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## **IKIGAI VENTURES LIMITED**

**("Ikigai" or the "Company")**

### **Admission to trading on the London Stock Exchange**

Ikigai, (LON:IKIV) an investment company established to acquire businesses focused on having a strong positive social impact, is pleased to announce that at 8:00 a.m. today its entire issued ordinary share capital will be admitted to the Standard Listing segment of the Official List of the Financial Conduct Authority and to trading on the Main Market for listed securities of the London Stock Exchange ("Admission") under the ticker "IKIV" and ISIN GG00BPG8J619.

### **Background**

The Company was incorporated in 2021 to undertake the acquisition of one or more companies or businesses that have a strong positive social impact and/or ESG strategy as part of their core business in Asia.

Ikigai, (pronounced "ee-key-guy") is a Japanese concept that means, amongst other things, a reason for being and refers to having a direction or purpose in life. Although the origin of the word can be traced back to the Japanese Heian period of 794-1185, the directors believe this age-old ideology has a growing significance in the 21<sup>st</sup> century corporate world with reference to businesses increasingly emphasising a positive social impact as well as ESG (economic, social, governance) strategies as their primary focus. The directors believe that ikigai is not simply a fashionable statement about sustainability or corporate social responsibility, they believe that companies increasingly have elements of sustainability and ESG at their core and that there is a significant opportunity for investment in the sector, especially in Asia.

### **Acquisition Strategy**

The Company's board, detailed in the appendix below, through their established global network of contacts, have identified a number of potentially promising acquisitions. The Company does not currently have any specific initial acquisition under consideration.

The Company will seek to create an attractive income-generating business and increase shareholder value through the operation of the acquired business or businesses.

The board will be focussed on the identification and acquisition of companies which have one or more of the following characteristics:

- a strong positive social impact and/or ESG strategy behind them;
- an experienced management team that has a proven track record;
- growth potential beyond its home market, ideally with the potential to expand globally;
- a solid reputation with customers and/or clients; and
- shareholders who are willing to accept shares or other securities in the Company as a significant part of the consideration for their businesses.

The directors will also consider investing into start-ups if some of the above criteria are met, particularly if the management team is experienced and has a strong network.

**Nicholas Bryan-Brown, Chief Executive Officer of Ikigai, said:** *"The commencement of trading on the London Stock Exchange is an important milestone for the Company and I would like to thank our shareholders for their support. The ESG sector is in a strong state of growth, not least in Asia and we plan to use Ikigai as a vehicle to acquire one or more exciting businesses in this sector in order to generate attractive returns for our shareholders."*

### **Total Voting Rights**

Following Admission total number of ordinary shares with voting rights in the Company is 20,680,000. The Company does not hold any shares in treasury and all of the ordinary shares have equal voting rights. This figure may be used by shareholders as the denominator for the calculations by which they determine if they are required to notify their interest in, or a change of their interest in, the Company under the FCA's Disclosure Guidance and Transparency Rules.

### **Prospectus**

The Company's Prospectus was published on 13 September 2022 and is available to view on the Company's website at: <https://ikigaiventuresltd.com/reports-documents/>

### **For further information please contact:**

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### **Appendix**

The Company's board of directors on Admission will comprise:

***Nicholas Bryan-Brown (62) – Chief Executive Officer***

Nicholas has over thirty years of experience in Asian markets, having lived for extended periods in both Hong Kong and Singapore, where he has been based for the last 11 years.

After working as a barrister in London he moved to the City, working first as a fund manager in the smaller company space (both listed and unlisted). He moved into corporate finance advisory with Samuel Montagu (now part of HSBC) in 1984 and helped establish the smaller company advisory team responsible for IPOs, M&A and capital raising on the predecessor smaller company markets to the London Stock Exchange's Alternative Investment Market.

In 1987 he began his career in Asia, working for HSBC and other investment banks in Hong Kong and in Singapore. His last position at HSBC was as co-head of investment banking for the Asia-Pacific region, responsible for over 100 employees across multiple markets. In 2003, he established his own vehicle for investment in smaller companies in Asia and the UK, whilst based in London, making unlisted early stage, as well as listed, investments.

In 2011, he co-founded Blackpeak Group, an international research and risk advisory firm specialised in investigative due diligence as well as business intelligence research and investigations. The business grew to become one of the leading firms in its sector, with offices in Hong Kong, Singapore, Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Tokyo and Washington DC. ESG was at the core of Blackpeak's business and it advised major global banks and manufacturing groups, as well as leading asset management, sovereign wealth and private equity funds, on assignments that included examination of ESG issues across all the major Asian markets.

