RNS Number : 6687U Inspired PLC 08 August 2025

NOT FOR RELFASE, PUBLICATION OR DISTRIBUTION, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, IN, INTO OR FROM ANY JURISDICTION WHERE TO DO SO WOULD CONSTITUTE A VIOLATION OF THE RELEVANT LAWS OR REGULATIONS OF SUCH JURISDICTION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

8 August 2025

RECOMMENDED CASH OFFER

for

INSPIRED PLC

bv

INTREPID BIDCO LIMITED

Lapse of the Regent Offer

On 26 June 2025, the Boards of Intrepid Bidco Limited ("Bidco") and Inspired PLC ("Inspired") announced that they had reached agreement on the terms of a cash offer by Bidco, a newly formed company managed by funds managed and/or advised by HGGC, LLC ("HGGC") and its affiliates, for the entire issued and to be issued ordinary share capital of Inspired (the "HGGC Offer"). This followed the announcement of an unsolicited offer from Regent Acquisitions 2025 Limited ("Regent") on 22 April 2025.

On 25 July 2025, Regent published an acceptance condition invocation notice under Rule 31.6 of the Code, the effect of which was to require Regent to invoke the acceptance condition so as to cause the Regent Offer to lapse if its acceptance condition was not satisfied by 1.00 p.m. (London time) on 8 August 2025.

The Board of Inspired notes the announcement made by Regent earlier today that the acceptance condition of the Regent Offer has not been satisfied and consequently the Regent Offer has now lapsed.

On 25 July 2025, Regent signed a letter of intent to accept, or to procure the acceptance of, the HGGC Offer in relation to its entire holdings of Inspired Shares, Inspired Warrants and Inspired CLNs. This letter of intent was conditional upon Regent's Offer lapsing on 8 August 2025.

Following Regent's support of the HCGC Offer, the total number of Inspired Shares which are subject to letters of intent and irrevocable undertakings to accept, or to procure the acceptance of, the Offer represent in aggregate 108,652,392 Inspired Shares, representing approximately 68.06 per cent. of the issued ordinary share capital of Inspired as at close of business on 7 August 2025, being the last business day prior to the date of this announcement.

To the extent that Regent and the other Inspired Shareholders that have given these irrevocable undertakings and letters of intent accept the HGGC Offer in accordance with their terms, the Acceptance Condition of the HGGC Offer will be satisfied.

Regent's announcement of its intention to accept HGGC's Offer underscores the Inspired Board's belief that the HGGC Offer represents the most attractive and deliverable proposal for Inspired and its shareholders. Since the Rule 2.7 Announcement made by Inspired and Bidco on 26 June 2025, the Inspired Board has received no proposals by any other third party to acquire Inspired.

Accordingly, the Board strongly recommends Inspired Shareholders to accept, or procure the acceptance of HGGC's Offer as soon as possible.

Capitalised terms used in this announcement, unless otherwise defined, shall have the meanings given to them in the Rule 2.7 Announcement.

Enquiries:

Inspired PLC Tel: +44 (0)1772 689 250

Mark Dickinson, CEO

Paul Connor, CFO

Exercore (financial adviser to Inspired) Tel: +44 (0)20 7653 6000

 $Ed\;Banks\;/\;Wladimir\;Wallaert\;/\;Alex\,Bennett$

Dimi Georgiou / Nirav Amlani

Shore Capital (nominated adviser and joint corporate broker Tel: +44 (0) 20 7408 4090

to Inspired)

Patrick Castle James Thomas Sophie Collins

Panmure Liberum (joint corporate broker to Inspired)

Tel: +44 (0) 20 3100 2000

Tel: +44 (0) 20 3405 0205

Edward Mansfield

Satbir Kler

Joshua Borlant

Alma Strategic Communications (PR adviser to Inspired)

Justine James Hannah Campbell Will Ellis Hancock

Ashurst LLP and Gateley plc are acting as legal advisers to Inspired.

