

Strategy Focus

Strategy – Market Reform

An evolving storm on Chinese ADRs: 6 Q&As

- Newly passed US Senate bill to delist Chinese ADRs reflects Sino-US tensions.
- The issue of audit working papers remains at center of the dispute, but there may be more pressure on China during US presidential election period.
- China's cooperation and capital markets reform may mitigate the tension. We remain medium-term bullish on Chinese equities and list 36 ADRs that would qualify for a secondary listing in Hong Kong.

On May 21, the US Senate passed the *Holding Foreign Companies Accountable Act* (S.945), which would: 1) increase oversight of foreign companies listed on US exchanges; and 2) ban trading for firms that have three "non-inspection years" (e.g. US regulators unable to inspect the company's auditor). In this report, we explore six key questions on the increasingly contentious debate over Sino-US financial links:

1) What are the recent pressures from US legislators on Chinese ADRs? It will take time for the bill to become law. Yet the unanimous approval from the Senate indicates cross-party consensus to put more pressure on China (p2).

2) How accessible are offshore-listed Chinese companies' underlying audit **papers?** Overseas auditors can only be allowed to access such papers if they partner with Chinese accounting firms and comply with confidentiality requirements. Overseas regulators, except Hong Kong's, have very limited access so far (p2).

3) What is the timeline of the contentious debate over Sino-US financial links? In the past several months, US politicians proposed to delist Chinese companies from US stock exchanges with different criteria, and cap Americans' exposure to the Chinese market. We expect the debate to remain among the top topics of the 2020 US presidential election (p4).

4) How can Chinese authorities exert influence over offshore-listed companies? Various authorities can work with overseas regulators for cross-border enforcement. We think they will only investigate offshore-listed companies with discretion (p6).

5) How has the Chinese government prepared for a worst-case scenario? By introducing a series of capital markets reforms and cooperating with Hong Kong to embrace emerging tech trends (2020 China Macro and Equity Outlook, Jan 6, 2020) (p7).

6) Among Chinese ADRs, which would qualify for a secondary listing in Hong Kong? We list 36 names (p10). We think Hong Kong may see a wave of listings of Chinese new economy companies, thanks to the new listing regime and the pronew economy indexes (see *Hang Seng Indexes revamp: Seize China's new economy dynamism*, May 18, 2020).

We remain medium-term bullish on Chinese equitiesgiven their growth potential, favorable FX movement and global investors' asset allocation demand. In the near term, Chinese ADRs will likely face continued pressure on both sentiment and valuation. We expect structural capital markets reforms to accelerate in China, helping to reshape the investment landscape for new economy stocks listed both on the A-share market and offshore markets, and further spur a recovery in sentiment.

China Renaissance Securities (US) Inc. and/or one of its affiliates does and seeks to do business with companies covered in its research reports. As a result, investors should be aware that the firm may have a conflict of interest that could affect the objectivity of this report. Investors should consider this report as only a single factor in making their investment decision. This research report has been prepared in whole or in part by equity research analysts based outside the US who are not registered/qualified as research analysts with FINRA.

PLEASE SEE ANALYST CERTIFICATION(S) AND IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES BEGINNING ON APPENDIX A

Research Team

Bruce Pang, PhD +852 2287 1244

+852 2287 1244 brucepang@chinarenaissance.com

Melody Lai +852 2287 1605 yeyelai@chinarenaissance.com

Blanco Zhou +852 2287 1250

blancozhou@chinarenaissance.com



Q1: What are the recent pressures from US legislators on Chinese ADRs?

On May 20, 2020, the US Senate unanimously approved the *Holding Foreign Companies Accountable Act* (S.945) that requires companies listed in the US to certify they are not under the control of a foreign government. If the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) is not able to inspect the company's audit firm for three consecutive years, the company's securities would be banned from US exchanges.

In a sign of broad support for the measure, a companion bill has been introduced in the US House of Representatives' Financial Services Committee (Bloomberg, "Senate passes bill to delist Chinese companies from exchanges", May 21, 2020). We note:

- It will take time for the House of Representatives to discuss its own version of the bill, and for a Conference Committee between the House and the Senate to reconcile potential differences between two versions of the bill.
- The US President is required to sign a bill passed by Congress before it becomes law. President Trump recently said in an interview with FOX News, for Chinese companies that trade on the NYSE and Nasdaq but do not follow US accounting rules, he is "looking at that very strongly". However, he said that cracking down could backfire and simply result in the firms moving to exchanges in London or Hong Kong (Bloomberg, "*Trump says U.S. is looking at Chinese companies on exchanges*", May 14).
- The unanimous approval by the Senate shows bipartisanship support, with common ground over putting more pressure on China amid increasingly tense Sino-US relations.

Q2: How accessible are offshore-listed Chinese companies' underlying audit papers?

For overseas auditors

Overseas auditors can only access the underlying audit working papers of offshorelisted Chinese companies if¹:

- They have a partnership with a Chinese accounting firm.
- They access and review the audit working papers only when in mainland China.
- They must strictly comply with confidentiality requirements. Mainland companies and overseas accounting firms must follow restrictions on taking Chinese audit papers out of mainland China. The accounting records (including audit working papers) of Chinese companies may be subject to claims of state secrecy under Chinese law and consent of the relevant authorities is required before they can be taken outside mainland China.

