



## Spin-off of Russian Non-precious Metal Business Uses Appleby's Global Offshore Services

Appleby recently advised on the listing of IRC Limited ("IRC"), a Hong Kong company, on the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong, in association with Norton Rose, local counsel for the issuer and Linklaters, local counsel for the underwriters.

IRC was previously a wholly-owned subsidiary of London Stock Exchange listed Petropavlovsk plc, Russia's third biggest gold producer, and is the holding company of the non-precious metals division of the group following the spin-off of the division via various Cayman entities. The global offering of IRC's shares on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong was successfully listed last month and the offering raised net proceeds of approximately HK\$1,722 million (approximately US\$222 million) for the IRC group. Petropavlovsk will continue to be the largest shareholder in IRC with an interest of 65.61%.

This listing is significant for Appleby. All the corporate vehicles involved in the restructuring were incorporated in Cayman, and no less than four of our offices were involved to facilitate a global and seamless service. The Appleby team was led by London corporate partner Gray Smith and assisted by Matthew Bloomfield, with further legal and fiduciary support from the Hong Kong, Cayman and Jersey offices.

The Cayman Islands continue to be a popular choice for leading global organisations looking to restructure their financial operations because of the world class professional services, the trustworthy legal and regulatory system that complies with the highest international standards, a stable and business-friendly government, a reputable anti-money laundering culture, and a lack of direct taxes or exchange control regulations. Also, the Cayman Islands is the pre-eminent jurisdiction for the registration of investment funds with over 9,000 registered funds. It is well-accepted by international investors.

Remarking on the transaction, Gray Smith noted that, "We are very excited to be involved in such significant transactions that utilise our global offerings. We have unparalleled presence in the major offshore jurisdictions

used by international organisations. Our long-standing presence in Europe and Asia, coupled with our wealth of experience in corporate finance, means we are able to offer our clients outstanding offshore guidance for all their restructuring needs. One of the key benefits of employing Appleby for this restructuring was Appleby's multi-jurisdictional offerings and capabilities.”

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The Lawyer

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