

SUNDAY

SUNDAY COMMUNICATIONS LIMITED

(Incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)
(Stock Code: 0866)

RESULTS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE 2004

(Hong Kong dollar is translated to United States dollar at a rate of HK\$7.8 to US\$1.0)

- Net profit up 38% to HK\$18 million
- 4% rise in post-paid subscribers
- 38% rise in data service revenues
- Churn improved by 35%
- Focus on 3G future

RESULTS

The Directors of SUNDAY Communications Limited ("the Company") are pleased to present the consolidated profit and loss account for the six months ended 30th June 2004 and the consolidated balance sheet as at 30th June 2004 of the Company and its subsidiaries ("the Group"), all of which are unaudited and condensed.

Condensed Consolidated Profit and Loss Account

For the six months ended 30th June 2004

Notes	Unaudited		
	2004 US\$'000	2004 HK\$'000	2003 HK\$'000
Mobile services	66,799	521,034	582,517
Sales of mobile phones and accessories	6,917	53,953	65,432
Turnover	73,716	574,987	647,949
Cost of inventories sold and services provided	(21,028)	(164,023)	(171,120)
Gross profit	52,688	410,964	476,829
Other revenues	222	1,728	1,532
Network costs	(15,943)	(124,354)	(142,207)
Depreciation	(14,793)	(115,384)	(117,433)
Rent and related costs	(2,431)	(18,965)	(25,826)
Salaries and related costs	(8,746)	(68,217)	(73,253)
Advertising, promotion and other selling costs	(5,027)	(39,209)	(53,869)
Other operating costs	(1,777)	(13,857)	(22,729)
Profit from operations	4,193	32,706	43,044
Interest income	27	210	1,191
Finance costs	(1,823)	(14,223)	(26,791)
Share of loss from a joint venture	(33)	(256)	(3,998)
Profit for the period	2,364	18,437	13,446
Earnings per share	0.08 cents	0.62 cents	0.45 cents
EBITDA	18,986	148,090	160,477

Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet

As at 30th June 2004

	Unaudited		
	30th June 2004 US\$'000	30th June 2004 HK\$'000	Audited 31st December 2003 HK\$'000
Non-current assets			
Fixed assets	136,824	1,067,227	1,101,899
Prepayment of 3G Licence fees	8,547	66,667	91,667
Restricted cash deposits	218	1,699	1,699
	145,589	1,135,593	1,195,265
Current assets			
Inventories	2,827	22,051	11,621
Trade receivables	10,300	80,343	81,069
Prepayment of 3G Licence fees	6,410	50,000	50,000
Deposits, prepayments and other receivables	9,486	73,987	82,677
Restricted cash deposits	—	—	209,643
Bank balances and cash	15,477	120,717	102,413
	44,500	347,098	537,423
Current liabilities			
Trade payables	3,315	25,860	71,600
Other payables and accrued charges	20,725	161,652	152,791
Subscriptions received in advance	10,157	79,224	87,567
Current portion of long-term loans	19,103	149,000	296,368
	53,300	415,736	608,326
Net current liabilities	(8,800)	(68,638)	(70,903)
	136,789	1,066,955	1,124,362
Financed by:			
Share capital	38,333	299,000	299,000
Reserves	53,506	417,341	398,904
Shareholders' equity	91,839	716,341	697,904
Long-term liabilities			
Long-term loans	44,740	348,971	425,000
Subscriptions received in advance	210	1,643	1,458
	44,950	350,614	426,458
	136,789	1,066,955	1,124,362

Notes:

1. Segment Information

The Group is principally engaged in two business segments in Hong Kong: mobile services, sales of mobile phones and accessories.

	Six months ended 30th June 2004		
	Mobile services HK\$'000	mobile phones and accessories HK\$'000	Group HK\$'000
Turnover	521,034	53,953	574,987
Profit/(Loss) from operations	62,655	(29,949)	32,706
Interest income	—	—	210
Finance costs	—	—	(14,223)
Share of loss from a joint venture	—	—	(256)
Profit for the period	—	—	18,437

	Six months ended 30th June 2003		
	Mobile services HK\$'000	mobile phones and accessories HK\$'000	Group HK\$'000
Turnover	582,517	65,432	647,949
Profit/(Loss) from operations	64,338	(21,294)	43,044
Interest income	—	—	1,191
Finance costs	—	—	(26,791)
Share of loss from a joint venture	—	—	(3,998)
Profit for the period	—	—	13,446