¹ For details, please see <u>Interim Provisions on Accounting Firms' Provision of Auditing Services for the Overseas Listing of Enterprises in Chinese</u> <u>Mainland</u> (Chinese version of Announcement on Accounting Issues No. 9 [2015], Ministry of Finance, published May 26, 2015 and came into force July 1, 2015) and <u>Provisions on Strengthening the Relevant Confidentiality and Archives Management Work Relating to the Overseas</u> <u>Issuance of Securities and Listing</u> (Chinese version of Announcement No. 29 [2009], CSRC, National Administration for the Protection of State Secrets and State Archives Bureau).



For overseas regulators

According to Article 177 of the 2020 revised *Securities Law*, China reiterates that without approval from Chinese authorities, no entity or individual in China may provide documents and information relating to securities business activities to overseas regulators.

When the listing of a mainland China company becomes the subject of a legal action or other matter, and an overseas judicial or regulatory authority requires access to the audit working papers in respect of that company, or where an overseas regulatory authority requires access to the audit working papers for a mainland China company, access should be sought in accordance with the relevant supervision agreement entered into between the regulatory authorities of mainland China and the relevant overseas jurisdiction.

The restriction on taking Chinese audit papers out of China creates problems for accountants, and IPO sponsors and regulators that want to see the papers. In recent years, some overseas regulators have sought access to Chinese audit working papers. Cross-border cooperation of enforcement is sought on a case-by-case basis.

In July 2019, China's Ministry of Finance (MOF), the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) and Hong Kong's Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) concerning the obtaining of audit working papers in mainland China arising from the audits of Hong Kong-listed mainland companies. Under the MoU, the SFC is granted access to audit working papers – signed by Hong Kong accounting firms, while created and kept in the Mainland – when conducting investigations into mainland-based issuers or listed companies, and their related entities or persons. Under the MoU, the SFC's requests for investigative assistance regarding the provision of audit working papers.

The PCAOB is still unable to inspect audit working papers in mainland China

The PCAOB, which was set up by the 2002 Sarbanes-Oxley Act and is overseen by the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), is tasked with policing the accounting firms that sign off on the books of the nation's listed companies.

According to a joint statement issued by the SEC and the PCAOB, the PCAOB still lacks access to the work of PCAOB-registered accounting firms in China (including Hong Kong, to the extent their audit clients have operations in China) with respect to their audit work on US reporting companies. The regulators said that about 95% of firms whose financials can't be reviewed use Chinese auditors (see SEC and PCAOB, "<u>Emerging market investments entail significant disclosure, financial reporting and other risks; remedies are limited</u>", April 21, 2020).

Even when the auditor signing the audit report is not based in China, if the reporting company has operations in China, significant portions of the audit may have been performed by firms in China, and the PCAOB may be unable to access such audit working papers.

The SEC and the PCAOB require issuers with operations in China to make clear disclosures regarding these risks, including highlighting these limitations as a risk factor in their listing filings.



Q3: What is the timeline of the contentious debate over Sino-US financial links?

Early in the series of squabbles over Sino-US financial links, we highlighted there may be a potential risk from "another type of 'war'", whereby the US administration may limit US investors' exposure to Chinese assets (see <u>Embrace the New China</u>, Oct 21, 2019). The debate is immersed in the Sino-US tensions, which we have expected will last at least until November's US presidential election (see <u>2020 China</u> <u>Macro and Equity Outlook</u>, Jan 6, 2020). Threats, escalations, and retaliations could be among the top topics during the US presidential election period, in our view. Tensions have developed as follows:

- In December 2018, the SEC and the PCAOB issued a joint warning to investors about the challenges American regulators face when attempting to conduct oversight of US-listed companies whose operations are based in China and Hong Kong.
- In May 2019, the White House's former Chief Strategist Steve Bannon said he would dedicate his time to shutting Chinese companies out of US capital markets (Bloomberg, "Bannon Urges Trump to 'Go All the Way' in China Trade War", May 28, 2019. The issue has been discussed among political commentators since then.
- According to media reports, from September 2019, the US administration considered to limit US investors' exposure to Chinese assets (Bloomberg, "White House Focuses on China Stock Limits in Retirement Fund", October 8, 2019; "White House Weighs Limits on U.S. Portfolio Flows into China", September 27, 2019).

Potential options reportedly include: delisting Chinese companies from US stock exchanges, capping Americans' exposure to the Chinese market through government pension funds and putting limits on the Chinese companies included in stock indexes managed by US firms. However, a US Treasury official reportedly said the administration was not considering blocking Chinese companies from listing shares on US stock exchanges "at this time" (Bloomberg, September 29, 2019). Nevertheless, the media reports did not rule out the possibility of other types of regulation.

- In November 2019, an Ensuring Quality Information and Transparency for Abroad-Based Listings on our Exchanges (EQUITABLE) Act is introduced to the US Senate. The Act proposed to force Chinese companies that are traded on US stock markets – there are more than 150, with a combined capitalization of more than USD1.2trn – to adhere to American accounting standards, or be delisted.
- A separate bill, the Taxpayers and Savers Protection Act (TSP) Act, has been submitted to the US House in November 2019. The Act proposed to block a key federal pension fund from investing in Chinese companies that have been accused of stealing intellectual property or are under sanctions imposed by the US government.
- In February 2020, the SEC released a statement regarding the difficulties US regulators face when auditing US-listed companies based in China, and how over the past decade US investors, and the US capital markets more generally, have become more exposed to companies with significant operations in emerging markets, including China, the largest emerging market economy.



