#### UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

(Mark One) ⊠ ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended: December 31, 2023

□ TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission File No. 001-41038

#### **STRAN & COMPANY, INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Nevada	04-3297200		
(State or other jurisdiction of	(I.R.S. Employer		
incorporation or organization)	Identification No.)		
2 Heritage Drive, Suite 600, Quincy, MA	02171		
(Address of principal executive offices)	(Zip Code)		
800-833-3309			

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class	Trading Symbol(s)	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock, \$0.0001 par value per share	SWAG	The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC
Warrants, each warrant exercisable for one share of	SWAGW	The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC
Common Stock, \$0.0001 par value per share, at an		

exercise price of \$4.81375

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes 🗆 No 🗵

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes  $\square$  No  $\boxtimes$ 

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes  $\boxtimes$  No  $\square$ 

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically every Interactive Data File required to be submitted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit such files). Yes  $\boxtimes$  No  $\square$ 

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, a smaller reporting company, or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," "smaller reporting company," and "emerging growth company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer □ Non-accelerated filer ⊠ Accelerated filer  $\Box$ Smaller reporting company  $\boxtimes$ Emerging growth company  $\boxtimes$ 

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.  $\Box$ 

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has filed a report on and attestation to its management's assessment of the effectiveness of its internal control over financial reporting under Section 404(b) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act by the registered public accounting firm that prepared or issued its audit report.  $\Box$ 

If securities are registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act, indicate by check mark whether the financial statements of the registrant included in the filing reflect the correction of an error to previously issued financial statements.  $\Box$ 

Indicate by check mark whether any of those error corrections are restatements that required a recovery analysis of incentive-based compensation received by any of the registrant's executive officers during the relevant recovery period pursuant to 240.10D-1(b).

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes  $\square$  No  $\boxtimes$ 

As of June 30, 2023 (the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter), the aggregate market value of the registrant's shares of common stock held by non-affiliates (based upon the closing price of such shares as reported on The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC) was approximately \$13,484,863.01. Shares held by each executive officer and director and by each person who owned more than 10% of the outstanding shares of common stock have been excluded from the calculation in that such persons may be deemed to be affiliates of the registrant. This determination of affiliate status is not necessarily a conclusive determination for other purposes.

As of March 28, 2024, there were a total of 18,607,329 shares of the registrant's common stock outstanding.

### Stran & Company, Inc.

#### Annual Report on Form 10-K Year Ended December 31, 2023

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#### **INTRODUCTORY NOTES**

### Use of Terms

Except as otherwise indicated by the context and for the purposes of this Annual Report on Form 10-K (this "Annual Report") only, references to "we," "us," "our," the "Company," "Stran," and "our company" are to Stran & Company, Inc., a Nevada corporation.

#### Note Regarding Forward Stock Split

Except as otherwise specifically indicated, all information in this Annual Report has been retroactively adjusted to give effect to a 100,000-for-1 forward stock split of our outstanding common stock through our reincorporation merger in Nevada that was effective as of May 24, 2021. References to number of shares of our common stock after May 24, 2021 have given effect to this split.

#### Note Regarding Trademarks, Trade Names and Service Marks

We use various trademarks, trade names and service marks in our business, including "STRÄN," "STRÄN promotional solutions" and "Stran Promotional Solutions". For convenience, we may not include the SM, <sup>®</sup> or <sup>TM</sup> symbols, but such omission is not meant to indicate that we would not protect our intellectual property rights to the fullest extent allowed by law. Any other trademarks, trade names or service marks referred to in this report are the property of their respective owners.

#### Note Regarding Industry and Market Data

This report includes industry data and forecasts that we obtained from industry publications and surveys including but not limited to certain publications of the promotional products member groups Advertising Specialty Institute (ASI) and the Promotional Products Association International (PPAI), as well as public filings and internal company sources. Industry publications, surveys and forecasts generally state that the information contained therein has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, but there can be no assurance as to the accuracy or completeness of the included information. Statements as to our ranking, market position and market estimates are based on third-party forecasts, management's estimates and assumptions about our markets and our internal research. We have not independently verified such third-party information, nor have we ascertained the underlying economic assumptions relied upon in those sources, and we cannot assure you of the accuracy or completeness of such information contained in this report. Such data involve risks and uncertainties and is subject to change based on various factors, including those discussed under "Item 1A. *Risk Factors*" and "—*Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements*" below.

#### Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

This report contains forward-looking statements that are based on our management's beliefs and assumptions and on information currently available to us. All statements other than statements of historical facts are forward-looking statements. These statements relate to future events or to our future financial performance and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause our actual results, levels of activity, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, levels of activity, performance or achievements include, but are not limited to, statements about:

- the expected timing, availability and effects on our stock price and financial condition of our stock repurchase program;
- our goals and strategies;
- our business development, financial condition and results of operations;
- expected changes in our revenue, costs or expenditures;
- growth and competition trends in our industry;
- our expectations regarding demand for, and market acceptance of, our products or services;



- our expectations regarding our relationships with investors, institutional funding partners and other parties with whom we collaborate;
- our expectations regarding the availability and use of financing from our revolving line of bank credit, other credit facilities, or sales of equity or debt securities;
- future fluctuations in general economic and business conditions in the markets in which we operate; and
- future relevant government policies and regulations relating to our industry.

In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terms such as "may," "could," "will," "should," "would," "expect," "plan," "intend," "anticipate," "believe," "estimate," "predict," "potential," "project" or "continue" or the negative of these terms or other comparable terminology. These statements are only predictions. You should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements because they involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors, which are, in some cases, beyond our control and which could materially affect results. Factors that may cause actual results to differ materially from current expectations include, among other things, those listed under Item 1A. "*Risk Factors*" and elsewhere in this report. If one or more of these risks or uncertainties occur, or if our underlying assumptions prove to be incorrect, actual events or results may vary significantly from those implied or projected by the forward-looking statements. No forward-looking statement is a guarantee of future performance.

In addition, statements that "we believe" and similar statements reflect our beliefs and opinions on the relevant subject. These statements are based upon information available to us as of the date of this report, and while we believe such information forms a reasonable basis for such statements, such information may be limited or incomplete, and our statements should not be read to indicate that we have conducted an exhaustive inquiry into, or review of, all potentially available relevant information. These statements are inherently uncertain and investors are cautioned not to unduly rely upon these statements.

The forward-looking statements made in this report relate only to events or information as of the date on which the statements are made in this report. Except as expressly required by the federal securities laws, there is no undertaking to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events, changed circumstances or any other reason.

#### **Summary of Risk Factors**

The following is a summary of material risks that could affect our business. This summary may not contain all of our material risks, and it is qualified in its entirety by the more detailed risk factors set forth under "Item 1A. *Risk Factors*".

- Shortages of supply of merchandise from suppliers, interruptions in our manufacturing, and local conditions in the countries in which we source goods and materials could adversely affect our results of operations.
- Increases in the price of merchandise and raw materials used to manufacture our products could materially increase our costs and decrease our profitability.
- Our customers may cancel or decrease the quantity of their orders, which could negatively impact our operating results.
- We may be unable to identify or to complete acquisitions or to successfully integrate the businesses we acquire.
- If our information technology systems suffer interruptions or failures, including as a result of cyberattacks, our business operations could be disrupted and our reputation could suffer.
- We rely on software and services from other parties. Defects in or the loss of access to software or services from third parties could increase our costs and adversely affect the quality of our products.
- Failure to comply with data privacy and security laws and regulations could adversely affect our operating results and business.
- The Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act and other existing or future government regulation could harm our business or may cause us to incur additional costs
  associated with compliance.



