

Management Assessment of Internal Control over Financial Reporting



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REASONABLE ASSURANCE REPORT

To the Shareholders of
Alijarah Holding Q.P.S.C.
Doha – State of Qatar

Report on the Directors' assessment of the suitability of the design, implementation and operating effectiveness of internal controls over financial reporting of significant processes as of December 31, 2023 of Alijarah Holding Q.P.S.C., hereinafter referred to as the "Company" and its subsidiaries together referred as the "Group" in connection with the Governance Code for Companies & Legal Entities Listed on the Main Market Issued by the Qatar Financial Markets Authority's (QFMA's) Board pursuant to Decision No. (5) of 2016.

In accordance with the requirements of Article 24 of the Governance Code for Companies & Legal Entities Listed on the Main Market Issued by the Qatar Financial Markets Authority (QFMA) Board pursuant to Decision No. (5) of 2016, we have carried out a reasonable assurance engagement over the Management's Internal Control Statement on assessment of suitability of the design, implementation and operating effectiveness of the Group's internal controls over financial reporting (Management Internal Control Statement) as of December 31, 2023, based on the framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organisations of the Treadway Commission "COSO framework".

Responsibilities of the directors and those charged with governance

The Board of Directors are responsible for implementing and maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting. This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate policies, and making accounting estimates and judgements that are reasonable in the circumstances.

The Group's assessment of its internal control system is presented by the Management to the Board of Directors in the form of the Management's Internal Control Statement contained in disclosure twelve of the Corporate Governance Report, which includes:

- The management's assessment of the suitability of design, implementation and operating effectiveness of internal control framework over financial reporting;
- The description of the process and internal controls over financial reporting for the Significant Process of (entity level controls, procurement to payment, revenues, receivables, inventory management, payroll, contract revenue recognition, borrowings, investment management, goodwill Impairment, legal contingencies and commitments, financial reporting and periodic closing of the financial records);
- The control objectives; including identifying the risks that threaten the achievement of the control objectives;
- Designing and implementing controls to achieve the stated control objectives; and
- Identification of control gaps and failures; how they are remediated; and procedures set to prevent such failures or to close control gaps.

The Group has assessed the design, implementation and operating effectiveness of its internal control system as at December 31, 2023, based on the criteria established in the Internal Control- Integrated Framework 2013 issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organisations of the Treadway Commission ("COSO framework"). These responsibilities include the design adequate internal financial controls that would ensure the orderly and efficient conduct of its business, including:

- Adherence to the Group's policies;

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REASONABLE ASSURANCE REPORT (CONTINUED)

Responsibilities of the directors and those charged with governance (Continued)

- The safeguarding of its assets;
- The prevention and detection of frauds and errors;
- The accuracy and completeness of the accounting records;
- The timely preparation of reliable financial information; and
- Compliance with applicable laws and regulations, including the QFMA's law and relevant legislations and the Governance Code for Companies & Legal Entities Listed on the Main Market issued by the QFMA's Board pursuant to Decision No. (5) of 2016.

Responsibilities of the Assurance Practitioner

Express a reasonable assurance opinion on the fairness of the presentation of Management's Internal Control Statement, based on the criteria established in COSO Framework, including its conclusion on the effectiveness of design, implementation and operating effectiveness of the Group's internal controls over financial reporting of "Significant Processes" presented in disclosure twelve of the Corporate Governance Report to achieve the related control objectives stated in that description based on our assurance procedures.

Reporting on internal controls over financial reporting

We conducted our engagement in accordance with International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3000 (Revised) 'Assurance Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information' issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board ('IAASB'). This standard requires that we plan and perform our procedures to obtain reasonable assurance on the Management's Internal Control assessment of suitability of the design, implementation and operating effectiveness of the Group's internal controls over financial reporting of significant processes in all material respects, to achieve the related control objectives stated in the description of the relevant processes by management, based on the COSO framework. A process is considered significant if a misstatement due to fraud or error in the stream of transactions or financial statement amount would reasonably be expected to impact the decisions of the users of financial statements.

