

## REPORT ON CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

As a company incorporated in the Republic of Cyprus, S.D. Standard Drilling Plc (“SDSD” or the “Company”) is subject to Cypriot laws and regulations. Additionally, as a consequence of being listed on Oslo Bors, the Company must comply with certain aspects of Norwegian securities law and has decided to adhere to the Norwegian Code of Practice for Corporate Governance dated 1 July 2019 (the “Code of Practice”) on a “comply or explain” basis.

SDSD’s Board of Directors and management annually review the principles for corporate governance in the Code of Practice and how they are implemented in the Company. Pursuant to the Code of Practice, SDSD hereby gives an account of the Company’s corporate governance principles and practice.

The description below accounts for SDSD’s compliance with the 15 sections in the Code of Practice.

### IMPLEMENTATION AND REPORTING ON CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

As SDSD is a Cyprus registered company, the Company intends to comply with the Code of Practice as long as it is in accordance with mandatory provisions in the Cyprus Companies Law, Cap 113 and Cypriot practice and principles for public limited companies. To ensure adherence to the Code of Practice the Company has adopted specific guidelines such as:

- Rules of procedure for the Board of Directors
- Instructions for the Chief Executive Officer/General Manager
- Guidelines for the duties of the nomination committee
- Guidelines for the auditor’s and associated persons’ non-auditing work
- Code of conduct of business ethics and corporate social responsibility (Code of Ethics)
- Investor relations policy
- Audit committee charter

The Company’s adoption of the Code of Practice and the above guidelines ensures an appropriate division of roles and responsibility and well-functioning cooperation among the Company’s shareholders, the Board of Directors and its senior management, and that the Company’s activities are subject to satisfactory control. An appropriate division of roles, effective cooperation, and satisfactory control contribute to the

best possible value creation over time, to the benefit of owners and other stakeholders.

The Company’s Code of Ethics addresses impartiality, conflicts of interests, relations with customers and suppliers, relations with media, insider trading and relevant financial interests of a personal nature. The code of ethics applies to all employees in SDSD.

### BUSINESS

The Company is an investment entity within the oil and gas and shipping sectors, which invests directly or indirectly into companies, securities and / or assets, with the aim to control a larger fleet of vessels – all acquired at low values. The objective of the Company is to generate significant medium to long term capital growth. The main focus of the Company has lately been in the PSV market although the Company will pursue any attractive investment opportunities that may arise within the framework of industries it operates, including but not limited to, asset play or investment directly in other Companies. The main drivers are maximizing the return and minimizing the risk.

The objectives of the Company are within the framework of the Memorandum of Association, which is available on the Company’s website, <http://www.standard-drilling.com>. The Company’s Memorandum of Association contains the description of the Company’s objectives and strategies under Cypriot law but does not clearly define the Company’s business as this is not in accordance with Cypriot practice.

The annual report describes the Company’s targets and principal strategies and the market is kept updated through the quarterly reports. The Board of Directors leads the Company’s strategic planning, sets the objectives and makes the necessary decisions which provide guidance to the management of the Company for implementing the strategy. The Company’s objectives, strategy and risk profiles are evaluated by the Board at least annually.

Having a sound financial position, the Board believes that the Company is well positioned to take advantage of opportunities that may appear in the PSV market in the North Sea Sector, the shipping industry and elsewhere going forward.

### EQUITY AND DIVIDEND

The Board of Directors continuously reviews the capital structure in light of the Company’s targets, strategies and intended risk profile. The Company aims to manage its resources in a manner which will ensure shareholders a competitive return in the form of dividends and increases

in share price relative to comparable investment alternatives.

The Company does not have a dividend policy. The annual dividend payment will depend on the Company's results, its financial situation and the need for working capital and investments.

#### *Authorizations to the Board of Directors*

At the AGM of the year 2019, the Board of Directors was granted the following authorizations:

- Following a waiver of the pre-emption rights of the shareholders, the Board was granted an authorization to issue new shares to the existing shareholders and/or new investors and/or convertible bondholders and/or convertible lenders up to the limit of the authorized share capital as it stands on the day of such new issue, for an indicative price range in United States Dollars equivalent to NOK0,20 – NOK5,00 per share and provided that no issue shall be for a price below the nominal value of the shares. The authorization is valid until the AGM of the year 2020.
- To acquire own shares in accordance with the relevant provisions and terms prescribed by the Cyprus Companies Law and within a time period of twelve months from the date of approval of the resolution.

