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## AEON CREDIT SERVICE (ASIA) COMPANY LIMITED

(Incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)
(Stock Code: 900)

# CONTINUING CONNECTED TRANSACTION RENEWAL OF MASTER AGREEMENT

Reference is made to the announcements of the Company respectively dated 15 April 2008 and 15 April 2011 in relation to the Commission Transactions with AEON Stores under the Master Agreement.

As the Master Agreement expired on 14 April 2014, the Company and AEON Stores have on 16 April 2014 entered into the Renewal Agreement to extend the term of the Master Agreement for a further term of three years from 15 April 2014 to 14 April 2017.

AEON Stores is a fellow subsidiary of the Company. Accordingly, the Renewal Agreement constitutes a continuing connected transaction for the Company under the Listing Rules.

As each of the applicable percentage ratios in relation to the Commission Transactions under the Renewal Agreement exceeds 0.1% but is less than 5%, the Commission Transactions are subject to the reporting, announcement and annual review requirements, but exempt from the independent shareholders' approval requirements under Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules.

## **BACKGROUND**

Reference is made to the announcements of the Company respectively dated 15 April 2008 and 15 April 2011 in relation to the Commission Transactions with AEON Stores under the Master Agreement.

As the Master Agreement expired on 14 April 2014, the Company and AEON Stores have on 16 April 2014 entered into the Renewal Agreement to extend the term of the Master Agreement for further three years.

## RENEWAL AGREEMENT

On 16 April 2014, the Company and AEON Stores entered into the Renewal Agreement for a term of three years commencing on 15 April 2014 and ending on 14 April 2017. The Renewal Agreement may be terminated by either party prior to the expiry of the fixed term by giving not less than 90 days' prior written notice of termination to the other party and may be renewed on such terms and conditions as the parties may mutually agree.

Pursuant to the Renewal Agreement, the Company would receive commissions from AEON Stores in respect of the Commission Transactions including but not limited to:

- purchases of goods and/or services made by customers using credit facilities provided by the Company via various credit cards issued by the Company including but not limited to AEON MasterCard, AEON American Express Credit Card, AEON Visa Card, AEON JCB Card, AEON UnionPay Credit Card and any other co-branded credit cards;
- 2. purchases of goods and/or services made by customers which are financed by card instalment facilities and hire purchase facilities provided by the Company;
- 3. purchases of goods and/or services made by customers using payment solutions provided, facilitated or otherwise made available by or through the Company including the usage of any kind of credit, debit, pre-paid and/or stored value cards or other medium or facilities owned and/or operated by the Company; and
- 4. such other services provided or to be provided by the Company from time to time deriving from, in connection with, incidental or ancillary to any of the transactions contemplated under the Renewal Agreement or arising out of the cards or other medium or facilities.

The commissions are calculated on the basis of a fixed percentage of the transaction value of the Commission Transactions. The commission rates payable to the Company by AEON Stores in respect of the Commission Transactions are determined by agreement between the parties from time to time after negotiations at arm's length. In negotiating and agreeing the commission rates and other terms of the Commission Transactions with AEON Stores, the Company has taken into account (i) the commission rates for the same or similar types of transactions that are offered by the Company to independent third party merchants; (ii) the number of years of the merchant relationship with AEON Stores; (iii) the actual or projected funding costs of the Company; and (iv) historical and expected business volume generated from the Commission Transactions. The payment terms for the Commission Transactions range from 10 to 40 days.

In accordance with the Renewal Agreement, the Company may also provide other credit facilities to customers of AEON Stores. The Company and AEON Stores may also enter into other credit transactions in respect of such other credit cards, credit purchase facilities, card instalment facilities, hire purchase facilities, payment solutions and related services as may be provided by the Company to customers of AEON Stores from time to time. The commission rates, fees and/or charges payable by AEON Stores to the Company for such other credit facilities and other credit transactions shall be at such rates and on such terms as may be agreed between the parties from time to time after arms-length negotiations, which rates and terms shall be determined on the same basis as disclosed herein.

## ANNUAL CAPS

It is estimated that the maximum aggregate amount of commissions payable by AEON Stores to the Company in respect of the Commission Transactions under the Renewal Agreement would not exceed the Annual Caps set out below:

Financial Year/Period	<u>Annual Caps</u>
15/4/2014 to 20/2/2015	HK\$ 18,208,000
21/2/2015 to 20/2/2016	HK\$ 21,300,000
21/2/2016 to 20/2/2017	HK\$ 21,300,000
21/2/2017 to 14/4/2017	HK\$ 3,092,000

The aggregate amount of commissions received by the Company from AEON Stores under the Master Agreement for the past three years ended 20 February 2012, 2013 and 2014 was approximately HK\$9,732,000, HK\$11,309,000 and HK\$13,746,000 respectively.