For the purpose of this engagement, the processes that were determined as significant are: (entity level controls, from procurement to payment, revenues, receivables, inventory management, payroll, contract revenue recognition, borrowings, investment management, goodwill impairment, legal contingencies and commitments, financial reporting and periodic closing of the financial records). An assurance engagement of this type also includes evaluating Board of Directors' assessment of the suitability of the design, implementation and operating effectiveness of the controls in an organization involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the suitability of design and operating effectiveness of the controls. Our procedures on internal controls over financial reporting included:

- Obtaining an understanding of internal controls over financial reporting for significant processes;
- Assessing the risk that a material weakness exists; and
- Testing and evaluating the design, implementation and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk.

In carrying out our engagement, we obtained understanding of the following components of the control system:

1. Control Environment
2. Risk Assessment
3. Control Activities
4. Information and Communication
5. Monitoring

The procedures selected depend on our judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the suitability of design and operating effectiveness, whether due to fraud or error. Our procedures also included assessing the risks that the controls were not suitably designed or operating effectively to achieve the related control objectives stated in the Corporate Governance Report.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REASONABLE ASSURANCE REPORT (CONTINUED)

Reporting on internal controls over financial reporting (Continued)

Our procedures included testing the operating effectiveness of those controls that we consider necessary to provide reasonable assurance that the related control objectives stated in disclosure twelve of the Corporate Governance Report were achieved. We believe that the evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our conclusion on the Management's Internal Control Statement over their assessment of the suitability of design and operating effectiveness of the Group's internal controls over financial reporting.

Our independence and quality control

In carrying out our work, we have complied with the independence and other ethical requirements of the Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants issued by the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants, which is founded on fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentiality and professional behaviour and the ethical requirements that are relevant in Qatar. We have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the (IESBA) Code.

Our firm applies International Standard on Quality Control 1 and accordingly maintains a comprehensive system of quality control including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

Meaning of internal controls over financial reporting

An entity's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards. An entity's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that:

1. Pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the entity;
2. Provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards, and that receipts and expenditures of the entity are being made only in accordance with authorizations of the management of the entity; and
3. Provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the entity's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements

Inherent limitations

Because of the inherent limitations of internal financial controls over financial reporting and compliance with relevant laws and regulations, including the possibility of collusion or improper management override of controls, material misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected. Therefore, internal controls over financial reporting may not prevent or detect all errors or omissions in processing or reporting transactions and consequently cannot provide absolute assurance that the control objectives will be met. Also, projections of any evaluation of the internal financial controls over financial reporting to future periods are subject to the risk that the internal financial control over financial reporting may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

Furthermore, the controls activities designed, implemented and operated as of December 31, 2023 covered by our assurance report will not have retrospectively remedied any weaknesses or deficiencies that existed in relation to the internal controls over the financial reporting and compliance with applicable laws and regulations prior to the date those controls were placed in operation.

Other information

The Board of Directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the Corporate Governance Report but, does not include Management's Internal Control Statement. Our conclusion on the Management's Internal Control Statement does not cover the other information and we do not, and will not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

If, based on the work we have performed, on the other information that we obtained prior to the date of this report, 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. When we read the complete Corporate Governance Report, if we conclude that there is a material misstatement therein, we are required to communicate the matter to those charged with governance and the QFMA.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REASONABLE ASSURANCE REPORT (CONTINUED)

Opinion

In our opinion, the Management's Internal Control Statement set out in disclosure twenty of the Corporate Governance Report, is fairly stated, in all material respects, based on the criteria established in the COSO Framework, including its conclusion on the effectiveness of design, implementation and operating effectiveness of the Group's Internal Controls over Financial Reporting as at December 31, 2023.

**For Russell Bedford & Partners
Certified Public Accountants**



Hanji Mukhaimer
License No. (275)
QFMA License No. (1202013)



Doha – Qatar
January 24, 2024

General

The Board of Directors of Alijarah Holding QPSC and its consolidated subsidiaries (together “the Group”) is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting (“ICOFR”) as required by Qatar Financial Markets Authority (“QFMA”). Our internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of the Group's consolidated financial statements for external reporting purposes in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). ICOFR also includes our disclosure controls and procedures designed to prevent misstatements

Risks in Financial Reporting

The main risks in financial reporting are that either the consolidated financial statements are not presented fairly due to inadvertent or intentional errors or the publication of consolidated financial statements is not done on a timely basis.

