

# Pre-pack Schemes

Singapore

David Chew  
DHC Capital  
[david.chew@dhccapital.com](mailto:david.chew@dhccapital.com)



# Agenda

---

- ▶ Introduction to pre-pack schemes
- ▶ Evolution of pre-pack schemes in Singapore
- ▶ Lessons learned

# Introduction to pre-pack schemes

## What is a pre-pack?

---

### General definition

“Pre-packs refer to a restructuring that is pre-negotiated and pre-agreed with the key stakeholders and implemented through a Court insolvency process”

### Various forms of pre-packs across jurisdictions

- ▶ Not one size fits all
- ▶ United States: Chapter 11 pre-pack
- ▶ United Kingdom: Pre-pack Administration
- ▶ Other countries: Australia and India, amongst others

# Introduction to pre-pack schemes

## Singapore – Legal regime

---

### Background

- ▶ Introduced as part of amendments to the Companies Act (“CA”) and came into effect on 23 May 2017 (under Section 211I CA)
- ▶ Incorporated into Insolvency, Restructuring and Dissolution Act 2018 (“IRDA”) and came into effect on 30 July 2020 (under Section 71 IRDA)

### IRDA

- ▶ Section 71(1) IRDA: Mechanism allows for a Court to sanction a scheme of arrangement even though no meeting of creditors has been ordered by the Court (i.e. instead of two applications to Court – one for leave to convene creditors meeting and one for sanction, only one application for sanction)

# Introduction to pre-pack schemes

## Singapore – Legal regime

---

### IRDA – Legal requirements for sanction of pre-pack scheme

- ▶ **Information:** Provide each creditor meant to be bound by the arrangement with a statement setting out information for the creditors to make an informed decision (Sections 71(3a) and 71(6) IRDA).
- ▶ **Information:** Includes the following:
  - ▶ Information concerning the company's property, assets, business activities, financial condition and prospects
  - ▶ Information on the manner in which the terms of the arrangement will, if it takes effect, affect the rights of the creditor
  - ▶ Such other information as is necessary to enable the creditor to make an informed decision whether to agree to the arrangement
  - ▶ Any material interests of the directors of the company
  - ▶ The effect that the compromise or arrangement has on those interests, insofar as that effect is different from the effect that the arrangement has on the like interests of other persons (including an Explanatory statement of the scheme)

# Introduction to pre-pack schemes

## Singapore – Legal regime

---

### IRDA – Legal requirements for sanction of pre-pack scheme

- ▶ **Notice:** Publish a notice of application for pre-pack scheme in the *Gazette*, at least one English local daily newspaper and send a copy of the notice to the Registrar of Companies and to each creditor meant to be bound by the arrangement (Sections 71(3b) and 71(3c) IRDA)
- ▶ **Creditor support:** Court must be satisfied that had a meeting of the creditors been convened, a majority of the creditors, representing no less than three-quarters in value of debts owed, would have approved the scheme (Section 71(3d) IRDA read with Sections 210(3AB)(a) and (b) of CA)