- We are subject to international, federal, national, regional, state, local and other laws and regulations, and failure to comply with them may expose us to potential liability.
- Implementation of technology initiatives could disrupt our operations in the near term and fail to provide the anticipated benefits.
- Inability to attract and retain key management or other personnel could adversely impact our business.
- Failure to preserve positive labor relationships with our employees could adversely affect our results of operations.
- We are exposed to the risk of non-payment by our customers on a significant amount of our sales.
- There is a risk of dependence on one or a group of customers.
- Our business incurs significant freight and transportation costs. Any changes in our shipping arrangements or any interruptions in shipping could harm our business, results of operations and financial condition.
- Our business may be impacted by unforeseen or catastrophic events, including the emergence of pandemics or other widespread health emergencies, terrorist attacks, extreme weather events or other natural disasters and other unpredicted events.
- We face intense competition within our industry and our revenue and/or profits may decrease if we are not able to respond to this competition effectively.
- We face intense competition to gain market share, which may lead some competitors to sell substantial amounts of goods at prices against which we cannot profitably compete.
- Global, national or regional economic slowdowns, high unemployment levels, fewer jobs, changes in tax laws or cost increases might have an adverse effect on our operating results.
- The promotional products, trade show and events marketplace, loyalty and program management business industries are subject to pricing pressures that may cause us to lower the prices we charge for our products and services that adversely affect our financial performance.
- Changes to trade regulation, quotas, duties, tariffs or other restrictions caused by the changing U.S. and geopolitical environments or otherwise, such as those with
  respect to China, may materially harm our revenue and results of operations, such as by increasing our costs and/or limiting the amount of products that we can import.
- The apparel industry, including corporate identity apparel, is subject to changing fashion trends and if we misjudge consumer preferences, the image of one or more of
  our brands may suffer and the demand for our products may decrease.
- Climate change impacts including supply chain disruptions, operational impacts, and geopolitical events may impact our business operations.
- Our success depends upon the continued protection of our intellectual property rights and we may be forced to incur substantial costs to maintain, defend, protect and enforce our intellectual property rights.
- Increased focus by governments, vendors, stockholders, and customers on sustainability issues, including those related to climate change, may have a material adverse
  effect on our business and operations.
- Some of the products that we design or otherwise assist customers with producing create exposure to potential product liability, warranty liability or personal injury claims and litigation.
- Defects in the products that we design or otherwise assist customers with producing could reduce demand for our products and result in a decrease in sales and market
  acceptance and damage to our reputation.

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- We may be subject to periodic litigation in both domestic and international jurisdictions that may adversely affect our financial position and results of operations.
- Volatility in the global financial markets could adversely affect results.
- Failure to achieve and maintain effective internal control over financial reporting could adversely affect our business and price of our securities.
- Increases in the cost of employee benefits could impact our financial results and cash flow.
- Adverse developments affecting the financial services industry, such as actual events or concerns involving liquidity, defaults, or non-performance by financial
  institutions or transactional counterparties, could adversely affect our current and projected business operations and our financial condition and results of operations.
- We may recognize impairment charges, which could adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.
- If we are unable to accurately predict our future tax liabilities, become subject to increased levels of taxation or our tax contingencies are unfavorably resolved, our
  results of operations and financial condition could be adversely affected.
- Early termination of or failure to renew our secured line of credit could strain our ability to pay other obligations.

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#### PART I

### ITEM 1. BUSINESS.

#### Overview

We are an outsourced marketing solutions provider, working closely with our customers to develop sophisticated marketing programs that leverage our promotional products and loyalty incentive expertise. We develop long-term relationships with our customers, enabling them to connect with both their customers and employees in order to build lasting brand loyalty. It is our mission to drive brand awareness and affect behavior through visual, creative, and technology solutions.

We purchase products and branding through various third-party manufacturers and decorators and resell the finished goods to customers. In addition to selling branded products, we offer our clients custom sourcing capabilities; a flexible and customizable e-commerce solution for promoting branded merchandise and other promotional products, managing promotional loyalty and incentives, print collateral, and event assets, order and inventory management, and designing and hosting online retail popup shops, fixed public retail online stores, and online business-to-business service offerings; creative and merchandising services; warehousing/fulfillment and distribution; print-on-demand; kitting; point of sale displays; and loyalty and incentive programs.

These valuable services, as well as the deep level of commitment we have to the business operations of our customers, have resulted in a strong and stable position within the industry.

We specialize in managing complex promotional marketing programs to help recognize the value of promotional products and branded merchandise as a tool to drive awareness, build brands and impact sales. This form of advertising is very powerful and impactful and particularly effective at building brand loyalty because it typically uses products that are considered useful and appreciated by recipients and are retained and used or seen repeatedly, repeating the imprinted message many times without adding cost to the advertiser. We have built the tools, processes, relationships and the blueprint to maximize the potential of these products and deliver the most value to our customers.

For over 28 years we have grown into a leader in the promotional products industry, ranking 24<sup>th</sup> on PPAI's Top 100 Distributors 2023 list and 34<sup>th</sup> on ASI's Top 40 Distributors 2023 list. Our co-founder and Chief Executive Officer and President, Andrew Shape, was also recently named 2023 Person of the Year by promotional products industry periodical *Counselor*. Since our first year of operations in 1995, our annual revenues have gradually grown from approximately \$240,000 to approximately \$75.9 million in 2023, a compound annual growth rate of approximately 22.8%, and between 2018 and 2023, our revenues grew at a compound annual growth rate of approximately 25.8%. During 2018 through 2023, we had consistent gross margins of approximately 30%, and processed more than 50,000 customer orders per year.

As of December 31, 2023, we had total assets of \$61.6 million with total stockholder equity of \$39.5 million.

We serve a highly diversified customer base across many industry verticals including pharmaceutical and healthcare, manufacturing, technology, finance, construction and consumer goods. Many of our customers are household names and include some of the largest corporations in the world.

Our sales increased 28.7% year-over-year in 2023 compared to 2022, which we believe was primarily due to higher spending from existing clients as well as business from new customers. Additionally, we benefited from the acquisition of the G.A.P. Promotions, LLC, or G.A.P. Promotions, assets in January 2022, the assets of Trend Promotional Marketing Corporation (d/b/a Trend Brand Solutions), or Trend Brand Solutions, in August 2022, the assets of Premier Business Services, or Premier NYC, in December 2022, and T R Miller Co., Inc., or T R Miller, in June 2023, respectively.

Our headquarters are located at Quincy, Massachusetts, with additional offices located in Warsaw, Indiana; Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina; Walpole, Massachusetts; and Tomball, Texas. We also have sales representatives in 20 additional locations across the United States and a network of service providers in the U.S. and abroad, including factories, decorators, printers, logistics firms, and warehouses.

#### **Our Industry**

#### **Overview of Promotional Products Market**

The promotional products industry is large yet highly-fragmented, with thousands of smaller participants and indications of a lack of market power in any one firm or group of firms. The industry has generally experienced growth as businesses continuously invest in sophisticated marketing campaigns involving multiple types of advertising. Promotional products are items used to promote a product, service or company program including advertising specialties, premiums, incentives, business gifts, awards, prizes, commemoratives and other imprinted or decorated items. They are usually given away by companies to consumers or employees. The largest promotional products trade organizations are the Advertising Specialty Institute (ASI) and Promotional Products Association International (PPAI).

#### U.S. Promotional Products is a Large and Growing Market

According to ASI, the market for promotional products sales reached a record high of \$26.1 billion in 2023. Moreover, the promotional products market is only one segment of a total addressable market of possibly up to \$406 billion, based on the size of the promotional products market (\$26.1 billion in 2023 according to ASI); the product packaging market (\$185 billion as of 2021, according to Mordor Intelligence, a leading market intelligence and advisory firm); the loyalty incentive programs market (\$90 billion annually according to the Incentive Marketing Association, the umbrella organization for suppliers in the incentive marketplace); the printing market (\$83 billion projected for 2023, according to IBISWorld, an industry research provider); and the trade show and conference planning market (\$22 billion projected for 2023, according to IBISWorld).

