

AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER
KWESST Micro Systems Inc. (the “Company”)

(Adopted effective January 12, 2022)

(This document was adopted by the Board of Directors of the KWESST Micro Systems Inc. and supersedes and replaces all prior Audit Committee Charters)

I. PURPOSE

The Audit Committee (the “Committee”) is a standing committee of the Board of Directors of the Company.

The primary function of the Committee in respect of its audit committee functions is to assist the Board of Directors in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities with respect to monitoring the Company’s accounting and financial reporting and practices and procedures; the adequacy of the Company’s internal accounting controls and procedures; the quality and integrity of financial statements and other financial information provided by the Company to shareholders, and others; and for liaising with the external auditors of the Company.

II. STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS

The Committee shall be comprised of three or more members of the Board of Directors, each of whom are “independent” as such term is defined under applicable laws and in the rules and regulations of all exchanges and marketplaces on which the securities of the Company may be listed for trading. At least one member of the Committee shall have past employment experience in finance or accounting, requisite professional certification in accounting, or any other comparable experience or background which results in such individual having financial sophistication. Each member of the Committee shall be able to read and understand fundamental financial statements, including the Company’s balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow statement. Additionally, no member of the Committee shall have participated in the preparation of the financial statements of the Company or any current subsidiary of the Company at any time during the past three years.

The members of the Committee shall be annually appointed by the Board of Directors and shall serve until such member’s successor is duly elected and qualified or until such member’s earlier resignation or removal. The members of the Committee may be removed, with or without cause, by a majority of the Board of Directors.

The Chair shall be annually appointed by the members of the Committee. The Chair shall not be an employee, control person or officer of the Company or any of its associates or affiliates. The Chair shall be entitled to vote to resolve any ties. The Chair will set the agendas for Committee meetings and chair all meetings of the Committee unless the Chair is not present at such meeting in which case the members present shall elect a chair for the conduct of the meeting.

III. MEETINGS

The Committee shall meet at least quarterly or more frequently as circumstances dictate. As part of its goal to foster open communication, the Committee shall periodically meet with management and the external auditors in separate sessions to discuss any matters that the Committee or each of these groups believes should be discussed privately. The Committee may meet privately with outside counsel of its choosing and the Chief Financial Officer, as necessary. In addition, the Committee shall meet with management quarterly to review

the Company's financial statements in a manner consistent with that outlined in Section IV of this Charter and, if the Committee so determines, the external auditors.

All non-management directors that are not members of the Committee may attend meetings of the Committee but may not vote. Additionally, the Committee may invite to its meetings any directors, management of the Company and such other persons as it deems appropriate in order to carry out its responsibilities. The Committee may exclude from its meetings any persons it deems appropriate in order to carry out its responsibilities.

A majority of the Committee members, but not less than two, will constitute a quorum. A majority of members present at any meeting at which a quorum is present may act on behalf of the Committee. The Committee may meet by telephone or videoconference and may take action by unanimous written consent with respect to matters that may be acted upon without a formal meeting.

The Chair of the Committee shall designate a person, who need not be a member thereof, to act as Secretary, who shall record the proceedings of the meetings. The agenda of each meeting will be prepared by the Secretary, upon consultation with the Chair, and, whenever reasonably practicable, circulated to each member prior to each meeting. The Committee shall maintain minutes or other records of meetings and activities of the Committee.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES, DUTIES, AUTHORITY

The following functions shall be the common recurring activities of the Committee in carrying out its responsibilities outlined in Section I of this Charter. These functions should serve as a guide with the understanding that the Committee may carry out additional functions and adopt additional policies and procedures as may be appropriate in light of changing business, legislative, regulatory, legal and other conditions. The Committee shall also carry out any other responsibilities and duties delegated to it by the Board of Directors from time to time related to the purposes of this Committee outlined in Section I.

The Committee, in discharging its duties, is empowered to investigate any matter of interest or concern that the Committee deems appropriate. In this regard, the Committee shall have the authority to retain outside counsel, accounting, or other advisors for this purpose, including authority to approve the fees payable to such advisors and other terms of retention.