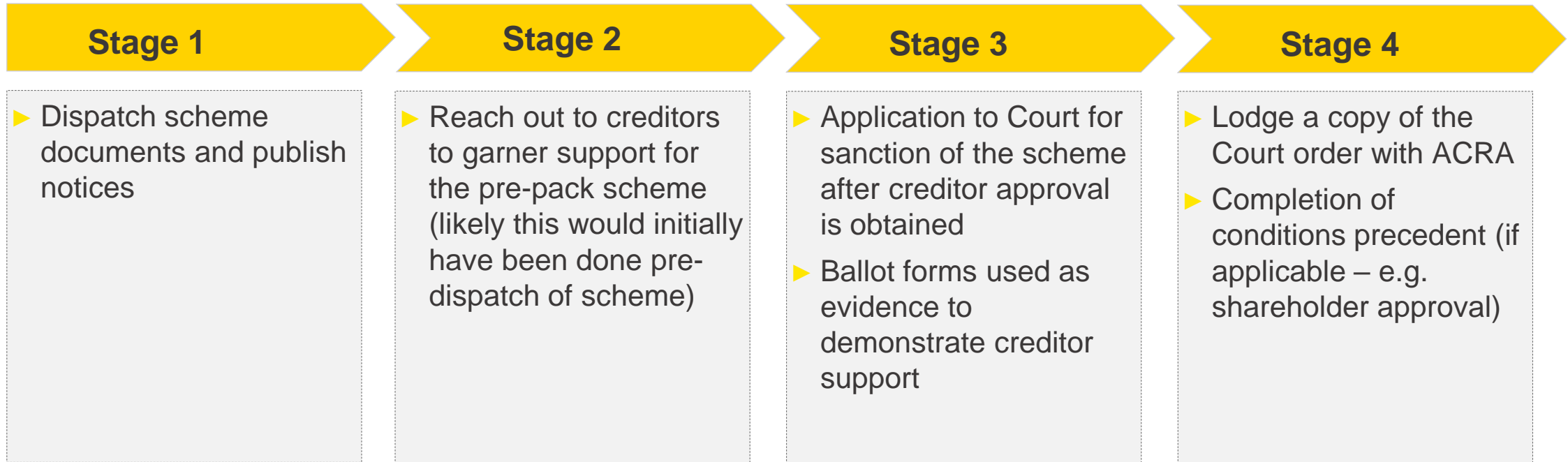


# Introduction to pre-pack schemes

## Singapore – Legal regime

---

### IRDA – Stages for a pre-pack scheme



**Notes:**

1. Assumes no moratorium application under Section 210(10) of Companies Act or Section 64 IRDA

# Introduction to pre-pack schemes

## Singapore – Legal regime

---

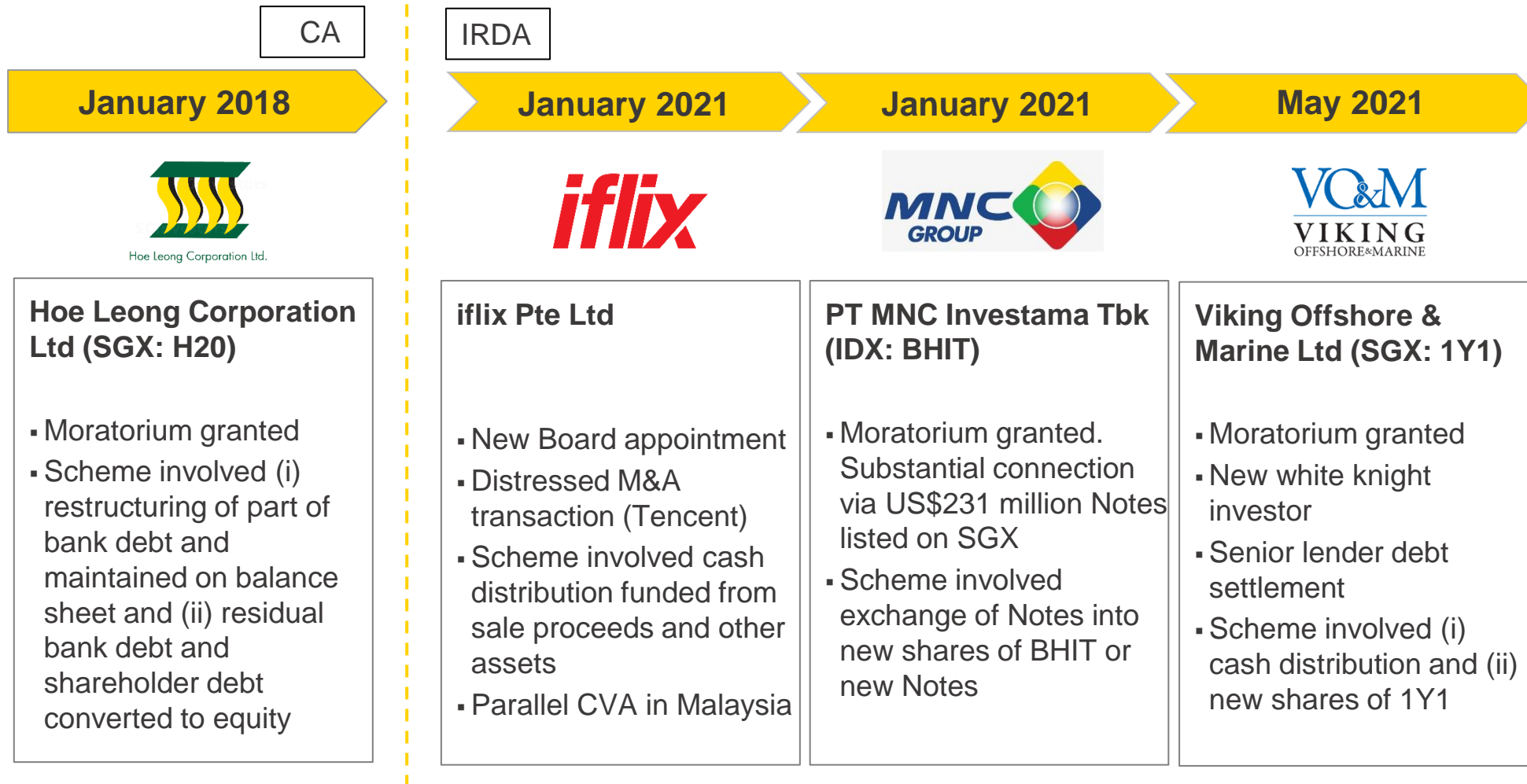
### IRDA – Simplified Debt Restructuring Programme