2. Profit from operations

Profit from operations is stated after charging the following:

	Six months ended 30th June	
	2004 HK\$'000	2003 HK\$'000
Cost of inventories sold	66,999	68,406
Depreciation:		
— owned fixed assets	115,384	117,195
— leased fixed assets	—	238
Loss on disposals of fixed assets	140	104
Operating leases charges:		
— land and buildings,		
including transmission sites	91,960	104,676
— leased lines	29,676	35,247
Provision for doubtful debts	12,184	13,303

During the six months ended 30th June 2004, the Group incurred HK\$13,076,000 of operating expenses in relation to the development of its 3G business after capitalisation of costs of HK\$10,513,000 into fixed assets, which has been included in the Group's results before arriving at the profit from operations.

3. Taxation

No provision for Hong Kong profits tax has been made as the Group has sufficient tax losses brought forward to set off against the assessable profit for the six months ended 30th June 2004 (2003: Nil).

4. Earnings per share

(a) Basic earnings per share

The calculation of basic earnings per share is based on the Group's profit for the six months ended 30th June 2004 of HK\$18,437,000 (2003: HK\$13,446,000) and the 2,990,000,000 shares (2003: 2,990,000,000 shares) in issue during the period.

(b) Diluted earnings per share

There is no dilutive effect upon exercise of the share options on the earnings per share for the six-month period ended 30th June 2004 and 2003 since the exercise prices for the share options were above the average fair value of the shares.

5. EBITDA

EBITDA represents earnings of the Group before interest income, finance costs, taxation, depreciation, amortisation and share of loss from a joint venture of the Group.

6. Subsequent event

The Supply Contract and the Facility Agreement with Huawei Tech. Investment Co., Limited ("Huawei Tech.") became effective on 2nd July 2004. On 12th July 2004, the general facility of HK\$500,000,000 under the Facility Agreement was fully utilised to replace the New Loan extended by Huawei Tech., and loan principal of HK\$75,000,000 was repaid on the same date according to the general facility terms.

INTERIM DIVIDENDS

The Directors of the Company do not recommend the payment of an interim dividend for the six months ended 30th June 2004 (2003: Nil).

MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

SUNDAY's results for the six months ended 30th June 2004 reflect the success of the Group's core strategies to segment the market to provide specialised services to specific customer demographics, and to deliver efficiency, quality and innovation in all areas of operation.

The Group reported a higher net profit, as post-paid subscriber numbers rose, data services revenue grew strongly and churn improved. The Group also continued to make good progress towards the launch of richer multimedia services using 3G technology. The Group remains confident that its strategy to introduce new multimedia services based upon the 3G platform with strong support and backing from Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd. ("Huawei"), when the market can offer improved handsets, will fully optimise its success in the future.

Results

For the six-month period, revenues declined to HK\$575 million, as mobile services revenues fell by 10% to HK\$521 million compared with the first six months of 2003, in line with an industry-wide decline in average revenue per user (ARPU) as a result of aggressive price-based market competition. The Group continued to be successful in controlling its operating costs, which decreased by a further 17% to HK\$265 million as compared with the corresponding period in 2003, despite the impact of initial start up costs of HK\$13 million for its 3G roll out. As a result of these efficiency efforts, SUNDAY recorded a 38% increase in net profit to HK\$18 million, against HK\$13 million for the corresponding period of 2003.

Excluding the initial 3G related operating expenses, the results for the 2G operations during the first half of 2004 are set out as follows:

	Six months ended 30th June 2004			30th June 2003 Group (HK\$ million)
	Group (HK\$ million)	3G business (HK\$ million)	2G business (HK\$ million)	
Operating expenses (excluding depreciation)	265	13	252	318
EBITDA	148	(13)	161	160
Net profit/(loss)	18	(13)	31	13

Progress in Operations

The market environment remained highly competitive during the first half of 2004. Voice tariffs continued to decline, by June 2004 having fallen by an average of over 30% for post-paid services and an average of over 50% for pre-paid services throughout the industry as compared with those of 12 months earlier. The net result has been a general, industry-wide increase in voice traffic but an overall decrease in ARPU. Many operators also offered free pre-paid cards, as well as heavy handset subsidies, to lure customers during the period.

