

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

iFAST Corp's AUA and net revenue reached record high level, with profitability improving in 4Q2019

- The Group started 2019 on a weak footing, but saw significant improvements as the year progressed. As at 31 December 2019, the Group's Assets under Administration (AUA) grew 24.2% YoY to a record high of S\$10.00 billion.
- The Group's net revenue has also continued to grow, hitting a record high of S\$16.96 million in 4Q2019. The Group's net profit increased 14.4% YoY to S\$3.00 million in 4Q2019, though net profit for FY2019 was down 12.8% YoY due to a poor first half in 2019.
- In the last three years, the Group's AUA has increased approximately 64% from S\$6.10 billion as at end 2016 to S\$10.00 billion as at end 2019. Net revenue has also grown by 60.2% from S\$40.69 million in 2016 to S\$65.20 million in 2019. The growth trend in the Group's net profit has however not been as obvious in the last few years, resulting from the fact that it has prioritised its efforts to further invest in and enhance its regional platform capabilities.
- While the Group is expected to continue to improve on upgrading its regional platform capabilities further, including laying the initial foundations to be a digital/virtual bank, the Group expects that over the next 12 months, the pace at which the Group's operating expenses will be increasing will moderate.
- Overall, the Group believes that growth opportunities in Asia's wealth management industry remain very substantial, and it is well-positioned to benefit from these opportunities in the medium to long term. Continuing growth in the Group's AUA and net revenue, combined with a moderation in the pace of increase in operating expenses, will allow the Group to better see the benefits of its scalable business model.
- The outbreak of COVID-19 has caused substantial concerns of potential negative impact on the overall business environment. As at 19 Feb 2020, the Group has not seen any substantial adverse impact on its overall business. The AUA of the Group as at 19 Feb 2020 has remained above the levels at the end of 2019.
- For the final dividend for FY2019, the Directors proposed a dividend per share of 0.90 cents per ordinary share, which will be subject to approval by shareholders at the company's Annual General Meeting on 23 April 2020.

SINGAPORE (20 February 2020) – iFAST Corporation Ltd. (“iFAST Corp” and together with its subsidiaries, the “Group”) reported its financial results for the fourth quarter and full year of 2019 (4Q2019 & FY2019).

The Group started 2019 on a weak footing, but saw significant improvements as the year progressed. As at 31 December 2019, the Group's Assets under Administration (AUA) grew 24.2% YoY to a record high of S\$10.00 billion.

Record AUAs have been achieved in Singapore, Hong Kong and Malaysia, as the Group's businesses have benefited from its continuous efforts in improving the range and depths of its products and services.

The Group's net revenue has also continued to grow, hitting a record high of S\$16.96 million in 4Q2019. The Group's net profit increased 14.4% YoY to S\$3.00 million in 4Q2019, though net profit for FY2019 was down 12.8% YoY due to a poor first half in 2019.

In the last three years, the Group's AUA has increased approximately 64% from S\$6.10 billion as at end 2016 to S\$10.00 billion as at end 2019. Net revenue has also grown by 60.2% from S\$40.69 million in 2016 to S\$65.20 million in 2019.

The growth trend in the Group's net profit has however not been as obvious in the last few years, resulting from the fact that it has prioritised its efforts to further invest in and enhance its regional platform capabilities.

While the Group is expected to continue to improve on upgrading its regional platform capabilities further, including laying the initial foundations to be a digital/virtual bank, the Group expects that over the next 12 months, the pace at which the Group's operating expenses will be increasing will moderate. This is because a large part of the key infrastructure that is required for an integrated wealth management platform is already in place.

Based on current estimates, the Group is estimating that its operating expenses will increase by approximately 6.8% to 9.5% YoY and amount to approximately S\$59.9 million to S\$61.4 million in 2020. The estimated percentage increase will be significantly lower than the double digit percentage YoY increases in operating expenses that the Group has been seeing in the last few years. This, however, does not take into account the application for the digital banking licence in Singapore, which may affect expenses from the second half of 2020 if the application is successful.

Overall, the Group believes that growth opportunities in Asia's wealth management industry remain very substantial, and it is well-positioned to benefit from these opportunities in the medium to long term. Continuing growth in the Group's AUA and net revenue, combined with a moderation in the pace of increase in operating expenses, will allow the Group to better see the benefits of its scalable business model.