#### The Promotional Products Industry Is Resilient To Other Forms of Advertising

The promotional products industry is relatively insulated from other forms of advertising such as television and digital advertising. Although promotional products compete for space within an advertising budget with other forms of advertising, particularly online advertising, they offer distinct benefits, particularly due to their physical nature, which may help distributors and suppliers continue to sell these products and related services despite these budgetary pressures. Data shows that promotional products are more effective in generating brand recognition and sales than other forms of advertising, including television and online advertisements. These factors help shield established industry firms like ours from the technological and competitive disruption experienced by other types of media advertisers.

#### The Promotional Products Industry is Highly Fragmented

The promotional products industry is also highly fragmented. As of 2023, the firm with the greatest percentage of industry sales generated \$1.3 billion in sales but made up only approximately 5.1% of the \$26.1 billion in sales generated in 2023 by promotional products distributors, based on information reported by ASI and the firm itself. There are only two firms that have reported achieving sales above \$1.0 billion in 2023. As a group, the top 40 distributors had approximately 37.5% market share as of 2022, based on total sales of approximately \$9.7 billion out of total promotional products distributors' revenues for 2022 of \$25.8 billion, based on ASI's reports.

Unlike our company, which provides comprehensive solutions to complex promotional and branding challenges, we view most of our competitors as generally falling into one of the five categories below:

- Online e-tailer. Heavily rely on marketing and online advertising to sell directly to businesses, offering little or no strategic support or program infrastructure.
- Franchise Model. Consists of many smaller firms or independent representatives without a consistent strategic vision. They do not offer consistent pricing and have fragmented service capabilities.
- Large and Inflexible. Focus on large enterprise customers, struggling to serve the needs of smaller spend opportunities (less than \$3 million annually). They tend to lack in delivering a high level of service and are limited in their ability to react to changes in the market.
- Non-Core Offering. Offer promotional merchandise as an add-on to their core business or have grown through acquisition without any unification strategy.
- Small Mom-and-Pop. Have little or no infrastructure or executive oversight. Do not have the financial backing, technology, or infrastructure to support growth or ability to execute comprehensive marketing programs or large opportunities.

#### Promotional Products are a High-impact, Cost-effective Advertising Medium

Because promotional products are useful and appreciated by recipients, they are retained and used, repeating the imprinted message many times without added cost to the advertiser. ASI's Global Ad Impressions Study, 2023 Edition, reported:

- Promotional products are the most highly regarded form of advertising, more than newspapers, radio, magazine, television, internet, or mobile ads.
- Up to 85% of promotional products recipients remember the advertiser worldwide.
- Over 60% of consumers who received outwear and drinkware as promotional products report they would keep the items for two years or longer, suggesting that businesses using promotional products may generate long-term revenues and other valuable goodwill from them.

In 2018, PPAI reported that promotional products are the most impactful form of advertising across all generations. Whereas reportedly less than 55% of consumers read or watch an entire advertisement online, in an email, on television, in the mail, in a magazine, or on the radio, over 80% of consumers retain promotional products. Moreover, promotional products have been ranked the most effective form of advertising across all generations, outranking even television, online, print, and mobile forms. A 2019 PPAI report revealed additional statistics reflecting the significant impact of promotional products on consumers:

- 96% of consumers like to know ahead of time when companies offer promotional products.
- Eight out of ten consumers enjoy receiving promotional products.
- Seven in ten consumers would like to receive promotional products more often.
- 79% of consumers, including over a third of Millennials and 20% of Generation Z consumers, pass on promotional products that they no longer want, increasing their potential reach and effectiveness.

Nearly all consumers say they would go out of their way to receive promotional products.

As of 2016, PPAI reported that, overall, buyers consider promotional products mostly or always effective in achieving marketing goals. They generally consider promotional products more effective than social media and nearly as effective as all other media. Data indicates that the majority of buyers do have a budget set aside for promotional products. However, for more than 72% the allocation is less than 20% of their marketing advertising budget. When asked what their plans were for promotional products spend over the next 12 months, only 3% projected a decrease in product purchases. This data suggests that the potential for promotional products' market growth is significant.

#### **Competitive Strengths**

We believe our key competitive strengths include:

- Superior and Distinctive Technology. We have invested in sophisticated, efficient ordering and logistics technology that provides order processing, warehousing and fulfillment functions. We continue to invest in our technology infrastructure, including many customized solutions developed on Adobe Inc. ("Adobe")'s open-source e-commerce platform, Magento Open Source. We have also invested in an internal commercial Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system, Oracle/NetSuite's NetSuite ERP, which is expected to enhance the process of gathering and organizing the business data of our company through an integrated software suite, and is expected to be implemented in the second half of 2024. Additional NetSuite phases will be planned and rolled out in subsequent years.
- Leading Market Position. Our over 28 years' history and size make us a leader in the U.S. promotional products industry. We believe that the key benefits of our scale include an ability to efficiently implement large and intensive programs; an ability to invest in sales tools and technologies to support our customers; and operating efficiencies from our scalable infrastructure. We believe our market position and scale enhances our ability to increase sales to existing customers, attract new customers and enter into new markets.

- Extensive Network. We have developed a deep network of collaborator factories, decorators, printers, and warehouses around the globe. This network helps us find the right solution to meet our customers' needs, whether they are financial, timing, geographic, or brand goals. This model provides the flexibility to proactively manage our customers' promotional needs efficiently. As a result, we believe that we have an excellent reputation with our customers for providing a high level of prompt customer service.
- Customer-Centric Approach. Our customer-centric approach is what has fueled our growth since our inception and our early adoption of technology to solve challenges for our clients set us apart in our early growth. We strive to understand the goals and challenges that our customers face, building unique solutions and seeing each campaign through to completion as an extension of their team.
- Diversified Customer Base. We sell our products to over 2,000 active customers and over 30 Fortune 500 companies, including long-standing programs with recurring revenue coming from well recognized brands and companies. Our largest customer accounted for 13.2% and 8.8% of overall revenue during 2023 and 2022, respectively. Our top 10 customers in 2023 and 2022 contributed 44.0% and 42.5% of revenue, respectively. Our customers span many industries, including pharmaceutical and healthcare, manufacturing, technology, finance, construction and consumer goods.
- Experienced Senior Management Team. Our senior management team, led by our co-founder and Chief Executive Officer and President, Andrew Shape, is comprised of seasoned industry professionals and veterans of our company. Our senior management has an average of over 20 years of experience in the promotional products industry.
- Asset Acquisition Experience. We have made five acquisitions over the past three and a half years through asset purchase agreements. In September 2020, we acquired all of the customers of the promotional products business Wildman Imprints, the former promotional products business division of Wildman Business Group, LLC, in an asset purchase. In 2019, that business recorded over \$10 million in revenue. In January 2022, we purchased the promotional products business and assets of G.A.P. Promotions, with 2021 revenue of approximately \$7.2 million. In August and December, 2022, we also acquired the promotional products business and assets of Texas-based Trend Brand Solutions and New York-based Premier NYC, respectively. In June 2023, we also acquired the promotional products business and assets of Massachusetts-based T R Miller. We continue to explore and pursue additional acquisition opportunities that are appropriate. Please see "*Growth Strategies Selectively Pursue Acquisitions*" below for a discussion of our asset acquisition experience and strategy.