The Committee shall be given full access to the Board of Directors, management, employees of the Company, directly and indirectly responsible for financial reporting, and independent accountants, as necessary, to carry out these responsibilities. While acting within the scope of this stated purpose, the Committee shall have all the authority of the Board of Directors.

Matters in Respect of Audit Committee Functions

Document Reports/Reviews

Annual Financial Statements

1. The Committee shall review with management and the external auditors, both together and separately, prior to public dissemination:
 - (a) the annual audited consolidated financial statements;

- (b) the external auditor’s review of the annual consolidated financial statements and their report;
- (c) any significant changes that were required in the external audit plan;
- (d) any significant issues raised with management during the course of the audit, including any restrictions on the scope of activities or access to information; and
- (e) those matters related to the conduct of the audit that are required to be discussed under generally accepted auditing standards applicable to the Company.

Following completion of the matters contemplated above, the Committee shall make a recommendation to the Board of Directors with respect to the approval of the annual financial statements with such changes contemplated and further recommended as the Committee considers necessary.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Committee is not responsible for certifying the financial statements of the Company or guaranteeing the external auditors’ report. The fundamental responsibility for the financial statements and disclosures rests with management and the external auditors.

Interim Financial Statements

- 2. The Committee shall review with management prior to public dissemination, the interim unaudited consolidated financial statements of the Company. If the Committee so determines, the Committee may include the external auditors in such meeting and meet with management and the external auditors, both together and separately, including a discussion with the external auditors of those matters required to be discussed under generally accepted auditing standards applicable to the Company.

Management’s Discussion and Analysis

- 3. The Committee shall review with management prior to public dissemination, the annual and interim Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations (“MD&A”), and if the Committee so determines, review the MD&A with the external auditors of the Company.

Approval of Annual MD&A, Interim Financial Statements and Interim MD&A

- 4. The Committee shall make a recommendation to the Board of Directors with respect to the approval of the annual MD&A with such changes contemplated and further recommended by the Committee as the Committee considers necessary. In addition, the Committee shall approve the interim financial statements and interim MD&A of the Company, if the Board of Directors has delegated such function to the Committee. If the Committee has not been delegated this function, the Committee shall make a recommendation to the Board of Directors with respect to the approval of the interim financial statements and interim MD&A with such changes contemplated and further recommended as the Committee considers necessary.

Review Related Party Transactions

The Committee shall:

- Review transactions between the Company and related parties;
- Review, by the independent directors, any conflicts of interest between the Company and related parties;
- Review the adequacy of the disclosure of “related party transactions” in the notes to the annual and interim financial statements and any information circular or other documents published by the Company.

News Releases

5. The Committee shall review with management, prior to public dissemination, the annual and interim earnings news releases (paying particular attention to the use of any “pro forma” or “adjusted non-GAAP” information) as well as financial information and earnings guidance provided to analysts and rating agencies.

Reports and Regulatory Returns

6. The Committee shall review and discuss with management, and the external auditors to the extent the Committee deems appropriate, such reports and regulatory returns of the Company as may be specified by law.

Other Financial Information

7. The Committee shall review the financial information included in any prospectus, annual information form or information circular with management and the external auditors, together and separately, prior to public dissemination, and shall make a recommendation to the Board of Directors with respect to the approval of such prospectus, annual information form or information circular with such changes contemplated and further recommended as the Committee considers necessary.

Financial Reporting Processes

Establishment and Assessment of Procedures

8. The Committee shall satisfy itself that adequate procedures are in place for the review of the public disclosure of financial information extracted or derived from the financial statements of the Company and assess the adequacy of these procedures annually.

Application of GAAP

9. The Committee shall assure itself that the external auditors are satisfied that the accounting estimates and judgements made by management, and management’s selection of accounting principles reflect an appropriate application of generally accepted accounting principles.

Practices and Policies

10. The Committee shall review with management and the external auditors, together and separately, the principal accounting practices and policies of the Company.

