# **COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 03948550**

ONYX COMMODITIES LIMITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

> 23/12/2023 COMPANIES HOUSE

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

# YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Contents	Page
Officers and professional advisers	1
Strategic report	2
Directors' report	7
Independent auditor's report to the members	10
Income statement	14
Statement of financial position	15
Statement of changes in equity	16
Notes to the financial statements	17

# OFFICERS AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

The board of directors C J Eadie (Resigned 31 October 2022)

O N Kayaam G J Newman

J D Pegler (Resigned 11 October 2023)

**Registered office** 95 Cromwell Road

Second Floor London SW7 4DL

Auditor TC Group

Statutory Auditor Lynton House

7-12 Tavistock Square

London WC1H 9BQ

#### STRATEGIC REPORT

#### YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

The Board of Directors ("The Board") present their strategic report of the company for the year ended 30 June 2023.

#### Principal activities

The company's principal activity of the company during the year was trading in cleared oil & gas derivatives and metals

The company is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority ("FCA").

# Group structure

Onyx Commodities Limited ("OCL") is a member of the group controlled by Onyx Capital Group Limited.

During the year, as part of a group re-structure, Onyx Corporate Vehicle Ltd, a newly incorporated entity subsequently changing its name to Onyx Capital Group Limited, became the company's ultimate parent company and assumed control of the group. The company's immediate parent company, Onyx Capital Group Limited, changed its name to Onyx Capital Group Services Limited.

#### **Business review**

The company revenue reached £201 million, which represents 26% year-on-year growth. Our operating profit also demonstrated a substantial growth at £78 million, marking a 21% increase compared to the previous year.

Despite global challenges such as higher interest rates, the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and the slowing down of the commodity cycle, our business model has proven to be robust and yielded further growth. This robustness is further demonstrated in our maintenance of high profit margins, with a gross margin of 69% and a pre-tax profit margin of 39% The continuation of this growth trajectory from the prior June 2022 financial year, that was a phenomenal year for traditional commodity trading businesses, evidences our strategic positioning in the industry, and our operational efficiency.

Our core oil liquidity providing franchises have underpinned our strong performance and we've now expanded our liquidity offering in this space with the scaling up of our Distillates and Petrochemical desks. We have also added Metals as a new traded commodity at Onyx, trading across Steel, Copper, Zinc and Iron Ore to date, marking the early stages of bringing our liquidity model to verticals within the Energy and Commodities industry.

Central to our ethos is mastering risk. In our unique role as liquidity providers, the onus of market risk rests squarely on our shoulders. In the initial phases of our expansion, risk management was executed in isolated silos, with limited integration or holistic optimisation. As we have transitioned from a robust market share in individual products to a collective dominance in liquidity provision for oil derivatives, we are now harnessing our vast influence across all its verticals, optimising the global liquidity pool to amplify our profitability.

Firstly, our data capabilities have undergone substantial evolution over the past year, bolstered by machine learning techniques, aggregation of market risk data, and continuous refinement of our tools. Engaging in brainstorming sessions with senior traders and fostering collaborative experiments with multiple iterations have been instrumental in this monumental improvement. Secondly, we're strategically segmenting risk into hedging portfolios, allowing us to proactively account for seasonality and mitigate portfolio volatility. Lastly, our recent inclusion of seasoned traders, whose risk management expertise aligns with our trading ethos, ensures an optimised and holistic approach. Finally, it is important to assist this diversification effect with the addition of new desks. We now operate 12 fully functional liquidity providing desks, up from 9 last year. All these efforts are directed at minimising volatility in the company's profitability, whilst preserving a sustainable growth trajectory.

With our strategic expansion, we've capitalised on increased notional values, demonstrating our business's versatility in profiting across diverse market conditions.

#### STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

#### YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

# Business review (continued)

In the June 2022 financial year, market volatility surged to unprecedented levels. Trading entities reaped immense profits, whereas volume-centric businesses, such as brokers and exchanges, faced challenges. The heightened volatility amplified risks and capital requirements, subsequently diminishing volumes. Yet, we capitalised on these dynamics like a seasoned trading firm. Conversely, our June 2023 financial year saw a decline in volatility but a surge in volumes. While trading businesses encountered challenges, volume-driven entities thrived. In these circumstances, our profitability mirrored that of a volume-centric enterprise. This adaptability underlines our capacity to benefit from the inherent volume growth in financial commodity markets, irrespective of the volatility landscape.

Our traded notional volumes, expressed in barrels for our oil trading, witnessed a significant 47% annual increase, reaching 24.5 billion barrels. This growth epitomises the strength of our liquidity model, now further fortified with diverse revenue channels.

