

press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Standard Chartered and Dun & Bradstreet unveil top 100 SMEs in Singapore

*Ranking identifies growing companies with greatest potential to be Singapore's
large corporates of tomorrow*

23 May 2008, Singapore – Standard Chartered and Dun & Bradstreet (Singapore) (D&B) today announced the ranking of Singapore's top 100 emerging businesses. This ranking is called the Standard Chartered – D&B Top 100 SME Awards. The SMEs were ranked according to their Return on Equity (ROE) based on 2006 audited financial statements filed with the Registry of Companies or from the D&B database.

For the first time in Singapore, companies with a turnover of S\$40 million and below have been ranked. The top five companies in order of merit were:

1. Superworld Electronics (S) Pte Ltd
2. One North Bridge Pte Ltd
3. Tai-Tech Advanced Electronics (S) Pte Ltd
4. Mediterranean Shipping Company South East Asia (Singapore) Pte Ltd
5. Yuan Li Shipping (Singapore) Pte Ltd

The gala dinner award ceremony was held at Ritz Carlton Millennia this evening, where Guests of Honour, Mr Sunny Verghese, Chairman, IE Singapore and Ms Jessica Tan, Deputy Chairman, Government Parliamentary Committee, Finance and Trade & Industry, presented the awards.

The Standard Chartered – D&B Top 100 SME Awards is an independent and objective ranking based on the profitability ratio calculated from audited financial statements. The ranking aims to recognise companies that have achieved the highest Return On Equity (ROE). ROE is one of the most important profitability metrics, and it also highlights the overall efficiency of the company's management in utilising the funds invested by its investors and shareholders.

As ROE is an indicator of a company's good profitability and potential growth, the ranking is significant as it is a precursor of a company's future success.

The Standard Chartered – D&B Top 100 Awards ranking is meant to enable Singapore SMEs to raise their profile and also meet their transnational aspirations. The Bank believes that the ranking will also help SMEs that are venturing overseas for the first time establish and present a credible and credit-worthy business to their transnational business and financial partners.

Statistics show that 70% of SMEs in Singapore have transnational needs and 60% of Singapore SMEs say that finding the right overseas partner is the critical success factor for overseas operations.

In addition to Standard Chartered and D&B's ranking of Singapore's top 100 fastest-growing businesses, D&B will also rank businesses in three other South East Asian countries – Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia.

Ajay Kanwal, Head of Consumer Banking, Standard Chartered Bank, Singapore said, "SMEs are the lifeblood of any fast-growing economy. Standard Chartered partners SMEs at a nascent stage of development to form a strong banking relationship. The companies ranked today are clearly tomorrow's big corporations and regardless of their current size, the Bank is able to extend our transnational reach to them in more than 25 countries globally."

William Lim, Executive Director, Dun & Bradstreet (S) Pte Ltd said,

"The Standard Chartered – D&B Top 100 SMEs Award names homegrown Singapore SMEs that have distinguished themselves with their good

profitability record. For instance, 9 out of 10 companies in the listing achieved higher net profit compared to the last financial year, while 5 out of 10 doubled their net profit. Their efficiency in generating the highest return on each dollar invested by their shareholders and investors serve as excellent practical models for the SME community in Singapore to emulate.”

The ranking was independently prepared by D&B, based on audited financial data. The qualification criteria were:

- SMEs had to be registered with a local registry as separate legal entity (*excluding branches of foreign companies*)
- Subsidiaries were ranked as a separate legal entity from its parent company
- Sales/turnover between S\$10 million and S\$40 million
- Have a total equity of more than S\$1 million
- Positive reserves
- Profit for two consecutive years
- Three full years of operation
- Have fixed assets less than S\$15 million
- At least 30% local equity

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Note to Editors:

Standard Chartered in Singapore is part of an international banking group with an extensive network of over 1,700 branches (including subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures) in more than 70 countries in the Asia Pacific Region, South Asia, the Middle East, Africa, the United Kingdom and the Americas.

Standard Chartered has a history of nearly 150 years in Singapore, opening its first branch here in 1859. In October 1999, it was among the first international banks to receive a Qualifying Full Bank (QFB) license, an endorsement of the Group's long-standing commitment to its businesses in the country.

It serves both Consumer and Wholesale Banking customers. Consumer Banking provides credit cards, personal loans, mortgages, deposit taking and wealth management services to individuals and small to medium sized enterprises. Wholesale Banking provides corporate and institutional clients with services in trade finance, cash management, lending, securities services, foreign exchange, debt capital markets and corporate finance.

The Bank employs about 4,700 people in Singapore and has a network of 18 branches and 30 ATMs. Standard Chartered is the only international bank to offer NETS service, giving customers access to EFTPOS at over 17,000 outlets islandwide.

Standard Chartered's global Consumer Banking and Wholesale Banking businesses are managed out of Singapore, as is its global Technology & Operations function and the Standard Chartered Private Bank.

D&B Singapore Pte Ltd (www.dnb.com.sg)

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