

Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited and The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited take no responsibility for the contents of this announcement, make no representation as to its accuracy or completeness and expressly disclaim any liability whatsoever for any loss howsoever arising from or in reliance upon the whole or any part of the contents of this announcement.



AEON CREDIT SERVICE (ASIA) COMPANY LIMITED
AEON 信貸財務 (亞洲) 有限公司
(Incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)
(Stock Code: 900)

CONTINUING CONNECTED TRANSACTION
RENEWAL OF BUSINESS ADVISORY SERVICE AGREEMENT

Reference is made to the two announcements of the Company respectively dated 28 April 2015 and 1 March 2016 in relation to the provision of the Services to the Group under the Business Advisory Service Agreement.

On 1 March 2017, the Company and AFS HK entered into the 2017 Renewal Agreement pursuant to which AFS HK, with the support from AFS Japan, shall continue to provide the Services to the Group for a further term of one year from 1 March 2017 to 28 February 2018.

As AFS HK is a controlling shareholder of the Company, AFS HK is a connected person of the Company. Accordingly, the 2017 Renewal Agreement constitutes a continuing connected transaction of the Company under the Listing Rules.

As each of the applicable percentage ratios for the Annual Cap exceeds 0.1% but is less than 5%, the 2017 Renewal Agreement is 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 two announcements of the Company respectively dated 28 April 2015 and 1 March 2016 in relation to the provision of the Services to the Group under the Business Advisory Service Agreement.

As the Business Advisory Service Agreement expired on 28 February 2017, the Company and AFS HK have on 1 March 2017 entered into the 2017 Renewal Agreement to extend the term of the Business Advisory Service Agreement for further one year.

THE 2017 RENEWAL AGREEMENT

Date

1 March 2017

Parties

- (a) The Company; and
- (b) AFS HK.

Services

AFS HK, with the support from AFS Japan, shall provide to the Group consultation and advisory services with special reference to the consumer finance industry, including but not limited to general as well as case-specific advice and guidance on business strategies, marketing strategies, Group structure strategies, funding arrangements, risk management, operational audit and investment opportunities.

Term

The 2017 Renewal Agreement is for a term of one year from 1 March 2017 to 28 February 2018. Upon written notice by either of the Company or AFS HK to the other party no later than one month before the expiry of the 2017 Renewal Agreement, the 2017 Renewal Agreement may be renewed on such terms and conditions as the Company and AFS HK may mutually agree.

Consideration and payment terms

Pursuant to the 2017 Renewal Agreement, the Company shall pay an advisory fee to AFS HK that was determined between the parties after arm's length negotiations with reference to the operating expenses incurred by the relevant departments, including the control department for budgeting, the overseas business support department, the accounting and finance department, the human resources department, the IT planning department, the IT information security department, the risk management and compliance department and the audit department, of AFS HK and/or AFS Japan in providing the Services to the Group for the year ended 28 February 2017. Reference was also made to the continuing focused expansion of business operations of the Group and the devotion of further additional manpower in AFS HK and/or AFS Japan to the provision of the Services to the Group, specifically in the areas of human resources training and development, risk management and internal control, further modernization of branches, credit management enhancement and management of business in China, for the year ending 28 February 2018.

The advisory fee shall be payable on a monthly basis after receipt of an invoice issued by AFS HK.

ANNUAL CAP

The maximum annual aggregate transaction amount payable under the 2017 Renewal Agreement is estimated to be HK\$14,900,000 (the "**Annual Cap**") for the year ending 28 February 2018.

The annual aggregate transaction amounts paid by the Company to AFS HK under the Business Advisory Service Agreement were approximately HK\$5,817,000 and HK\$11,567,000 respectively for the two years ended 28 February 2017.

The Annual Cap has been determined with reference to (i) the historical transaction amounts; (ii) the estimated higher operating expenses to be incurred by the relevant departments of AFS HK and/or AFS Japan in providing the Services for the period from 1 March 2017 to 28 February 2018 due to devotion of further additional resources in human resources training and development, risk management and internal control, further modernization of branches, credit management enhancement and management of business in China; and (iii) the continuing focused expansion of business operations of the Group.