While maintaining its competitiveness in the current price-driven market, SUNDAY laid a strong foundation for an advantageous starting position in the high value-added market that 3G technology will usher in early in 2005. In particular, the Group concentrated on enhancing its subscriber base, with subscribers who are more inclined to make full use of new technologies and services. SUNDAY increased its post-paid subscribers by 4% to 432,000 at 30th June 2004 as compared with 30th June 2003, while the pre-paid category fell by 4% to 227,000, as some competitors launched aggressive price promotions to attract lower usage pre-paid consumers. Overall the subscriber base showed a modest increase over the figure 12 months earlier. Despite the competitive environment, SUNDAY's continued focus on excellent customer service led to a further improvement in average churn, which has improved by 35% and is down to 3.6%.

The success in attracting and retaining quality subscribers, and showing a growth in net profit levels, was a result of the success of the four pillars of the Group's business strategy as set out below:

Efficiency

SUNDAY was able to achieve incremental cost savings in a number of areas. Excluding 3G related expenses, 2G operating expenses decreased by 21% or HK\$66 million, whereas overall operating expenses decreased by 17% or HK\$55 million. Earnings before interest, tax, amortisation and depreciation (EBITDA) for the 2G operations increased to HK\$161 million, while total EBITDA decreased by 8% to HK\$148 million when 3G expenses of HK\$13 million for the half year are included.

Quality

SUNDAY's quality focus in 2003 was on the Group's infrastructure. In 2003, SUNDAY significantly improved coverage and quality through extensive network enhancements, including increasing the number of cell sites and reconfiguring cell sites throughout the territory.

This year, the Group's focus was on further enhancing customer service levels. To improve the customer experience and in preparation for the rollout of full-fledged multimedia services, SUNDAY has launched a programme to renovate its retail shops across Hong Kong. As the first phase, 25% of SUNDAY's shops were renovated during the first half of this year. To further enhance customer service, the Group has initiated more extensive "mystery shopper", "mystery caller" and focus group exercises to gain an insight into current customer service levels. SUNDAY has also contracted AC Nielsen to monitor, on a monthly basis, more than 100 customer service and network quality attributes.

Innovation

Innovation continued to be a hallmark of SUNDAY's services and marketing. To increase its lead in location based services (LBS), SUNDAY, in conjunction with China Mobile, developed a hybrid LBS system involving a Global Positioning System (GPS), which extends the benefits of LBS beyond Hong Kong's borders into southern China. This service is particularly helpful to companies managing fleets of vehicles travelling between Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta region, and represents one of the most advanced LBS services in the global market.

Recognising the growing demand for mobile email services, SUNDAY introduced an innovative mobile email service "One Bridge", which allows companies and individuals to synchronise their emails conveniently between network servers and SUNDAY's mobile PDAs.

The Group strongly believes these types of innovative services not only support subscriber growth and drive data usage, but serve as an effective migration tactic to lead specific customer groups to embrace new offerings in the advanced multimedia future.

Segmentation

The strategy of segmenting the market according to specific user profiles also contributed to the results. The Group's four customer segments — Youth, Corporate, Ethnic and Mass — expanded in May 2004 with a programme targeting the new "Bobo" segment, Hong Kong's aspiring class of "bourgeois bohemians". The striking launch campaign capitalised upon an emerging lifestyle trend among Hong Kong's affluent, educated middle class, and also significantly raised the Group's overall profile among consumers.

The results in SUNDAY's Youth segment, which was launched in 2003, amply demonstrate the Group's success in using segmentation as a strategy to drive growth in subscriber numbers and data usage. Since launch in June 2003, in response to targeted product development and marketing, SUNDAY has grown the Youth segment and its value considerably. During the first half of 2004, the segment grew its subscriber base by 35%. ARPU for Youth is higher than the overall subscriber average. Data ARPU is almost double the average, with data accounting for 12% of total revenues in the Youth segment.

The Group also continued to strengthen its Corporate and Ethnic segments with enhanced product features and promotions. Through segmentation, SUNDAY is capturing not just new subscribers but high value subscribers who are more receptive to non-voice services, thereby forming the subscriber foundation for SUNDAY's future multimedia services.

