

Singapore eDevelopment eyes tech firms to 'chart new destiny'

By JONATHAN KWOK

CATALIST-LISTED Singapore eDevelopment yesterday said it is buying one tech firm and wants to purchase another, as it expands into the fast-growing sector.

The company, formerly known as CCM Group, hopes that technology can become one of its twin engines of growth as it "charts a new corporate destiny" after its losses in recent years.

The other growth engine will be construction and property development.

Singapore eDevelopment will be paying \$98,000 for HotApps International, a software developer which owns applications for instant messaging, social media and

e-commerce platforms.

The unit is to be purchased from Mr Chan Heng Fai, Singapore eDevelopment's chief executive officer who owns HotApps.

HotApps intends to launch its flagship mobile application in Singapore before the end of this year.

Separately, Singapore eDevelopment has also signed a memorandum of understanding to buy CloudTel, a telecom hardware and software developer.

CloudTel is 50 per cent owned by Mr Chan, and the value of the transaction will be determined later after an assessment by independent valuers. The deal is also subject to a shareholder vote.

CloudTel has developed a desktop interactive cross-platform

smart terminal running on the Android operating system.

The terminal will enable low-cost international voice and video calls, and it is intended to replace traditional desktop phones in homes, offices and hotels.

It will also enable advertising applications. CloudTel is in talks with major telcos to offer the terminals to the China market.

"We will combine the capabilities (of HotApps and CloudTel) with our management's business network and capital market expertise to accelerate growth for the two companies and for Singapore eDevelopment as it charts a new corporate destiny," said Mr Chan in a statement.

In May, the company sold its

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— Mr Chan Heng Fai, Singapore eDevelopment's chief executive officer who owns HotApps

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loss-making Singapore construction subsidiary CCM Industrial, but it has set up a new construction arm, Singapore Construction, with new managers. The unit has secured landed property contracts worth \$7.7 million.

In terms of property develop-

ment, Singapore eDevelopment also owns 60 per cent of a project in Texas in the United States. It is also developing waterfront bungalows and townhouses in Perth in Australia.

Singapore eDevelopment changed its name from CCM

Group after getting approval to do so at an extraordinary general meeting this month. Investors also approved a rights issue and the move to diversify into information technology.

These followed the disposal in May of its loss-making subsidiary CCM Industrial. CCM Group had reported a net loss of \$22.4 million for the financial year ended Dec 31, 2013, up from a loss of \$1.9 million for the year before that.

Singapore eDevelopment yesterday also announced that it has appointed Hong Leong Finance as its continuing sponsor, replacing PrimePartners Corporate Finance. The change took effect yesterday.

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