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## **SINO Hua-An to be a Key Technology Player in APAC Region with its New Business Division - “Techna-X”**

*~ RM107 million invested through a series of corporate acquisitions intended to spearhead growth in the Digital Transformation industry ~*

**KUALA LUMPUR, 3 June 2020** – Sino Hua-An International Berhad (“Hua-An” or the “Group”) is set to position itself as a key technology player in APAC region with the formalisation of its new business division called “**Techna-X**” today (refer to **Diagram A – Hua-An’s Organisation Chart**). Hua-An has been undergoing corporate reorganisation since 2019, acquiring four (4) Tech companies and one (1) F&B company to solidify its digital transformation and digital ecosystem solutions. The Group has been layering digital technology interests into its business to allow its shift from conventional metallurgical coke production to transforming economies in the region as a digital transformation enabler.

The acquisitions by Hua-An which are now under the Techna-X division are: a 100% equity in Craveat International Sdn Bhd, a F&B player that owns TGI Fridays and Teh Tarik Place franchises in Malaysia and which has begun its shift into a digital ecosystem model; a 100% equity in TouchPoint Group, comprising of TouchPoint International Sdn Bhd and Wavetree Technologies Sdn Bhd, a leader in the digital business transformation solution space in Malaysia; and the latest acquisition which is anticipated to be completed by end of June this year - HumanCapiient Consulting Sdn Bhd and MD Labs Sdn Bhd, a business intelligence & data analytics company respectively, for a total of RM27.0 million. **Upon completion of this exercise, the Group would have invested a total of RM107 million investment into Techna-X.**



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All the acquisitions will provide a total cumulative profit guarantee of RM10 million over the next 12 months to Hua-An, and will contribute positively to the Group's overall performance in the long term.

"The digital transformation market in Asia Pacific is expected to grow at a CAGR of 26.9% for the period 2018-2025 and reach US\$850 billion by 2025. There is a clear need for digital solutions and advanced analytics for businesses to remain competitive. We believe in empowering leaders with digital tools and ecosystems, platform business models and AI driven analytics so they can make more informed decisions and improve the performance of their organisations," said Datuk Jared Lim, Executive Director of Hua-An.

"With the completion of Hua-An's corporate acquisitions and the business reorganisation exercises, we will have the capacity, capability as well as the technical expertise to lead as a digital transformation enabler for the region. This will be a game changer for the Group," added Datuk Jared Lim.

Techna-X is the new business division under Hua-An that focuses on technology related businesses for the Group. "Powered by the data, digital infrastructure and combined analytics capabilities of its subsidiaries, **Techna-X aims to be a Digital Enabler to lead the digital transformation of the old economy in the region.** Digital transformation is key to community and country growth – virtually every industry is becoming increasingly digital, driven by the demand for better data management, improved services and lower costs. The right strategy leads to stronger customer experiences, network effects and higher revenues." Datuk Jared Lim elaborated.



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Techna-X will focus on leading the digital transformation in 7 key industries:

1. Urban cities into Smart Cities
2. Specialised industries (such as the F&B industry) into data-driven smart business solutions through platforms technology and business models
3. Enterprise farming into Smart Agriculture through sensor data and AI for higher yields and ROI
4. Smart Health care with sensor data analytics
5. Improved Transportation with AI and data analytics
6. Advanced recognition technologies (e.g. image, video, voice and facial recognition) with AI systems
7. Geospatial industrial applications and solutions

The management team of Techna-X will comprise the key leadership within the Group as follows:

- Y.A.M. Tunku Naquiyuddin ibni Tuanku Ja'afar – Executive Chairman
- Datuk Jared Lim Chih Li – Executive Director
- Lee Yew Jin – Chief Operating Officer
- Vince Ng Chee Seng – Head of Technology
- Dr Wan Mohd Hasni bin Wan Sulaiman – Chief Data Scientist

At present, Techna-X via Wavetree, has an established agriculture IoT technology with a proven track record in developing solutions that drives digital transformation for commercial scale agriculture companies. Wavetree is a leading oil palm plantation IoT solution provider having successfully implemented agriculture IoT solutions in more than 25,000 hectares of oil palm plantation in Malaysia, Indonesia and South America.



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Meanwhile, TouchPoint International has developed a mobile community platform application for the Putrajaya City Council known as Putrajaya Mobile, which aims to connect all the stakeholders – city council, residents, merchants and visitors on an aggregate all transactions within the city on a single platform.