#### **Growth Strategies**

The key elements of our strategy to grow our business include:

Selectively Pursue Acquisitions. We believe that we are well-suited to capitalize on opportunities to acquire businesses with key customer relationships or have other value-added products or services that complement our current offerings. Our acquisition strategy consists of increasing our share in existing markets, adding a presence in new or complementary regions, utilizing our scale to realize cost savings, and acquiring businesses offering synergistic services such as printing, packaging, point of sale (POS) displays, loyalty and incentive program management, and decoration, or offering additional differentiators. In September 2020, we acquired all the customer account managers and customer accounts of the promotional products business Wildman Imprints in Warsaw, Indiana. As a result, we gained approximately over 1,400 customer accounts, including over 120 customer programs with higher repeat-business potential; 20 additional employees; inventory worth approximately \$650,000; and additional revenues of over \$10 million as of 2019. This acquisition allowed us to extend our geographical reach into the Midwest and further diversify our customer base. In January 2022, we acquired the promotional products business and assets of G.A.P. Promotions in Gloucester, Massachusetts. From this acquisition, we expanded our major beverage-specific customer accounts; hired 13 additional employees; gained inventory worth approximately \$90,000; and gained a business with sales of approximately \$7.2 million as of 2021. In August 2022, we acquired the promotional products business and assets of Trend Brand Solutions in Houston-area Tomball, Texas. From this acquisition, we diversified and expanded our customers' geographic accounts; gained eight additional employees; acquired inventory worth approximately \$124,000; obtained a warehouse with kitting and fulfillment capabilities; and gained a business with annualized sales of approximately \$3 million as of 2022. In December 2022, we acquired the promotional products business and assets of Premier NYC in Larchmont, New York. From this acquisition, we acquired a business with annualized sales of approximately \$2 million as of 2022 and a number of noteworthy customers including several large law firms and a national stock exchange. In June 2023, we acquired the promotional products business and assets of T R Miller in Walpole, Massachusetts. From this acquisition, we acquired a business with in-house decoration and fulfillment capabilities with sales of approximately \$20.4 million for its fiscal year ended June 30, 2022; obtained an approximately 25,000 square foot distribution and processing center; gained 29 additional employees and contractors; acquired inventory worth approximately \$0.2 million; and acquired customer accounts for noteworthy clients including a major accounting firm, a major insurance provider, a large sportswear manufacturer, a leading beverage and coffeemaker conglomerate, and an online food ordering and delivery platform.



We believe that this experience will help us to pursue suitable acquisition opportunities in the future and integrate them successfully. Consistent with this strategy, we continue to evaluate potential acquisition targets, particularly with the following attributes:

- o Geographic balance, with a focus on acquiring a company in the branded merchandise space based in the western United States (including Texas, California, Colorado, Oregon, or Washington state) in the \$5-10 million revenue range;
- o Smaller promotional companies in the \$2-5 million revenue range who lack the programmatic capabilities but have a minimum of 30% gross margins and comparable or improved profitability; and
- o Businesses with complimentary offerings to increase Stran's portfolio of services and depth of expertise in these additional industries: Packaging; Loyalty & Incentive; Decorators (for screen printer, embroidery, direct-to-garment, rub-on transfers, etc.); and Event/Tradeshow Services.
- Innovate and Invest in Technology. We continue to invest in upgrades to our platform for customers' promotional e-commerce objectives, including customizable and scalable features, developed on Adobe's open-source e-commerce platform, Magento Open Source. We have also invested in an internal commercial ERP system, NetSuite ERP, which is expected to enhance the process of gathering and organizing the business data of our company through an integrated software suite, and is expected to be implemented in the second half of 2024. Additional NetSuite phases will be planned and rolled out in subsequent years. We believe that it is necessary to continue focusing on the buildout of our technology offerings in order to meet the evolving needs of our customers. Additionally, our strong technology platform will support our acquisition strategy to integrate acquired businesses into our existing platforms. We intend to continue making significant investments in research and development and hiring top technical talent.
- New Client Development. Our sales and marketing teams are tasked with continuously growing their books of business by nurturing existing business relationships while actively seeking new opportunities with new customers. We will continue to promote and ask for referrals from satisfied customers who often refer us to other potential clients. We continuously seek to build our sales forces through hiring of experienced individuals with established books of business as well as hiring less-experienced individuals that we hope to develop into productive sales representatives. As we continue to grow, we are hiring sales representatives in different geographies across the U.S. that further diversify our customer base and attract new customers. Currently we have employees or sales reps located in offices or remotely in Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Texas. We will continue to build sales and marketing campaigns to promote Stran, including social media, search engine optimization (SEO), HubSpot Inbound Marketing, and other alternative platforms. We also plan to continue to identify and exhibit at appropriate tradeshows, conferences, and events where we have had success.
- Develop and Penetrate Customer Base. We plan to further expand and leverage our sales force and broad product and service offering to upsell and cross-sell to both develop new clients and further penetrate our existing customer base. Many of our services work together and build on each other to offer greater control and consistency of our customers' brands as well as improved efficiency and ease of use for their team. Our goal is to become an extension of our customers' team and to support their organizations in using physically branded products in the most effective means possible. For example, we can offer a one-stop solution for all tradeshow and event asset management objectives. From pre-show mailings to special event materials, we can help design as well as produce and manage all tradeshow materials and processes from start to finish. With multiple warehouses strategically located throughout the United States, we offer logistics solutions and expertise to effectively fulfill customers' events needs across the country. The internal inventory-management version of our e-commerce platform provides the ability to manage not only a customer's assets for its booth or event setup, but also its literature, giveaways, and more. We will ship out all assets with return labels for post-show logistics and establish standard operating procedures for every asset to be returned back into inventory.

Other strategies that we plan to implement to expand our customer base with expanded sales staff and technology resources include:

- O Convert Transactional Customers to Programs. The majority of our revenue is derived from program business, although only a small percentage of our customers are considered programmatic. For the years 2023 and 2022, program clients accounted for 77.2% and 82.2% of total revenue, respectively. Less than 350 of our more than 2,000 active customers are considered to be program clients. With a larger sales force and other resources, we believe we can convert more of our customer base from transactional customers into program clients with much greater revenue potential. We define transactional customers as customers that place an order with us and do not have an agreement with us covering ongoing branding requirements. We define program clients as clients that have a contractual obligation for specific ongoing branding needs. Program offerings include ongoing inventory, use of technology platform, warehousing, creative services, and additional client support. Program customers are typically geared towards longer-lasting relationships that help secure recurring revenue well into the future.
- Strengthen Marketing and Social Media Outreach. We plan to expand sales and marketing tools and campaigns to promote the Company, and enhancing our digital marketing efforts, including paid search advertising, search engine optimization (SEO), social media platforms, such as Instagram and LinkedIn, and other alternative marketing platforms.
- Tradeshows and Events. We plan to increase our exhibitor presence at appropriate shows and events such as ProcureCon Marketing, Association of National Advertisers Brand Masters Conference, Association of National Advertisers Masters of B2B Conference, National Beer Wholesalers Association (NBWA), Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of America: AccessLive, Bar Convent Brooklyn, New England Cannabis Convention (NECANN), Marijuana Business Conference and Cannabis Expo (MJBizCon).
- o Extend Relationships. We plan to identify and approach more print, fulfillment, and agency collaborators to sell into their customer base.
- o Referrals. We believe we will generate more customer referrals by offering an enhanced loyalty and customer incentive program.

#### **Products and Services**

Overview

Since our inception over 28 years ago, we have provided clients with marketing services that help drive sales, and make an impact using custom-branded merchandise, commercial print, loyalty and incentive programs, packaging and point of sale solutions while providing a technology solution to deliver these products and services efficiently via our warehouse and fulfillment system.

Our value to our customers is to be an extension of their own teams. We work to understand the different business and marketing goals of each customer and provide solutions that incorporate technology, human capital, and physical branded goods to solve their business challenges. This model of outsourced combined marketing and programmanagement services is unique in the promotional products industry, which is dominated by online e-tailers, franchisees, and mom-and-pop businesses. To achieve this value, we have built the internal resources, knowledge, and processes to support our clients with more than just commodity items.

We are both program managers and creative marketers, having developed multiple teams within our organization to specialize and focus our efforts on supporting customers with the specific support that they need:

- Operations and e-commerce teams create custom-tailored technology solutions that enable our clients to view, manage and distribute branded merchandise to their appropriate audience in an efficient and cost-effective manner.
- Account teams work with client stakeholders to understand goals, objectives, marketing and human-resources initiatives, and the ongoing management of the account.



