

ASCENT BRIDGE LIMITED
(Incorporated in the Republic of Singapore)
Co. Registration No. 198300506G

ANNOUNCEMENT

QUARTERLY UPDATE PURSUANT TO RULE 1313(2) OF THE LISTING MANUAL

Ascent Bridge Limited (the “**Company**” and together with its subsidiaries, the “**Group**”) was placed on the watch-list under the financial entry criteria pursuant to Rule 1311(1) of the Listing Manual of the Singapore Exchange Securities Trading Limited (“**SGX-ST**”) on 4 December 2019.

Pursuant to Rule 1313(2) of the Listing Manual, the Board of Directors (the “**Board**”) of the Company wishes to provide an update as follows:

(1) Extension of time to exit from the watch-list

Pursuant to Rule 1314 of the Listing Manual, the Company initially had 36 months to meet the requirements for removal from the watch-list (i.e. by 2 December 2022). As announced by the Company on 5 December 2022, SGX-ST had granted an extension of time to 1 December 2023 for the Company to meet the requirements to exit the watch-list pursuant to Rule 1314 of the Listing Manual.

The Company will apply for another extension. The Company is seeking to increase its earnings and/or market capitalization to exit the watch-list which could include mergers with and/or acquisition of profitable businesses.

The Company will provide updates as and when applicable.

(2) Proposed acquisition of 80% equity interest in Octopus Distribution Pte. Ltd., 80% equity interest in Nereus Cape Pte. Ltd. (formerly known as Cape Exim Pte. Ltd.) and 39.2% equity interest in Luen Heng F&B Sdn. Bhd (“Proposed Acquisitions”)

The Company announced on 22 December 2022 that as the conditions precedent for the Proposed Acquisitions have not been fulfilled or waived as at the long-stop date of 21 December 2022 prescribed under the share purchase agreements (“**SPAs**”) relating to the Proposed Acquisition, the SPAs had therefore lapsed and will cease to have further effect vis a vis the Proposed Acquisitions. As advised by the Company’s lawyer, the finalised terms of the settlement agreement have been forwarded to Octopus Group for their acceptance. The Company has reserved its rights in the matter and will provide updates as and when applicable.

(3) Financial performance and financial position

The Company announced on 10 August 2022 that the Group had changed its financial year end from 31 December to 31 March and its year end result for the financial year covering a period of 15 months from 1 January 2022 to 31 March 2023 (“**FY 2023**”).

Due to the change in year end, the comparison period for FY 2023 is FY 2021 covering the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021.

The Group reported a net loss after tax of \$8.76 million for FY 2023 as compared to a net profit after tax of \$7.75 million for FY 2021.

Please refer to the audited financial statements of the Group for the full year results ended 31 March 2023 as set out in the Annual Report of the Company released on SGXNET on 12 July 2023 for more details.

(4) Update on future direction

The Group continues to expand its market presence and coverage globally. During the first half year of FY2024, the Group has successfully listed the product with major global travel retailers at Asian airports covering Mongolia, Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam. The Company has also listed the product at US airports such in New York, Los Angeles and San Fransisco.

As set out in the commentary in its full year results announcement released on 30 May 2023, in FY2023, the group has completed brand and pricing registration in New York, California, New Jersey and Florida, and had just obtained the permits to sell the product in the other 3 new states, i.e. Illinois, Georgia and Nevada. The Group intends to launch and distribute its products in more states in the USA in FY2024.

The Company remains focused on seeking exit from the watch-list. In addition to the aforesaid organic growth, the Company is also seeking investments in profitable businesses for earnings growth and/or increase in market capitalisation to exit from the watch-list.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Foo Soon Soo
Company Secretary

2 October 2023