Consistently offering competitive prices, regardless of market conditions, and modern complimentary services to assist trading businesses to profit from the variability in market conditions has greatly enhanced our brand's stature and acceptance in the industry, positioning us as pivotal market infrastructure.

The company considers the following to be key performance indicators:

	2023	2022	
Turnover	£201m	£159m	
Turnover growth	26.4%	87.8%	
Gross profit margin	68.7%	72.3%	
Operating profit	£78m	£64m	
Operating profit margin	38.6%	40.4%	
Profit	£62m	£53m	
Cash at bank	£13.4m	£9.7m	
Net assets	£94m	£67m	

The company has traded strongly during the year. The directors are satisfied with the performance of the company, and its position at the year end.

The Board do not consider that there are any non-financial key performance indicators that are central to their assessment of the company.

# Future operations and outlook

The upcoming financial year will emphasise the vertical growth of our liquidity service. We have officially ventured into the Power sector, initiating a Senior division at our new Zug location. Significant efforts are underway to develop robust systems to back their endeavours, with the ambition for our comprehensive Power offerings to mirror the identity and services we've established in the oil sector.

Following on from the previous financial year, we will also be continuing our development into the Metals sector. We reached 107 million tonnes in financial metals trading volumes in the financial year in review, and we will look to expand on this by widening our reach across the complex and growing within existing franchises.

The next financial year is well underway, and it promises to be another year of exciting developments.

# STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

#### YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

# Principal risks and uncertainties

The principal risks applicable to the company relate to commodity prices, a reliance on services provided by its clearing bank and other risks that affect its day-to-day operations. The company sometimes accepts commodity pricing risk as an intrinsic aspect of trading which generates revenue. Periods of high pricing volatility offer substantial trading opportunities, and with tight risk controls, the company has been able to generate substantial profits under these circumstances, regardless of the absolute prices of the underlying commodities themselves. The company aims to mitigate all other risks as much as possible at all times.

The ability of the clearing bank to provide efficient clearing services along with a credit facility that is proportionate to the company's risk profile distinguish it from other providers of similar services. The result of this is that the company has concentrated counterparty credit risk with this bank.

The company's revenue-generating operations are "tech-heavy" and are highly reliant on fast and efficient data transfer and analysis processes and software. The company is therefore sensitive to any interruptions to its internet connectivity and power supply. The company has exposure to risks associated with unauthorised and/or fraudulent trading activities by its employees. In order to mitigate these risks the company has developed a comprehensive trader training program and actively monitors both the trading and the behaviour of employees.

Other risks which could affect the profitability of the company are interest rates, foreign exchange, increases in the fees charged by exchanges, the regulatory environment and the loss of key personnel.

Risks are reviewed by Management and appropriate processes and controls are in place to monitor and mitigate them. Risks identified by management include the following:

#### Clearing services

The company continues to rely on just one clearer to service all its trading operations. The uninterrupted continuance of these services remains central to the profitability of the company. Whilst the existing provider has made no indications of plans to alter its clearing services, the company has made progress in the search for other clearers and is aiming to formalise a relationship with another provider during the next financial year.

#### The regulatory environment

We continue to abide by the Investment Firms Prudential Regime that was rolled-out in 2022 and the associated capital requirements have been closely analysed to ensure that additional requirements on the company (both capital and compliance requirements) are adhered to at all times..

### Personnel

The company continues to recruit new staff to fill senior roles to ensure that the company has a high level of expertise in each area. These have been full-time hires, removing the dependence on contractors for vital responsibilities to improve business continuity, whilst also ensuring that vital operational functions are not concentrated with a small number of key staff.

The company has a continuity plan in place with emphasis on coverage for senior management. Operations, HR, Tech, Trade Support, Risk and Compliance coverage plans exist for the most critical tasks and processes.

The company has moved into a new office space during the year and now has access to all Onyx staff and resources in one place with capacity to grow headcount.

# STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

# YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

# Principal risks and uncertainties (continued)

#### Financial risks

The vast majority of the company's assets are highly liquid, and therefore risks associated with cash flows to suppliers are minimal. The company bears foreign exchange risk as a result of earning revenue in US\$ and having significant outgoings in GB£ and this is mitigated by converting profits earned in US\$s into GB£s via the fx spot and forward markets. Additionally, in the first few months of the new financial year, the weakening of the GB£ allowed the firm to lock in lower currency conversion rates for substantial future earnings.

The company has been extended a significant credit facility by its clearer and pays interest on amounts borrowed. Therefore, it is susceptible to interest rate changes, particularly increases in US\$ borrowing rates. Exposure to interest rate risk is managed by minimising the usage of the credit facility where possible.

