



**2023** ANNUAL REPORT



provisions contained in the articles of association. Shares shall never be issued below par, except in the case as referred to in article 2:80 (2) Dutch Civil Code. At the 2023 AGM, the shareholders have delegated to the Management Board for a period of eighteen months and, subject to the approval of the Supervisory Board, the authority to issue ordinary shares up to 10% of the issued share capital at that time. In addition, authorization was granted to restrict or to exclude pre-emption rights for a period of eighteen months and subject to the approval of the Supervisory Board.

The Management Board may, with the authorization of the General Meeting and the Supervisory Board and without prejudice to the provisions of article 2:98 Dutch Civil Code and the articles of association, cause the Company to acquire fully paid-up shares in its own capital for valuable consideration. The Management Board may resolve, subject to the approval of the Supervisory Board, to dispose of shares acquired by the Company in its own capital. No pre-emption right shall exist in respect of such disposal. At the 2023 AGM, the shareholders have delegated the authority to the Management Board for a period of eighteen months, as from April 13, 2023 and subject to approval of the Supervisory Board, to repurchase up to 10% of the issued share capital at that time.

### 3.1.7 EXTERNAL INDEPENDENT AUDITOR AND INTERNAL AUDITOR

#### EXTERNAL INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

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

PricewaterhouseCoopers Accountants N.V. ('PricewaterhouseCoopers') was first appointed during the 2014 AGM. 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. This means that the term for PricewaterhouseCoopers ends with the audit of the financial year 2023. On April 13, 2023 the General Meeting appointed Deloitte Accountants B.V. as external independent auditor for a period of four years from the audit of the financial years 2024 up to and including 2027.

The external independent auditor attends all meetings of the Audit Committee, as well as the meeting of the Supervisory Board at which the financial statements are approved. The external independent 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 Auditors 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 2023, a minor 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.

#### INTERNAL AUDITOR

The task of the Internal Audit department is to assess the design and the operation of the internal risk management and control systems. It assists the Company in accomplishing its objectives by bringing a systematic and disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of the organization's governance, risk management, and internal controls. The Management Board is responsible for the Internal Audit function. The Supervisory Board oversees the Internal Audit function and, through the Audit Committee, maintains regular contact with the Group Internal Audit Director. Administratively the Group Internal Audit Director reports to the CFO. An Internal Audit Plan, based on a risk-based prioritization of the audit universe, is submitted annually to the Management Board and then to the Audit Committee and Supervisory Board for approval. The Internal Audit department reports the results of the internal audit activities and progress compared to plan to the Management Board, Audit Committee and the external independent auditor. The Internal Audit department is governed by adherence to the Corporate Governance Code and the International Professional Practices Framework (IPPF) of the Institute of Internal Auditors. Every five years, the Internal Audit department is subject to an external quality assurance review against the standards as set out in the IPPF.

### 3.1.8 STICHTING CONTINUÏTEIT SBM OFFSHORE

In this section, SBM Offshore's takeover protection 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

## 3 GOVERNANCE

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 judgment 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, Chair, Mr. B. Vree, Vice-Chair, Mr. R.H. Berkvens, Ms. H.F.M. Defesche and Mr. J.O. van Klinken. In order to inform the Board about the business and interests of the Company, the Chair of the Supervisory Board, the CEO and the CFO 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 protective 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.

### 3.1.9 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 Corporate Governance Code. In 2023, there were no conflicts of interest in relation to the members of the

Management Board and Supervisory Board reported that were of material significance to the Company. For an overview of remuneration granted to the Management and Supervisory Board, reference is made to the remuneration report. The Company is compliant with best practice 2.7.3 to 2.7.4 of the Corporate Governance Code.

In 2023, SBM Offshore did not enter into transactions with legal or natural persons who held at least 10% of the shares in the Company. The Company is compliant with best practice 2.7.5 of the Corporate Governance Code.

#### REGULATIONS CONCERNING OWNERSHIP OF AND TRANSACTIONS IN SHARES

In addition to the Company's Insider Trading Rules, the Supervisory Board and Management Board rules contain a provision stipulating that Supervisory Board and Management Board members will not trade in Company shares or other shares issued by entities other than the Company on the basis of share-price-sensitive information if this information has been obtained in the course of managing or supervising the Company's business. For information about the shares (or other financial instruments) held in SBM Offshore N.V. by members of the Management Board, reference is made to section 4.3.6 of the notes to the consolidated financial statements.

#### CHANGE OF CONTROL

The Company is not a party to any material agreement that takes effect, alters or terminates upon a change of control of the Company following a public takeover bid as referred to in section 5:70 of the Dutch Financial Markets Supervision Act, other than as mentioned in this paragraph. SBM Offshore N.V. has a revolving credit facility agreement under which the approval of the participating lenders must be obtained in the event of a change of control of the Company due to a public takeover bid. Certain shareholder agreements, vessel charter, EPC and O&M contracts that subsidiaries of the Company entered into contain clauses that are triggered in case of a change of control of the Company following a public takeover bid, providing contracting parties with certain rights, such as the right to terminate the relevant agreement. In addition, local bidding rules and regulations (e.g. in Brazil for Petrobras) may require client approval for changes of control. A change of control clause is included in the services contract between the Company and each of the members of the Management Board.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Since the end of 2012, an Executive Committee has been in place. The Executive Committee facilitates decision-making without detracting from the exercise of statutory responsibilities by the members of the Management Board. At year-end 2023, the Executive Committee is comprised of