) granted any security interest relating to any Company Securities to another person, whether through a charge, pledge or otherwise;
- (b) borrowed any Company Securities from another person (excluding borrowed Company Securities which have been on-lent or sold); or
- (c) lent any Company Securities to another person,

save that the Offeror has entered into financing arrangements with UOB for the purpose of the VGO, pursuant to which the Shares to be held by the Offeror will be charged in favour of UOB as security.

8.5 Confidentiality

In the interests of confidentiality, the Offeror has not made enquiries in respect of certain other

parties who are or may be presumed to be acting in concert with the Offeror in connection with the VGO (if and when made). Further enquires will be made of such persons and the relevant disclosures will be made in due course and in the Offer Document.

9. OFFER DOCUMENT

Full details of the VGO (if and when made) will be contained in the Offer Document (containing the terms and conditions of the VGO and enclosing the relevant forms of acceptance to be despatched to the Shareholders not earlier than 14 days and not later than 21 days from the date of the Formal Offer Announcement, if made).

10. OVERSEAS SHAREHOLDERS

This Announcement does not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to subscribe for or buy any security, nor is it a solicitation of any vote or approval in any jurisdiction, nor shall there be any sale, issuance or transfer of the securities referred to in this Announcement in any jurisdiction in contravention of applicable law. The VGO (if and when made), will be made solely by the Offer Document and the relevant forms of acceptance accompanying the same, which will contain the full terms and conditions of the VGO, including details of how it may be accepted. For the avoidance of doubt, the VGO (if and when made) is open to all Shareholders holding Shares, including those to whom the Offer Document and relevant forms of acceptance may not be sent.

The release, publication or distribution of this Announcement in certain jurisdictions may be restricted by law and therefore persons in any such jurisdictions into which this Announcement is released, published or distributed should inform themselves about and observe such restrictions.

Copies of this Announcement and any formal documentation relating to the VGO are not being, and must not be, directly or indirectly, mailed or otherwise forwarded, distributed or sent in or into or from any jurisdiction where the making of or the acceptance of the VGO would violate the law of that jurisdiction ("**Restricted Jurisdiction**") and will not be capable of acceptance by any such use, instrumentality or facility within any Restricted Jurisdiction and persons receiving such documents (including custodians, nominees and trustees) must not mail or otherwise forward, distribute or send them in or into or from any Restricted Jurisdiction.

The VGO (unless otherwise determined by the Offeror and permitted by applicable law and regulation) will not be made, directly or indirectly, in or into, or by the use of mails of, or by any means or instrumentality (including, without limitation, telephonically or electronically) of interstate or foreign commerce of, or any facility of a national, state or other securities exchange of, any Restricted Jurisdiction and the VGO will not be capable of acceptance by any such use, means, instrumentality or facilities.

The ability of Shareholders who are not resident in Singapore to accept the VGO may be affected by the laws of the relevant jurisdictions in which they are located. Persons who are not resident in Singapore should inform themselves of, and observe, any applicable requirements.

11. CAUTIONARY STATEMENT

SHAREHOLDERS AND POTENTIAL INVESTORS SHOULD EXERCISE CAUTION WHEN TRADING IN THE SHARES, AND WHERE IN DOUBT AS TO THE ACTION THEY SHOULD TAKE, THEY SHOULD CONSULT THEIR STOCKBROKER, BANK MANAGER, ACCOUNTANT, SOLICITOR, TAX ADVISER OR OTHER PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS.

12. RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT OF THE DIRECTORS

The directors of the Offeror ("**Directors**") (including any who may have delegated supervision of this Announcement) have taken all reasonable care to ensure the facts stated and all opinions expressed herein are fair and accurate, and where appropriate, no material facts have been omitted and they hereby collectively and individually accept full responsibility.

Where information in this Announcement has been extracted from published or otherwise publicly available sources or obtained from a named source, the sole responsibility of the Directors has been to ensure that such information has been accurately and correctly extracted from those sources and/or reproduced in this Announcement in its proper form and context.

Issued by
UNITED OVERSEAS BANK LIMITED

For and on behalf of
BRC ASIA LIMITED

21 February 2018

Any enquiries relating to this Announcement or the VGO should be directed during office hours to the UOB helpline at (65) 6539 7066.

Forward-Looking Statements

All statements other than statements of historical facts included in this Announcement are or may be forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements include but are not limited to those using words such as "seek", "expect", "anticipate", "estimate", "believe", "intend", "project", "plan", "strategy", "forecast" and similar expressions or future or conditional verbs such as "will", "would", "shall", "should", "could", "may" and "might". These statements reflect the Offeror's current expectations, beliefs, hopes, intentions or strategies regarding the future and assumptions in light of currently available information. Such forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance or events and involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties. Accordingly, actual results or outcomes may differ materially from those described in such forward-looking statements. Shareholders and investors should not place undue reliance on such forward-looking statements, and neither the Offeror nor UOB undertakes any obligation to update publicly or revise any forward-looking statements, subject to compliance with all applicable laws and regulations and/or rules of the SGX-ST and/or any other regulatory or supervisory body or agency.