# Conclusion

The Board are therefore confident that the company is well placed to continue its operations, and take advantage of market opportunities that may arise.

# STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

#### YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Statement by the Board of Directors in performance of their statutory duties in accordance with S172(1) of the Companies Act 2006

The Board of Directors ("The Board") and senior management team, both individually and together, have acted in good faith, in a way they consider would be most likely to promote the success of the company for the benefit of its members as a whole (having regard to the stakeholders and matters set out in \$172 of Companies Act 2006), these being;

- (a) the likely consequences of any decision in the long term;
- (b) the interests of the company's employees;
- (c) the need to foster the company's business relationships with suppliers, customers and others;
- (d) the impact of the company's operations on the community and the environment;
- (e) the desirability of the company maintaining a reputation for high standards of business conduct; and
- (f) the need to act fairly as between members of the company.

The Board considers its stakeholders to be its shareholders, employees, partners, suppliers/creditors and regulatory authorities in its areas of operation.

The company maintains a well-functioning and balanced board, ensuring that the directors have the necessary up-to date experience, skills and capabilities. The Board promotes a corporate culture that is based on ethical values and behaviour and maintains governance structures and processes that are fit for purpose and support good decision-making.

The Board seeks to understand and meet the needs and expectations of its stakeholders. In particular it has established a strategy and business model which it believes will promote long term value to shareholders. The company's details are displayed on its website allowing shareholders to contact the company if they so wish. The Board attaches great importance to providing shareholders with clear and transparent information on the company's activities and strategy.

The Board takes into account wider stakeholder and social responsibilities and their implications for long term success. Directors and employees adopt a broad view during decision making to take meaningful account of the impact of the business on all key stakeholder groups. The Board recognises that the company's long-term success is reliant on the efforts of its employees, customers and suppliers and through maintaining relationships with its regulators.

The company operates a system of internal controls designed, to the extent considered appropriate, to safeguard company assets and protect the business from identified risks.

This report was approved by the board of directors on 23 October 2023 and signed on behalf of the board by:

G J Newman Director

Registered office: 95 Cromwell Road Second Floor London SW7 4DL

#### **DIRECTORS' REPORT**

# YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

The directors present their report and the financial statements of the company for the year ended 30 June 2023.

#### **Directors**

The directors who served the company during the year were as follows:

O N Kayaam

G J Newman

J D Pegler

C J Eadie

(Resigned 31 October 2022)

Subsequent to the reporting date, J D Pegler resigned as a director of the company. The date of resignation was 11 October 2023.

#### Dividends

Particulars of recommended dividends are detailed in note 12 to the financial statements.

#### **Future developments**

The directors continue to review the marketplace with a view to continuing growth, identifying opportunities and managing the risks facing the business.

For further details on the future developments of the company, please refer to the Strategic Report on page 2 of these financial statements.

# Greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption

The company is exempt from the requirement to include Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting ("SECR") data due to this information being included in the group report of the company's ultimate parent, Onyx Capital Group Limited. The group report is prepared for the same financial year end as the company and complies with the SECR disclosure requirements set out in Part 7A of Schedule 7 without relying on a "seriously prejudicial" exemption.

# Financial instruments

The company holds or issues financial instruments in order to achieve the following main objectives, being:

- to finance its operations;
- to manage its exposure to interest and currency risks arising from its operations and from its sources of finance; and
- for trading purposes.

In addition, various financial instruments arise directly from the company's operations.

Transactions in financial instruments result in the company assuming or transferring to another party one or more of the financial risks described below.

# DIRECTORS' REPORT (continued)

#### YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

#### Financial instruments (continued)

#### Credit risk

The company's principal financial assets are bank balances along with its trading account receivables. The company monitors credit risk and considers that due to the nature of its activities, its exposure to credit risk is minimal.

The company has concentrations of credit risk due to the fact that its assets are largely held with just two banking institutions. However, the probability of a credit default of either of these parties is regarded as low. Amounts shown in the balance sheet best represent the maximum credit risk exposure in the event other parties fail to perform their obligations under financial instruments.

# Market price risk

The company has significant exposure to price risk on its trading portfolio. The company seeks to manage these risks by utilising software that presents such risk to the traders with as much detail as required to enable them to make decisions with the most amount of information about their exposure as possible. Traders also ensure that their portfolios exposure to price risk is hedged when they are not physically in the office. Finally, a number of risk-related measures are monitored on a daily basis to prevent unexpected build-up of exposure.

# Liquidity risk and cash flow risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the company will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. Cash flow risk is the exposure to variability in cash flow that is attributable to a particular risk that is associated with a particular asset or liability. The company seeks to manage these risks by ensuring sufficient liquidity is available to meet foreseeable needs.

