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Leader Education Limited

立德教育股份有限公司

(Incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)

(Stock code: 1449)

MAJOR TRANSACTION FINANCE LEASE ARRANGEMENT (HAITONG) 2024

FINANCE LEASE ARRANGEMENT (HAITONG) 2024

On 19 April 2024 (after trading hours), Heilongjiang College of Business and Technology entered into the Finance Lease Agreement (Haitong) 2024 and the Special Item Agreement (Haitong) 2024 with Haitong Unitrust in respect of the Finance Lease Arrangement (Haitong) 2024.

LISTING RULES IMPLICATIONS

As the Finance Lease Arrangement (Haitong) 2024 and the Finance Lease Arrangement (Haitong) 2023 were entered into with the same party during the 12-month period, the transactions contemplated thereunder shall be aggregated pursuant to Rules 14.22 and 14.23 of the Listing Rules. As the highest applicable percentage ratios (as defined under the Listing Rules) in respect of the Finance Lease Arrangement (Haitong) 2024 and the Finance Lease Arrangement (Haitong) 2023 on an aggregated basis exceeds 25% but is less than 100%, the Finance Lease Arrangement (Haitong) 2024 constitutes a major transaction for the Company and therefore shall subject to the reporting, announcement and shareholders' approval requirements under Chapter 14 of the Listing Rules.

To the best of the Directors' knowledge, information and belief having made all reasonable enquiries, no Shareholder has a material interest in, and would be required to abstain from voting on, any resolution to approve, confirm and/or ratify the Finance Lease Arrangement (Haitong) 2024 if the Company were to convene a general meeting to approve, confirm and/or ratify the same. The Company has received written certificate to approve the Finance Lease Arrangement (Haitong) 2024 from Shuren Education (holding 300,000,000 Shares, and 100% owned by Ms. Dong) and Junhua Education (holding 196,674,000 Shares, and 100% owned by Mr. Liu, the spouse of Ms. Dong), being a closely allied group of Shareholders, which together hold 496,674,000 issued shares of the Company (representing approximately 74.50% of the total issued shares of the Company) as at the date of this announcement, in accordance with Rule 14.44 of the Listing Rules. No Shareholders' meeting will be convened by the Company to approve, confirm and/or ratify the Finance Lease Arrangement (Haitong) 2024.

DESPATCH OF CIRCULAR

Pursuant to Rule 14.41(a) of the Listing Rules, a circular containing, among other things, (i) details of the Finance Lease Arrangement (Haitong) 2024 and the transactions contemplated thereunder; and (ii) financial information of the Group shall be despatched within 15 business days after publication of this announcement. Since the Company requires additional time to prepare and finalise certain financial information to be included in the circular, the Company will apply to the Stock Exchange for a waiver from strict compliance with Rule 14.41(a) of the Listing Rules and will make further announcement regarding the expected date of despatch of circular.

INTRODUCTION

On 19 April 2024 (after trading hours), Heilongjiang College of Business and Technology entered into the Finance Lease Agreement (Haitong) 2024 and the Special Item Agreement (Haitong) 2024 with Haitong Unitrust in respect of the Finance Lease Arrangement (Haitong) 2024.

FINANCE LEASE ARRANGEMENT (HAITONG) 2024

The principal terms of the Finance Lease Arrangement (Haitong) 2024 are summarized as follows:

1. Finance Lease Agreement (Haitong) 2024

- Date:** 19 April 2024 (after trading hours)
- Parties:** (i) Heilongjiang College of Business and Technology (as the lessee), and
(ii) Haitong Unitrust (as the lessor)
- Sale Price:** The total sale price is RMB20,000,000 which was determined after arm's length negotiations with reference to the valuation price as at 25 March 2024 of RMB23,493,953.7 and the fair market price of the similar assets.