The outbreak of COVID-19 has caused substantial concerns of potential negative impact on the overall business environment. As at 19 Feb 2020, the Group has not seen any substantial adverse impact on its overall business. The AUA of the Group as at 19 Feb 2020 has remained above the levels at the end of 2019.

The digital bank consortium led by iFAST Corp submitted an application for a digital wholesale bank licence in Singapore. The iFAST-led digital bank aims to better serve the global mass affluent market by tapping on Singapore’s growing role as a leading wealth management centre. It also believes that there is a big opportunity in Singapore to become the “Bank of Choice for SMEs”, particularly for loans.

The Singapore Stock Exchange (SGX) has recently adopted a new risk-based approach to quarterly reporting (QR) requiring only companies with higher risk to perform QR. Although iFAST Corp is not among the companies required to do QR, the Group has decided to continue leading the way in maintaining high standards of corporate governance through the continuation of QR, as it believes transparency is key in giving investors the information they need to know more about the company, its goals and vision, in a clear and timely manner.

iFAST Singapore was awarded the “Fastest Growing SGX-ST Member 2019” in February 2020. This is the second consecutive year that the Singapore operation has received the recognition from SGX. By leveraging on its strong in-house IT capabilities, the Company is able to provide its clients with the best investment experience through constantly enhancing the user experience of its trading systems and processes, while keeping prices competitive.

Proposed Final Dividend for FY2019

For the final dividend for FY2019, the Directors proposed a dividend per share of 0.90 cents per ordinary share, which will be subject to approval by shareholders at the company’s Annual General Meeting on 23 April 2020.

The proposed final dividend brings the total dividend to 3.15 cents per ordinary share for FY2019 which is equivalent to the total dividend of 3.15 cents per ordinary share for FY2018.

Table 1: Profit / Loss – Geographical Segment

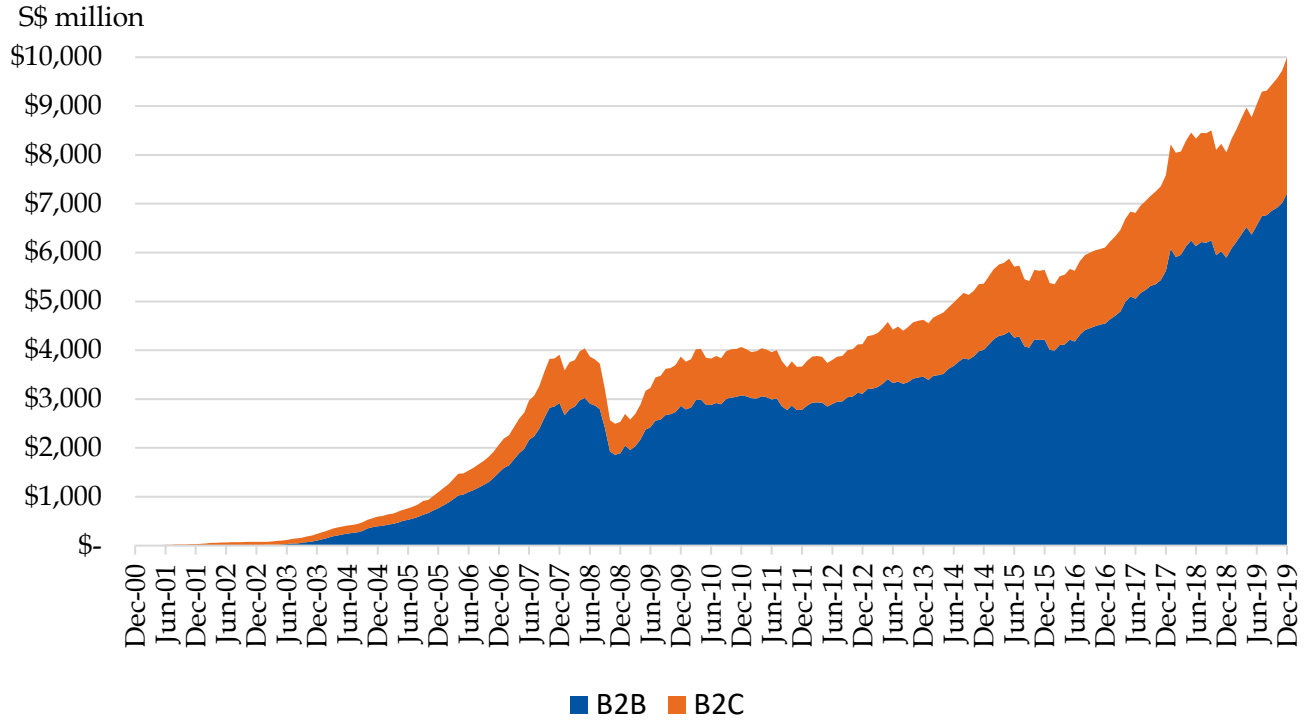
Profit/Loss (S\$ Million)	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017 ²	FY2018	FY2019
Singapore	11.82	9.07	10.62	11.86	9.96
Hong Kong	1.65	0.53	1.77	3.42	4.42
Malaysia	0.28	0.38	1.07	1.37	1.76
Other ¹	(0.02)	(0.16)	(0.33)	0.52	(0.05)
Profit before tax (excluding China operation)	13.73	9.82	13.13	17.17	16.10
Tax expense	(0.65)	(0.76)	(1.26)	(1.66)	(1.76)