 According to a Wall Street Journal report on May 14, 2020, the White House is considering forcing Chinese companies to report their figures based on US Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) if they want access to US exchanges, although it also recognized this might force firms to move to other countries in response. It is unknown by what mechanism this requirement would be enforced (Wall Street Journal, "*Trump May Push for Chinese Companies to Follow US Accounting Rules for Stock Listings*", May 14, 2020).

Many Chinese companies listed on US exchanges already use GAAP, and those with multiple listings – most of which are SOEs and old economy stocks – commonly adopt the International Financial Reporting Standards Foundation (IFRS), which the SEC currently allows them to use.

Exhibit 1: Most Chinese ADRs adopting non-US-GAAP accounting standard are old economy companies

Stock Code	Name	Sector	Accounting Standard
CXDC US	China XD Plastics	Consumer Discretionary	CN GAAP
CHL US	China Mobile	Telecommunication Services	IAS/IFRS
PTR US	PetroChina	Energy	IAS/IFRS
LFC US	China Life Insurance	Financials	IAS/IFRS
SNP US	China Petroleum & Chemical	Energy	IAS/IFRS
CEO US	CNOOC	Energy	IAS/IFRS
CHA US	China Telecom	Telecommunication Services	IAS/IFRS
CHU US	China Unicom Hong Kong	Telecommunication Services	IAS/IFRS
CEA US	China Eastern Airlines	Industrials	IAS/IFRS
HNP US	Huaneng Power International	Utilities	IAS/IFRS
ZNH US	China Southern Airlines	Industrials	IAS/IFRS
ACH US	Aluminum Corp of China	Materials	IAS/IFRS
SHI US	Sinopec Shanghai Petrochemical	Energy	IAS/IFRS
DAO US	Youdao	Consumer Discretionary	IAS/IFRS
GSH US	Guangshen Railway	Industrials	IAS/IFRS
HKIB US	AMTD International	Financials	IAS/IFRS
ILG US	Hailiang Education Group	Consumer Discretionary	IAS/IFRS
SVM US	Silvercorp Metals	Materials	IAS/IFRS
QK US	Q&K International Group	Real Estate	IAS/IFRS
CYD US	China Yuchai International	Industrials	IAS/IFRS
ATIF US	ATIF Holdings	Industrials	IAS/IFRS
SOLUS	ReneSola	Information Technology	IAS/IFRS
CHNR US	China Natural Resources	Materials	IAS/IFRS
OXF US	Dunxin Financial Holdings	Financials	IAS/IFRS
CCCL US	China Ceramics	Industrials	IAS/IFRS
KBSF US	KBS Fashion Group	Consumer Discretionary	IAS/IFRS
VSG US	Wanda Sports Group	Consumer Discretionary	IAS/IFRS

Source: Bloomberg, SEC, CRSHK

 On May 12, 2020, US President Trump confirmed that his administration has asked for the withdrawal of "billions of dollars" in American pension fund investments in China, and that other similar actions were under consideration (New York Times, "*Trump pressures federal pension to halt planned Chinese stock purchases*", May 12, 2020).



Exhibit 2: Chinese equities and bonds accounted for only 0.6% of total US Retirement Assets AUM in 2019

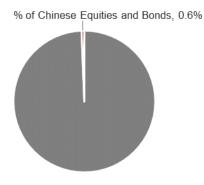


Exhibit 3: Total holdings of US pension funds in Chinese equities and bonds were relatively small in 2019



Source: Bloomberg, CRSHK

Source: Bloomberg, CRSHK

On May 19, 2020, Nasdaq announced new rules that would make initial public offerings (IPOs) more difficult for some Chinese companies. The proposed regulations include requiring companies from certain countries to raise at least USD25m in their IPO, or alternatively, an amount equal to at least a quarter of their post-listing market capitalization, according to Nasdaq filings with the SEC. Of the 29 Chinese companies that went public on Nasdaq last year, 10 raised less than USD25m, according to data compiled by Bloomberg (Bloomberg, "Nasdaq set to tighten listing rules, impacting Chinese IPOs", May 19, 2020).

Q4: How can Chinese authorities exert influence over offshore-listed companies?

According to Article 2 of China's 2020 revised Securities Law, any security offering or trading activity outside the territory of the People's Republic of China that disturbs the domestic market order of the PRC, damages the legitimate rights and interests of domestic investors, and shall be dealt with and subject to legal liabilities in accordance with the applicable provisions of the law. According to Article 177 of the 2020 revised Securities Law:

- The CSRC can cooperate with overseas regulators to establish cross-border enforcement.
- Without the approval of its securities regulator and various components of the Chinese government, no entity or individual in China may provide documents and information relating to securities business activities to overseas regulators.

Details on how to implement these articles is not yet clear, given that the revised Securities Law just came into effective on March 1, 2020.