See accounting policies for further details regarding to financial instruments.

#### Research and development

The company has continued to invest significant amounts into research and development over the course of the year, predominantly relating to upgrades of the trading risk system and contract pricing engine.

# Directors' responsibilities statement

The directors are responsible for preparing the strategic report, directors' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and the profit or loss of the company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

# **DIRECTORS' REPORT** (continued)

#### YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### Auditor

Each of the persons who is a director at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware; and
- they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as a director to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

This report was approved by the board of directors on 23 October 2023 and signed on behalf of the board by:

G J Newman Director

Registered office: 95 Cromwell Road Second Floor London SW7 4DL

#### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ONYX COMMODITIES LIMITED

#### YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

# **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Onyx Commodities Limited (the 'company') for the year ended 30 June 2023 which comprise the income statement, statement of financial position, statement of changes in equity and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 30 June 2023 and of its profit for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

# Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

# Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

# Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ONYX COMMODITIES LIMITED (continued)

# YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

# Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the strategic report and the directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

# Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report or the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

#### Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ONYX COMMODITIES LIMITED (continued)

#### YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

# Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

# Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

The objectives of our audit, in respect to fraud, are: to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses; and to respond appropriately to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both those charged with governance of the entity and its management.

# Our approach was as follows:

- We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements from our general commercial and sector experience, and through discussion with the directors and other management (as required by auditing standards), and discussed with the directors and other management the policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations;
- We considered the legal and regulatory frameworks directly applicable to the financial statements reporting framework (FRS 102 and the Companies Act 2006) and the relevant tax compliance regulations in the UK;
- We considered the nature of the industry, the control environment and business performance, including the key drivers for management's remuneration;
- We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any
  indications of non-compliance throughout the audit;
- We considered the procedures and controls that the company has established to address risks identified, or that otherwise prevent, deter and detect fraud; and how senior management monitors those programmes and controls.

Based on this understanding we designed our audit procedures to identify non-compliance with such laws and regulations. Where the risk was considered to be higher, we performed audit procedures to address each identified fraud risk. These procedures included, but were not limited to: Enquiry of management and performing analytical review procedures to identify any unusual relationships that may indicate a material misstatement; agreement of the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation; considering and challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their significant accounting estimates and judgements; we tested the appropriateness of journals to address the risk of fraud through management override of controls; we performed substantive procedures on revenue in order to determine correct recognition and correct cut-off; we held discussions with management, including enquiring of management as to any actual or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations or fraud; and we confirmed that there were no issues regarding the company's registration with the Financial Conduct Authority ("FCA").

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ONYX COMMODITIES LIMITED (continued)

# YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

# Use of our report

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with chapter 3 of part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Luke Richardson BSc FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of TC Group Statutory Auditor Lynton House 7-12 Tavistock Square London WC1H 9BQ

1 Camp

23rd October 2023.

# INCOME STATEMENT

# YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

TURNOVER	Note 4	2023 £ 201,493,777	2022 £ 159,330,865
Direct costs		(63,029,247)	(44,171,257)
GROSS PROFIT		138,464,530	115,159,608
Administrative expenses		(60,728,260)	(50,820,894)
OPERATING PROFIT	5	77,736,270	64,338,714
Other interest receivable and similar income Interest payable and similar expenses	9 10	14,550 (31,127)	18,498
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION		77,719,693	64,357,212
Tax on profit	11	(15,631,981)	(11,753,946)
PROFIT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR		62,087,712	52,603,266

All the activities of the company are from continuing operations.

The company has no other recognised items of income and expenses other than the results for the year as set out above.

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

# 30 JUNE 2023

		202	3	2022	2
	Note	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS	12		1 001 517		257.552
Tangible assets	13		1,081,517		257,553
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	14	138,002,942		111,044,164	
Cash at bank and in hand		13,434,010		9,734,320	
		151,436,952		120,778,484	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due					
within one year	15	(58,058,262)		(53,827,907)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS	***		93,378,690		66,950,577
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			94,460,207		67,208,130
			54,400,207		07,200,130
PROVISIONS	16		(195,760)		(59,448)
NET ASSETS			94,264,447		67,148,682
CAPITAL AND RESERVES					
Called up share capital	20		1,710		1,710
Capital contribution reserve	21		2,581,250		1,925,000
Profit and loss account	21		91,681,487		65,221,972
SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS			94,264,447		67,148,682

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 23 October 2023, and are signed on behalf of the board by:

G J Newman Director

Company registration number: 03948550

# STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

# YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

			Capital		
		Called up	contribution	Profit and	
		share capital	reserve	loss account	Total
		£	£	£	£
AT 1 JULY 2021		1,710	962,500	42,668,706	43,632,916
Profit for the year				52,603,266	52,603,266
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR TH	Œ	<del></del>	-		
YEAR		_	-	52,603,266	52,603,266
Dividends paid and payable	12			(30,050,000)	(30,050,000)
Recognition of share-based payments charge			962,500		962,500
TOTAL INVESTMENTS BY AND					
DISTRIBUTIONS TO OWNERS		_	962,500	(30,050,000)	(29,087,500)
AT 30 JUNE 2022		1,710	1,925,000	65,221,972	67,148,682
Profit for the year				62,087,712	62,087,712
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR TH	Œ	•		·	
YEAR	_	_	***	62,087,712	62,087,712
Dividends paid and payable	12	_		(35,628,197)	(35,628,197)
Recognition of share-based payments charge		_	656,250	· · · · ·	656,250
TOTAL INVESTMENTS BY AND		_			
DISTRIBUTIONS TO OWNERS		_	656,250	(35,628,197)	(34,971,947)
AT 20 HINE 2022		1.710	2 501 250	91,681,487	94,264,447
AT 30 JUNE 2023		1,710	2,581,250	91,081,487	94,204,44/

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

#### 1. General information

The company is a private company limited by shares, registered in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is 95 Cromwell Road, Second Floor, London, SW7 4DL.

# 2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland'.

#### 3. Accounting policies

# **Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value through profit or loss.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

#### Going concern

The company's business activities, together with the factors likely to affect its future development, performance and position are set out in the Directors' Report and the Strategic Report.

The Board considers that despite the ongoing global uncertainties with which we are faced, the company is well placed to continue its operations and take advantage of market opportunities that may arise. The company's balance sheet is strong, its net current assets are £93m which includes a significant cash at bank balance and a significant balance held by brokers.

Due to the inherent uncertainties of forecasting in the company's industry, detailed forecasts are not prepared. High level forecasts, considering a range of scenarios, do not indicate any liquidity concerns. Trading in the first quarter of the new financial year has continued to be strong, with performance in line with the company's expectations, showing a continued upward trajectory in the profitability of the business.

The results of the company's Internal Capital Adequacy Risk Assessment ("ICARA") process, as mandated by the FCA, along with its minimum regulatory capital requirements are considered by the Board in assessing going concern. The Board have no concerns regarding the company's capital adequacy and maintaining the minimum regulatory capital.

The directors have no concerns over the going concern status of the company. This assessment is based principally upon on the strength of its balance sheet, its cash and its trading performance.

Accordingly, the directors continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual report and accounts.

#### Disclosure exemptions

The entity satisfies the criteria of being a qualifying entity as defined in FRS 102. Its financial statements are consolidated into the financial statements of Onyx Capital Group Limited. As such, advantage has been taken of the following disclosure exemptions available under paragraph 1.12 of FRS 102:

- (a) No cash flow statement has been presented for the company.
- (b) Disclosures in respect of financial instruments have not been presented.
- (c) No disclosure has been given for the aggregate remuneration of key management personnel.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

#### YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

# 3. Accounting policies (continued)

# Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

### Significant judgements

The judgements (apart from those involving estimations) that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are as follows:

- Revenue the recognised revenue for the period includes the profit or loss on trades that are open at the reporting date. This profit or loss on open trades is based upon the trading position at the reporting date, consequently the actual profit of loss resulting on these trades may vary. This approach is deemed to best reflect the performance of the company over the period;
- Trade incentives incentives received for trading activity are treated as a reduction in the related costs. This approach is deemed to best reflect the performance of the company over the period;
- Funds held by brokers the company's available for trading balance, held by its brokers, is classified under other debtors. This is deemed to reflect the nature of the balance;
- Share-based payments the directors judge that share awards made by the company's parent company, under the group's 'equity scheme', are distinct from the company's 'partnership' profit share scheme. Consequently, the company does not recognise a share-based payments charge until employees are admitted to the 'equity scheme' and are granted shares under the scheme; and
- Share-based payments valuation the directors judge that a market based valuation, discounted for a minority holding, is representative of the fair value of the shares issued by the company's parent to employees of the company, under the group 'equity scheme'.

# Key sources of estimation uncertainty

Accounting estimates and assumptions are made concerning the future and, by their nature, will rarely equal the related actual outcome. The key assumptions and other sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are as follows:

- Accruals accrued costs are based upon the actual post year end cost, or the best estimate thereof, of
  obligations at the year end. Brokerage charges are estimated based upon trading profit or loss,
  including open trades; and
- Share-based payments valuation share-based compensation cost in relation to the group's 'equity scheme' is measured at the date that grants are made to the employees admitted to the scheme, based upon the fair value of the award at that date, and is recognised as expense over the period that the relevant employees are required to remain with the company in order to avoid their acquired shares being forfeited (see note 19). Determining the fair value of the share-based awards at the grant date requires significant judgement and the use of estimates, particularly surrounding valuation assumptions.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

#### YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

# 3. Accounting policies (continued)

# Revenue recognition

Revenue recognised in the income statement represents trading income earned during the period.