Further information

Evercore Partners International LLP ("Evercore"), which is authorised and regulated by the FCA in the UK, is acting exclusively as financial adviser to Inspired and no one else in connection with the Offer and other matters described in this announcement and will not be responsible to anyone other than Inspired for providing the protections afforded to clients of Evercore nor for providing advice in connection with the Offer, the content of this announcement or any matter referred to herein. Neither Evercore nor any of its subsidiaries, branches or affiliates owes or accepts any duty, liability or responsibility whatsoever (whether direct or indirect, whether in contract, in tort, under statute or otherwise) to any person who is not a client of Evercore in connection with this announcement, any statement contained herein, any offer or otherwise. Apart from the responsibilities and liabilities, if any, which may be imposed on Evercore by the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, or the regulatory regime established thereunder, or under the regulatory regime of any jurisdiction where exclusion of liability under the relevant regulatory regime would be illegal, void or unenforceable, neither Evercore nor any of its affiliates accepts any responsibility or liability whatsoever for the contents of this announcement, and no representation, express or implied, is made by it, or purported to be made on its behalf, in relation to the contents of this announcement, including its accuracy, completeness or verification of any other statement made or purported to be made by it, or on its behalf, in connection with Inspired or the matters described in this announcement. To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, Evercore and its affiliates accordingly disclaim all and any responsibility or liability whether arising in tort, contract or otherwise (save as referred to above) which they might otherwise have in respect of this announcement, or any statement contained herein.

No person has been authorised to give any information or make any representations other than those contained in this announcement and, if given or made, such information or representations must not be relied upon as having been authorised by Inspired, the Inspired Directors, Bidco, the Bidco Director, HGGC, or by Rothschild & Co. and Evercore or any other person involved in the Acquisition.

Important notices

This announcement is for information purposes only and is not intended to, and does not, constitute, or form part of, an offer, invitation or the solicitation of an offer to purchase, otherwise acquire, subscribe for, sell or otherwise dispose of, any securities or the solicitation of any vote or approval in any jurisdiction pursuant to the Acquisition or otherwise, nor shall there be any sale, issuance or transfer of securities of Inspired in any jurisdiction in contravention of applicable law. The Acquisition will be implemented solely pursuant to the terms of the Offer Document which contains the full terms and conditions of the Acquisition, including details of how to accept the Offer. Any decision or response in relation to the Acquisition should be made only on the basis of the information contained in the Offer Document.

The release, distribution or publication of this announcement in whole or in part, directly or indirectly in, into or from jurisdictions outside the United Kingdom may be restricted by law and therefore persons into whose possession this announcement comes should inform themselves about, and observe, such restrictions. Any failure to comply with the restrictions may constitute a violation of the securities law of any such jurisdiction.

This announcement does not constitute a prospectus, prospectus equivalent document or exempted document.

If you are in any doubt about the contents of this announcement or the action you should take, you are recommended to seek your own independent financial advice immediately from your stockbroker, bank manager, solicitor, accountant or independent financial adviser duly authorised under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (as amended) if you are resident in the United Kingdom or, if not, from another appropriately authorised independent financial adviser.

Overseas Shareholders

The release, publication or distribution of this announcement in, into or from jurisdictions other than the UK may be restricted by law and therefore any persons who are subject to the law of any jurisdiction other than the UK should inform themselves of, and observe, any applicable legal or regulatory requirements. Any failure to comply with such requirements may constitute a violation of the securities laws of any such jurisdiction. To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, the companies and persons involved in the Acquisition disclaim any responsibility or liability for the violation of such restrictions by any person. This announcement has been prepared in accordance with and for the purpose of complying with English law, the Takeover Code, the Market Abuse Regulation and the Disclosure Guidance and Transparency Rules and information disclosed may not be the same as that which would have been prepared in accordance with the laws of jurisdictions outside England.

The availability of the Acquisition to Inspired Shareholders who are not resident in and citizens of the UK may be affected by the laws of the relevant jurisdictions in which they are located or of which they are citizens. Persons who are not resident in the UK should inform themselves of, and observe, any applicable legal or regulatory requirements of their jurisdictions. Any failure to comply with the applicable restrictions may constitute a violation of the securities laws of any such jurisdiction. To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, the companies and persons involved in the Acquisition disclaim any responsibility or liability for the violation of such restrictions by any person. Further details in relation to Overseas Shareholders are contained in the Offer Document.