However, the CSRC "strongly condemned" the recent allegations of accounting fraud by a Chinese ADR company in a statement on April 3, saying that "regardless of where a company is listed, the company should strictly abide by market laws and rules and perform its duty to disclose real financial reports", and "the CSRC will investigate the situation with a resolution to crack down on securities fraud to protect investors' rights and interests." The CSRC also lead a multi-agency investigation



Strategy Focus

when Chinese investigators raided the offices of the company (Bloomberg, "Luckin Offices Raided by Chinese Regulators as Scandal Widens", April 27, 2020).

In practice, we note that other Chinese authorities also have power in regulating and penalizing offshore-listed Chinese companies; these include the MOF, the State Taxation Administration (STA), the State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR), the Ministry of Public Security (MPS), the National Development and Reform Committee (NDRC) and the Ministry of Commerce (MOC).

We think the above articles of the Securities Law do not mean that the Chinese authorities will start to proactively initiate investigations or directly impose sanctions against fraudulent conduct relating to the issuance or listing of China-based stocks in overseas markets, considering:

- There are two preconditions regarding the CSRC's application of the Long-arm Jurisdiction clause: "disturbing the domestic market order" and "damaging the rights and interests of domestic investors." Neither the PRC legislature nor the CSRC has clarified whether these conditions have to be met simultaneously or only alternatively in order to trigger the application of the Long-arm Jurisdiction Clause. As for conduct "disturbing the market order", based on previous administrative sanction decisions made by the CSRC, for the most part it refers to conduct relating to the fabrication of rumors by the concerned parties, which, objectively speaking, disrupts the securities market.
- If the Chinese authorities investigate offshore-listed Chinese companies with discretion and flexibility, in our view this could help prevent potential issues regarding overseas regulators exercising Long-arm Jurisdiction on onshorelisted Chinese companies as well.

Q5: How has the Chinese government prepared for a worst-case scenario?

In the past two years, the Chinese government has launched a series of capital markets reforms, leading to several changes in market structure that have helped to reshape the investment landscape for stocks listed both on the A-share market and on offshore markets:

- China has launched a home-grown ADR equivalent, the Chinese Depository Receipt (CDR). On June 17, 2019, the CSRC and the Financial Conduct Authority of the United Kingdom (FCA) released a joint announcement of their approval in principle of the establishment of the Shanghai-London Stock Connect. On the same day, the London Stock Exchange (LSE) held the launch ceremony for the westbound business of Shanghai-London Stock Connect and the listing of global depositary receipts (GDRs) issued by Huatai Securities Co., Ltd., a company listed on both the Shanghai Stock Exchange (SSE) and the Hong Kong Stock Exchange (SEHK). Huatai is the first A- + H-share company to issue GDRs on the LSE.
- China's NASDAQ-style tech board, the Sci-Tech Innovation Board (the STAR Market) of the Shanghai Stock Exchange (SSE) was launched in July 2019. The STAR Market offers a new funding platform for Chinese start-ups, helping China sustain economic growth by funding more technological innovation, together with infrastructure spending. Eligible equities on the STAR Market could be included in the MSCI Global Investable Market Indexes (GIMI), as well as other China-related indexes in the MSCI index family, if certain requirements are met, in our opinion.



Strategy Focus

- The Shanghai Stock Exchange, Shenzhen Stock Exchange and Stock Exchange of Hong Kong have agreed on criteria for Hong Kong-listed companies with weighted voting rights (WVR) to be included for the first time in southbound trading of the Stock Connect Scheme, starting October 28, 2019. Most companies adopting WVR are new economy firms.
- The revised Securities Law has been approved by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, and took effect from March 1, 2020. The revisions provide legal grounds for a registrationbased IPO approval system across the entire A-share market, remove all arrangements for the approval-based system currently in use, and enhance enforcement against market violations, including compulsory de-listing procedures (see <u>2020 China Macro and Equity Outlook</u>, Jan 6, 2020).
- In late-April 2020, China announced a plan to launch a US-style registrationbased IPO system on its Nasdaq-like start-up board ChiNext in Shenzhen, about one year after introducing the system on the STAR market, which also focuses on high-tech industries. Companies seeking listings need approval from the CSRC, greatly shortening the waiting period.
- On May 14, 2020, the People's Bank of China, the central bank, and regulators of the banking, insurance, securities and FX sectors jointly issued 26 new measures, policies and pilot programs to promote the financial opening-up and integration in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA), as part of the efforts to help the area play a lead role in the nation's economic development and financial reform. The regulators vowed to maintain and further enhance Hong Kong's position as an international financial center. We think the GBA could form a first-class innovative capital funding center with each city bringing its advantages into play, such as Hong Kong's IPO market, Shenzhen's high-tech industries, and the Guangdong Pilot Free Trade Zone.
- On May 18, 2020, Hong Kong's stock index compiler announced that weighted voting rights (WVR) companies and secondary listed companies from the Greater China region will be added into the Hang Seng Index and the Hang Seng China Enterprises Index (HSCEI), subject to a 5% weighting cap. With HKEx's new listing regime effective from 2018, more and more China tech giants are considering a secondary listing or even a primary listing in Hong Kong. The Hang Seng Indexes revamp also reflects changes in the Hong Kong market's investment landscape. We estimate that HKEx may lift the percentage share of new economy stocks (based on market cap) to 30-35% in the next five years, up from 26% now (see <u>Hang Seng Indexes revamp: Seize China's new economy dynamism</u>, May 18, 2020).