- ▶ Overseen by the Ministry of Law
- ▶ Specific qualification criteria to be eligible for SDRP
- ▶ Protection from creditors via a moratorium and temporary restriction on ipso facto clauses
- ▶ Pre-pack scheme concept
  - ▶ Company to obtain evidence to satisfy the Court that there is sufficient creditor support
  - ▶ Lower voting threshold – Majority in number of at least 2/3<sup>rd</sup> in value of creditors or class of creditors (Section 72M(3)(d) IRDA)



# Evolution of pre-pack schemes in Singapore

## Overview of scheme terms and key features

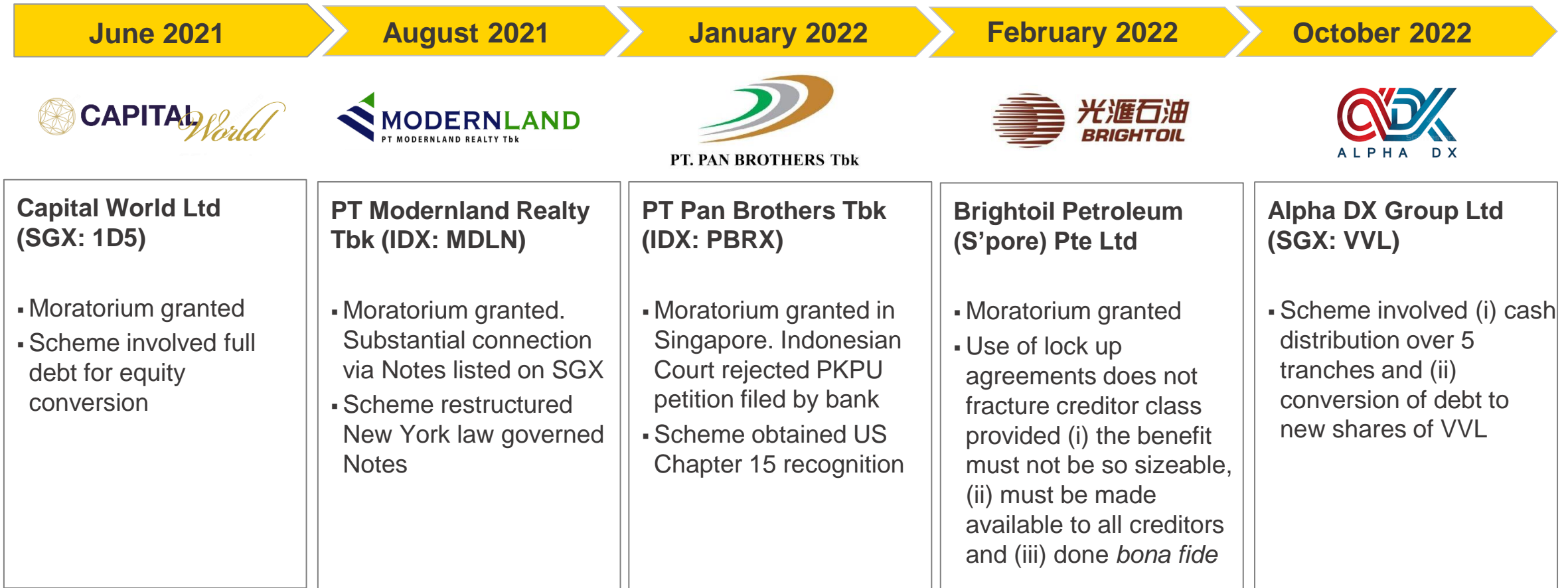


**Notes:**

1. DHC Capital advised on pre-pack schemes for iflix Pte Ltd and Viking Offshore & Marine Ltd
2. Sycamore Tree and Laurel Tree pre-pack schemes were excluded as the schemes did not restructure any debt