External Auditors

Oversight and Responsibility

11. The Committee is directly responsible for (i) appointing and retaining the Company's external auditors; (ii) overseeing the work of the external auditors engaged for the purpose of preparing or issuing an auditor's report or performing other audit, review or attest services for the Company, including the resolution of disagreements between management and the external auditors regarding financial reporting; and (iii) the compensation structure of the external auditors.

Reporting

12. The external auditors shall report directly to the Committee and are ultimately accountable to the Committee.

Performance and Review

13. The Committee shall annually review the performance of the external auditors and adequacy of the audit committee charter, and recommend to the Board of Directors the appointment of the external auditors or approve any discharge of the external auditors when circumstances warrant, for the purpose of preparing or issuing an auditor's report or performing other audit, review or attest services for the Company.

Annual Audit Plan

14. The Committee shall review with the external auditors and management, together and separately, the overall scope of the annual audit plan and the resources the external auditors will devote to the audit. The Committee shall annually review and approve the fees to be paid to the external auditors with respect to the annual audit.

Independence Review

15. The Committee shall review and assess the qualifications, performance and independence of the external auditors, including the requirements relating to such independence of the law governing the Company. At least annually, the Committee shall receive from and review with the external auditors, their written statement delineating all relationships with the Company and, if necessary, recommend that the Board of Directors take appropriate action to satisfy itself of the external auditors' independence and accountability to the Committee.

Reports to Board of Directors

Reports

16. In addition, to such specific reports contemplated elsewhere in this Charter, the Committee shall report regularly to the full Board of Directors regarding such matters, including:
 - (a) with respect to any issues that arise with respect to the quality or integrity of the financial statements of the Company, compliance with legal or regulatory requirements

by the Company, the performance and independence of the external auditors of the Company;

- (b) following meetings of the Committee; and
- (c) with respect to such other matters as are relevant to the Committee's discharge of its responsibilities.

Whistle-Blowing

Procedures

17. The Committee shall establish procedures for:
- (a) the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Company regarding questionable accounting, internal accounting controls, or auditing matters; and
 - (b) the confidential, anonymous submission by employees of the Company and of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.

Notice to Employees

18. To comply with the above, the Committee shall ensure the Company advises all employees of the Company, by way of a written code of business conduct and ethics (the "Code"), or if such Code has not yet been adopted by the Board of Directors, by way of a written or electronic notice, that any employee who reasonably believes that questionable accounting, internal accounting controls, or auditing matters have been employed by the Company or its external auditors is strongly encouraged to report such concerns by way of written communication directly to the Chair or any other member of the Audit Committee. Matters referred to a member of the Audit Committee, may be done so anonymously and in confidence.

The Company shall not take or allow any reprisal against any employee for, in good faith, reporting questionable accounting, internal accounting, or auditing matters. Any such reprisal shall itself be considered a very serious breach of this policy.

All reported violations shall be investigated by the Audit Committee following rules of procedure and process as shall be recommended by outside counsel.

General

Access to Counsel

19. The Committee shall review, periodically, with outside counsel of its choosing, any legal matter that could have a significant impact on the financial statements or governance of the Company.

Reports and Recommendations

20. In addition to such specific reports and recommendations provided elsewhere in this Charter, the Committee shall have the funding and authority necessary to discharge its duties and obligations. The Committee shall report regularly to the Board of Directors following meetings of the Committee and with respect to such other matters as are relevant to the Committee's discharge of its responsibilities; provide such recommendations as the Committee may deem appropriate. The report to the Board of Directors may take the form of an oral report by the Chair or any other member of the Committee designated by a corporate governance committee to make such report.

Independence

21. The Committee may consider questions of independence and possible conflicts of interest of members of the Board of Directors.

General

22. The Committee shall perform such other duties and exercise such powers as may, from time to time, be assigned or vested in the Committee by the Board of Directors, and such other functions as may be required of an audit committee or governance committee by law, regulations or applicable stock exchange rules.