

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHINA DISTANCE EDUCATION HOLDINGS LIMITED ANNOUNCES EXPECTED TRANSFER OF LISTING TO NYSE

BEIJING, China, January 29, 2009 — China Distance Education Holdings Limited (NYSE Arca: DL) ("CDEL," or the "Company"), a leading provider of online education in China focusing on professional education, today announced that it is in the process of transferring the listing of its American Depositary Shares (the "ADSs") from NYSE Arca, Inc. to the New York Stock Exchange (the "NYSE"). The Company has received a letter from the NYSE authorizing the listing of the ADSs, and anticipates that the trading of the ADSs on the NYSE will begin in the middle of February 2009 under its current symbol "DL".

About China Distance Education Holdings Limited

China Distance Education Holdings Limited is a leading provider of online education in China focusing on professional education. The courses offered by the Company through its websites are designed to help professionals and other course participants obtain and maintain the skills, licenses and certifications necessary to pursue careers in China in the areas of accounting, law, healthcare, construction engineering, information technology and other industries. The Company also offers online test preparation courses to self-taught learners pursuing higher education diplomas or degrees and to secondary school and college students preparing for various academic and entrance exams. In addition, the Company offers online foreign language courses.

Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-looking Statements

This announcement contains "forward-looking statements" relating to the listing of the ADSs on the NYSE. These forward-looking statements are not historical facts but instead represent only our belief regarding future events, many of which, by their nature, are inherently uncertain and outside of our control. For example, due to certain NYSE listing requirements relating to the minimum trading price of the ADSs, the minimum number of round-lot holders of the ADSs, and certain other criteria, the Company's anticipated listing of the ADSs on the NYSE may be delayed or even cancelled. We undertake no obligation to update or revise these forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, after the date of this press release. Such information speaks only as of the date of this release.

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