# Evolution of pre-pack schemes in Singapore

## Overview of scheme terms and key features

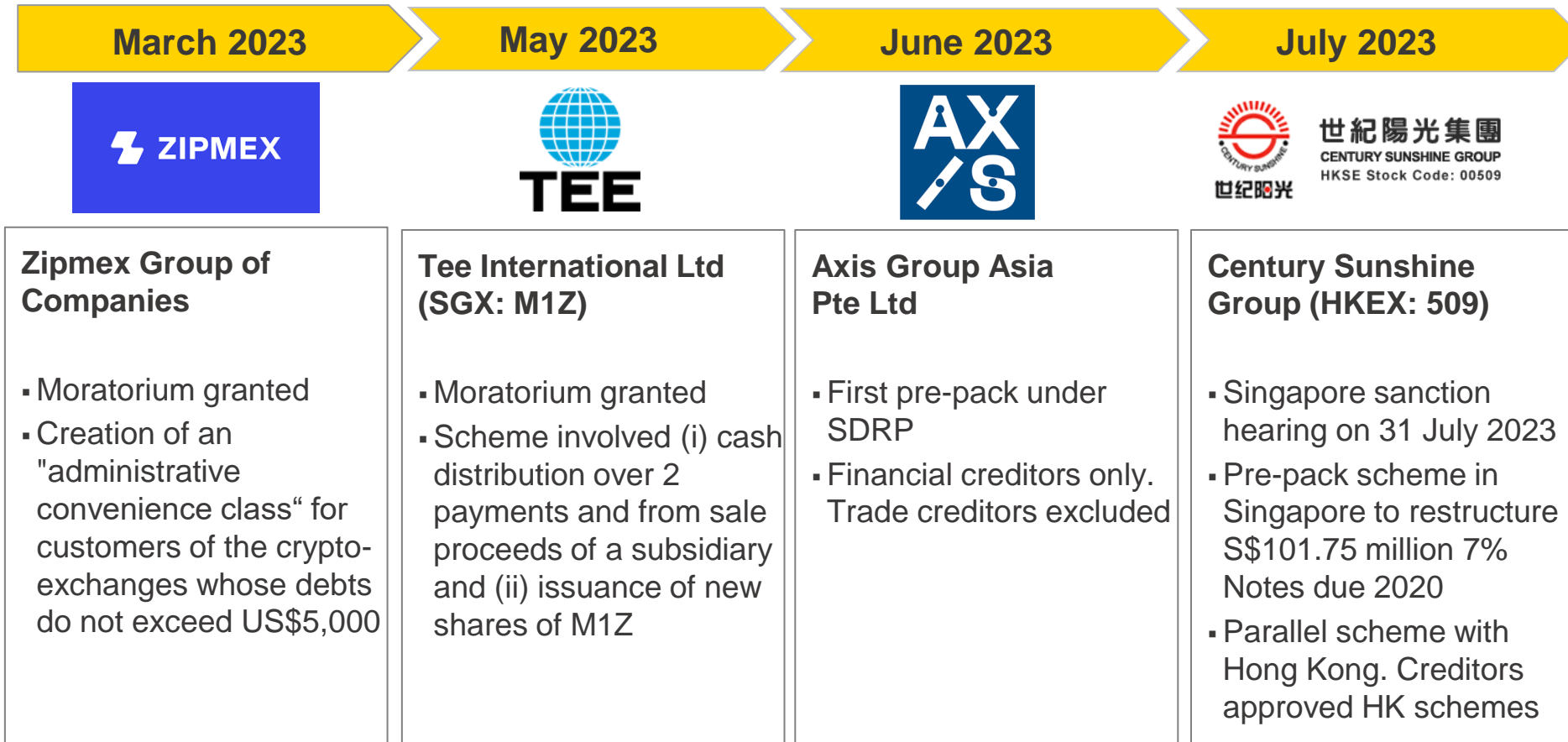


**Notes:**

1. DHC Capital advised on pre-pack scheme for Capital World Ltd

# Evolution of pre-pack schemes in Singapore

## Overview of scheme terms and key features



**Notes:**

1. DHC Capital advised on pre-pack scheme for Axis Group Asia Pte Ltd

2. DHC Capital advised the informal steering committee of Noteholders in the restructuring of S\$101.75 million 7% Notes

# Lessons learned

---

1

## Speed and Certainty

- ▶ Faster scheme process saves time and costs (21 days to submit claims; no scheme meeting; 3 months overall timeframe)
- ▶ Certainty of completion via creditor lock up agreements (Brightoil case) and use of administrative class (Zipmex case)
- ▶ Preserves going concern value

