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For Immediate Release

Competition Commission takes government technology subsidies cartel case to Competition Tribunal

The Competition Commission (“Commission”) has today commenced proceedings in the Competition Tribunal (“Tribunal”) against three undertakings and two individuals, namely:

1. *Hazedawn Limited* (“Hazedawn”);
2. *Fovea Studio Limited* (“Fovea”);
3. *Jedar Limited* (“Jedar”);
4. *Mr LI Sze-leong*, the sole director and sole shareholder of Hazedawn (“Mr Li”); and
5. *Mr WONG Chi-man*, the sole director and sole shareholder of Fovea (“Mr Wong”).

It is the Commission’s case that between July 2019 and July 2024, technology services providers Hazedawn, Awehaze Limited (“Awehaze”)¹, Jedar and Fovea had engaged in anti-competitive practices when providing quotations for IT solutions to prospective applicants for government funding. The case involved 380 applications under the Technology Voucher Programme (“TVP”)², with the approved funding amounting to around HK\$60 million.

In these 380 TVP applications, Hazedawn/Awehaze either directly prepared or had control over the final pricing of Jedar’s and/or Fovea’s quotations, which predominantly served as cover bids to enhance the chance of Hazedawn/Awehaze being selected as the service provider. To facilitate the preparation of the cover bids, Jedar and Fovea had provided their respective company credentials (such as quotation templates, electronic signatures, copies of company chops and access to email accounts) to Hazedawn/Awehaze.

The Commission has reasonable cause to believe that such conduct amounts to serious anti-competitive conduct in the form of price-fixing, market-sharing, bid-rigging, and/or sharing of competitively sensitive information, in contravention of the First Conduct Rule under the Competition Ordinance (“Ordinance”).

The Commission is seeking remedies before the Tribunal, including:

- A declaration that each of the three undertakings has contravened the First Conduct Rule and that Mr Li and Mr Wong are persons involved in the contravention;

¹ It is the Commission’s case that Hazedawn and Awehaze formed part of the same undertaking, for reasons including the fact that Mr Li was the sole shareholder and sole director of both companies. Since Awehaze was dissolved on 14 March 2025, as the surviving entity of this undertaking, Hazedawn is the respondent answerable for the contraventions of both companies.

² TVP was a funding scheme launched by the Innovation and Technology Commission (“ITC”) under the Innovation and Technology Fund in November 2016. It aims to subsidise local enterprises on the use of technological services and solutions to improve productivity, or upgrade or transform their business processes. ITC appointed the Hong Kong Productivity Council as the Secretariat of TVP in June 2021.

- Orders for the imposition of pecuniary penalties against the three undertakings; and
- Director disqualification orders against Mr Li and Mr Wong.

One of the respondent undertakings, Jedar, has agreed to admit liability and entered into a cooperation agreement with the Commission under the Commission’s *Cooperation and Settlement Policy for Undertakings Engaged in Cartel Conduct*³.

This case originated from a referral from the Innovation and Technology Commission (“ITC”) earlier, which had suspicions about a TVP application being tainted by anti-competitive conduct. Upon considering the said application, the Commission requested information on other TVP applications which involved various service providers, including the concerned undertakings. Following a thorough review of the data provided by the ITC and the Hong Kong Productivity Council (“HKPC”), the Commission identified suspicious features that warranted a formal investigation.

During the course of its investigation, the Commission also found evidence suggesting that certain individual(s) may have committed criminal offence(s) involving forgery. These matters have been referred to the Hong Kong Police Force for criminal investigation.

Mr Rasul Butt, Chief Executive Officer of the Commission, said, “Combating anti-competitive conduct that aims to exploit public funding is one of the Commission’s top priorities. By taking this case to court, the Commission is sending a clear message that it has zero tolerance for such egregious conduct, which not only harms competition, but also enriches cartelists at the expense of the people of Hong Kong.”

“Some business operators may have a general misconception that there is no harm in simply ‘sharing’ or ‘lending’ company credentials to competitors as long as they do not directly participate in the bidding process. Some may even see this as a form of quid pro quo that is savvy business practice. The case we filed today clearly establishes that such a practice is utterly unacceptable and can be abused as a means to rig bids, which constitutes serious anti-competitive conduct under the Ordinance. Businesses across all industries are therefore strongly reminded that they should, under no circumstances, share company credentials with other companies, and that all bids and quotations must be prepared independently.”

The Commission would like to express its appreciation to the ITC and the HKPC for their full assistance to the Commission throughout the investigation of the case, as well as their continued vigilance in guarding against anti-competitive practices.

³ See the Commission’s [Cooperation Policy](#) published in April 2019.