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BOCHK seizes Special Purpose Acquisition Company (SPAC) business opportunities by collaborating with BOCPT to launch new escrow account service

Bank of China (Hong Kong) (“BOCHK”), together with its subsidiary, BOCI-Prudential Trustee Limited (“BOCPT”), announced the launch of the Special Purpose Acquisition Company (“SPAC”) escrow account service to provide comprehensive support for companies with different listing needs.

SPAC listing helps shorten listing cycle and reduce costs, offering an alternative to traditional IPO for high-quality emerging and innovative companies. In light of the development of SPACs in the IPO markets, BOCHK, as a main receiving bank with extensive experience in many major IPOs, is partnering with BOCPT to launch this new escrow account service to actively promote this new type of fund-raising mechanism. BOCHK is the escrow account bank and BOCPT is acting as an escrow agent that complies with the requirements of the “Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited” (the “Listing Rules”). The new service is tailored to meet the escrow requirements for gross proceeds raised by SPACs during initial offerings under the Listing Rules, along with references to similar experiences in other markets, so as to ensure that the SPACs will follow the listing requirements while at the same time delivering the highest commercial value to the market.

Jimmy Sun, General Manager of Institutional Business Department of BOCHK, said, “Hong Kong’s primary market is becoming more diverse and vibrant following the regulatory approval of SPAC listing. With its well-established IPO Receiving Bank Services, BOCHK has been assisting many companies or institutions to complete their IPOs in Hong Kong. As an alternative fund-raising channel, SPAC activity is expected to pick up again as the IPO market regains momentum. While we are actively expanding our IPO business, we believe that the new service will meet corporate customers’ fund raising needs, which will in turn promote the development of the SPAC market, enhance the overall competitiveness of Hong Kong’s IPO market in Asia, and reinforce its status as an international financial centre.”

Andrew Law, Chief Executive Officer of BOCPT, said, “Capital raised from SPAC listing is strictly regulated. For BOCPT, SPAC escrow account service is a new market-led service in addition to providing traditional trustee service for unit trusts and mutual funds authorised by the Securities and Futures Commission. Since the introduction of the new SPAC listing regime by the Hong Kong Stock Exchange on 1 January 2022, 13 companies have applied for SPAC listing as of 30 June 2022. HK Acquisition Corporation, a SPAC listed on 15 August 2022, has entrusted BOCPT to serve as the escrow agent of its escrow account. BOCPT is committed to providing escrow services to SPAC customers in a prudent and professional manner and will strive to constantly expand the diversity and coverage of BOCHK’s corporate banking services.”

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About Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited

Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited (“BOCHK”) is committed to pursuing its strategic goal to “Build a First-class Regional Banking Group” and promoting sustainable and high-quality development. Capitalising on its advantages as a major commercial banking group in Hong Kong, BOCHK continues to increase local market penetration, captures business opportunities in the Greater Bay Area and actively expands its business development in Southeast Asia. We strive to provide customers with comprehensive, professional and high-quality services. Entering a new era of smart banking, we endeavour to become a customer-centric digital bank by enhancing customer experience with innovative technology and offering intelligent products and services.

As one of the three note-issuing banks and the sole clearing bank for Renminbi (“RMB”) business in Hong Kong, BOCHK has strong market positions in all major businesses. Our strong RMB franchise has made us the first choice for customers in RMB business. We have the most extensive branch network and diverse service platforms in Hong Kong, as well as efficient e-channels such as Internet and Mobile Banking services. We offer a comprehensive range of financial, investment and wealth management services to personal, corporate and institutional customers.

We are actively pushing forward our regional development and expanding our business in the Southeast Asian region. With our branches and subsidiaries in Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, the Philippines, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, Brunei and Myanmar, we support customers in the region with professional and high-quality financial services. Through close cooperation with our parent bank Bank of China, we provide a full range of high-quality cross-border services to multinationals, crossborder customers, mainland enterprises going global, central banks and super-sovereign organisations.

As a leading commercial and internationalised regional bank with deep roots in Hong Kong for over 100 years, BOCHK upholds its mission of “Bridge China and the World for the Common Good”. We are committed to undertaking our corporate social responsibilities, promoting long-term and balanced sustainable development, and delivering greater value for our stakeholders and the community.

BOC Hong Kong (Holdings) Limited is one of the largest listed companies on the Main Board of the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong, with stock code “2388” and ADR OTC Symbol “BHKLY”.

About BOCI-Prudential Trustee Limited

BOCI-Prudential Trustee Limited (“BOCI-Prudential Trustee”) is a joint venture founded by BOC Group Trustee Company Limited¹ and Prudential Corporation Holdings Limited in 1999 and affiliated to the Bank of China Group. BOCI-Prudential Trustee has over 20 years of experience in trustee management and mainly provides trustee and fund administration, custody, as well as transfer agency and registry services for a variety of funds and retirement protection schemes.

As at the end of March 2022, we have been acting as trustee, custodian and/or administrator for over 210 funds with an Assets under Administration (“AUA”) of ~HKD190 billion. Being a major trustee and custodian of retirement schemes in Hong Kong, BOCI-Prudential Trustee has MPF assets under administration of HKD80.0 billion and serves over 860,000 MPF accounts under the schemes. We rank fifth² in MPF market share in terms of AUA. We aim to provide individuals and institutional investors with the best-in-class retirement and investment products and services, and ensure the sustainability and stability of our business development.



On 20 January 2022, the Standard & Poor's affirmed the "A+" long-term and "A-1" short-term issuer credit ratings on Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited² with a stable outlook. On 16 September 2021, the Standard & Poor's confirmed the long-term issuer rating of Prudential Group at "A" and short-term rating at "A-1". Please visit bochk.com and prudentialplc.com for the latest credit ratings.

¹ BOC Group Trustee Company Limited is owned by Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited and BOC International Holdings Limited, which are subsidiaries of Bank of China Limited.

² Source: MPF market share information as at 31 March, 2022 by Willis Towers Watson at <https://www.wtwco.com/en-HK/Insights/2022/05/mpf-market-share-as-at-march-31-2022>.