The sale price, after deducting the deposit of RMB200,000, shall be paid by Haitong Unitrust to Heilongjiang College of Business and Technology in one lump sum within 30 business days upon the request of Heilongjiang College of Business and Technology after the fulfilment of the following conditions:

- (i) Heilongjiang College of Business and Technology having issued the undertaking letter in respect of the ownership of the Leased Assets (Haitong) 2024;
- (ii) Heilongjiang College of Business and Technology having issued the take-over certificate in respect of the Leased Assets (Haitong) 2024; and
- (iii) Heilongjiang College of Business and Technology having issued the receipt of the sale price.

**Leased Assets
(Haitong) 2024:**

The Leased Assets (Haitong) 2024 comprises of teaching equipment, cooking equipment, server equipment, etc.

The unaudited book value of the Leased Assets (Haitong) 2024 as at 25 March 2024 amounts to approximately RMB25,118,446.

**Ownership of the
Leased Assets
(Haitong) 2024:**

The ownership of the Leased Assets (Haitong) 2024 shall be transferred to Haitong Unitrust on the payment date of the sale price (after deducting the deposit) by Haitong Unitrust.

Upon the expiry of the lease term, provided that there are no default events or the default events have been rectified, Heilongjiang College of Business and Technology is entitled to request Haitong Unitrust to transfer the ownership of the Leased Assets (Haitong) 2024 back to Heilongjiang College of Business and Technology in consideration of the payment of a retention money of RMB100 by Heilongjiang College of Business and Technology

**Effectiveness of
the Finance
Lease Agreement
(Haitong) 2024:**

The Finance Lease Agreement (Haitong) 2024 shall come into effect after it is duly stamped or signed by the legal representatives of the parties and upon the payment of the sale price (after deducting the deposit) by Haitong Unitrust.

Lease Term:

36 months

Total Lease Payment: The total lease payment is approximately RMB23,210,000, which was determined after arm's length negotiations with reference to the prevailing market interest rates and trading terms of the similar finance lease arrangements.

The actual amount of the lease interest shall be adjusted by Haitong Unitrust quarterly based on the one-year loan prime rate as published by the National Interbank Funding Center.

The total lease payment shall be paid by Heilongjiang College of Business and Technology to Haitong Unitrust pursuant to the lease payment schedule as set out in the Finance Lease Agreement (Haitong) 2024 in 12 installments during the lease term.

Deposit: The total deposit is RMB200,000, which shall be used to set off the final portion of the lease payment to be made by Heilongjiang College of Business and Technology provided that Heilongjiang College of Business and Technology has paid the rest amount of the lease and other payables and there are no default events or the default events have been rectified.

2. Special Item Agreement (Haitong) 2024

Heilongjiang College of Business and Technology and Haitong Unitrust also entered into the Special Item Agreement (Haitong) 2024 on 19 April 2024 (after trading hours), pursuant to which the parties agreed that the following conditions shall also be fulfilled before Heilongjiang College of Business and Technology makes the request for the payment of the sale price under the Finance Lease Agreement (Haitong) 2024:

- (i) Heilongjiang College of Business and Technology having issued the payment notice to Haitong Unitrust;
- (ii) Heilongjiang College of Business and Technology having provided the original valuation report issued by a qualified third-party valuation firm in terms of the Leased Assets (Haitong) 2024 to Haitong Unitrust;
- (iii) Heilongjiang College of Business and Technology having provided its effective internal resolutions in terms of the Finance Lease Arrangement (Haitong) 2024 to Haitong Unitrust;
- (iv) each of Mr. Liu and Ms. Dong having signed the guarantee agreement; and

- (v) each of Harbin Xiangge, Heilongjiang Liankang, Harbin Junfengda, Nantong Junhua and Nantong Junhua School having signed the guarantee agreement and having provided their respective effective internal resolutions in terms of their joint liability guarantees for the Finance Lease Agreement (Haitong) 2024 to Haitong Unitrust.