Q6: Among Chinese ADRs, which would qualify for a secondary listing in Hong Kong?

We screened for stocks meeting all of the following criteria:

- Listed on the NYSE, Nasdaq or Main Market of the London Stock Exchange.
- Established for more than two years with good record of regulatory compliance in their listed market.
- Operating in new economy sectors: Sectors of IT, Communication Services, Healthcare, Consumer Discretionary, as well as the sub-sector of Commercial & professional services in the industrial sector.
- Market capitalization ≥ HK\$40bn; or market capitalization ≥ HK\$10bn and FY2019 revenue ≥ HK\$1bn.

Our screen results are presented in the two tables below.

In our view, these stocks may have a greater probability of seeking a secondary listing in Hong Kong, given they would qualify based on HKEx's current listing rules. We think those listed before December 15, 2017 may find it more convenient to file secondary listing applications, according to HKEx's requirement, given they are not obligated to amend constitutional documents to meet extra criteria, such as the key shareholder protection standards (KSPS) (see <u>Hang Seng Indexes revamp: Seize</u> <u>China's new economy dynamism</u>, May 18, 2020).

However, we think only Chinese ADR companies with large market caps would consider a secondary listing in Hong Kong, given the cost and relative advantage of such a move. For Chinese ADR companies with comparatively smaller market caps that are considering listing in Hong Kong or mainland China, we believe the best option for them may be a voluntary delisting from the US before a primary listing in Hong Kong, or on the A-share market.



Strategy Focus

Exhibit 4: Chinese ADRs that would qualify for a secondary listing in Hong Kong under the revised rules (listed before December 15, 2017)

Listing date before					Mkt cap 2019A Reve		ue 2021E	
Ticker	Name (EN)	Name (CH)	Dec 15, 2017	GICS Level III Sector	Price	(HKD bn)	(HKD bn)	PE
JD US	JD.com	京东	Y	Internet & Direct Marketing	54.3	618.2	654.5	28.4
NTES US	NetEase	网易	Y	Entertainment	390.3	390.7	67.2	20.2
BIDU US	Baidu	百度	Y	Interactive Media & Services	108.5	289.9	121.9	13.1
TAL US	TAL Education	好未来	Y	Diversified Consumer Services	54.6	250.4	25.6	62.1
ZTO US	ZTO Express	中通快递	Y	Air Freight & Logistics	34.3	208.3	25.1	26.8
EDU US	New Oriental Education	新东方	Y	Diversified Consumer Services	120.6	147.5	24.3	27.5
YUMC US	Yum China	百胜中国	Y	Hotels, Restaurants & Leisure	49.5	144.4	68.8	24.3
TCOM US	Trip.com	携程网	Y	Internet & Direct Marketing	25.7	118.2	40.5	20.3
VIPS US	Vipshop	唯品会	Y	Internet & Direct Marketing	15.2	79.2	105.5	10.3
HTHT US	Huazhu	华住酒店集团	Y	Hotels, Restaurants & Leisure	34.3	78.9	12.7	32.5
ATHM US	Autohome	汽车之家	Y	Interactive Media & Services	82.6	76.2	9.6	17.9
GDS US	GDS	万国数据	Y	IT Services	63.0	74.2	4.7	N/A
WB US	Weibo	微博	Y	Interactive Media & Services	34.3	60.2	13.8	13.0
YY US	JOYY	欢聚	Y	Interactive Media & Services	65.8	40.1	29.0	12.4
MOMO US	Momo	陌陌	Y	Interactive Media & Services	21.7	35.1	19.3	7.9
JOBS US	51job	前程无忧	Y	Professional Services	65.2	33.8	4.5	22.4
CBPO US	China Biologic Products	泰邦生物	Y	Biotechnology	109.0	32.5	3.9	21.0
HCM US	Hutchison China MediTech	和黄医药	Y	Pharmaceuticals	22.2	23.7	1.6	N/A
BEST US	BEST	百世集团	Y	Air Freight & Logistics	5.2	15.7	39.9	23.7
SINA US	Sina	新浪	Y	Interactive Media & Services	33.6	15.0	16.9	11.6
BZUN US	Baozun	宝尊电商	Y	Internet & Direct Marketing	29.2	14.3	8.3	16.9
VNET US	21Vianet	世纪互联	Y	IT Services	15.5	13.6	4.3	125.2

Note: Price as of the market close on May 20, 2020. 2021E P/E based on Bloomberg consensus estimates. Companies selected based on CRSHK assessment of HKEX's current listing rules. Source: Bloomberg, CRSHK analysis

Exhibit 5: Chinese ADRs that would qualify for a secondary listing in Hong Kong under the revised rules (listed after December 15, 2017)