Unless otherwise determined by Bidco or required by the Takeover Code, and permitted by applicable law and regulation, the Acquisition will not be made available, in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, in, into or from a Restricted Jurisdiction where to do so would violate the laws in that jurisdiction and no person may accept the Offer by any such use, means, instrumentality or from within a Restricted Jurisdiction or any other jurisdiction if to do so would constitute a violation of the laws of that jurisdiction. Copies of this announcement and any formal documentation relating to the Acquisition are not being, and must not be, directly or indirectly, mailed or otherwise forwarded, distributed or sent in or into or from any Restricted Jurisdiction and persons receiving such documents (including, without limitation, agents, custodians, nominees and trustees) must not mail or otherwise forward, distribute or send it in or into or from any Restricted Jurisdiction. Doing so may render invalid any related purported acceptance of the Offer. Unless otherwise permitted by applicable law and regulation, the Offer may not be made directly or indirectly, in or into, or by the use of mails or any means or instrumentality (including, but not limited to, facsimile, e-mail or other electronic transmission, telex or telephone) of interstate or foreign commerce of, or of any facility of a national, state or other securities exchange of any Restricted Jurisdiction and the Offer may not be capable of acceptance by any such use, means, instrumentality or facilities.

The Acquisition will be subject to English law, the applicable requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Takeover Code, the Panel, the FCA and the London Stock Exchange and applicable securities law.

Note to U.S. holders of Inspired Shares

The Offer is being made for the securities of an English company that is listed on the London Stock Exchange by means of a contractual takeover offer under the Takeover Code and English law and is subject to disclosure requirements and practices that are different, in some cases materially, from the tender offer rules of the United States. The financial information included in documents or announcements in relation to the Offer has been prepared in accordance with accounting standards applicable in the United Kingdom and thus may not be comparable to financial information of U.S. companies or companies whose financial statements are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States.

For U.S. holders of Inspired Shares, the receipt of cash pursuant to the terms of the Acquisition as consideration for the transfer of their Inspired Shares, may be treated as a taxable transaction for U.S. federal income tax purposes and under applicable U.S. state and local, as well as foreign and other, tax laws. Each holder of Inspired Shares is urged to consult with its own legal, tax and financial advisers in connection with making a decision regarding this transaction and as to the U.S. federal, and applicable U.S. state, local, and foreign, tax consequences to it of the transaction contemplated hereby in light of such holders' specific circumstances.

The Offer will be made in the United States in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 14E under the U.S. Exchange Act to the extent applicable. The Offer qualifies for "Tier I" exemptions from the tender offer rules included in Regulation 14E under the U.S. Exchange Act for cross-border tender offers. Accordingly, the Offer will be subject to disclosure and other procedural requirements under the applicable laws of the United Kingdom, including with respect to withdrawal rights, offer timetable, settlement procedures and timing of payments that may be materially different from those applicable to tender offers for U.S. domestic companies and other companies for which "Tier I" exemptions do not apply.

Once the Offer becomes or is declared Unconditional, Bidco will acquire all Inspired Shares that have by that time been validly tendered (or deemed to have been validly tendered) in acceptance of the Offer and will, in accordance with the Takeover Code, settle the relevant consideration for all such accepted Inspired Shares (other than in respect of participants in the Inspired Share Plans, in respect of whom settlement will be effected through payroll or such other method as may be determined by Inspired): (i) in the case of acceptances received, valid and complete in all respects, by the date on which the Offer becomes or is declared Unconditional, within 14 days of such date; or (ii) in the case of acceptances of the Offer received, valid and complete in all respects, after the date on which the Offer becomes or is declared Unconditional but while it remains open for acceptance, within 14 days of the date of such receipt, in each case, rather than the three trading days that U.S. investors may be accustomed to in U.S. domestic tender offers. Similarly, if the Offer is terminated or withdrawn, all documents of title will be returned to Inspired Shareholders within 14 days of such termination or withdrawal.

(acting as agents), may from time to time make certain purchases of, or arrangements to purchase, Inspired Shares outside the United States, other than pursuant to the Offer, before or during the period in which the Offer remains open for acceptance. Also, in accordance with Rule 14e-5(b) of the U.S. Exchange Act. These purchases may occur either in the open market at prevailing prices or in private transactions at negotiated prices. Such purchases, or arrangements to purchase, shall comply with applicable rules in the United Kingdom and the rules of the London Stock Exchange. Any information about such purchases will be disclosed as required in the United Kingdom, will be reported to a Regulatory Information Service of the FCA and will be available on the London Stock Exchange website: www.londonstockexchange.com.

Bidco is a private limited company incorporated under English law. As a result, it may be difficult for investors to effect service of process within the United States upon the Bidco Directors or otherwise compel Bidco, Inspired or their respective directors, officers and affiliates to subject themselves to the jurisdiction and judgment of a U.S. court. It may not be possible to sue Bidco or Inspired, or any of their respective directors, officers or affiliates, in a non-U.S. court for violations of U.S. securities laws. There is doubt as to the enforceability in the United Kingdom, in original actions or in actions for enforcement of judgments of the U.S. courts, of civil liabilities predicated upon U.S. federal securities laws.

