Cyberport and CAICT Sign MoU for ASTRON Supernode (Hong Kong)

Boosting Digital Infrastructure to Empower the Growth of the Digital Economy

Hong Kong, 10 April 2024 – Cyberport has forged a strategic partnership with the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology (CAICT) and signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for joint efforts in establishing the ASTRON Supernode (Hong Kong). This collaboration strives to promote the advancement of digital infrastructure and provide additional impetus for the growth of the digital economy.

ASTRON is the international extension of Xinghuo BIF, which is a national-level blockchain infrastructure initiated by CAICT with the guidance and support of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of China. Its purpose is to drive the digitalisation, networking, intelligence, and green development of industries. Supernodes have been deployed in more than 12 cities, including Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou, establishing a comprehensive multi-regional, multi-industry ecological network. As per the MoU, Cyberport will collaborate with CAICT to advance the development of the ASTRON Supernode's infrastructure in Hong Kong and will guide applications in various industries such as finance, supply chains, trade, ESG, healthcare, and cultural tourism to connect with the platform. CAICT intends to carry out ASTRON related ecological activities at Cyberport and is also studying to set up a second Hong Kong node of ASTRON at Cyberport to integrate the Cyberport Web3 ecosystem with the Cyberport community companies. Cyberport is committed to nurturing the related ecosystem, with a focus on industrial development and talent cultivation.

The MoU was signed by Dr. Rocky Cheng, CEO of Cyberport, and You Xiaoyu, Head of the International Cooperation Department, Institute of Industrial Internet & IoT of CAICT; the signing was witnessed by Kingsley Wong, Deputy Government Chief Information Officer, Simon Chan, Chairman of Cyberport, and Li Haihua, Deputy Director of the Institute of Industrial Internet and IoT of CAICT.

Simon Chan, Chairman of Cyberport, expressed in his welcome speech, " In the digital era, digitalisation is a new driving force for economic development, and data has become a new key production factor that can empower enterprises to boost efficacy and competitiveness. The establishment of an efficient and reliable data service network is an important foundation for the promotion of a digital economy and the realisation of high-quality social development. As Hong Kong's Web3 hub, Cyberport is dedicated to advancing the development of blockchain and Web3 technologies. Currently, our community has gathered over 230 Web3.0

companies from around the world. We are honoured to participate in the construction of the 'ASTRON Supernode (Hong Kong)'. We look forward to the landing of the Supernode, which will inject new impetus into Hong Kong's advanced manufacturing, internet and IoT industries, promote innovation and upgrades, facilitate the optimisation of economic infrastructure, accelerate the pace of building a smart city, and facilitate the development of Hong Kong as an international I&T centre."

Yu Xiaohui, the President of CAICT, delivered a speech via video, stating: "This signing and cooperation represent an important milestone in promoting the establishment of the 'ASTRON Supernode (Hong Kong)'. Once operational, the Supernode will focus on serving Hong Kong, Asia-Pacific region, and other areas, advancing the globalisation of cooperation in Hong Kong in the domains of cross-border trade, green finance, mutual recognition of digital identities, digital assets circulation, and other applications. Moving forward, CAICT will collaborate with various local partners in Hong Kong to explore the construction of the 'ASTRON Supernode (Hong Kong)'. We will deploy and promote applications and services based on the Hong Kong Supernode in different sectors, contribute to the development of standards in areas such as Web3 and decentralized digital identity for Hong Kong, facilitate the commercial deployment of use cases, and actively engage with ecosystem partners to enhance our capabilities in scenario building, jointly driving the growth of Hong Kong's digital economy."

Furthermore, on the day of signing the MoU, CAICT also signed MoUs with China Unicom (Hong Kong), BLOCKUNION, and JOINTLINK as partners for the landing of ASTRON in Hong Kong. The parties will leverage their strengths in blockchain, telecommunications networks, and technical services to jointly promote the international development of ASTRON. In this cooperation, China Unicom (Hong Kong) will capitalize on its strengths in cloud-network integration and actively promote the infrastructure capability construction for the 'ASTRON Supernode (Hong Kong)'. At the same time, it will participate in the development of standards in domains such as Hong Kong's Web3.0 and DID, as well as the commercial implementation of use cases, thereby enriching and strengthening the ASTRON ecosystem. Concurrently, BLOCKUNION and JOINTLINK will advance the commercial application of supernodes in various scenarios in Hong Kong.

About Xinghuo BIF and ASTRON

ASTRON is a national-level blockchain infrastructure initiated by the CAICT with the guidance and support from the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of China. Its purpose is to drive the digitalisation, networking, intelligence, and green development of industries. ASTRON is built on technological systems that include Distributed Identifier (DID) and digital

identity, blockchain, and artificial intelligence, aiming to fully unleash the value of data. It strives to create the most extensive and widely applied trustworthy data network in China's industrial internet domain, aiding in the development of new industrialisation.

ASTRON consists of a core consensus network of supernodes and an interconnected network of backbone nodes, supporting efficient and convenient access for enterprises and individual users. Since its official launch in August 2020, ASTRON has established supernodes in more than 12 cities across the country, including Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Wuhan, Chongqing, Nanjing, Chengdu, Shenyang, Jinan, Xiamen, Suzhou, and Liuzhou, with backbone nodes covering over 60 cities. It has rapidly deployed applications in industry scenarios such as digital assets, industrial finance, judicial evidence, supply chain management, and green low-carbon sectors, thus continually enhancing the value of the industrial ecosystem. In 2023, ASTRON began constructing a multi-party joint operation mechanism involving major enterprises and institutions, which further promotes the scalability and openness of ASTRON.