Ticker	Name (EN)	Name (CH)	Listing date befor Dec 15, 2017	e GICS Level III Sector	Price	Mkt cap (HKD bn)	2019A Revenue (HKD bn)	2021E PE
PDD US	Pinduoduo	拼多多	Ν	Internet & Direct Marketing	60.9	565.3	34.2	90.1
TME US	Tencent Music	腾讯音乐	Ν	Entertainment	12.2	158.6	28.9	24.1
IQ US	iQIYI	爱奇艺	Ν	Entertainment	16.8	95.3	32.9	N/A
BILI US	Bilibili	哔哩哔哩	Ν	Entertainment	32.7	83.2	7.7	N/A
GSX US	GSX Techedu	跟谁学	Ν	Diversified Consumer Services	30.6	56.6	2.4	37.6
OCFT US	OneConnect Financial	金融壹账通	Ν	Software	15.5	44.4	2.6	N/A
HUYA US	HUYA	虎牙直播	Ν	Entertainment	19.2	32.6	9.5	19.1
KC US	Kingsoft Cloud	金山云	Ν	Software	20.3	32.2	4.4	N/A
NIO US	NIO	蔚来	Ν	Automobiles	3.5	28.7	8.9	N/A
DOYU US	Douyu	斗鱼	Ν	Entertainment	8.1	20.0	8.3	14.4
FUTU US	Futu Securities	富途证券	Ν	Capital markets	15.2	14.7	1.1	28.4
DNK US	Phoenix Tree	蛋壳公寓	Ν	Hotels, Restaurants & Leisure	9.4	13.3	8.0	N/A
LX US	LexinFintech	乐信	Ν	Consumer Finance	9.2	12.8	12.0	4.1
QFIN US	360 Finance	360 金融	Ν	Consumer Finance	9.0	10.3	10.5	2.9

Note: Price as of the market close on May 20, 2020. 2021E P/E based on Bloomberg consensus estimates. Companies selected based on CRSHK assessment of HKEX's current listing rules. Source: Bloomberg, CRSHK analysis



Appendix A

Analyst Certification

We, Bruce Pang, PhD, Melody Lai and Blanco Zhou, certify that the views expressed in this research report accurately reflect our personal views about any and all of the subject securities or issuers featured in this report. Furthermore, no part of our compensation was, is, or will be directly or indirectly related to the specific recommendations or views expressed in this report.

One or more research analysts responsible for this publication are not registered or qualified as research analysts with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA") and may not be associated persons of China Renaissance Securities (US) Inc. and therefore may not be subject to applicable restrictions under FINRA rules on communications with a subject company, public appearances and trading securities held by a research analyst account.

Important Disclosures

Important Disclosures

The following disclosures relate to relationships between China Renaissance Securities (US) Inc., China Renaissance Securities (Hong Kong) Limited (collectively "China Renaissance"), China Renaissance Securities (China) Co., Ltd. and companies covered by research analysts of China Renaissance and referred to in research products. All references in this report to "CRSUS" refer to China Renaissance Securities (US) Inc. CRSUS is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") as a U.S. broker-dealer under Section 15 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and is a member of FINRA and SIPC (http://www.sipc.org). CRSUS is located at 600 Fifth Avenue, 21st Floor, New York, NY 10020. All references in this report to "CRSHK" refer to China Renaissance Securities (Hong Kong) Limited. CRSHK is licensed by the Securities and Futures Commission for the conduct of dealing in securities, advising on securities, and advising on Corporate Finance. CRSHK is located at Units 8107-08, Level 81 International Commerce Centre, 1 Austin Road West, Kowloon, Hong Kong. All references in this report to "Huajing Securities" refer to China Renaissance Securities (China) Co., Ltd. Huajing Securities is licensed by the China Securities Regulatory Commission for conducting securities investment consulting business. Huajing Securities is located at 25th Floor, Trinity Tower, No. 575 Wusong Road, Hongkou District, Shanghai, China.

Disclosures required by United States laws and regulations

See company-specific regulatory disclosures below for any of the following disclosures required as to companies referred to in this report: manager or co-manager in a pending transaction; 1% or other ownership; compensation for certain services; types of client relationships; managed/co-managed public offerings in prior periods; directorships; for equity securities, market making and/or specialist role. China Renaissance trades or may trade as a principal in debt securities (or in related derivatives) of issuers discussed in this report. In addition to 1% ownership positions in covered companies that are required to be specifically disclosed in this report, China Renaissance, its affiliates, and their respective officers, directors or employees, other than the analyst(s) who prepared this report, may have a long position of less than 1% or a short position or make purchases or sales as principal or agent in the securities discussed herein, related securities or in options, futures or other derivative instruments based thereon. Recipients of this report are advised that any or all of the foregoing arrangements, as well as more specific disclosures set forth below, may at times give rise to potential conflicts of interest.

