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China
unicom 中国联通
CHINA UNICOM LIMITED
中國聯通股份有限公司
(Incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)
(Stock Code: 0762)


CNC
中国网通
**CHINA NETCOM GROUP CORPORATION
(HONG KONG) LIMITED**
中國網通集團(香港)有限公司
(Incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)
(Stock Code: 0906)

JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT

**PROPOSED MERGER OF
CHINA UNICOM LIMITED
AND
CHINA NETCOM GROUP CORPORATION (HONG KONG) LIMITED
UNDER SECTION 166 OF THE HONG KONG COMPANIES ORDINANCE**

SANCTION OF THE SCHEME BY THE HIGH COURT

The Scheme was sanctioned and the reduction of the share capital of Netcom involved in the Scheme was confirmed by the High Court on Tuesday, 14 October 2008.

A copy of the order of the High Court made on 14 October 2008 together with a minute approved by the High Court containing the particulars required by Section 61 of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance were delivered to the Registrar of Companies in Hong Kong on Tuesday, 14 October 2008 and their registration is pending.

Subject to the registration by the Registrar of Companies in Hong Kong of the copy of the order of the High Court and the minute as mentioned above, all the conditions of the Scheme as set out in the Scheme Document have been satisfied or waived, as applicable, and the Scheme is expected to become effective on Wednesday, 15 October 2008.

1. INTRODUCTION

This announcement is made further to the scheme document dated 15 August 2008 jointly issued by Netcom and Unicom and despatched to all Netcom Shareholders, Netcom ADS Holders and Netcom Optionholders (the “Scheme Document”) and the joint announcements of Netcom and Unicom dated 17 September 2008 and 2 October 2008. Unless otherwise defined in this announcement, capitalised terms used in this announcement shall have the same meanings as those defined in the Scheme Document.

2. SANCTION OF THE SCHEME BY THE HIGH COURT

The Scheme was sanctioned and the reduction of the share capital of Netcom involved in the Scheme was confirmed by the High Court on Tuesday, 14 October 2008.

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Subject to the registration by the Registrar of Companies in Hong Kong of the copy of the order of the High Court and the minute as mentioned above, all the conditions of the Scheme as set out in the Scheme Document have been satisfied or waived, as applicable, and the Scheme is expected to become effective on Wednesday, 15 October 2008.

3. WITHDRAWAL OF LISTING

The Hong Kong Stock Exchange has approved the withdrawal of the listing of the Netcom Shares on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange with effect from 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, 15 October 2008 (Hong Kong time). The withdrawal of the listing of the Netcom ADSs on the New York Stock Exchange is expected to take effect from 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, 15 October 2008 (New York time), subject to the Scheme becoming effective and the procedural requirements having been complied with by Netcom. A joint announcement will be made by Netcom and Unicom when the Scheme becomes effective.

By order of the board of China Unicom Limited Mr. Chang Xiaobing <i>Chairman and Chief Executive Officer</i>	By order of the board of China Netcom Group Corporation (Hong Kong) Limited Mr. Zuo Xunsheng <i>Chairman and Chief Executive Officer</i>
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Hong Kong, 14 October 2008

As at the date of this announcement, the board of directors of Unicom comprises Mr. Chang Xiaobing, Mr. Tong Jilu, Mr. Li Gang and Mr. Zhang Junan as executive directors, Mr. Lu Jianguo and Mr. Lee Suk Hwan as non-executive directors and Mr. Wu Jinglian, Mr. Shan Weijian, Mr. Cheung Wing Lam, Linus and Mr. Wong Wai Ming as independent non-executive directors. The directors of Unicom jointly and severally accept full responsibility for the accuracy of the information contained in this announcement (other than in relation to the Netcom Group, Netcom Parent and Netcom BVI) and confirm, having made all reasonable enquiries, that to the best of their knowledge, their opinions expressed in this announcement have been arrived at after due and careful consideration and there are no other facts not contained in this announcement the omission of which would make any of the statements in this announcement (other than in relation to the Netcom Group, Netcom Parent and Netcom BVI) misleading.

As at the date of this announcement, the board of directors of Netcom comprises Mr. Zuo Xunsheng, Ms. Li Jianguo and Mr. Li Fushen as executive directors, Mr. Yan Yixun, Mr. Cesareo Alierta Izuel and Mr. José María Álvarez-Pallete as non-executive directors and Mr. John Lawson Thornton, Dr. Qian Yingyi, Mr. Hou Ziqiang and Mr. Timpson Chung Shui Ming as independent non-executive directors. The directors of Netcom jointly and severally accept full responsibility for the accuracy of the information contained in this announcement (in relation to the information relating to the Netcom Group, Netcom Parent and Netcom BVI only) and confirm, having made all reasonable enquiries, that to the best of their knowledge, their opinions expressed in this announcement have been arrived at after due and careful consideration and there are no other facts not contained in this announcement the omission of which would make any of the statements relating to the Netcom Group, Netcom Parent and Netcom BVI in this announcement misleading.