Net profit after tax (excluding China operation)	13.08	9.06	11.87	15.51	14.33
China operation	(0.98)	(3.61)	(4.17)	(4.60)	(4.82)
Net profit after tax (including China operation)	12.10	5.45	7.70	10.91	9.52

Notes:

1. Representing share of results of associates.
2. Restated as a result of adoption of SFRS(I)s with effect from 1 January 2018 for comparison purpose.

Chart 1: Group AUA grew 24.2% YoY to a record high of S\$10.00 billion as at 31 December 2019



Note:

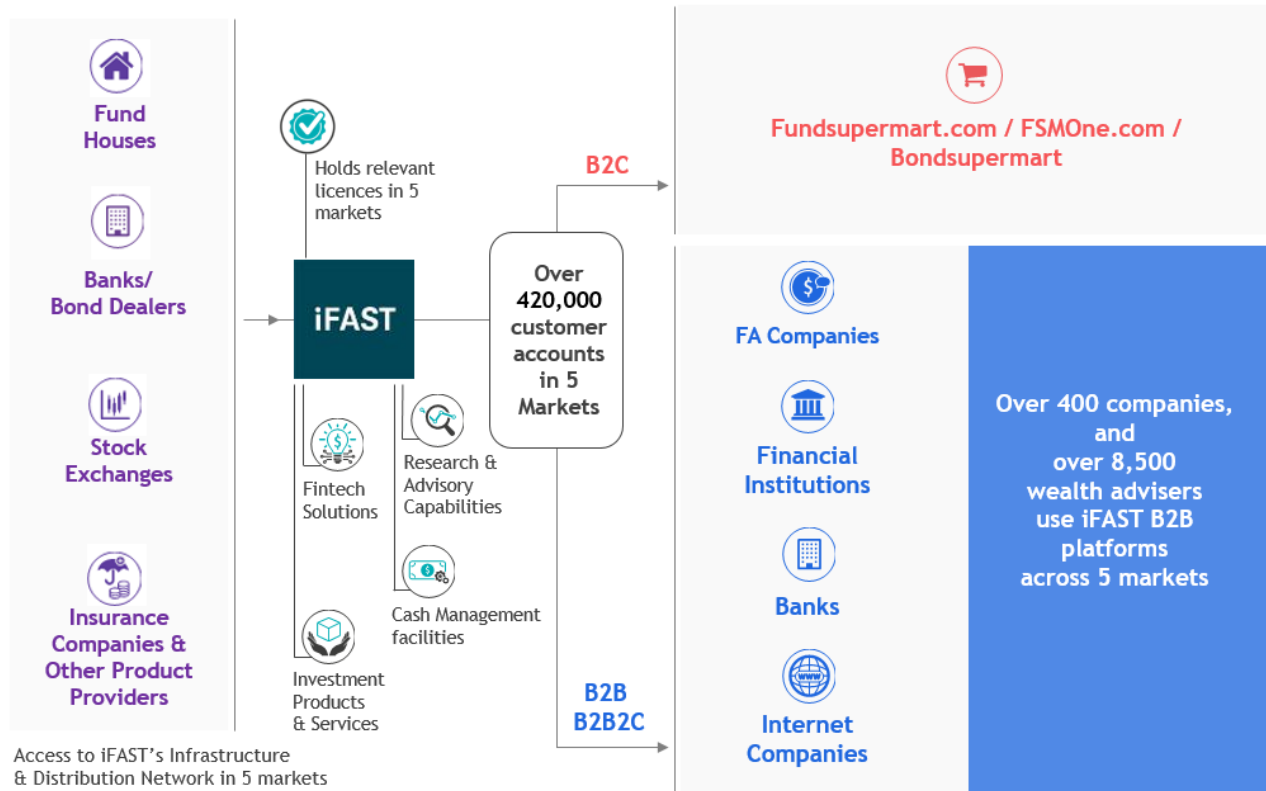
1. The Group's AUA as at 31 December 2019 includes its effective 35.9% share of the India Business.