Unless prohibited by the provisions of Regulation S of the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, this publication is distributed in the U.S. in accordance with the provisions of Rule 15a-6, under the U.S. Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for Major Institutional Investors, as such term is defined in Rule 15a-6. To the extent that this publication is distributed to U.S. Institutional Investors other than Major Institutional Investors, this publication is distributed by CRSUS but not



Strategy Focus

CRSHK or Huajing Securities (whether directly or indirectly). Any transactions by U.S. persons with China Renaissance Securities (Hong Kong) Limited or China Renaissance Securities (China) Co., Ltd. in securities discussed in this publication will be effected through China Renaissance Securities (US) Inc., in compliance with the requirements of paragraph (a)(3) of Rule 15a-6 of the U.S. Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Additional disclosures required under the laws and regulations of jurisdictions other than the United States

Distribution in Hong Kong

The report is for your information only and is not an invitation or offer to sell, or a solicitation of an offer to buy, the securities described in this report. It has been prepared solely for professional investors (as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance of Hong Kong) whose business involves the acquisition, disposal or holding of securities, whether as principal or agent, and is not intended for disclosure to, and should not be relied upon by, any person other than a professional investor. If you are an unintended recipient of this report, you are requested immediately to return this copy of the report directly to China Renaissance Securities (Hong Kong) Limited. For professional investors in Hong Kong, please contact China Renaissance Securities (Hong Kong) Limited for all matters and queries relating to this report.

The following disclosures are made by CRSHK as per paragraph 16 of the Code of Conduct for Persons Licensed by or Registered with the Securities and Futures Commission ("SFC Code of Conduct"), and capitalized terms used below bear the same meanings as defined in paragraph 16 of the SFC Code of Conduct. A copy of the SFC Code of Conduct can be found on: www.sfc.hk:

Issuers that the Analyst(s) review in this report where the Analyst(s) or his/her Associate have Financial Interest: Nil

Financial Interests in relation to the Issuer of the Securities which are reviewed in this research report where CRSHK has an aggregate of such interests amount to 1% or more of the Issuer's market capitalization: Nil

Securities of the Issuer that the Analyst(s) review in this report where CRSHK make a market: Nil

Individuals who are employed by or associated with CRSHK who are serving as an officer of the Issuer: Nil

Any investment banking relationship that CRSHK has with the Issuer (including any compensation or mandate for investment banking services received within the preceding 12 months of this report): See further China Renaissance disclosures below.

Global product, jurisdiction and distribution

The research group of China Renaissance produces and distributes research products for clients of China Renaissance on a global basis. Analysts based in China Renaissance offices around the world produce equity research on industries and companies. This research is disseminated in **Hong Kong** by CRSHK; and in the **United States of America** by CRSUS. CRSUS has approved and agreed to take responsibility for any research prepared by CRSHK or Huajing Securities if and to the extent CRSUS distributes it in the United States.

This report and the securities and financial instruments discussed herein may not be eligible for distribution or sale in all jurisdictions and/or to all types of investors. This report is provided for information purposes only and does not represent an offer or solicitation in any jurisdiction where such offer would be prohibited.

No part of this report may be reproduced or distributed in any manner without the written permission of CRSUS. CRSUS specifically prohibits the re-distribution of this report, via the Internet or otherwise, and accepts no liability whatsoever for the actions of third parties in this respect.

The following are additional required disclosures: **Ownership and material conflicts of interest:** China Renaissance's policy prohibits its analysts, professionals reporting to analysts and members of their households from owning positions in securities of any company in the analyst's area of coverage. **Analyst compensation:** Analysts are paid in part based on overall revenues of China Renaissance, which includes investment banking revenues. **Analyst**



Strategy Focus

as officer or director: China Renaissance's policy prohibits its analysts, persons reporting to analysts or members of their households from serving as an officer, director, advisory board member or employee of any company in the analyst's area of coverage. **Non-U.S. Analysts:** Non-U.S. analysts are not registered or qualified as research analysts with FINRA. They may not be associated persons of CRSUS and therefore may not be subject to FINRA Rule 2241or FINRA Rule 2242 restrictions on communications with subject company, public appearances and trading securities held by the analysts.

Potential Conflicts of Interest

Analyst Conflict of Interest:

The research analyst(s) responsible for the preparation of this report receives compensation based upon a variety of factors, including the quality and accuracy of research, internal/client feedback, and overall firm revenues, which include investment banking revenues. Research analysts do not receive compensation based upon revenues from specific investment banking transactions.

Additional Conflicts of Interest:

China Renaissance has not managed or co-managed a public offering of the securities for the companies referenced in this report in the past twelve months.

China Renaissance received compensation for investment banking services from JD.com, Inc. (JD), Tencent Music (TME), LexinFintech Holdings Ltd. (LX) and 360 Finance (QFIN) in the past twelve months.

China Renaissance expects to receive or intends to seek compensation for investment banking services from companies referenced in this report in the next three months.

China Renaissance owns more than 1% interests in LexinFintech Holdings Ltd. (LX) and 360 Finance (QFIN) referenced in this report.

China Renaissance does not make markets in the companies referenced in this report.

Distribution of Ratings and Investment Banking

Rating	Count	Percent	IB Count	IB%
Buy	83	64.34%	83	100.00%
Hold	41	31.78%	41	100.00%
Sell	5	3.88%	5	100.00%

Below is the distribution of research recommendations as of May 21, 2020

China Renaissance Ratings as of December 31, 2016:

Stock Ratings: Ratings of Buy, Hold and Sell have a time horizon of twelve to eighteen months from the date of publishing the initiation or subsequent rating/price target change report issued for the subject company. The ratings are as follows:

Buy – The expected return on the subject company's stock price should outperform the typical benchmark market index for the subject company's primary listing exchange (e.g. the S&P 500 for US-listed stocks) over the above-defined time horizon from the publishing date of the initiation of coverage or subsequent report announcing a rating change.