The Annual Caps have been determined with reference to (i) the historical value of the Commission Transactions; (ii) the anticipated business growth of the Company in the coming three years; and (iii) the expected increase in the volume of the Commission Transactions.

## REASONS FOR THE COMMISSION TRANSACTIONS

The Group is principally engaged in the provision of consumer credit finance services, which include the issuance of credit cards and the provision of personal loan financing and hire purchase financing for vehicles and household and other consumer products, insurance agency and broking business, and microfinance business.

AEON Stores is principally engaged in the operation of general merchandise stores.

The Company is issuing credit cards as well as providing credit purchase facilities, card instalment facilities, hire purchase facilities, payment solutions and related services to customers of AEON Stores. It is in the interest of the Company to continually provide the above facilities and services as they are beneficial to the business and profitability of the Company.

The Directors, including the independent non-executive Directors, consider that the Renewal Agreement was entered into in the ordinary and usual course of business of the Company, the terms of Renewal Agreement are on normal commercial terms, and both the terms of the Renewal Agreement and the Annual Caps are fair and reasonable and in the interests of the Company and its shareholders as a whole.

## LISTING RULES IMPLICATIONS

AEON Stores is a connected person of the Company within the meaning of the Listing Rules by virtue of its being 71.64% owned by ÆON Co., Ltd., which in turn is a controlling shareholder of the Company interested in approximately 67.00% of the issued shares of the Company. Accordingly, the Renewal Agreement constitutes a continuing connected transaction for the Company under the Listing Rules.

As each of the applicable percentage ratios in relation to the Commission Transactions under the Renewal Agreement exceeds 0.1% but is less than 5%, the Commission Transactions are subject to the reporting, announcement and annual review requirements, but exempt from the independent shareholders' approval requirements under Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules.

As none of the Directors has a material interest in the Commission Transactions, no Director has abstained from voting on the Board resolutions approving the Commission Transactions.

#### **DEFINITIONS**

In this announcement, unless the context requires otherwise, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

"AEON Stores" AEON Stores (Hong Kong) Co., Limited, a company

incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability, the shares of

which are listed on the Stock Exchange

"Annual Caps" the annual caps under the Renewal Agreement

"Board" the board of Directors of the Company

"Commission transactions entered into and to be entered into between the Company and AEON Stores from time to time pursuant to

in respect of purchases made by customers using credit purchase facilities provided by the Company via various credit cards issued by the Company including but not limited to AEON JUSCO MasterCard (now known as AEON MasterCard), AEON JUSCO American Express Credit Card (now known as AEON American Express Credit Card), AEON JUSCO Visa Card (now known as AEON Visa Card), AEON JUSCO JCB Card (now known as AEON JCB Card), AEON

which the Company receives commissions from AEON Stores

JUSCO UnionPay Credit Card (now known as AEON UnionPay Credit Card) and any other co-branded credit cards, card instalment facilities, hire purchase facilities, other credit

facilities, payment solutions and other related services provided

or to be provided by the Company

"Company" AEON Credit Service (Asia) Company Limited, a company

incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability, the shares of

which are listed on the Stock Exchange

"Group" the Company and its subsidiaries

"Director(s)" the director(s) of the Company

"Hong Kong" the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's

Republic of China

"HK\$" Hong Kong dollars, the lawful currency of Hong Kong

"Listing Rules" The Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on the Stock

Exchange

"Master Agreement" the agreement dated 14 April 2008 entered into between the

Company and AEON Stores in respect of the Commission Transactions, as renewed by a renewal agreement dated 15

April 2011

"Renewal Agreement" the agreement dated 16 April 2014 entered into between the

Company and AEON Stores, particulars of which are set out in

this announcement

"Stock Exchange" The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited

By Order of the Board Fung Kam Shing, Barry Managing Director

Hong Kong, 16 April 2014

As at the date of this announcement, the Board comprises Mr. Fung Kam Shing, Barry (Managing Director) and Ms. Koh Yik Kung as executive Directors; Mr. Masanori Kosaka (Chairman), Mr. Lai Yuk Kwong and Ms. Tomoko Misaki as non-executive Directors; and Mr. Ip Yuk Keung, Mr. Wong Hin Wing and Prof. Tong Jun as independent non-executive Directors.