The acquisitions of HumanCapient Consulting Sdn Bhd and MD Labs Sdn Bhd are intended to further strengthen the Group's position as a key technology player to provide complementary solutions to the digital enabling platform solutions under Techna-X. Both companies are certified by the Ministry of Finance Malaysia to supply services and products, with a prominent clientele comprising Government-linked companies, multinational corporations as well as Government departments.

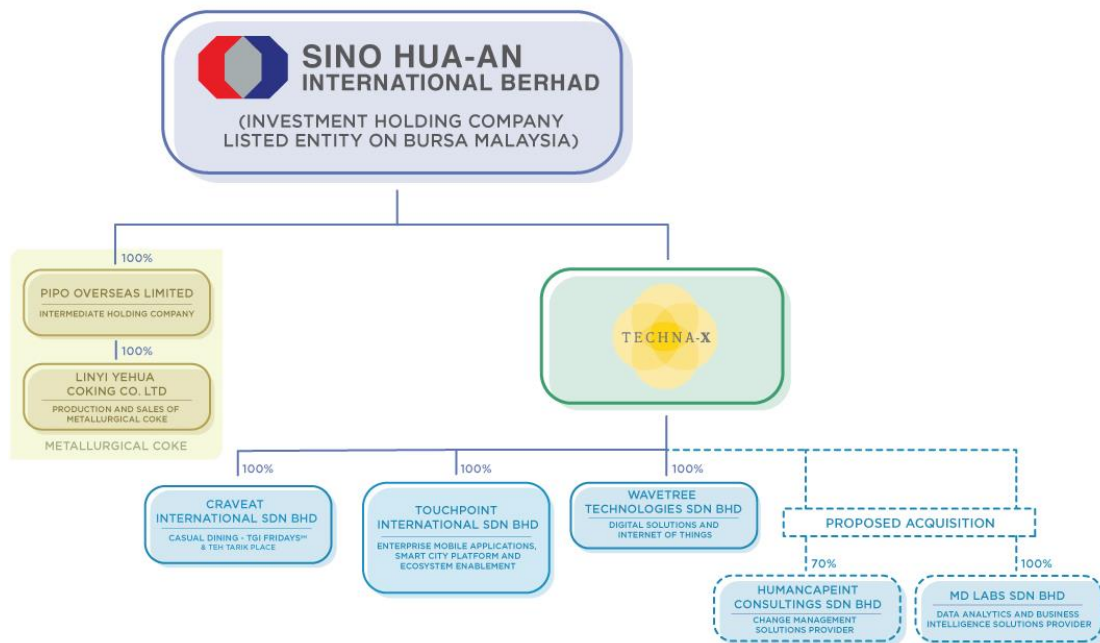
Moving forward, Hua-An expects Techna-X to drive the key technology business for the Group by offering three (3) main services - Smart City and Software Solutions, IoT Systems and AI Solutions as well as Business Intelligence & Big Data Analytics. Some of the new initiatives and products that has been launched by the Group include the following:

- (i) M Squared – A multi-sided, mobile first community platform with phase 1 launched commercially in May 2020 focusing on F&B delivery services.
- (ii) Smart Modeling Farming Project – An AI-Enabled Durian Farm project rolled out in March 2020. The project is a partnership with Top Fruits Sdn Bhd and Mybeecop Sdn Bhd to develop Malaysia's first fully digitalised, large-scale smart plantation for durian farming with end-to-end traceability.



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## Diagram A – Hua An’s Organisation Chart



### The Meaning of Techna-X

Techna-X is derived from the Greek word “techne” which means the use of craft or skill and is the origination of the word “technology” while X represents the X-factor that Hua-An has for technology solutions.

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**ABOUT SINO HUA-AN INTERNATIONAL BHD ([WWW.SINOHUAAN.COM](http://WWW.SINOHUAAN.COM))**

SINO Hua-An International Berhad has begun its evolution from a manufacturer of metallurgical coke to be a digital transformation enabler. Hua-An has recently included two new business segments in its portfolio: Mobile and Digital Solutions business, and Food and Beverage (“F&B”). The Group’s strategy to expand its business into mobile and digital solutions will provide Hua-An with opportunities to tap into the Fourth Industrial Revolution (“IR4.0”), specifically in seven (7) key areas, namely smart city, smart retail, agriculture IoT, improved transportation, smart healthcare, advanced AI recognition technologies and geospatial industrial applications and solutions. Listed on the Main Board of Bursa Malaysia on 26 March 2007, Hua-An is the first Red Chip counter listed on Bursa Malaysia and is classified as a Syariah-compliant security approved by the Syariah Advisory Council of the Securities Commission, Malaysia.

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