- In-house creative agency and product merchandising teams support the account team to provide unique and custom product ideas along with additional design services such as billboards, annual reports, and digital ad assets.
- Merchandising team as well as members of our account teams attend trade shows domestically and internationally across a variety of markets, allowing us to provide a
  diverse assortment of product offerings to our clients.
- Technology and program teams offer technology solutions to help efficiently manage the order process, view products and inventory available, distribute products in
  the most cost-effective manner, and provide reports and metrics on the activity of the account.

We work closely with industrial designers of several of our key collaborators to understand the research and trends that are influencing product development in the six- to 18month window ensuring that our team is up-to-date on trends in the industry.

#### **Promotional Product Programs**

We run complex corporate promotional marketing programs for clients across many different industry verticals. Most of our clients take advantage of all the services we provide; however, at the core of every program are the promotional products themselves. Our team works diligently to stay on point with the current trends so our clients' branded products are relevant. We distribute a wide variety of promotional products to our customers, with the most popular promotional products including wearables, writing utensils, drinkware, technology and events-related products.

#### Loyalty and Incentives Programs

We build custom solutions for customers looking to drive either customer or employee behavior. We help our customers build a customer loyalty program or an employee incentive program that meets each customer's specific needs. Our solutions can include gamification tools, social media integration, and a points-based plan that rewards clients' users with a combination of physical products, digital rewards, gift cards, and experiential rewards nurturing loyalty to their brand. For example, we worked closely with a global producer of vaccines and medicines for animals, to design and implement a two-tier incentive program in which, on one tier, veterinarians were incentivized to purchase from our customer through providing them with promotional branded products, and, on a second tier, a loyalty points program featuring prepaid debit card rewards for end-user pet owners who buy their products.

In developing our loyalty and incentive offering, Stran has taken a similar approach as we have in other areas of our business. Instead of developing our own internal solutions organically, we have sought out relationships with businesses with a variety of offerings that meet the very different needs of each of our customers. By using a collection of third party providers, we are able to offer a more robust technology solution that meets the constantly evolving and changing needs of our incentive users.

#### Packaging and Point of Sale

Presentation makes all the difference. Clever and custom packaging point of sale, or POS, displays are essentials for elevating brand awareness and critical for driving sales. From packaging of corporate merchandise and promotional products to developing custom POS displays, clients come to us when they want to stand out and show the quality that their brands offer. We produce custom packaging and POS projects domestically as well as overseas for larger-run custom programs for many of our clients.

#### Commercial and Digital Printing

Printed informational materials used for marketing, or marketing collateral, such as business cards and brochures, are an essential component to effectively conveying information and marketing messages, and arguably all businesses use some form of marketing collateral. When a customer needs print collateral, our digital print-on-demand options route their orders through our technology platform and to our network of commercial printers to ensure that our customers can print each piece of collateral in the most effective and efficient manner. By offering print management with our promotional branded merchandise solutions, we help our customers create impactful presentations and mailings through the most efficient processes.

#### Warehouse and Fulfillment

We offer a global solution for warehousing and fulfillment through a network of fulfillment providers including a twelve-year relationship with industry leader Harte Hanks. These long-standing, strategic relationships provide our clients with process-driven fulfillment solutions that are scalable to meet client needs including real-time inventory reporting, climate-controlled facilities, high-value product security, storage, digital print-on-demand, and direct-mail solutions. Our custom front-end technology solution is directly integrated with the warehouse management software of our strategic global warehouse collaborators.

In addition to continuing to use our third-party logistics partners like Harte Hanks, we are expanding our in-house warehouse, decoration, and fulfillment capabilities. Our acquisition of T R Miller provides us with an approximately 25,000-square-foot warehouse, production, and distribution center in Walpole, Massachusetts and our acquisition of Trend Brand Solutions provides us with an approximately 5,000 square-foot warehouse and distribution center in Tomball, Texas. We leverage these facilities to offer our customers specialty fulfillment, kitting, and warehousing, allowing us greater control and flexibility to meet the complex demands of our customers.

#### Technology

Our custom-developed e-commerce Magento Open Source platform allows our customers to manage all facets of their marketing program, linking branded merchandise, print, event assets, customer relationship management, or CRM, loyalty and incentives in a single solution. Our platform creates cost savings, increasing market efficiencies and brand consistency. With real-time accessibility to the necessary data to operate a complex demanding marketing program including hierarchy user profile groups, multi-lingual, multi-currency, multi-checkout methods and integration into many major ERP systems (SAP ERP, NetSuite ERP, Workday, etc.). Our on-demand mobile reporting dashboard capabilities allows the ability for self-service access within our systems empowering clients with raw data to make informative decisions for their program.

We have also invested in an internal commercial ERP software system, NetSuite ERP, which is expected to enhance the process of gathering and organizing the business data of our company through an integrated software suite, and is expected to be implemented in the second half of 2024. Additional NetSuite phases will be planned and rolled out in subsequent years. NetSuite combines accounting, order management, inventory, CRM, and presentation functionality. We believe that this ERP will reduce inefficiencies, expenses and headcount, automate current manual processes, and potentially contribute to growing net revenues.

#### Human Capital and Culture

We are more than an efficient distributor or supplier, and we offer our customers more than just products. We help them achieve their marketing and business goals using branded merchandise supported with technology, logistics, creative services, and account support. In order to provide all of these value-added services, we must leverage and cultivate the talent of our employees.

As an organization we encourage our team to engage with professional development opportunities. These opportunities include online courses, webinars, training sessions, and participation in various networking and professional development groups. As such we currently have a member of our team who serves on the board of directors for NEPPA (New England Promotional Products Association), a regional trade association, as well as a member of Chief, a network of 20,000 women executives, representing 10,000 companies and 77% of the Fortune 100, designed specifically for women executives to strengthen their leadership and maximize their business impact. Empowering our team to grow their own careers helps ensure that we are more knowledgeable, experienced, and engaged.

#### Pricing

As a large and growing firm with over 500 suppliers and due to our membership in Facilisgroup, Stran has the purchasing power to receive advantageous pricing, helping us with price-sensitive bids. Facilisgroup, a buying group of fewer than 1% of distributors in the industry, processed over \$1.4 billion of sales in 2022. Pursuant to our Sublicense Agreement, we may access Facilisgroup's @ease proprietary software tools for promotional products business management and analysis and a white labelled, managed, product website which we may use to sell promotional products under our brand. We may also access its "Signature Collection" website which Facilisgroup promises offers the best products and margins.

In addition to this competitive buying power, Stran has developed factory direct relationships with multiple factories in the U.S. and overseas. These direct relationships require additional vetting, longer production times, and larger production runs. However, we work to blend production from factory direct manufacturing with our other suppliers to continue to drive costs down on commodity-based items. We compete regularly with larger competitors and maintain healthy margins using this strategy for sourcing and procuring products.



#### **Supplier and Fulfillment Relationships**

We have formed strategic relationships with fulfillment and commercial print providers in the United States in order to effectively warehouse and distribute merchandise from one or more of our warehouse facilities depending on our customer's requirements. For over 28 years, we have developed these strategic relationships in order to offer our clients a powerful solution for their branded merchandise needs. Together, we have experience in developing custom marketing solutions for our clients and regularly kit together promotional printed items and branded product into a single package. Our expertise in product development and sourcing, technology development, and program management combined with our various collaborators' superior warehousing, logistics, fulfillment, distribution and print services are a competitive advantage.

We offer a global solution for warehousing and fulfillment through a network of fulfillment providers including a twelve-year relationship with industry leader Harte Hanks. We buy products and certain raw materials from a supplier network of factories, both domestic and international, as needed. We also outsource certain technology services such as web hosting and data backup. We do not believe that we are dependent on any supplier. Should any of these suppliers terminate their relationship with us or fail to provide the agreed-on services, we believe that there would be sufficient alternatives to continue to meet customer demand and comply with our contractual obligations without interruption.

