

Financial Results

I am pleased to announce that the Group's consolidated turnover for the six months ended 30 September, 2000 ("the period") was approximately HK\$357 million, representing an increase of 41.2% against the corresponding period in 1999 of approximately HK\$253 million.

The Group's net profit for the period under review was approximately HK\$9.1 million whereas in the corresponding period in 1999 a loss of approximately HK\$8.8 million was recorded.

Basic earnings per share for the period under review was 0.18 cents (1999 comparative figure for the same period: loss per share 0.20 cents).

In addition to satisfactory increase of turnover, the Group's gross margin for the period increased from approximately 26% of last period to approximately 35% of this period. Due to market optimism towards the PCB Industry, the Group's customers had been aggressive in conducting merger and acquisition activities as well as investing substantially in electroplating equipment for business expansion. The prices for the Group's electroplating equipment are stabilising at higher levels and this is being reflected in higher margins.

During the period, the distribution costs, administration and other operating expenses increased as the Group's turnover increased. The Group will continue to monitor cost-control program in order to reduce the above costs and expenses.