Cyprus practice and the Cypriot legal system with issued and authorized capital is different from the Norwegian Company law mandates that are specific to the Board of Directors and the recommendations in the Code of Practice. The above authorization given to the Board of Directors for the issue of new shares is not in line with the recommendations in the Code of Practice as it covers more than one purpose. However, the Board believes that it gives sufficient flexibility to raise capital quickly in the future with respect to private placements by allowing a proactive approach and swift responses to favorable market conditions for raising equity capital, thus making it more attractive to potential investors to approach the Company for investment.

#### **EQUAL TREATMENT OF SHAREHOLDERS AND TRANSACTIONS WITH CLOSE ASSOCIATES**

As of 31 December 2019, the Company had 2052 shareholders. The Company has only one share class, with identical voting rights. All shareholders are treated equally and the Articles of Association do not contain any restrictions on voting rights.

Where there is a need to waive the pre-emption rights of existing shareholders this will be justified at the time of approval or where based on an existing mandate justified in the stock exchange announcement in relation to the relevant share increase. Equal treatment of all shareholders is crucial. The Board of Directors has not made any resolutions to increase the share capital based on the authorization granted at the AGM of 2019.

All information relevant to the share price is published through the notification system of the Oslo Bors Stock Exchange and the Company's website. Any transactions in own (treasury) shares will be executed on the Oslo Bors Stock Exchange or by other means at the listed price. The Company has not purchased any own shares pursuant to the authorization granted to the Board of Directors at the AGM of 2019.

All transactions between the Company and its close associates are disclosed in the financial statements. If there are material transactions between the Company and a shareholder, Board member, member of senior management, or a party closely related to any of the aforementioned, the Board of Directors will generally ensure that the transactions are on market terms.

The Company has adopted guidelines to ensure that members of Board of Directors and executive personnel notify the Board if they may have any direct or indirect interest in any transaction entered into by the Company. Information about the composition of the Company's shareholders is presented in note 17 to the financial statements.

#### **SHARES AND NEGOTIABILITY**

The shares are listed on the Oslo Bors and are freely transferable. The Articles of Association include no form of restriction on negotiability.

#### **GENERAL MEETINGS**

The Annual General Meeting ("AGM") is the forum for the Company's shareholders to participate in major decisions and shall be held no later than fifteen months from the date of the previous AGM. The Company's Articles of Association require 21 days' notice for Annual and Extraordinary General Meetings.

The Company's AGM is open to all the Company's shareholders and the Board of Directors is taking steps as recommended by the Code of Practice ensuring that as many shareholders as possible may exercise their rights by participating in general meetings of the Company.

Shareholders may exercise their vote through a representative or proxy. All shares have equal voting rights. There are no restrictions on ownership or any known shareholder agreements. The AGM minutes are published through the notification system of the Oslo Bors Stock Exchange and on the Company's website, <http://www.standard-drilling.com>.

Pursuant to the articles of association of the Company, the Chairman of the Board will chair the general meeting or in case he is absent or unwilling to do so, the directors present shall elect one of their number to act as the chairman of the meeting. This is a deviation from the Code but the Company has concluded that the chair of the Board is in the best position to chair the general meeting.

#### COMMITTEES

##### *Nomination Committee*

At the extraordinary general meeting (EGM) held on 30 May 2012 the shareholders approved the establishment of a Nomination Committee which will operate in accordance with the "Guidelines for the Nomination Committee", which have been posted on the company's website, <http://www.standard-drilling.com>. The Company's Articles of Association were also amended in the same EGM to provide that the Company shall have a Nomination Committee. The term of appointment is for two years. The current Nomination Committee is comprised by Mr. George Papanicolaou (Chairman) and Mr. Demetris Kyriakou (member) and its tenure ends at the AGM of the year 2020.

The Nomination Committee submits recommendations to AGMs for the election of members of the Board of Directors. The recommendation will include relevant information on each candidate's background and independence. Furthermore, the Nomination Committee proposes remuneration to the members of the Board of Directors.

It is the Board of Directors' proposal that the composition of the Nomination Committee is in line with the Code of Practice.

##### *Audit Committee*

The Audit Committee is appointed by the Board of Directors of the Company and is currently comprised by Mr. Kostas Pantelidis (Chairman) and Mr. George Crystallis (member).

The responsibilities of the Audit Committee are to monitor the Company's financial reporting process and the

effectiveness of its systems for internal control and risk management as well as to review ethics and compliance issues. The Audit Committee shall also keep in regular contact with the Company's auditor regarding the auditing of the annual accounts, evaluate, and oversee the auditor's independence.

The composition of the audit committee is in line with the provisions of the Auditors' Law of Cyprus and the Code of Practice of Cyprus and Norway.

#### THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMPOSITION

The Company does not have a corporate assembly. According to the Articles of Association, the Company shall have a Board of Directors consisting of a minimum of two and a maximum of ten members. At present, the Board of Directors consists of three members.

The Board members are elected at the AGM. The election is based on a recommendation prepared and presented by the Nomination Committee to be adopted at the AGM. The recommendation is distributed to the shareholders along with the convening letter to the AGM. Decisions on the composition of the Board of Directors require a simple majority and Directors are elected for two-year terms and can be re-elected.

The Company aims to ensure a balanced composition of the Board of Directors in terms of competence, experience and background relevant to the Company's operations. It is also preferable that the Board of Directors reflect both the Company's ownership structure and the need for independent representatives. The current composition of the Board of Directors satisfies the requirements for independence as set forth in the Code of Practice.

#### THE WORK OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board annually adopts a plan for its work, emphasizing goals, strategies and implementation. The Board regularly receives financial reports for the Company and its subsidiary Company with the management's comments on the financial status and other relevant issues. The Board of Directors discusses strategy and budgets in extended board meetings.

The Board of Directors holds more than six board meetings per year and conducts an annual self-evaluation of its work.

As set forth under Section "Implementation and Reporting on Corporate Governance" above, the Board of Directors has adopted guidelines in line with the recommendations in the Code of Practice. The Board of Directors has also adopted committees as recommended, cf. also Section

“Committees” above.

#### **RISK MANAGEMENT AND INTERNAL CONTROL**

Risk management and internal control is performed through various processes within the Company, both on a Board level and in daily management of the Company. The Board of Directors receives regular reports from management outlining the financial and operational performance of the Company and its subsidiary. The Board of Directors evaluates the internal control systems on an ongoing basis and assesses the most important risk factors that the Company will be confronted with. In view of the Company’s strategy the Board pays particular attention to ensuring that the internal control systems apply to all aspects of the Company’s activities. The Board also considers the need for any further measures in relation to the risk factors identified.

In line with the Code of Practice the Board of Directors has adopted guidelines that encompass the Company’s corporate and ethical values and corporate social responsibility, cf. Section “Implementation and reporting on corporate governance” (Code of Ethics).

#### **REMUNERATION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The remuneration paid to the members of the Committees had been decided at the AGM that took place on 5 June 2019, having considered proposals by the Nomination Committee in line with the Code of Practice. Information about the fees paid to the Board of Directors and Committees is presented in note 19 to the financial statements.

#### **REMUNERATION OF EXECUTIVE PERSONNEL**

As the Company has a limited number of employees, the Company has not considered it necessary to adopt guidelines for remuneration of executive employees in line with the Code of Practice. Information on remuneration for the year 2019 for members of the senior management is presented in note 19 to the financial statements.

#### **INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS**

The Company complies with the Oslo Børs Code of Practice for Reporting Investor Relations Information and as well as additional reporting requirements under Cypriot laws and regulations.

#### **TAKEOVERS**

The Board of Directors has as part of its Corporate

Governance Principles adopted guidelines on how it will act in the event of a take-over bid, in line with the Code of Practice.

The Company will not seek to hinder or obstruct take-over bids for the Company’s activities or shares unless there are particular reasons for this. In the event of a take-over bid for the Company’s shares, the Board of Directors should not exercise mandates or pass any resolutions with the intention of obstructing the take-over bid unless this is approved by the general meeting following announcement of the bid. If an offer is made for the Company’s shares, SDDS’s Board of Directors should issue a statement making a recommendation as to whether shareholders should or should not accept the offer.

The Board of Director’s statement on the offer should make it clear whether the views expressed are unanimous, and if this is not the case it should explain the basis on which specific members of the Board of Directors have excluded themselves from the Board of Directors’ statement. The Board of Directors should arrange a valuation from an independent expert. The valuation should include an explanation and should be made public no later than at the time of the public disclosure of the statement. Any transaction that is in effect a disposal of the Company’s activities should be decided by a general meeting.

#### **AUDITOR**

The Company’s appointed external auditor is PricewaterhouseCoopers Limited, Cyprus (“PwC”). The auditor participates in meetings of the Audit Committee. The auditor submits a report to the Audit Committee following its audit of the Company’s annual financial statements. The auditor participates in the meeting of the Board of Directors in which the financial statements are reviewed and approved. The auditor also participates in the AGM. Information about the fee paid to the auditor is stated in the Annual Report.

The Company has adopted guidelines for the auditor’s and associated persons’ non-auditing work in line with the Code of Practice and the EU regulation.