#### Marketing

We have a direct sales team consisting of over 36 outside sales representatives and 30 in-house sales representatives. We incentivize our representatives with a competitive compensation, incentive, and commission structure.

Our marketing approach combines the sales funnel concept of the marketing process with digital and in-person marketing efforts. We market to a large number of prospects at the top of the sales funnel to make them aware of our business and our products and services by combining lead-generation activities with digital marketing, including website content, SEO, paid ads, and email list promotions, and in-person activities including tradeshow and other events. We use targeted emails, social media messages, and other digital and in-person lead-nurturing activities, develop case studies, and apply other digital and in-person sales tools to market to prospects that demonstrate interest in our business. For prospects that demonstrate readiness to buy and reach the bottom of the sales funnel, we use tools such as sales presentations, sales proposals, and sell sheets.

Our efforts in in-person marketing include expanding the number of tradeshows and conferences that we attend and sponsor across different industry verticals. At these tradeshows, we plan to target representatives of specific industry verticals, such as the beverage industry or the cannabis market, and a variety of professionals attending events focused in the areas of marketing or procurement development.

In addition to efforts to develop new business opportunities, our marketing team works closely with our sales team and our managers to develop opportunities from existing customer accounts. With existing customers, we are seeking to cross-sell and expand our services to encompass all employee, customer, and partner loyalty and engagement programs that are designed to reward loyalty through a combination of premium products, branded merchandise, and digital and experiential rewards.

#### **Customers and Markets**

Stran's customer base includes approximately 2,000 active customers and over 30 Fortune 500 companies, servicing a diverse customer base, encompassing pharmaceutical and healthcare, manufacturing, technology, finance, construction and consumer goods. Our active customers are any organizations, businesses, or divisions of a parent organization which have purchased directly or indirectly from us within the last two years, and include organizations that have bought from other organizations for which Stran acts as an established subcontractor. We have long-term contracts with many of our customers, though most do not have minimum guarantees. We have ongoing contracts with clientele in such industries as financial services, consumer packaged goods, retail clothing and accessories, pet food and medicine, fitness, child care, retail hardware, fast food franchises, health care, and environmental services. Contracts are often multi-year and auto-renewing. Our average contract lifespan is approximately 10 years. Alternatively, we do have inventory guarantees where the customer must purchase any inventory held by us that has been purchased on their behalf within the contractual time periods. Our active customers may be broken into two main categories, transactional clients and program clients.

During 2023, sales to our largest two customers were 13.2% and 7.8% of total revenue, respectively. During 2022, sales to our largest three customers were 8.8%, 7.2% and 5.9% of total revenue, respectively. All other customers generated less than 5% of sales, and the vast majority generated less than 1% of sales.

While our customer contracts are typically auto-renewing and we have many long-term established customer relationships, most of our customer contracts do not have any minimum or exclusive purchase guarantees, other than as to inventory already ordered by them or their program participants. There is no assurance of recurring revenues. We are not dependent on any particular customer or group of customers, and our highest-grossing contracts may change from year to year due to client brand initiatives.

We do business principally with customers based in the United States, although we also provide e-store, logistical support and other promotional services for client programs in Canada and Europe.

#### **Online Store**

We have been a leader in the use of technology to offer our clients an online platform to more efficiently manage their promotional marketing programs and to give them the ability to sell branded merchandise directly to consumers. We launched our first online store for one of our clients in 1999. Today we offer a custom-built technology platform which offers a B2C (business-to-consumer) retail shopping experience combined with all of the back-end functionality required of a powerful B2B (business-to-business) marketing services platform. Our technology platform services over 280 online stores for our clients.

Our Online Store Account Managers are responsible for ensuring that our stores are up to date with all products, images, and descriptions. As new products are approved to be added to the online store, our account manager will work the appropriate resources to prep the images, write the descriptions and upload the images. Typically, this process will take 24-48 hours. For inventoried products, we typically do not make the products live on the website until they have been received into inventory and are ready to be fulfilled.

If there is an issue with an online store, we have dedicated account-specific customer service teams who support all aspects of order fulfillment that the user can contact to help resolve. If there is a back-order situation where an order would not be able to ship complete or on time, the appropriate team will review the order and advise the customer on the best and timeliest options to fulfill the order.

#### Competition

Our major competitors for our promotional products business include larger companies such as 4Imprint Group plc, Brand Addition Limited (The Pebble Group plc), BAMKO LLC (Superior Group of Companies, Inc.), Staples Promotional Products (Staples, Inc.), Boundless Network, Inc. (Zazzle Inc.), Custom Ink, Cimpress plc and HALO Branded Solutions, Inc. We also compete with a multitude of foreign, regional and local competitors that vary by market. If our existing or future competitors seek to gain or retain market share by reducing prices, we may be required to lower our prices, which would adversely affect our operating results. Similarly, if customers or potential customers perceive the products or services offered by our existing or future competitors to be of higher quality than ours or part of a broader product mix, our revenues may decline, which would adversely affect our operating results.

#### **Our Program Management**

We are experienced and industry-leading program managers who integrate all aspects of a successful program. Our program team works hand in hand with our account teams to drive the processes and procedures that ensure we are effectively managing our programs. For Stran, program management is built upon six key building blocks:



- Creative Products. We approach promotional marketing, branded merchandise, and loyalty and incentives with the structure and vision of an ad agency. We have built a robust creative and merchandising team that works collaboratively with our account teams to bring fresh ideas and identify future trends for each of our program clients. We proactively develop merchandising plans, source products, offer individual personalization, understand trends, and make continuous improvements to the product offering based on user demand and marketing goals. We also offer multiple procurement methods within the same platform. These include inventoried products, made-to-order products, and personalized products. Our approach is to utilize all three procurement methods within a single program to take advantage of the benefits each method offers. In addition to these three procurement models, Stran has developed strong factory direct relationships with factories around the globe. We utilize these relationships to help drive down costs for our clients. In order to ensure that we can bring products to market quickly and reduce the possibility of backorders, Stran uses a blended approach to sourcing. We work with our domestic supply base to bookend our overseas inventory purchases. Stran purchases and owns inventory for many clients. This benefits our customers by allowing for budget flexibility and a pay-as-you-go model, resulting in reduced upfront costs and streamlined accounting and reporting.
- Robust Technology. We have developed our own custom technology platform based on Magento Open Source, an open-source software e-commerce platform. Using Magento we have been able to build a custom solution that meets the very distinctive needs of each of our clients. Stran is constantly making improvements and enhancements to our technology offerings. Client stores feature the ability to purchase a combination of inventoried products in addition to on-demand, and personalized products. The front-end responsive design ensures an impressive mobile experience. Our platform is user-friendly and easy to use while robust enough to offer many of the requirements needed in a traditional B2B solution. The requirements can include allocation to cost centers, departments, or general ledger codes; approval hierarchies; varied product selection or pricing by user group; and robust reporting. Our custom-built platform is also tied directly into our fulfilment center system for streamlined flow of data and we are capable to tying our platform into third party software such as Salesforce as well as accounting and procurement software.
- Global Distribution. We offer a global solution for warehousing and fulfillment through a network of industry-leading fulfillment providers including a close working relationship with Harte Hanks, an industry leader in warehousing, fulfillment, print-on-demand, direct mail, and kitting. The relationship between Stran and Harte Hanks has been fine-tuned over a twelve-year period and allows Stran to do what we do best, which is the creativity, product procurement, technology and account management while allowing Harte Hanks to do what they do best, which is process-driven fulfillment. Through our longstanding relationship with Harte Hanks we have developed integrated account management teams which ensures that while the customer has a large and diverse account team to support all their program needs, they also have a single account director responsible for all aspects of their program.

Under our agreement with Harte Hanks, as amended and supplemented, we may subcontract to Harte Hanks one or multiple functions as appropriate, such as e-store website setup; ongoing website inventory management services; monthly account management services; and print-on-demand, warehousing, fulfillment, pick/pack/ship, and other inventory management services. Costs and fees depend on types of services provided and any special or custom work that we request on behalf of our customers.

