



英皇證券集團有限公司
Emperor Capital Group Limited

於百慕達註冊成立之有限公司 Incorporated in Bermuda with limited liability

NET PROFIT GROWS 13% TO HK\$371 MILLION IN 1H2017/18
NET PROFIT MARGIN HITS A RECORD HIGH AT 56%

Financial Highlights

HK\$'000 (Unaudited)	Six months ended 31 March		Changes
	2018	2017	
Total revenue	668,068	627,425	+ 6.5%
Financing	521,857	426,459	+ 22.4%
Brokerage	68,993	64,872	+ 6.4%
Placing & Underwriting	60,843	114,594	- 46.9%
Corporate Finance	16,375	21,500	- 23.8%
Net profit	371,408	330,148	+ 12.5%
Net profit margin	55.6%	52.6%	+ 3.0pp
Basic earnings per share	HK5.51 cents	HK5.09 cents	+ 8.3%
Interim dividend per share	HK2.21 cents	HK1.38 cents	+ 60.1%

(Hong Kong, 29 May 2018) **Emperor Capital Group Limited** (the "Group") (Stock code: 717), a one-stop comprehensive financial services institution in Hong Kong, today announced its interim results for the six months ended 31 March 2018 (the "Period").

During the Period, the Group delivered satisfactory growth amid strong market condition. The Group's revenue registered growth of 6.5% to HK\$668.1 million (2017: HK\$627.4 million), mainly driven by growth of financing segment. Net profit grew by 12.5% to HK\$371.4 million (2017: HK\$330.1 million) while net profit margin reached a new record high of 55.6% (2017: 52.6%). Basic earnings per share were HK5.51 cents (2017: HK5.09 cents). The Group declared an interim dividend of HK2.21 cents per share (2017: HK1.38 cents).

As at 31 March 2018, aggregate of bank balances, cash and pledged bank deposits of the Group amounted to HK\$696.7 million (as at 30 September 2017: HK\$674.1 million). During the Period, the Group issued and placed 3-year HKD-denominated bonds with a principal amount of HK\$800 million. Together with the bonds, the total borrowings increased to HK\$3,163.8 million (as at 30 September 2017: HK\$1,917.6 million).

Financing

Revenue from the financing segment grew by 22.4% to HK\$521.9 million (2017: HK\$426.5 million), accounting for 78.1% (2017: 68.0%) of the Group's total revenue. Thanks to the successful marketing campaigns, the Group has further penetrated the property mortgage market, with a considerable increase in the number of new mortgage contracts. Meanwhile, the Group has expanded its team, which comprises specialists with technical expertise and extensive experience in the provision of personal loan services.

Brokerage

Underpinned by improvements in the global economic outlook, upbeat corporate earnings and local red-hot IPO market, the Hong Kong stock market performed strongly. Revenue from brokerage services recorded a growth of 6.4%, to HK\$69.0 million (2017: HK\$64.9 million). The segment accounted for 10.3% (2017: 10.3%) of total revenue.

As at 31 March 2018, the Group operated 8 branches in Hong Kong and three liaison offices in mainland China. Since the launch of the Shanghai-Hong Kong and Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect schemes in recent years, the Group has included Northbound trading services, enabling investors to trade eligible stocks listed in Shanghai Stock Exchange and Shenzhen Stock Exchange.

Placing and Underwriting

During the Period, the Group secured a number of primary and secondary market financing projects. Revenue from the placing and underwriting segment was HK\$60.8 million (2017: HK\$114.6 million), accounting for 9.1% (2017: 18.3%) of total revenue.

During the Period, the Group acted as one of the Joint Sponsors, Sole Bookrunner and Lead Manager in the IPO of Ulferts International Limited, which was listed on the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited in January 2018.

Corporate Finance

The Group has engaged in a number of corporate transactions and IPO projects during the Period. Revenue from the corporate finance segment was HK\$16.4 million (2017: HK\$21.5 million), accounting for 2.5% (2017: 3.4%) of total revenue.

Ms. Daisy Yeung, Chief Executive Officer of Emperor Capital Group Limited, said, "The financing segment remains the core driver for our future development. The encouraging results once again reflect our proven success in prioritising the financing segment, hence solidifying its position as a leading financial services provider. Looking ahead, we will pursue our growth strategies by accelerating the expansion of mortgage lending and exploring new opportunities spanning various loan products. Building on our integrated business model and diversification strategies, we remain well positioned to capitalise on the emerging opportunities and deliver solid returns."

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About Emperor Capital Group Limited

Established in 1993, Emperor Capital Group Limited (717.HK) is a renowned Hong Kong based financial institution providing a wide range of financial services including (i) commercial and personal lending as well as margin and IPO financing; (ii) brokerage, wealth management and asset management; (iii) placing and underwriting services for listed issuers; and (iv) corporate finance advisory services. It has become one of the constituent stocks of MSCI HK Small Cap Index since 1 December 2015. For more information, please visit its website: www.emperorcapiatal.com

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