Trading income is the aggregate of profits and losses on trades including trades that are open at the period end. The profit or loss on open trades is calculated based upon the trading position at the reporting date.

# Income tax

The taxation expense represents the aggregate amount of current and deferred tax recognised in the reporting period. Tax is recognised in profit or loss, except to the extent that it relates to items recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity. In this case, tax is recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity, respectively.

Current tax is recognised on taxable profit for the current and past periods. Current tax is measured at the amounts of tax expected to pay or recover using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted at the reporting date.

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences at the reporting date. Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits. Deferred tax is measured using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting date that are expected to apply to the reversal of the timing difference.

#### Foreign currencies

Foreign currency transactions are initially recorded in the functional currency, by applying the spot exchange rate as at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the exchange rate ruling at the reporting date, with any gains or losses being taken to the profit and loss account.

# Operating leases

Lease payments are recognised as an expense over the lease term on a straight-line basis. The aggregate benefit of lease incentives is recognised as a reduction to expense over the lease term, on a straight-line basis.

# Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

# Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Leasehold improvements Fixtures and Fittings

Over the lease term 25% reducing balance

Computer equipment

33% straight line

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

#### YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

# 3. Accounting policies (continued)

#### Impairment of fixed assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

# **Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when the entity has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event, it is probable that the entity will be required to transfer economic benefits in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be estimated reliably. Provisions are recognised as a liability in the

Provisions are initially measured at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date and subsequently reviewed at each reporting date and adjusted to reflect the current best estimate of the amount that would be required to settle the obligation. Any adjustments to the amounts previously recognised are recognised in profit or loss unless the provision was originally recognised as part of the cost of an asset.

#### Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Where investments in non-convertible preference shares and non-puttable ordinary shares or preference shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in profit or loss. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss immediately.

#### Forward contracts

The group does not apply formal hedge accounting in respect of forward foreign exchange contracts held to manage the cash flow exposures of transactions denominated in foreign currencies.

Forward foreign exchange contracts held are initially recognised at fair value on the date on which they are entered into, and are subsequently measured at fair value through profit or loss. Forward foreign exchange contracts are carried as assets when the fair value is positive and as liabilities when the fair value is negative.

The fair value of forward foreign exchange contracts is calculated by reference to current forward exchange contracts with similar maturity profiles. The arising fair value gain or loss is recognised within administrative expenses within the profit or loss account.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

#### YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

#### 3. Accounting policies (continued)

# Defined contribution plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

# Share-based payments

Equity-settled share-based payment transactions are measured at fair value at the date of grant. The fair value is expensed on a straight-line basis over the vesting period, with a corresponding increase in equity. This is based upon the company's estimate of the shares or share options that will eventually vest which takes into account all vesting conditions and non-market performance conditions, with adjustments being made where new information indicates the number of shares or share options expected to vest differs from previous estimates.

Equity-settled share-based payment transactions relate to shares issued by the company's parent company to employees of the company, for services provided by the employees to the company. Such equity-settled share-based payment transactions are recognised by the company as both an expense and an increase in equity, via a capital contribution received by the company from its parent company.

### Trade incentives

Trading incentives received are treated as a reduction in the related costs and are recognised during the period to which they relate on an accruals basis.

#### Dividends

Interim equity dividends are recognised when they are paid, which is deemed to be when they are declared by the board. Final equity dividends are recognised when proposed by the board and approved by the shareholders.

# Turnover

Turnover arises from:

			2023	2022
		•	£	£
Trading income			201,493,777	159,330,865
~				

The whole of the turnover is attributable to the principal activity of the company wholly undertaken in the United Kingdom.

#### 5. Operating profit

Operating profit is stated after charging/(crediting):

3 5 .	<b>.</b>	2023	2022
		£	£
Depreciation of tangible assets		365,518	102,450
Equity-settled share-based payments expe	ense	809,375	962,500
Foreign exchange differences		(189,111)	3,003,590
Operating lease rentals		299,839	139,665

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

# YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

# 6. Auditor's remuneration

Fees payable for the audit of the financial statements	2023 £ 35,000	2022 £ 35,000
Fees payable to the company's auditor and its associates for other services:		
Taxation compliance services	1,000	1,000
Other non-audit services	12,000	12,000
	13,000	13,000

# 7. Staff costs

The average number of persons employed by the company during the year, including the directors, amounted to:

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
· Management staff	2	3
Trading staff	27	21
Support staff	25	23
	54	47
	<del>Company</del>	

The aggregate payroll costs incurred during the year, relating to the above, were:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	50,010,972	40,766,145
Social security costs	6,158,743	5,157,526
Other pension costs	88,941	47,353
	56,258,656	45,971,024

Included in wages and salaries is a total expense in relation to equity settled share-based payments of £809,375 (2022: £962,500).