Nicholas's role included leading many major investigations as well as ensuring compliance with relevant legislation, such as the UK Bribery and Modern Slavery Acts, the US FCPA as well as data protection and employment laws across multiple markets. As a result, he is very familiar with the key ESG issues relating to investment in Asia and has spoken at conferences and seminars in the region on ESG.

In 2019, Blackpeak was acquired by Acuris, a provider of global data, intelligence, research and analysis. In his eight years with Blackpeak, Nicholas was responsible for the firm's compliance and legal functions as well as leading or contributing to many investment-related investigative due diligence projects across Asia.

In 2019, he established Synapse Asia Pte. Ltd. ("SAP") as a vehicle for investment in the early-stage venture capital market in Singapore and other SE Asian markets. SAP has made several long-term VC investments, with exposure to markets including Singapore, Indonesia and Hong Kong.

Nicholas is active in the voluntary sector including, since 2016, as a member of the Global Governing Council of the educational charity Enabling Leadership, which is focused on underprivileged children in India and elsewhere in Asia. He graduated with an LLB in law from the University of London in 1981 and is a member of the English Bar.

***Ashley Paxton (54) – Non-Executive Director***

Ashley has worked in the financial services sector for nearly 30 years. He trained as a Chartered Accountant with McIntyre & Co in London, before moving to KPMG's financial services sector upon qualification in 1996. Ashley moved to Guernsey in 2002 and in 2008 developed a Channel Islands advisory practice for KPMG, growing it into a full taxonomy of services across transactions, restructuring, management and risk consulting.

He has provided transactions and valuation support to clients on buy and sell sides across the regulated finance sectors, including as lead advisor to Heritage's funds and fiduciary businesses, disposed in 2017 to Estera (backed by Bridgepoint), and to Ardel, which was disposed to Equiom in 2015 (backed by LDC). Ashley has also led a number of high profile and innovative transaction related engagements for government.

Ashley has gained deep sectoral specialism supporting the London listed fund sector throughout his 23 years with KPMG, as audit partner, as lead partner on capital market transactions, and various formal restructuring appointments. He retired from the firm in 2019. During his KPMG career, Ashley worked on various advisory assignments with a strong ESG focus, including leading KPMG's Guernsey Green Fund certification for Bluefield Solar Fund Limited, the first company to adopt Guernsey Green Fund Rules and be certified.

Ashley is currently a non-executive director of three London listed entities, Downing Renewables & Infrastructure Trust plc (an Article 9 fund pursuant to the EU taxonomy and the EU Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulations) and Twenty Four Select Monthly Income Fund Limited (he acts as chair of the audit and risk committee for both), and JZ Capital Partners Limited. Ashley also plays an important role in the local third sector as chairman of the Youth Commission for Guernsey & Alderney.

Ashley is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and a full-time resident of Guernsey. He holds an Economics degree from the University of Warwick.

#### ***Meriel Lenfestey (52) – Non-Executive Director***

Meriel brings over 25 years of customer-centred strategic and design consultancy from a wide range of private organisations, government bodies and listed corporations. She began her career as a Product Designer with Microsoft Corporation in Seattle before returning to the UK to work for BBC Worldwide as Development Producer.

In 1997, she founded her own company, Flow Interactive Ltd, which became a global pioneer in the usability and user experience design consultancy market at that time with clients from the third sector as well as from the private and public sector. In 2010, with a client list of multinational corporations, including 14 of the FTSE 100, Flow Interactive merged with Foolproof Limited to become a highly-respected provider of digital customer experience strategy, design and research. In 2010 she also cofounded a social enterprise called Ecomodo which was one of the earliest entrants in the sharing economy.

She is currently non-executive director and a member of the ESG committee of International Public Partnerships Ltd., a FTSE 250 Investment Company, focused on responsible investment in public infrastructure assets around the world and is also a non-executive director and chair of the ESG committee of Bluefield Solar Income Fund, a London Stock Exchange listed renewables fund focussed entirely on the generation of renewable energy and the energy transition (solar, wind and battery). Meriel also acts as ESG representative for Jersey Telecom, which has a strong social remit and is currently looking at the potential telecoms connectivity has for delivering ESG impact, and for Aurigny Air Services which provides lifeline air connectivity for Guernsey and Alderney. She is also a non-executive director (chair) of Gemserv, the professional services firm which has a strong "profit with a purpose" mission, operating across energy, low-carbon and health sectors.

Meriel is a committee member of the Guernsey Branch of the Institute of Directors and also plays an important role in the local third sector as a director of Art for Guernsey, a Guernsey based charity which aims to bring societal impact through the application of creative skills.

Meriel graduated from the University of Westminster, has an MA from the Royal College of Art and holds the Financial Times NED Diploma.

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