Publication on website and availability of hard copies

A copy of this announcement will be available free of charge, subject to certain restrictions relating to persons resident or located in Restricted Jurisdictions, for inspection on Bidco's website at www.hggc.com/announcement and on Inspired's website at https://inspiredplc.co.uk/investors/, by no later than 12.00 p.m. (London time) on the business day following publication of this announcement and during the course of the Offer. For the avoidance of doubt, unless otherwise stated, neither the contents of Bidco's website or Inspired's website nor the contents of any website accessible from hyperlinks on Bidco's website or Inspired's website (or any other websites referred to in this announcement) are incorporated into, or form part of, this announcement.

Pursuant to Rule 30.3 of the Takeover Code, you may, subject to certain restrictions relating to persons resident or located in any Restricted Jurisdictions, request a hard copy of this announcement and all information incorporated into this announcement by contacting the Registrar at Equiniti Limited, Aspect House, Spencer Road, Lancing, West Sussex BN99 6DA, United Kingdom, or on +44 (0) 333 207 6505 between 8.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. (London time) Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays in the United Kingdom). For deaf and speech impaired shareholders, calls can be made via Relay UK. Please see www.relayuk.bt.com for more information. Please note that Equiniti cannot provide any financial, legal or tax advice and calls may be recorded and monitored for security and training purposes. In accordance with Rule 30.3 of the Takeover Code, a person so entitled may also request that all future documents, announcements and information in relation to the Acquisition should be sent to them in hard copy form. If you have received this announcement in electronic form or via a website notification, hard copies of this announcement and any document or information incorporated by reference into this announcement will not be provided unless such a request is made.

Inspired Shareholders may also, subject to certain restrictions relating to persons resident or located in any Restricted Jurisdictions, request that all future documents, announcements and information sent to them in relation to the Acquisition be in hard copy form. A hard copy of such document (including this announcement), announcement or information will not be sent unless so requested.

Forward-looking statements

This announcement contains certain statements about Bidco and Inspired that are or may be forward-looking statements, including with respect to the Acquisition. Forward-looking statements are prospective in nature and are not based on historical facts, but rather on current assumptions, expectations, valuations, targets, estimates, forecasts and projections of Bidco and Inspired about future events, and are therefore subject to risks and uncertainties which could cause actual results, performance or events to differ materially from those expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. All statements other than statements of historical facts included in this announcement may be forward-looking statements. Without limitation, forward-looking statements often include words such as "targets", "plans", "believes", "hopes", "continues", "expects", "aims", "intends", "will", "may", "should", "would", "could", "anticipates", "estimates", "will look to", "budget", "strategy", "would look to", "scheduled", "goal", "prepares", "forecasts", "cost-saving", "is subject to", "synergy", "projects" or words or terms of similar substance or the negative thereof.

By their nature, forward-looking statements involve risk and uncertainty, because they relate to events and depend on circumstances that will occur in the future and the factors described in the context of such forward-looking statements in this announcement could cause actual results and developments to differ materially from those expressed in or implied by such forward-looking statements. Such risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, the possibility that the Acquisition will not be pursued or consummated, failure to obtain necessary regulatory approvals or to satisfy any of the other conditions to the Acquisition if it is pursued, adverse effects on the market price of Bidco's or Inspired's ordinary shares and

on diaco's or inspired's operating results vecause of a faiture to complete the Acquisition, faiture to realise the expected benefits of the Acquisition, negative effects relating to the announcement of the Acquisition or any further announcements relating to the Acquisition or the consummation of the Acquisition on the market price of Inspired Shares, significant transaction costs and/or unknown liabilities, the Inspired Group incurring and/or experiencing unanticipated costs and/or delays (including IT system failures, cyber-crime, fraud and pension scheme liabilities), general economic and business conditions that affect the Inspired Group following the consummation of the Acquisition, changes in global, political, economic, business, competitive, market and regulatory forces (including exposures to terrorist activities), future exchange and interest rates, changes in tax laws, regulations, rates and policies, future business combinations or disposals, changes in general economic and business conditions, changes in the behaviour of other market participants, weak, volatile or illiquid capital and/or credit markets, interest rate and currency value fluctuations, changes in laws or in supervisory expectations or requirements and competitive developments. Although it is believed that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, no assurance can be given that such expectations will prove to have been correct and you are therefore cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements which speak only as at the date of this announcement. If any one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialises or if any one or more of the assumptions proves incorrect, actual results may differ materially from those expected, estimated or projected.