A lack of fair presentation arises when one or more financial statement accounts or disclosures contain misstatements (or omissions) that are material. Misstatements are deemed material if they could, individually or collectively, influence economic decisions that users make based on the consolidated financial statements.

To confine those risks of financial reporting, the Group has established ICOFR with the aim of providing reasonable but not absolute assurance against material misstatements. We have also assessed the design, implementation and operating effectiveness of the Group's ICOFR based on the criteria established in Internal Control Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). COSO recommends the establishment of specific objectives to facilitate the design and evaluate the adequacy of a control system.

As a result, in establishing ICOFR, management has adopted the following financial statement objectives:

- Existence / Occurrence - assets and liabilities exist and transactions have occurred;
- Completeness - all transactions are recorded, account balances are included in the consolidated financial statements;
- Valuation / Measurement - assets, liabilities and transactions are recorded in the financial reports at the appropriate amounts;
- Rights and Obligations and ownership - rights and obligations are appropriately recorded as assets and liabilities; and
- Presentation and disclosures - classification, disclosure and presentation of financial reporting is appropriate.

However, any internal control system, including ICOFR, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable, but not absolute assurance that the objectives of that control system are met. As such, disclosure controls and procedures or systems for ICOFR may not prevent all errors and fraud. Furthermore, the design of a control system must reflect the fact that there are resource constraints, and the benefits of controls must be considered relative to their costs.

Organization of the Internal Control System

Functions Involved in the System of Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Controls within the system of ICOFR are performed by all business and support functions with an involvement in reviewing the reliability of the books and records that underlie the consolidated financial statements. As a result, the operation of ICOFR involves staff based in various functions across the organization.

Controls to Minimize the Risk of Financial Reporting Misstatement

The system of ICOFR consists of a large number of internal controls and procedures aimed at minimizing the risk of misstatement of the consolidated financial statements. Such controls are integrated into the operating process and include those which:

- are ongoing or permanent in nature such as supervision within written policies and procedures or segregation of duties;
- operate on a periodic basis such as those which are performed as part of the annual consolidated financial statement preparation process;
- are preventative or detective in nature;
- have a direct or indirect impact on the consolidated financial statements themselves. Controls which have an indirect effect on the consolidated financial statements include entity level controls and Information Technology general controls such as system access and deployment controls whereas a control with a direct impact could be, for example, a reconciliation which directly supports a balance sheet line item; and
- feature automated and/or manual components. Automated controls are control functions embedded within system processes such as application enforced segregation of duty controls and interface checks over the completeness and accuracy of inputs. Manual internal controls are those operated by an individual or group of individuals such as authorization of transactions.

Measuring Design, Implementation and Operating Effectiveness of Internal Control

For the financial year 2023, the Group has undertaken a formal evaluation of the adequacy of the design, implementation and operating effectiveness of the system of ICOFR considering:

- The risk of misstatement of the consolidated financial statement line items, considering such factors as materiality and the susceptibility of the financial statement item to misstatement;

- The susceptibility of identified controls to failure, considering such factors as the degree of automation, complexity, and risk of management override, competence of personnel and the level of judgment required.

These factors, in aggregate, determine the nature, timing and extent of evidence that management requires in order to assess whether the design, implementation and operating effectiveness of the system of ICOFR is effective. The evidence itself is generated from procedures integrated within the daily responsibilities of staff or from procedures implemented specifically for purposes of the ICOFR evaluation. Information from other sources also form an important component of the evaluation since such evidence may either bring additional control issues to the attention of management or may corroborate findings.

The evaluation has included an assessment of the design, implementation, and operating effectiveness of controls within various processes including Sale, Purchases, Inventory Management, Human Resources and Payroll, General Ledger and Financial Reporting, Property & Equipment, Investment Management, Treasury Management. The evaluation also included an assessment of the design, implementation, and operating effectiveness of Entity Level Controls, Information Technology General Controls, and Disclosure Controls.

Conclusion

As a result of the assessment of the design, implementation, and operating effectiveness of ICOFR, management did not identify any material weaknesses and concluded that ICOFR is appropriately designed, implemented, and operated effectively as of December 31, 2023.