REASONS FOR THE TRANSACTION

The Board believes that the Services, which are tailored to the unique requirements and circumstances of the Group, would enable the Group to benefit from the expertise and experience of AFS HK and AFS Japan in the consumer finance industry. Through the Services, the Group is likely to further improve its productivity, credit scoring processes and bad debt management, which are conducive to a more focused business growth in both Hong Kong and China. Independent third parties with comparable expertise and/or experience in the consumer finance industry may not be available to provide the Services to the Group.

The Directors, including the Independent Non-executive Directors, consider that the 2017 Renewal Agreement is entered into in the ordinary and usual course of business of the Company, the terms of the 2017 Renewal Agreement are on normal commercial terms, and both the terms of the 2017 Renewal Agreement and the Annual Cap are fair and reasonable and in the interests of the Group and the shareholders of the Company as a whole.

LISTING RULES IMPLICATIONS

AFS HK is a controlling shareholder of the Company interested in approximately 52.73% of the issued shares of the Company. AFS HK is a wholly-owned subsidiary of AFS Japan. AFS HK is therefore a connected person of the Company and the 2017 Renewal Agreement constitutes a continuing connected transaction of the Company under Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules.

As each of the applicable percentage ratios for the Annual Cap exceeds 0.1% but is less than 5%, the 2017 Renewal Agreement is subject to the reporting, announcement and annual review requirements, but exempt from the independent shareholders' approval requirements under Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules.

None of the Directors has a material interest in the transactions contemplated under the 2017 Renewal Agreement, save for Mr. Takamitsu Moriyama who is a director of AFS Japan. Accordingly, Mr. Takamitsu Moriyama has abstained from voting on the Board resolutions approving the 2017 Renewal Agreement.

GENERAL

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 brokerage business, and microfinance business.

AFS HK is an investment holding company.

AFS Japan is a bank holding company, with subsidiaries conducting banking business, credit card business and other businesses. AFS Japan is under the supervision and regulation of the Financial Services Agency of Japan. AFS Japan, which was formerly known as AEON Credit Service Co., Ltd. (“ACS Japan”), has extensive know-how and expertise in the consumer finance industry. On 1 April 2013, through management integration and share swap with AEON Bank Ltd., ACS Japan became a bank holding company and AEON Bank Ltd. became its wholly-owned subsidiary. At the same time, ACS Japan changed its name to AFS Japan.

DEFINITIONS

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

“2017 Renewal Agreement”	the business advisory service agreement dated 1 March 2017 entered into between the Company and AFS HK, major terms of which are set out in this announcement
“AFS HK”	AEON Financial Service (Hong Kong) Co., Limited, a company incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability
“AFS Japan”	AEON Financial Service Co., Ltd., a company incorporated in Japan with limited liability, the shares of which are listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange, Inc.
“Business Advisory Service Agreement”	the business advisory service agreement dated 27 April 2015 entered into between the Company and AFS HK, as renewed by a renewal agreement dated 1 March 2016
“Board”	the board of Directors of 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
“Directors”	the directors of the Company
“Group”	the Company and its subsidiaries
“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

“Services” consultation and advisory services with special reference to the consumer finance industry, including but not limited to general as well as case-specific advice and guidance on business strategies, marketing strategies, Group structure strategies, funding arrangements, risk management, operational audit and investment opportunities

“Stock Exchange” The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited

By order of the Board
Hideo Tanaka
Managing Director

Hong Kong, 1 March 2017

As at the date of this announcement, the Board comprises Mr. Hideo Tanaka (Managing Director), Ms. Koh Yik Kung, Mr. Kiyoshi Wada, Mr. Tomoharu Fukayama and Mr. Toru Hosokawa as Executive Directors; Mr. Takamitsu Moriyama (Chairman) as Non-executive Director; and Mr. Lee Ching Ming, Adrian, Mr. Wong Hin Wing and Mr. Kenji Hayashi as Independent Non-executive Directors.