Strong Growth in Data Services Revenue

SUNDAY's efforts in the half allowed the Group to post another strong increase in data services revenues, which rose by 38% over the corresponding period of last year to account for 8% of total mobile service revenues. This growth is particularly encouraging as it points to the marked shift towards more data services that will occur beginning in 2005 as 3G technology garners mainstream adoption.

Increased data usage was stimulated by the introduction of new and affordable handsets. In a market situation in which aggressive handset subsidies have again become the competitive norm, SUNDAY has followed a future-focused strategy whenever possible to develop handset subsidy promotions for products which are most likely to encourage an increase in data usage.

Focused on the 3G Future

In summary, despite a tough market in the first half, SUNDAY achieved good post-paid subscriber growth, strong data services numbers and higher net profit. The Group is confident that its existing business can remain competitive under such difficult conditions and will continue to counter the competition as it prepares for an aggressive launch of multimedia services using the 3G platform.

SUNDAY's 3G strategy is firmly in place and its technological infrastructure will be ready to launch by end 2004. During the first half, the Group has built and successfully tested a pilot 3G system, with solid results. SUNDAY is using advanced 3G technology from Huawei, which is now supported by a team of over 140 Huawei personnel on the ground assisting with the rollout of the Group's 3G networks across Hong Kong. Huawei's acquisition of an 8% stake in SUNDAY through the open market is further proof of their confidence in SUNDAY's 3G strategy.

The Group is also working smoothly together with other best-of-class vendors to deploy a number of key operating systems, including new billing and business intelligence systems and a complete website revamp.

The Group continues to approach its launch of 3G services from the perspective of long-term success. Rather than launch in an environment plagued by handset quality and availability, network availability, call connection reliability and 2G-3G network interoperability, the Group has been wise to wait and currently aims to launch in early 2005 when these issues have improved. The Group is confident that this strategic approach has enabled it to avoid most of the teething problems common with the introduction of new and complex technology, and will provide long-term strategic advantage. The Group is confident that SUNDAY is ready and when the timing is right, SUNDAY will be successful in the 3G era.

Liquidity and Financial Resources

The Group recorded a net cash inflow of HK\$88 million from operating activities during the six months ended 30th June 2004, compared with a net cash inflow of HK\$130 million for the corresponding period of 2003. The decrease was mainly attributable to a decrease in revenues. During the period, the capital expenditure and working capital requirements of the Group were mainly funded by cash flow generated from operating activities. Capital expenditure incurred during the period in respect of enhancement of the 2G/2.5G mobile network amounted to HK\$41 million. Capital expenditures incurred for 3G rollout amounted to HK\$40 million, including HK\$25 million capitalised 3G licence fees.

In May 2004, Mandarin Communications Limited ("Mandarin"), the main operating subsidiary, and the Company entered into the Supply Contract of HK\$859 million with Huawei Tech. Investment Co., Limited ("Huawei Tech."), a subsidiary of Huawei, and the Facility Agreement in respect of the provision of long-term financing required for the rollout of the 3G network under the Supply Contract. The Facility Agreement comprises:

- a HK\$859 million equipment supply facility with a term of 7.5 years. The facility is available for drawdown against invoices issued under the Supply Contract and is repayable by eight semi-annual instalments commencing 4 years from the date of the Facility Agreement.
- a HK\$500 million general facility to replace the term loan (New Loan) of the same amount extended by Huawei Tech. in January 2004. The term of the general facility is 2.5 years from the original drawdown of the New Loan.
- a 3G performance bond facility for the issuance of the performance bonds required by OFTA under the terms of the 3G licence in the years 2004 — 2010 inclusive in an amount equal to the following five years' spectrum utilisation fees payable to OFTA after deducting payments already made.

Huawei Tech. has been granted a security package with terms that are standard for such project financing arrangements. Also, associated with this transaction are presentations, financial covenants and general covenants, customary to transactions of this nature.

As at 30th June 2004, the Group had net debt (New Loan less cash reserves) of HK\$378 million, compared with HK\$493 million as at 30th June 2003. The net debt to equity ratio was reduced to 53% as at 30th June 2004 from 72% as at 30th June 2003.

Foreign Exchange Exposure

Substantially all the Group's revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities are denominated in Hong Kong dollars. The international roaming payables and receivables are netted and settled on a monthly basis in Special Drawing Rights (SDR) and the net SDR-denominated payables were insignificant as at 30th June 2004. The Group does not anticipate significant foreign exchange losses as long as the Hong Kong SAR Government's policy to peg the Hong Kong dollar to the U.S. dollar remains in effect. The Group will continue to monitor its foreign exchange exposure and market conditions to determine if any hedging is required.