3. Guarantee for the Finance Lease Agreement (Haitong) 2024

Mr. Liu, Ms. Dong, Harbin Xiangge, Heilongjiang Liankang, Harbin Junfengda, Nantong Junhua and Nantong Junhua School are the joint liability guarantors for Heilongjiang College of Business and Technology to perform its obligations under the Finance Lease Agreement (Haitong) 2024. The guarantors provide joint liability guarantee to Haitong Unitrust for the liabilities of Heilongjiang College of Business and Technology under the Finance Lease Agreement (Haitong) 2024.

REASONS FOR AND BENEFITS OF ENTERING INTO THE FINANCE LEASE ARRANGEMENT (HAITONG) 2024

By entering into the Finance Lease Arrangement (Haitong) 2024, the Group would gain access to financial resources to fund the construction of Hanan Campus and support its general working capital needs while the Group's operation would not be adversely affected by the sale of the Leased Assets (Haitong) 2024, because such assets are immediately leased back to the Group. There is no transfer of possession or use of the assets to Haitong Unitrust under the Finance Lease Arrangement (Haitong) 2024. According to the International Financial Reporting Standards, the transactions contemplated under the Finance Lease Arrangement (Haitong) 2024 do not constitute a disposal of assets and will not give rise to any gain or loss to be recorded in the Group's income statement. Upon expiry of the lease term, the Group could pay the nominal retention money to have the Leased Assets (Haitong) 2024 transferred back to the Group. Therefore, in substance and in terms of accounting treatment, the Finance Lease Arrangement (Haitong) 2024 are in effect the largely similar to borrowing a secured loan.

The Directors are of the opinion that the terms and conditions of the Finance Lease Arrangement (Haitong) 2024 are on normal commercial terms, fair and reasonable and in the interests of the Company and its Shareholders as a whole.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE PARTIES TO THE FINANCE LEASE ARRANGEMENT (HAITONG) 2024

The Group

The Company is principally engaged in investment holding and the Group is principally engaged in providing private higher education services in the PRC through Heilongjiang College of Business and Technology.

Heilongjiang College of Business and Technology is a consolidated affiliated entity of the Company, and is a private regular undergraduate institution approved and established under the laws of PRC.

Haitong Unitrust

Haitong Unitrust is a joint stock company incorporated in the PRC with limited liability, the shares of which are listed on the Stock Exchange (stock code: 1905). It is principally engaged in the provision of finance to its customers under finance lease arrangements, operating lease arrangements, the provision of advisory services and other services.

To the best of the Directors' knowledge, information and belief, having made all reasonable enquiries, Haitong Unitrust and its ultimate beneficial owner (if applicable) are third parties independent from the Company and its connected persons (as defined in the Listing Rules).

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DEFINITIONS

In this announcement, unless the context requires otherwise, the following terms have the meanings set out below, and words in plural shall include the singular and vice versa, as applicable:

“Board”	the board of Directors
“Company”	Leader Education Limited (立德教育股份有限公司) (stock code: 1449), an exempted company incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability on 17 June 2019
“connected person(s)”	has the meaning ascribed to it in the Listing Rules
“Director(s)”	the director(s) of the Company
“Finance Lease Arrangement (Haitong) 2023”	the purchase and the lease back of certain assets of Heilongjiang College of Business and Technology by Haitong Unitrust to Heilongjiang College of Business and Technology pursuant to the finance lease agreement and the special item agreement entered into between Heilongjiang College of Business and Technology by Haitong Unitrust on 13 June 2023
“Finance Lease Agreement (Haitong) 2024”	the finance lease agreement dated 19 April 2024 between Haitong Unitrust and Heilongjiang College of Business and Technology in terms of Leased Assets (Haitong) 2024
“Finance Lease Arrangement (Haitong) 2024”	the purchase of the Leased Assets (Haitong) 2024 by Haitong Unitrust and the lease back of the Leased Assets (Haitong) 2024 to Heilongjiang College of Business and Technology pursuant to the Finance Lease Agreement (Haitong) 2024 and the Special Item Agreement (Haitong) 2024
“Group”	the Company, its subsidiaries and consolidated affiliated entities from time to time

