

"THERE IS NOTHING particularly sexy about Karrie International Holdings. Its factories churn out metal and plastic products, principally computer casings, while an army of staff in pale-blue anoraks runs operations from the bowels of a Tsuen Wan industrial estate.

As a family-run business, the company barely survived the Asian financial crisis, banks bailing out en masse when cash flow dried up. For many years, it languished as a penny stock. Even to this day, investment banks have not penned a single research report on its performance.

Yet it has tweaked the attention of fund managers, analysts, newspaper tipsters and even die-hard critic David Webb, a man better known for railing against the evils within most small caps than for singing their praises.

Karrie has done the unthinkable. It has gone above and beyond the bare minimum when it comes to what passes as corporate governance among smaller companies in Hong Kong. It has also done so of its own free will."