### 8. Directors' remuneration

The directors' aggregate remuneration in respect of qualifying services was:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Remuneration	5,871,371	7,207,088
	<del></del>	
The number of directors who accrued benefits under company pension pla	ans was as follows:	
	2023	2022
	No.	No.
Defined contribution plans	3	3

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

# YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

# 8. Directors' remuneration (continued)

Remuneration of the highest paid director in respect of qualifying services:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Aggregate remuneration	3,459,333	5,988,807

No directors received any benefits under share-based payment schemes.

It is not practicable to allocate the above directors' remuneration between the directors' services as executives of Onyx Commodities Limited and their services as directors of other group undertakings.

# 9. Other interest receivable and similar income

		2023 £	2022 £
	Interest on cash and cash equivalents	£ 14,550	1,060
	Other interest receivable and similar income	14,550	17,438
	Other interest receivable and similar meone		
		14,550	18,498
10.	Interest payable and similar expenses		
		2023	2022
		£	£
	Other interest payable and similar charges	31,127	_
11.	Tax on profit		
	Major components of tax expense		
		2023	2022
		£	£
	Current tax:		
	UK current tax expense	15,671,009	11,756,585
	Adjustments in respect of prior periods	(35)	89,929
	Total current tax	15,670,974	11,846,514
	Deferred tax:		
	Origination and reversal of timing differences	(38,993)	(92,568)
	Tax on profit	15,631,981	11,753,946

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

# YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

# 11. Tax on profit (continued)

# Reconciliation of tax expense

The tax assessed on the profit on ordinary activities for the year is lower than (2022: lower than) the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 20.50% (2022: 19%).

	2023	2022
	£	£
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	77,719,693	64,357,212
Profit on ordinary activities by rate of tax	15,932,537	12,227,870
Adjustment to tax charge in respect of prior periods	(35)	89,929
Effect of expenses not deductible for tax purposes	62,015	_
Effect of capital allowances and depreciation	(15,241)	(97,043)
Effect of different UK tax rates on some earnings	(3,193)	_
Group relief	(344,102)	(466,810)
Tax on profit	15,631,981	11,753,946

The UK enacted corporation tax rate changed from 19% to 25%, with the change taking effect from April 2023. The average rate of corporation tax for the year to 30 June 2023 is 20.50%.

# Factors that may affect future tax expense

The UK enacted corporation tax rate has been revised from 19% to 25%, with the change taking effect from April 2023. Future profits will therefore be taxed at 25%.

# 12. Dividends

	2023	2022
	£	£
Dividends paid during the year (excluding those for which a liability		
existed at the end of the prior year)	35,628,197	30,050,000

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

# YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

# 13. Tangible assets

14.

**15.** 

Cost	Leasehold improvements £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
At 1 July 2022 Additions Disposals	214,002 983,494 (214,002)	98,753 27,889 —	506,250 178,099 	819,005 1,189,482 (214,002)
At 30 June 2023	983,494	126,642	684,349	1,794,485
Depreciation At 1 July 2022 Charge for the year Disposals	93,558 258,478 (214,002)	74,355 11,690	393,539 95,350	561,452 365,518 (214,002)
At 30 June 2023	138,034	86,045	488,889	712,968
Carrying amount At 30 June 2023 At 30 June 2022	845,460	40,597 24,398	195,460	1,081,517 257,553
Leasehold improvements comprises of sho	rt leasehold impro	vements.		
Debtors				
Amounts owed by group undertakings Prepayments and accrued income Other debtors			2023 £ 8,767,779 4,804,847 124,430,316 138,002,942	2022 £ 159,653 1,411,456 109,473,055 111,044,164
Creditors: amounts falling due within or	ne year			
Trade creditors Amounts owed to group undertakings Accruals and deferred income Corporation tax Social security and other taxes Other creditors			2023 £ 11,025,097 365,331 44,883,532 1,438,220 323,053 23,029	2022 £ 8,817,746 5,294,946 34,794,361 3,936,118 184,816 799,920
			58,058,262	53,827,907

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

# YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

#### 16. Provisions

	Deferred tax (note 17)	Dilapidations £	Total £
At 1 July 2022	59,448	_	59,448
Additions	_	175,305	175,305
Charge against provision	(38,993)	_	(38,993)
At 30 June 2023	20,455	175,305	195,760

The dilapidation provision relates to the cost expected to be payable on restoring the company's leased office to its original condition upon the end of the lease.

