



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

3.2.7 EXTERNAL AUDITOR

The external auditor of SBM Offshore is appointed by the General Meeting on the proposal of the Supervisory Board upon the selection process and nomination of the Audit and Finance Committee and the advice of the Management Board.

PricewaterhouseCoopers Accountants N.V. ('PricewaterhouseCoopers') was first appointed during the 2014 AGM and re-appointed during the 2021 AGM for a period of three years and ending with the audit of the financial year 2023. Pursuant to the Dutch Auditors Profession Act (*Wet op het accountantsberoep*), the audit firm of a so-called public interest entity (such as a listed company) is required to be replaced if the audit firm has performed the statutory audits of the company for a period of ten consecutive years, which term ends with the audit of the financial year 2023. Based on auditor independence requirements, the lead auditor in charge of the SBM Offshore account is changed every five years.

The external auditor attends all meetings of the Audit and Finance Committee, as well as the meeting of the Supervisory Board at which the financial statements are approved. The external auditor receives the financial information and underlying reports of the quarterly results and is given the opportunity to comment and respond to this information.

Pursuant to the Auditor's Profession Act, the auditors are prohibited from providing the Company with services in the Netherlands other than 'audit services aimed to provide reliability concerning the information supplied by the audited client for the benefit of external users of this information and also for the benefit of the Supervisory Board, as referred to in the reports mentioned'. During 2021, a small number of limited-scope non-audit services were provided by foreign member firms of the PricewaterhouseCoopers global network, taking into account the external auditor's independence rules and SBM Offshore's policy in this regard.

3.2.8 STICHTING CONTINUÏTEIT SBM OFFSHORE

In this section, SBM Offshore's anti-takeover measures are described, as well as the circumstances under which it is expected that these measures may be used.

A foundation 'Stichting Continuïteit SBM Offshore' (the Foundation), was established on March 15, 1988. In summary, the objectives of the Foundation are to represent the interests of SBM Offshore in such a way that the interests of the Company and of all parties involved in this are safeguarded, and that influences which could affect the

independence, continuity and/or the identity of the Company in breach of those interests are deterred. The Foundation will perform its role, and take all actions required, at its sole discretion. In the exercise of its functions it will, however, be guided by the interests of the Company and the business enterprises connected with it, and all other stakeholders, including shareholders and employees.

The Foundation is managed by a Board, the composition of which is intended to ensure that an independent judgement may be made as to the interests of the Company. The Board consists of a number of experienced (former) senior executives of multinational companies: Mr. A.W. Veenman, Chairman, Mr. B. Vree, Vice-Chairman, Mr. R.H. Berkvens, Ms. H.F.M. Defesche and Mr. J.O. van Klinken. To be kept informed about the business and interests of the Company, the Chairman of the Supervisory Board, the CEO and the CGCO are invited to attend the Foundation Board meetings.

The Management Board, with the approval of the Supervisory Board, has granted a call option to the Foundation to acquire a number of preference shares in the Company's share capital, carrying voting rights, equal to one half of the voting rights carried by the ordinary shares outstanding immediately prior to the exercise of the option, enabling it effectively to perform its functions, at its sole discretion and responsibility, as it deems useful or desirable.

The option agreement between SBM Offshore and the Foundation was last amended and restated in 2011, to reflect a waiver by the Company of its put option and the alignment of the nominal value of the protective preference shares with the nominal value of ordinary shares by reducing the nominal value of EUR1 to EUR0.25 and the related increase in the number of protective preference shares, as per the amended articles of association of the Company. The Foundation is independent, as stipulated in article 5:71 (1) (c) Financial Markets Supervision Act.

3.2.9 OTHER REGULATORY MATTERS

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The members of the Management Board have a services contract with SBM Offshore N.V. These contracts stipulate that members of the Management Board may not compete with the Company. Conflict of interest procedures are included in the Management Board and Supervisory Board Rules and the Company's Code of Conduct, and reflect Dutch law and the principle and best practices of the Dutch Corporate Governance Code. In 2021, there were no conflicts of interest in relation to the members of the Management Board and Supervisory Board reported other