In addition to continuing to use our third-party logistics partners like Harte Hanks, we are expanding our in-house warehouse, decoration, and fulfillment capabilities. Our acquisition of T R Miller provides us with a 25,000-square-foot warehouse and distribution center in Walpole, Massachusetts and our acquisition of Trend Brand Solutions provides us with a 5,000 square-foot warehouse and distribution center in Tomball, Texas. We leverage these facilities to offer our customers specialty fulfillment, kitting, and warehousing, allowing us greater control and flexibility to meet the complex demands of our customers.

- Proactive Customer Services. Customer service is a key component of the overall success of an organization. Each account is assigned a single dedicated account director who is responsible for all aspects of the customer's program. This account director is supported by an online store account manager, a special-order account manager, a fulfillment account manager, account coordinators, a merchandiser, art team support, operations team support, and accounting support. The customer's account director works with program stakeholders on weekly status calls, quarterly business reviews and an annual review. We also use customer feedback surveys periodically to gain insight from the power users of the customer' program and we have a formal corrective action process to address any issues that are not caught through our proactive efforts.
- *Compliance and Emissions Reporting.* We take issues of compliance very seriously. We recognize that we are an extension of the customer's brand, and our systems are built to ensure full compliance around brand standards, quality and safety of products and the meeting of industry/firm rules. We have also begun to implement a program to assess and manage our carbon emissions policies, standards, and goals. To that end, we are working on finalizing a contract with a third-party emissions auditor to help us identify our historical, or "baseline," Scope 1-3 carbon emissions. Scope 1 emissions are direct greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that occur from sources that are controlled or owned by an organization (e.g., emissions associated with fuel combustion in boilers, furnaces, vehicles). Scope 2 emissions are indirect GHG emissions associated with the purchase of electricity, steam, heat, or cooling. Scope 3 emissions include all sources not within an organization's scope 1 and 2 boundary. As we are not a manufacturer ourselves, and for the most part do not control the manufacturing or decoration process, Scope 3 emissions are expected to comprise the largest share of our carbon footprint. As such, the Scope 3 emission evaluation will be the most challenging for us to quantify and to change. We believe through benchmarking and continued education, both internally and with our customers, we will be able to use the data compiled by the third-party emissions auditor to develop a longer-term mitigation strategy. Once our baseline numbers are determined, we plan to begin to report those to Ecovadis, the world's largest and most trusted provider of business sustainability ratings, along with our future plans and policies designed to drive increased compliance across our supply chain and to reduce our impact. Ecovadis will produce a scorecard of our efforts, policies, and procedures, which we expect to become available to the public. We anticipate that by the end of 2024, our baseline Scope 1 and 2 emissions data will be e
- Integration. Offering our clients an industry-leading technology platform that stands alone only adds so much value. We have worked to ensure that our platform can be easily integrated with as many other technology platforms used by our clients as possible. This helps our clients in many different ways depending on the specific integrations. We can integrate with various CRM or marketing automation platforms to help our clients track and measure who is using the marketing assets that we provide and how they are performing. We can also integrate with a number of different accounting and procurement systems. This helps our clients better control their spend as well as account for their spend. By forming a close working relationship with worldwide logistics leader Harte Hanks as our warehouse collaborator, we offer the most robust warehousing, fulfillment, kitting, and other logistics capabilities available domestically and internationally. In addition to their multiple U.S. locations for warehousing and fulfillment, Harte Hanks is a leader in print-on-demand and direct mail. Harte Hanks completes over 3 million on-time shipments of time-sensitive materials each year. Being able to integrate print, product, packaging, kitting, and direct mail, we help our client be more impactful and efficient with their promotional marketing efforts.

#### **Intellectual Property**

We conduct our business using the registered trademark "STRÄN" and the registered trade name "Stran Promotional Solutions". We also use the unregistered logo "STRÄN promotional solutions".

To protect our intellectual property, we rely on a combination of laws and regulations, as well as contractual restrictions. Federal trademark law protects our registered trademark STRÄN and may protect our unregistered logo "STRÄN promotional solutions". We also rely on the protection of laws regarding unregistered copyrights for certain content we create and trade secret laws to protect our proprietary technology including our e-commerce platform and new ERP system currently under development. To further protect our intellectual property, we enter into confidentiality agreements with our executive officers and directors.

#### Seasonality and Cyclicality

Our business and the promotional products industry overall is generally subject to some seasonal fluctuations. The final quarter of the calendar year is generally the strongest due to the holiday selling season and customers exhausting annual marketing budgets, while the first quarter of the calendar year is generally the weakest due to customers planning their budgets and marketing campaigns for the upcoming year.

Portions of the promotional products industry are cyclical in nature. Generally, when economic conditions are favorable, the industry tends to perform well. When the economy is weak or if there are economic disturbances that create uncertainty with corporate profits, the promotional products industry tends to experience low or negative growth.

#### Security

We regularly receive and store information about our customers, vendors and other third parties. We have programs in place to detect, contain, and respond to data security incidents. See Item 1C. "*Cybersecurity*". However, because the techniques used to obtain unauthorized access, disable or degrade service, or sabotage systems change frequently and may be difficult to detect for long periods of time, we may be unable to anticipate these techniques or implement adequate preventive measures. In addition, hardware, software, or applications we develop or procure from third parties or through open-source solutions may contain defects in design or manufacture or other problems that could unexpectedly compromise information security. Unauthorized parties may also attempt to gain access to our systems or facilities, or those of third parties with whom we do business, through fraud, trickery, or other forms of deceiving our team members, contractors, and vendors.

#### Employees

As of March 20, 2024, we employed 118 full-time employees, 3 part-time employees and 16 independent contractors.

We do not believe any of our employees are represented by labor unions, and we believe that we have an excellent relationship with our employees.

#### Regulation

#### Trade Regulations

As disclosed above, our suppliers generally source or manufacture finished goods in parts of the world that may be affected by the imposition of duties, tariffs or other import regulations by the United States. The Company believes that its redundant network of suppliers provide sufficient capacity to mitigate any dependency risks on a single supplier.

We buy promotional products from suppliers or factories both domestically and internationally as needed. We do not depend on any single supplier. However, if we are unable to continue to obtain our finished products from international locations or if our suppliers are unable to source raw materials, it could significantly disrupt our business. Further, we are affected by economic, political and other conditions in the United States and internationally, including those resulting in the imposition or increase of import duties, tariffs and other import regulations and widespread health emergencies, which could have a material adverse effect on our business.

#### Laws and Regulations Relating to E-Commerce

Our business is subject to a variety of laws and regulations applicable to companies conducting business on the internet. Jurisdictions vary as to how, or whether, existing laws governing areas such as personal privacy and data security, consumer protection or sales and other taxes, among other areas, apply to the internet and e-commerce, and these laws are continually evolving. For example, certain applicable privacy laws and regulations require us to provide customers with our policies on sharing information with third parties, and advance notice of any changes to these policies. Related laws may govern the manner in which we store or transfer sensitive information or impose obligations on us in the event of a security breach or inadvertent disclosure of such information. Additionally, tax regulations in jurisdictions where we do not currently collect state or local taxes may subject us to the obligation to collect and remit such taxes, or to additional taxes, or to requirements intended to assist jurisdictions with their tax collection efforts.

The production, distribution and sale in the United States of many of our products are subject to the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, the Federal Trade Commission Act, the Lanham Act, state consumer protection laws, competition laws, federal, state and local workplace health and safety laws, various federal, state and local environmental protection laws, various other federal, state and local statutes applicable to the production, transportation, sale, safety, advertising, labeling and ingredients of such products, and rules and regulations adopted pursuant to these laws. Outside the United States, the distribution and sale of our many products and related operations are also subject to numerous similar and other statutes and regulations.