iFAST Fintech Ecosystem

Connecting All to Help Investors Invest Globally and Profitably



(as at 31 Dec 2019)



iFAST Corp (stock code: AIY) is a wealth management Fintech platform, with assets under administration (AUA) of S\$10.00 billion as at 31 December 2019.

Incorporated in the year 2000 in Singapore and listed on the SGX-Mainboard in December 2014, iFAST Corp is also present in Hong Kong, Malaysia, China and India. Through the years, the Group has built a well-established Fintech ecosystem connecting its product providers and clients.

iFAST Corp holds the requisite licences in the various jurisdictions it operates in to provide a wide range of products and services. As at end December 2019, the Group offers access to over 10,000 investment products including over 6,700 funds from over 260 fund houses, over 1,200 bonds, stocks and ETFs (Singapore, Hong Kong and US stock exchanges), as well as services including online discretionary portfolio management services, research and investment seminars, Fintech solutions, and investment administration and transaction services to financial advisory (“FA”) firms, financial institution, banks, multinational companies, as well as retail and high net worth (“HNW”) investors in Asia.

The main business divisions of the Group include the Business-to-Consumer (“B2C”) division, the Business-to-Business (“B2B”) division, and the emerging Fintech Solutions/Business-to-Business-to-Consumer (“B2B2C”) model. The B2C platform, FSMOne.com/Fundsupermart.com, caters to investors who prefer to do their own investments online. The new FSMOne multi-products transactional platform is currently available in Singapore, Hong Kong and Malaysia. The B2B platforms cater to the specialised needs of more than 400 FA companies, financial institutions, banks and internet companies with over 8,500 wealth advisers. iFAST Fintech Solutions, the emerging Fintech Solutions/B2B2C model, was launched in Singapore, Hong Kong and Malaysia in the recent years to provide innovative and customisable Fintech solutions for our B2B clients and business partners to empower them with their own B2C Fintech capabilities.

The Group’s mission statement is, “To help investors around the world invest globally and profitably”. In the Singapore Governance and Transparency Index (SGTI) released from 2016 to 2019, iFAST Corp has been ranked within the top 15% among SGX-listed companies. iFAST Corp won the "Best Investor Relations - Silver Award" and “Best Investor Relations - Bronze Award” in the Companies with less than S\$300 million in market capitalisation category at the Singapore Corporate Awards held in 2018 and 2019 respectively. The Group’s Chief Financial Officer, Mr Leung Fung Yat David, was also awarded “Best Chief Financial Officer” in the Companies with less than S\$300 million in market capitalisation category at the Singapore Corporate Awards 2019. iFAST Corp was selected as one of the 36 listed companies to be included in 2019’s SGX Fast Track programme, which aims to affirm listed issuers that have been publicly recognised for high corporate governance standards and have maintained a good compliance track record.

For more information, please visit www.ifastcorp.com

Contacts:

Tan Chee Wei
(65) 6505 4222
ir@ifastfinancial.com

- End -