Hold – The stock price of the subject company is not expected to either appreciate or depreciate meaningfully from the typical benchmark market index for the subject company's primary listing exchange (e.g. the S&P 500 for US-listed stocks) during the above-stated time horizon.



Strategy Focus

Sell – The expected return on the subject company's stock price should underperform the typical benchmark market index for the subject company's primary listing exchange (e.g. the S&P 500 for US-listed stocks) over the above-defined time horizon from the publishing date of the initiation of coverage or subsequent report announcing a rating change.

Not Rated – China Renaissance has removed the rating and, if applicable, the price target, for the subject company's stock because of either a lack of a sufficient fundamental basis or for legal, regulatory or policy reasons. The previous rating and, if applicable, the price target, should no longer be relied upon. An NR designation is not a recommendation or a rating.

Not Covered – a company for which China Renaissance research has not been published.

China Renaissance Ratings as of January 19, 2019:

Sector Ratings: Ratings of Overweight, Neutral and Underweight are applied to the designated sector coverage group with a time horizon of twelve to eighteen months from the date of report publication. The ratings are as follows:

Overweight – Expect sector to outperform the relevant market.

Neutral - Expect sector to perform in line with the relevant market.

Underweight – Expect sector to underperform the relevant market.

General Disclosures

This research is for institutional investors only. Other than disclosures relating to China Renaissance, this research is based on current public information that we consider reliable, but we do not represent it is accurate or complete, and it should not be relied on as such. The information, opinions, estimates and forecasts contained herein are as of the date hereof and are subject to change without prior notification. We seek to update our research as appropriate, but various regulations may prevent us from doing so. Other than certain industry reports published on a periodic basis, the large majority of reports are published at irregular intervals as appropriate in the analyst's judgment.

China Renaissance conducts a global integrated investment banking, investment management, and brokerage business. We have investment banking and other business relationships with a substantial percentage of the companies covered by our research group.

Our salespeople, traders, and other professionals may provide oral or written market commentary or trading strategies to our clients and principal trading desks that reflect opinions that are contrary to the opinions expressed in this research. Our asset management area and investing businesses may make investment decisions that are inconsistent with the recommendations or views expressed in this research.

The analysts named in this report may have from time to time discussed with our clients, including China Renaissance salespersons and traders, or may discuss in this report, trading strategies that reference catalysts or events that may have a near-term impact on the market price of the equity securities discussed in this report, which impact may be directionally counter to the analysts' published price target expectations for such stocks. Any such trading strategies are distinct from and do not affect the analysts' fundamental equity rating for such stocks, which rating reflects a stock's return potential relative to its coverage group as described herein.

We and our affiliates, officers, directors, and employees, excluding research analysts named in this report, may from time to time have long or short positions in, act as principal in, and buy or sell, the securities or derivatives, if any, referred to in this research.

The views attributed to third party presenters at China Renaissance arranged conferences, including individuals from other parts of China Renaissance, do not necessarily reflect those of the research group and are not an official view of China Renaissance.



Strategy Focus

Any third party referenced herein, including any salespeople, traders and other professionals or members of their household, may have positions in the products mentioned that are inconsistent with the views expressed by analysts named in this report.

This research is not an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any security in any jurisdiction where such an offer or solicitation would be illegal. It does not constitute a personal recommendation or take into account the particular investment objectives, financial situations, or needs of individual clients. Clients should consider whether any advice or recommendation in this research is suitable for their particular circumstances and, if appropriate, seek professional advice, including tax advice. The price and value of investments referred to in this research and the income from them may fluctuate. Past performance is not a guide to future performance, future returns are not guaranteed, and a loss of original capital may occur. Fluctuations in exchange rates could have adverse effects on the value or price of, or income derived from, certain investments.

Certain transactions, including those involving futures, options, and other derivatives, give rise to substantial risk and are not suitable for all investors. Investors should review current options disclosure documents which are available from China Renaissance sales representatives or at http://www.theocc.com/about/publications/character-risks.jsp. Transaction costs may be significant in option strategies calling for multiple purchase and sales of options such as spreads. Supporting documentation will be supplied upon request.

All research reports are disseminated and available to all clients simultaneously through electronic publication to our internal client websites. Not all research content is redistributed to our clients or available to third-party aggregators, nor is China Renaissance responsible for the redistribution of our research by third party aggregators. For research, models or other data available on a particular security, please contact your sales representative.

Disclosure information is also available from Compliance, 600 Fifth Avenue, 21st Floor, New York, NY 10020.

© 2020. China Renaissance. All rights reserved. This report or any portion hereof may not be reprinted, sold or redistributed without the written consent of China Renaissance.

This message and any attachments are confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately and destroy this email. Any unauthorized use or dissemination is prohibited. All email sent to or from our system is subject to review and retention. This email is for information only. Nothing contained in this email shall be considered an offer or solicitation with respect to the purchase or sale of any security or related financial instrument in any jurisdiction where such an offer or solicitation would be illegal. China Renaissance does not represent that any of the information contained herein is accurate, complete or up to date, nor shall China Renaissance have any responsibility to update any opinions or other information contained herein. Unless otherwise stated, any views or opinions presented are solely those of the author and do not represent those of China Renaissance.