#### 17. Deferred tax

The deferred tax included in the statement of financial position is as follows:

·	2023 £	2022 £
Included in provisions (note 16)	20,455	59,448
The deferred tax account consists of the tax effect of timing differ	rences in respect of:	
3	2023	2022
	£	£
Accelerated capital allowances	20,455	59,448

# Accelerated capital allowances

The deferred tax liability in respect of accelerated capital allowances has been calculated at 25%, which is the enacted main rate of UK corporation tax at the balance sheet date. The estimated net change in deferred tax expected to occur in the next reporting period is no material change. This estimate is based on the relevant assets held at the end of the current period, written down at the current rates of depreciation and the current rates of writing down allowances, with the enacted rate of tax applied.

# Share-based payments

At the reporting date there are no material timing differences in respect of share-based payments.

# 18. Employee benefits

# Defined contribution plans

The amount recognised in profit or loss as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £88,941 (2022: £47,353). At the balance sheet date, included within creditors, are unpaid employer contributions of £9,516 (2022: £4,500) in respect of defined contribution schemes.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

# YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

# 19. Share-based payments

During the year the company's parent company issued a total of 270 (2022: 450) shares to 1 (2022: 2) employees of the company, under the company's 'equity scheme', which commenced on 01 July 2020. These shares were issued at their estimated market value on their date of issue, discounted for a minority interest. The assessment of the shares market value at their date of issue was based upon a recent share transaction (2022: a profit multiple). The shares will be forfeited by the holders should they leave the employment of the company within 2 years of the shares being issued to them.

During the year ended 30 June 2023:

- The total value of the shares issued by the company's parent company, including the share premium was £656,250 (2022: £962,500); and
- No (2022: no) shares issued under the scheme were forfeited.

At the balance sheet date, the total number of shares issued under the above scheme was 1158 (2022: 888), of these 720 (2022: 888) are still within the forfeit period. During the year, holders of 438 (2022: nil) shares issued under the scheme, completed the required employment period.

The share based payment charge for shares issued under the scheme is recognised over the 2 year period following the issue of the shares, with amounts to be charged as an expense in future periods, carried forward as a prepayment. A share-based payment charge of £809,375 (2022: £962,520) was recognised during the year within administrative expenses, and a balance of £328,125 (2022: £481,250) was carried forwards within prepayments. The total increase to the capital contribution reserve recognised over the period ended 30 June 2023 was £656,250 (2022: £962,500).

# 20. Called up share capital

# Issued, called up and fully paid

	2023		2022	
	No.	£	No.	£
A Ordinary shares of £0.10 each	11,400	1,140	11,400	1,140
B Ordinary shares of £0.10 each	5,700	570	5,700	570
	17.100	1.710	17.100	1.710
	17,100	1,710	17,100	1,710

B Ordinary shares carry no rights until a total of £6,666,666 has been distributed to the holders of the A ordinary shares. This level of distribution has now been achieved.

The A Ordinary and the B Ordinary shares now rank pari passu in all respects.

# 21. Reserves

#### Profit and loss account

Profit and loss account - This reserve records retained earnings and accumulated losses.

# Capital contributions reserve

The capital contribution reserve represents the fair value of share options issued by the company's parent company on behalf of the company's employees.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

#### YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

# 22. Operating leases

The total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

The total ruture minimum lease payments under non-cancendore op	crating leases are as removed	·•
	2023	2022
	£	£
Not later than 1 year	_	51,977
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	1,596,443	-
	1,596,443	51,977

The above operating lease commitment includes a rent free period, which covers the next financial year.

### 23. Other financial commitments

At the balance sheet date, the company entered into foreign exchange forward contracts to the value of \$nil (2022: \$21,000,000). Subsequent to the balance sheet date, the company entered into foreign exchange forward contracts with a value of \$nil (2022: \$14,000,000).

# 24. Related party transactions

The company has taken advantage of the exemption available under FRS 102 from disclosing transactions entered into between itself and wholly owned members of its group.

# 25. Controlling party

The company's immediate parent company is Onyx Capital Group Services Limited, and its ultimate parent is Onyx Capital Group Limited. The consolidated financial statements of Onyx Capital Group Limited, in which the company is included, are available from Companies House, Crown Way, Maindy, Cardiff, CF14 3UZ.

In the opinion of the directors, the company is not under the control of any one party.