Employees and Share Option Schemes

The Group employed 768 full-time employees as at 30th June 2004, of which 502 employees were in Hong Kong and 266 employees were in Shenzhen. Total salaries and related costs incurred during the six months ended 30th June 2004 amounted to HK\$68 million, which was 7% less than that incurred during the corresponding period of 2003. The Group offers comprehensive remuneration and benefits packages to all employees. Remuneration of employees is maintained at competitive levels, and promotion and salary increments are assessed based on individual and Group performances. Other staff benefits include provident fund schemes, subsidised medical care and subsidies for external educational and training programmes.

No share options were granted or exercised during the six months ended 30th June 2004.

Appreciation

The Group would like to thank its fellow directors and all employees for their hard work and commitment to the Group. The Group also thank its bankers, advisers, suppliers and shareholders for their continued support of SUNDAY.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Code of Best Practice

SUNDAY is committed to ensuring high standards of corporate governance in the interests of shareholders and takes care to identify practices designed to achieve effective oversight, transparency and ethical behaviour.

The Company has complied throughout the six months ended 30th June 2004 with the Code of Best Practice as set out in Appendix 14 of the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited, except that Non-executive Directors of the Company were not appointed for a specific term but are subject to retirement by rotation and re-election at the annual general meeting in accordance with the provisions of the Company's Articles of Association.

Securities Dealing Code

In March 2004, the Company has revised its Securities Dealing Code to align with the Model Code for Securities Transactions by Directors of Listed Issuers ("Model Code") of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited. Having made specific enquiry of all Directors, the Directors have complied with the required standard set out in the Model Code and the Securities Dealing Code.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors was established with written terms of reference that set out the authorities and duties of the committee adopted by the Board. The committee re-assesses the Audit Committee Charter on annual basis. The committee comprises three independent Non-executive Directors and a Non-executive Director. One of these Directors, Mr. John William Crawford, has appropriate professional qualifications and experience in financial matters. None of the members of the committee has any personal financial interests (other than as shareholders) or conflicts of interest arising from day-to-day involvement in the running of the business.

During the period under review, the committee met regularly with the external auditors and the Group's internal audit personnel and management, approved the nature and scope of both statutory and internal audits for the year, considered and approved the accounts and reviewed the adequacy and effectiveness of the accounting and financial controls of the Group. The committee also followed up with management regularly on the management actions arising from the audits.

The committee has reviewed the condensed interim accounts and this interim report, and was content that the accounting policies of the Group are in accordance with the current best practice in Hong Kong and the United States. This interim report has not been audited but has been reviewed by the Company's external auditors.

Committee and Board Meetings

Since 1st January to 13th September 2004, both the Board of Directors and the Audit Committee have met twice. The Executive Management Committee has met nine times in addition to frequent informal meetings with the senior management.

PURCHASE, SALE OR REDEMPTION OF SHARES

During the six months ended 30th June 2004, the Company has not redeemed any of its shares, and neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries has purchased or sold any of the Company's shares.

By Order of the Board
Janet Ching Man Fung
Company Secretary

Hong Kong, 13th September 2004

As at the date of this announcement, the Board comprises:

Executive Directors

Mr. Richard John Siemens (*Co-Chairman*)
Mr. Edward Wai Sun Cheng (*Co-Chairman*)
Mr. William Bruce Hicks (*Group Managing Director*)
Mr. Kuldeep Saran
Mr. Andrew Chun Keung Leung

Non-executive Directors

Mr. Kenneth Michael Katz
Mr. Simon Murray
Mr. Hongqing Zheng

Independent Non-executive Directors

Mr. John William Crawford
Mr. Henry Michael Pearson Miles
Mr. Robert John Richard Owen

<http://www.sunday.com> (please click Investor Relations)

<http://www.trasia.com/listco/hk/sunday>

<http://www.quamnet.com>

All the financial and other related information of the Company required by paragraphs 46(1) to 46(6) of Appendix 16 of the Listing Rules in force prior to 31st March 2004, which remain applicable to results announcement in respect of accounting periods commencing before 1st July 2004 under the transitional arrangements, will be published on the Stock Exchange's website in due course.