All forward-looking statements contained in this announcement are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements contained or referred to in this section.

Each forward-looking statement speaks only as of the date of this announcement. Neither Bidco nor Inspired, nor any of their respective associates or directors, officers or advisers, provides any representation, warranty, assurance or guarantee that the occurrence of the events expressed or implied in any forward-looking statements in this announcement will actually occur. Other than in accordance with their legal or regulatory obligations (including under the Takeover Code, the UK Listing Rules and the Disclosure Guidance and Transparency Rules), neither the Bidco Group nor the Inspired Group is under, or undertakes, any obligation, and each of the foregoing expressly disclaims any intention or obligation, to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Disclosure requirements of the Code

Under Rule 8.3(a) of the Code, any person who is interested in 1% or more of any class of relevant securities of an offeree company or of any securities exchange offeror (being any offeror other than an offeror in respect of which it has been announced that its offer is, or is likely to be, solely in cash) must make an Opening Position Disclosure following the commencement of the offer period and, if later, following the announcement in which any securities exchange offeror is first identified. An Opening Position Disclosure must contain details of the person's interests and short positions in, and rights to subscribe for, any relevant securities of each of (i) the offeree company and (ii) any securities exchange offeror(s). An Opening Position Disclosure by a person to whom Rule 8.3(a) applies must be made by no later than 3.30 pm (London time) on the 10th business day following the commencement of the offer period and, if appropriate, by no later than 3.30 pm (London time) on the 10th business day following the announcement in which any securities exchange offeror is first identified. Relevant persons who deal in the relevant securities of the offeree company or of a securities exchange offeror prior to the deadline for making an Opening Position Disclosure must instead make a Dealing Disclosure.

Under Rule 8.3(b) of the Code, any person who is, or becomes, interested in 1% or more of any class of relevant securities of the offeree company or of any securities exchange offeror must make a Dealing Disclosure if the person deals in any relevant securities of the offeree company or of any securities exchange offeror. A Dealing Disclosure must contain details of the dealing concerned and of the person's interests and short positions in, and rights to subscribe for, any relevant securities of each of: (i) the offeree company; and (ii) any securities exchange offeror(s), save to the extent that these details have previously been disclosed under Rule 8. A Dealing Disclosure by a person to whom Rule 8.3(b) applies must be made by no later than 3.30 pm (London time) on the business day following the date of the relevant dealing.

If two or more persons act together pursuant to an agreement or understanding, whether formal or informal, to acquire or control an interest in relevant securities of an offeree company or a securities exchange offeror, they will be deemed to be a single person for the purpose of Rule 8.3.

Opening Position Disclosures must also be made by the offeree company and by any offeror and Dealing Disclosures must also be made by the offeree company, by any offeror and by any persons acting in concert with any of them (see Rules 8.1, 8.2 and 8.4).

Details of the offeree and offeror companies in respect of whose relevant securities Opening Position Disclosures and Dealing Disclosures must be made can be found in the Disclosure Table on the Takeover Panel's website at https://www.thetakeoverpanel.org.uk, including details of the number of relevant securities in issue, when the offer period commenced and when any offeror was first identified. You should contact the Takeover Panel's Market Surveillance Unit on +44 (0) 20 7638 0129 if you are in any doubt as to whether you are required to make an Opening Position Disclosure or a

Dealing Disclosure.

Information relating to Inspired Shareholders

Please be aware that addresses, electronic addresses and certain other information provided by Inspired Shareholders, persons with information rights and other relevant persons for the receipt of communications from Inspired may be provided to Bidco during the offer period as required under Section 4 of Appendix 4 of the Takeover Code to comply with Rule 2.11(c) of the Takeover Code.

This information is provided by RNS, the news service of the London Stock Exchange. RNS is approved by the Financial Conduct Authority to act as a Primary Information Provider in the United Kingdom. Terms and conditions relating to the use and distribution of this information may apply. For further information, please contact msc.com.

RNS may use your IP address to confirm compliance with the terms and conditions, to analyse how you engage with the information contained in this communication, and to share such analysis on an anonymised basis with others as part of our commercial services. For further information about how RNS and the London Stock Exchange use the personal data you provide us, please see our Privacy Policy.

END

OUPUPURURUPAGAR