

23 August 2003

Background Information

INVEST HONG KONG

Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK), a new department in the Hong Kong SAR Government, was established on 1 July 2000 to spearhead Hong Kong's efforts to attract investment to the city. Director-General Michael J.T. Rowse heads the organisation and provides overall strategic direction.

Investment support services include supplying up-to-date information needed to make informed business decisions, such as corporate environment reports, profiles on economic sectors, comparative analyses of the costs of setting up business in Hong Kong, vital government statistics and regulations, and key publications.

InvestHK also provides contacts, connects prospective business partners, and facilitates liaison with relevant government departments and commercial organisations.

Once companies arrive in Hong Kong, InvestHK continues to support them with advice and assistance on such matters as work visas, trademark registrations, incorporation, and other administrative, legal and financial matters.

Sector-specific experts in financial services, information technology, technology (especially electronics and biotechnology), telecommunications, media/multi-media, tourism and entertainment, trade related services, business and professional services, and transportation provide consultation, regulatory advice, and logistics support guidance. InvestHK also gives advice on regional headquarter operations in all sectors.

InvestHK offers solution-oriented investment promotion and support services in a straightforward, one-stop shop.

Website : www.investhk.gov.hk

THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY HONG KONG

The Airport Authority Hong Kong (AA) is the statutory body that operates and maintains Hong Kong International Airport. The AA is wholly owned by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government. It was formally established on 1 December 1995 as the permanent successor to the Provisional Airport Authority through the reconstitution of that body which had itself been established in 1990. The AA is charged with maintaining Hong Kong's status as an international and regional aviation hub. It is also required to conduct business in accordance with prudent commercial principles.

Hong Kong International Airport

Total airport site area: 1,255 hectares

Terminal:

- Number of terminal: 1
- Total area: 550,000 sqm
- Passenger facilities
 - Check-in desks: 288
 - Immigration counters: 88 (departure) / 118 (arrival)
 - Baggage reclaim units: 12

Connectivity:

- Half the world's population live within 5 hours' flying time from HKIA
- Over 75 airlines, serve more than 140 cities worldwide, including 42 Mainland cities
- Gateway to China
- Around 550 flights operate daily to and from HKIA
- Round-the-clock operations
- Multi-modal transport: air, road and sea transport link HKIA with Pearl River Delta (PRD) and other regions of China

Annual passenger capacity:

Present: 45 million

Ultimate: 87 million

Annual air cargo capacity:

Present: 3 million tonnes

Ultimate: 9 million tonnes

Flight handling capacity: 49 flights per hour

Major Awards won in 2003:

- Awarded Cargo Airport of the Year 2003 by leading UK-based cargo publication Air Cargo News (second year in a row)
- Voted Airport of the Year 2003 by Skytrax Research of London, UK (third year in a row)

Website : www.hongkongairport.com

DRAGAGES ET TRAVAUX PUBLICS (HK) LTD

Active in Hong Kong since 1955

Dragages has been operating in Hong Kong since 1955, when it built the runway at Kai Tak airport. Since those early days it has developed into one of Hong Kong's leading building and civil works contractors, working with both public and private sector clients.

As part of the French conglomerate Bouygues Group, Dragages combines local experience and a reputation for innovative construction solutions with the parent company's expertise in the design, financing, construction and operation of facilities under Public-Private Partnership schemes.

The Bouygues Group is a Euro 22-billion conglomerate active in construction, telecommunication and utilities management. Dragages' direct parent company, Bouygues Construction, operates over 800 km of motorways as well as metro systems. It has also designed, financed, built and currently operates such facilities as the 80,000-seat Paris Stadium and the 13,000-seat multi-purpose Arena in Budapest, Hungary.

Dragages is a pioneer of the "design-and-build" approach to construction in Asia. It is responsible for the construction of a number of Hong Kong's landmarks, including the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre Extension, Hong Kong Stadium, Cathay Pacific's new headquarters at Chek Lap Kok, Pacific Place II, and five out of Hong Kong's eight major rock tunnels, from the Aberdeen and Lion Rock tunnels to more recent projects such as the Route 3 Tai Lam Tunnel and Cheung Ching Tunnel.

Website : www.bouyguesasia.com

YU MING INVESTMENTS LIMITED

Yu Ming Investments Limited was previously known as SHK Hong Kong Industries Limited. It was established in 1989 and listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange in December 1990.

Yu Ming focuses on investment in Hong Kong and has a long-term investment horizon. Its investments in the past included Sea-Land Orient Terminals Limited (the owner operator of Kwai Chung Terminal 3), Pacific Link Communications Limited (one of the then four mobile phone operators in Hong Kong), and Fountain Set (Holdings) Limited (one of the world's biggest dyeing companies).

At present, Yu Ming's major investments include Argyle Centre, one of the busiest shopping malls in Mongkok, listed securities and bonds.

THE NEC GROUP

The NEC Group is a leading venue management company with nearly 30 years of unrivalled expertise in operating venues for exhibitions, conferences, sport and entertainment. The company manages five world-class venues in the UK city of Birmingham, namely the NEC (National Exhibition Centre), the NEC Arena, the NIA (National Indoor Arena), the ICC (International Convention Centre) and Symphony Hall.

Together the venues provide unrivalled flexibility for staging exhibitions, conferences, concerts, sporting championships and entertainment events. More than 1,500 business and entertainment events are staged at the five venues each year, attended by more than 5.5 million visitors. According to a survey published in 1999 by KPMG, the venues generated £711 million of business and visitor expenditure and supported 22,000 jobs in a 12-month period.

Jointly owned by the Birmingham City Council and Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the NEC Group is a unique public-private partnership.

Website : www.necgroup.co.uk

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