“Haitong Unitrust”	Haitong Unitrust International Financial Leasing Co., Ltd. (海通恆信國際融資租賃股份有限公司), a joint stock company incorporated in the PRC with limited liability, whose shares are listed on the Stock Exchange (stock code: 1905)
“Harbin Junfengda”	Harbin Junfengda Real Estate Development Co., Ltd.* (哈爾濱竣峰達房地產開發有限公司), a limited liability company established under the laws of the PRC, which is indirectly wholly owned by Mr. Liu and Ms. Dong
“Harbin Xiangge”	Harbin Xiangge Enterprise Management Ltd.* (哈爾濱祥閣企業管理有限公司), formerly known as Harbin Xiangge Zhiye Co., Ltd.* (哈爾濱祥閣置業有限公司), a limited liability company established under the laws of the PRC and a consolidated affiliated entity of the Company
“Heilongjiang College of Business and Technology”	Heilongjiang College of Business and Technology (黑龍江工商學院), a private regular undergraduate institution approved and established under the laws of PRC and a consolidated affiliated entity of the Company
“Heilongjiang Liankang”	Heilongjiang Liankang Business Information Consultation Co., Ltd.* (黑龍江聯康商務信息諮詢有限公司), a limited liability company established under the laws of the PRC, which is held as to 100% by Leader Education (HK) Limited
“Hong Kong”	the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China
“Junhua Education”	Junhua Education Limited (竣華教育有限公司), a company incorporated under the laws of the British Virgin Islands on 18 June 2019 and wholly-owned by Mr. Liu
“Leased Assets (Haitong) 2024”	certain assets, including teaching equipment, cooking equipment, server equipment etc., which were sold by Heilongjiang College of Business and Technology to Haitong Unitrust and leased back to Heilongjiang College of Business and Technology pursuant to the Finance Lease Arrangement (Haitong) 2024
“Listing Rules”	the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on the Stock Exchange
“Mr. Liu”	Mr. Liu Laixiang (劉來祥), the Chairman, the Chief Executive Officer, an executive Director and the spouse of Ms. Dong

“Ms. Dong”	Ms. Dong Ling (董玲), an executive Director and the spouse of Mr. Liu
“Nantong Junhua”	Nantong Junhua Kechuangyuan Ltd* (南通峻華科創園有限公司), a limited liability company established under the laws of the PRC, which is held as to 55.97% by Heilongjiang College of Business and Technology and 44.03% by Leader Education (HK) Limited
“Nantong Junhua School”	Nantong Junhua Secondary Vocational School Co., Ltd. * (南通峻華中等職業學校有限公司), a limited liability company established under the laws of the PRC, which is wholly owned by Nantong Junhua
“PRC”	the People’s Republic of China, for the purpose of this announcement, excluding Hong Kong, Macau Special Administrative Region and Taiwan
“RMB”	Renminbi, the lawful currency of the PRC
“Share(s)”	the ordinary share(s) in the share capital of the Company
“Shareholder(s)”	the holder(s) of Share(s)
“Shuren Education”	Shuren Education Limited (樹人教育有限公司), a company incorporated under the laws of the British Virgin Islands on 18 June 2019 and wholly-owned by Ms. Dong
“Special Item Agreement (Haitong) 2024”	the special item agreement dated 19 April 2024 between Haitong Unitrust and Heilongjiang College of Business and Technology as part of Finance Lease Arrangement (Haitong) 2024
“Stock Exchange”	The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited
“%”	per cent

By the order of the Board
Leader Education Limited
Liu Laixiang
Chairman

Harbin, Heilongjiang Province, PRC, 19 April 2024

As at the date of this announcement, the executive Directors are Mr. Liu Laixiang, Ms. Dong Ling, Mr. Wang Yunfu and Mr. Che Wenge; and the independent non-executive Directors are Mr. Zhang Su, Mr. Cao Shaoshan and Mr. Chan Ngai Fan.

* For identification purpose only