2

## Moratorium and Recognition

- ▶ Enhanced moratorium to provide “breathing space” – holding company/related companies; “*in-personam*” extra-territorial effect; foreign companies with “*substantial connection*” (MNC and Modernland cases)
- ▶ Foreign acknowledgement of moratorium (Pan Brothers case) and recognition of sanction order (Pan Brothers Chapter 15)

3

## Flexible Tool

- ▶ Deals can be structured in combination with other corporate actions – senior debt restructuring (Viking case), equity capital raise (Viking case), distressed M&A (iflix case), new Board / CRO / Interim management appointments (iflix case), parallel procedures (iflix and Century Sunshine case), super priority rescue financing and litigation funding

# Lessons learned

---

4

## Creditor Support

- ▶ Use of informal and formal creditor discussions / meetings to solicit creditor support
- ▶ Use of ballot forms to demonstrate creditor support and statutory threshold met
- ▶ Alternatives include lock up agreements or restructuring support agreements

5

## Disclosure Requirements

- ▶ *Re DSG Asia Holdings Pte Ltd [2021] SGHC 209*: Court observed that “material information” to be disclosed. Court observed that “material information” is information that enables creditors to assess “whether the allocation of loss and the division of benefits is fair and in their commercial interests”

6

## Proper Creditor Classification

- ▶ *Re DSG Asia Holdings Pte Ltd [2021] SGHC 209*: Factors considered in classifying creditors include (i) creditors rights and (ii) if the statutory thresholds are met, whether the creditors whose votes were solicited were fairly representative of the class of creditors taking into regard the creditors’ private interests

# Lessons learned

---

7

## Bona Fides and Deed Poll

- ▶ *Re DSG Asia Holdings Pte Ltd [2021] SGHC 209:*
  - ▶ Pre-pack scheme be made *bona fide* and not to skirt around opposition
  - ▶ Pre-pack scheme use of deed poll structure to consolidate or pool liabilities into one entity was acceptable if commercially necessary (Gategroup structure)

8

## Limitations on Use of Cram Downs

- ▶ Cross-class cram down (vertical cram down) provisions under Section 70 IRDA are not available in a pre-pack scheme under Section 71 IRDA

**DHC Capital | Restructuring | Capital Raising |  
Accelerated M&A | Expert Testimony | Board  
& Executive**

**About DHC Capital**

DHC Capital is an investment banking and financial advisory firm specialising in solving critical business challenges due to liquidity pressures or financial stress and distress.

DHC Capital provides independent and conflict-free advice on financial and operational restructuring to corporates, creditors, investors and other stakeholders, both in and out of Court. DHC Capital also advises clients on structuring and executing bespoke capital raising and accelerated M&A transactions to meet short term liquidity requirements, raise capital to unlock shareholder value or meet growth objectives. DHC Capital will further provide directors or executives into corporates involved in a restructuring process or on behalf of creditors and investors to monitor and protect their investments.

For further information, please visit [www.dhccapital.com](http://www.dhccapital.com).

**DHC Capital Pte Ltd**

DHC Capital Pte Ltd is a company incorporated in Singapore and has lodged with the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) that it is an exempt person providing corporate finance advisory services.

© 2023 DHC Capital Pte Ltd.

All Rights Reserved.

This publication forms part of our comprehensive series of “Insights | Thought Leadership” publications. Please refer to our website at [www.dhccapital.com](http://www.dhccapital.com) for the full suite of long form and short form thought leadership articles on topical issues facing the industry.

This publication has been written in general terms and therefore cannot be relied upon to cover specific situations. Application of the principles set out will depend upon the particular circumstances involved and we recommend that you obtain professional advice before acting or refraining from acting on any of the contents of this publication. DHC Capital Pte Ltd accepts no duty of care or liability from any loss arising from acting or refraining from acting as a result of any material in this publication.