Currently, the ASTRON Supernode provides integrated solutions for more than ten industry use cases, including smart manufacturing, supply chain management, and product traceability. It has established public service platforms such as a digital native asset network service, a consensus as proof network service, an intelligent secure financial network service, and a privacy computing network service.

###

For high resolution photos, please download through this link.

Cyberport has forged a strategic partnership with the CAICT and signed an MoU for joint efforts in establishing the ASTRON Supernode (Hong Kong).

On the day of signing the MoU, CAICT also signed MoUs with China Unicom (Hong Kong), BLOCKUNION, and JOINTLINK as partners for the landing of ASTRON in Hong Kong. The parties will leverage their strengths in blockchain, telecommunications networks, and technical services to jointly promote the international development of ASTRON.

Simon Chan, Chairman of Cyberport, expressed in his welcome speech, " In the digital era, digitalisation is a new driving force for economic development, and data has become a new key production factor that can empower enterprises to boost efficacy and competitiveness. The establishment of an efficient and reliable data service network is an important foundation for the promotion of a digital economy and the realisation of high-quality social development. As Hong Kong's Web3 hub, Cyberport is dedicated to advancing the development of blockchain and Web3 technologies. Currently, our community has gathered over 230 Web3.0 companies from around the world. We are honoured to participate in the construction of the 'ASTRON Supernode (Hong Kong)'. We look forward to the landing of the Supernode, which will inject new impetus into Hong Kong's advanced manufacturing, internet and IoT industries, promote innovation and upgrades, facilitate the optimisation of economic infrastructure, accelerate the pace of building a smart city, and facilitate the development of Hong Kong as an international I&T centre."

Yu Xiaohui, the President of CAICT, delivered a speech via video, stating: "This signing and cooperation represent an important milestone in promoting the establishment of the 'ASTRON Supernode (Hong Kong)'. Once operational, the Supernode will focus on serving Hong Kong, Asia-Pacific region, and other areas, advancing the globalisation of cooperation in Hong Kong in the domains of cross-border trade, green finance, mutual recognition of digital identities, digital assets circulation, and other applications. Moving forward, CAICT will collaborate with various local partners in Hong Kong to explore the construction of the 'ASTRON Supernode (Hong Kong)'. We will deploy and promote applications and services based on the Hong Kong Supernode in different sectors,

contribute to the development of standards in areas such as Web3 and decentralized digital identity for Hong Kong, facilitate the commercial deployment of use cases, and actively engage with ecosystem partners to enhance our capabilities in scenario building, jointly driving the growth of Hong Kong's digital economy."

For media enquiry, please contact:

Cyberport
Maggie Hui
Tel: (852) 31663993
Email: maggiehuiml@cyberport.hk

A-World Consulting
Louis Kwong
Tel: (852) 2864 4889
Email: louis.kwong@a-world.com.hk

About Cyberport

Cyberport is Hong Kong's digital technology flagship and incubator for entrepreneurship with over 2,000 members including over 900 onsite and over 1,100 offsite start-ups and technology companies. It is managed by Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited, wholly owned by the Hong Kong SAR Government. With a vision to be the hub for digital technology, thereby creating a new economic driver for Hong Kong, Cyberport is committed to nurturing a vibrant tech ecosystem by cultivating talent, promoting entrepreneurship among youth, supporting start-ups, fostering industry development by promoting strategic collaboration with local and international partners, and integrating new and traditional economies by accelerating digital transformation in public and private sectors.

For more information, please visit www.cyberport.hk.

About China Academy of Information and Communications Technology (CAICT)

Founded in 1957, the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology (hereinafter referred to as CAICT) is a scientific research institute directly under the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) of China. It cherishes the cultural philosophy of "Boosting prosperity with virtues and expertise" for years while adhering to the development positioning of "a specialized think-tank for the government and an innovation and development platform for the industry". Committed to "the think-tank and enabler for innovation and development in an information society", CAICT has provided strong support for major strategy, plan, policy, test, and certification for the development of the national ICT sector and the IT application, thus proving itself an important facilitator in the leapfrog development and innovation of China's information and communications sector. It has been granted hundreds of scientific and technological awards at both national and provincial levels.

About China Unicom (Hong Kong) Operations Limited

China Unicom (Hong Kong) Operations Limited, leveraging extensive network resources, expert-level system integration capabilities, and expertise in digital technology innovation, it is a trusted partner in providing comprehensive global digital information services, including global connectivity, cloud computing, data center solutions, ICT, IoT, global voice, data roaming services, and more.

About BLOCKUNION

BLOCKUNION is a technology development and consulting company specializing in the field of blockchain and Web3.0. Headquartered in Hong Kong, we have branches in Shanghai and Singapore. With years of experience in the blockchain industry, the team provides professional services such as blockchain technology development, blockchain operations and blockchain consulting. Our mission is to build a blockchain Web3.0 ecosystem. Leveraging the policy advantages of Web3.0 in Hong Kong, BLOCKUNION serves as a bridge connecting domestic and international blockchain infrastructure, blockchain enterprise application solutions and Web3.0 technology research and development, assisting Hong Kong in becoming a global digital assets center.

About JOINTLINK CORPORATION LIMITED

JOINTLINK CORPORATION LIMITED is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Rivtower established in Hong Kong. Rivtower is a leading web3 technology service provider, headquartered in Hangzhou, China, with branches in Beijing, Shanghai, and Hong Kong. It has completed over 100 million yuan of financing led by GBA, CMB, Security Capital, and is a quasi unicorn of enterprise level blockchain technology services. The company provides products and services including blockchain software and hardware products, application tools, etc. The company is committed to providing stable, secure, and efficient Web 3.0 solutions for different industries worldwide.