A California law known as Proposition 65 requires a specific warning to appear on any product containing a component listed by the state as having been found to cause cancer or birth defects. The state maintains lists of these substances and periodically adds other substances to these lists. Proposition 65 exposes all food and beverage producers to the possibility of having to provide warnings on their products in California because it does not provide for any generally applicable quantitative threshold below which the presence of a listed substance is exempt from the warning requirement. Consequently, the detection of even a trace amount of a listed substance can subject an affected product to the requirement of a warning label. However, Proposition 65 does not require a warning if the manufacturer of a product can demonstrate that the use of that product exposes consumers to a daily quantity of a listed substance that is:

- below a "safe harbor" threshold that may be established;
- naturally occurring;
- the result of necessary cooking; or
- subject to another applicable exemption.

In January 2019, New York State's governor announced the "Consumer Right to Know Act," a proposed law that would impose similar and potentially more stringent labeling requirements than California Proposition 65. The law has not yet been adopted, and to our knowledge California Proposition 65 remains the most onerous state-level chemical exposure labeling statutory scheme. However, due in part to the large size of California's market, promotional products sold or distributed anywhere in the United States may be subject to California Proposition 65.

We are unable to predict whether a component found in a product that we assisted a client in producing might be added to the California list in the future. Furthermore, we are also unable to predict when or whether the increasing sensitivity of detection methodology may become applicable under this law and related regulations as they currently exist, or as they may be amended.

We are subject to various federal, state and local laws and regulations, including but not limited to, laws and regulations relating to labor and employment, U.S. customs and consumer product safety, including the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (the "CPSIA"). The CPSIA created more stringent safety requirements related to lead and phthalates content in children's products. The CPSIA regulates the future manufacture of these items and existing inventories and may cause us to incur losses if we offer for sale or sell any non-compliant items. Failure to comply with the various regulations applicable to us may result in damage to our reputation, civil and criminal liability, fines and penalties and increased cost of regulatory compliance. These current and any future laws and regulations could harm our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Legal requirements apply in various jurisdictions in the United States and overseas requiring deposits or certain taxes or fees be charged for the sale, marketing and use of certain non-refillable beverage containers. The precise requirements imposed by these measures vary. Other types of beverage container-related deposit, recycling, tax and/or product stewardship statutes and regulations also apply in various jurisdictions in the United States and overseas. We anticipate additional, similar legal requirements may be proposed or enacted in the future at local, state and federal levels, both in the United States and elsewhere.

New legislation or regulation, the application of laws from jurisdictions whose laws do not currently apply to our business, or the application of existing laws and regulations to the internet and e-commerce generally could result in significant additional taxes on our business. Further, we could be subject to fines or other payments for any past failures to comply with these requirements. The continued growth and demand for e-commerce is likely to result in more laws and regulations that impose additional compliance burdens on e-commerce companies.

#### Laws and Regulations Relating to Data Privacy

In the ordinary course of our business, we might collect and store in our internal and external data centers, cloud services and networks sensitive data, including our proprietary business information and that of our customers, suppliers and business collaborators, as well as personal information of our customers and employees. The secure processing, maintenance and transmission of this information is critical to our operations and business strategy. The number and sophistication of attempted attacks and intrusions that companies have experienced from third parties has increased over the past few years. Despite our security measures, it is impossible for us to eliminate this risk.

A number of U.S. states have enacted data privacy and security laws and regulations that govern the collection, use, disclosure, transfer, storage, disposal, and protection of personal information, such as social security numbers, financial information and other sensitive personal information. For example, all 50 states and several U.S. territories now have data breach laws that require timely notification to affected individuals, and at times regulators, credit reporting agencies and other bodies, if a company has experienced the unauthorized access or acquisition of certain personal information. Other state laws, particularly the California Consumer Privacy Act, as amended ("CCPA"), among other things, contain disclosure obligations for businesses that collect personal information about residents in their state and affords those individuals new rights relating to their personal information that may affect our ability to collect and/or use personal information. Moreover, on January 28, 2022, the California Attorney General announced that certain consumer loyalty programs are subject to the CCPA, which may affect some of our customers who use our loyalty program services if they are found not to comply with the CCPA's requirements. The Virginia Consumer Data Protection Act ("CDPA") also establishes rights for Virginia consumers to control how companies use individuals' personal data. The CDPA dictates how companies must protect personal data in their possession and respond to consumers exercising their rights, as prescribed by the law, regarding such personal data. The CDPA went into effect on January 1, 2023. Effective January 1, 2023, we also became subject to the California Privacy Rights Act (the "CPRA"), which expands upon the consumer data use restrictions, penalties and enforcement provisions under the California Consumer Privacy Act. Effective July 1, 2023, we also became subject to the Colorado Privacy Act and Connecticut's An Act Concerning Personal Data Privacy and Online Monitoring, which are also comprehensive consumer privacy laws. Effective December 31, 2023, we also became subject to the Utah Consumer Privacy Act, regarding business handling of consumers' personal data. Effective January 1, 2025, we may also become subject to the Iowa Consumer Privacy Act, a similar consumer data privacy law. Meanwhile, several other states and the federal government have considered or are considering privacy laws like the CCPA. We will continue to monitor and assess the impact of these laws, which may impose substantial penalties for violations, impose significant costs for investigations and compliance, allow private class-action litigation and carry significant potential liability for our business.

Outside of the U.S., data protection laws, including the EU General Data Protection Regulation (the "GDPR"), also might apply to some of our operations or business collaborators. Legal requirements in these countries relating to the collection, storage, processing and transfer of personal data/information continue to evolve. The GDPR imposes, among other things, data protection requirements that include strict obligations and restrictions on the ability to collect, analyze and transfer EU personal data/information, a requirement for prompt notice of data breaches to data subjects and supervisory authorities in certain circumstances, and possible substantial fines for any violations (including possible fines for certain violations of up to the greater of 20 million Euros or 4% of total company revenue). Other governmental authorities around the world have enacted or are considering similar types of legislative and regulatory proposals concerning data protection.

The interpretation and enforcement of the laws and regulations described above are uncertain and subject to change, and may require substantial costs to monitor and implement and maintain adequate compliance programs. Failure to comply with U.S. and international data protection laws and regulations could result in government enforcement actions (which could include substantial civil and/or criminal penalties), private litigation and/or adverse publicity and could negatively affect our operating results and business.

#### **Environmental Regulations**

We use certain plastic, glass, fabric, metal and other products in our business which may be harmful if released into the environment. In view of the nature of our business, compliance with federal, state, and local laws regulating the discharge of materials into the environment, or otherwise relating to the protection of the environment, has had no material effect upon our operations or earnings, and we do not expect it to have a material impact in the foreseeable future. However, see "*Risk Factors – Risks Related to Our Business and Industry – Climate change and increased focus by governments, stockholders and customers on sustainability issues, including those related to climate change, may have a material adverse effect on our business and operations.*" and "*Risk Factors – General Risk Factors – Environmental regulations may impact our future operating results.*" for discussion of material related risks.

#### Tax Laws and Regulations

Changes in tax laws or regulations in the jurisdictions in which we do business, including the United States, or changes in how the tax laws are interpreted, could further impact our effective tax rate, further restrict our ability to repatriate undistributed offshore earnings, or impose new restrictions, costs or prohibitions on our current practices and reduce our net income and adversely affect our cash flows.

We are also subject to tax audits in the United States and other jurisdictions and our tax positions may be challenged by tax authorities. Although we believe that our current tax provisions are reasonable and appropriate, there can be no assurance that these items will be settled for the amounts accrued, that additional tax exposures will not be identified in the future or that additional tax reserves will not be necessary for any such exposures. Any increase in the amount of taxation incurred as a result of challenges to our tax filing positions could result in a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

#### **Other Regulations**

We are subject to international, federal, national, regional, state, local and other laws and regulations affecting our business, including those promulgated under the Occupational Safety and Health Act, the Consumer Product Safety Act, the Flammable Fabrics Act, the Textile Fiber Product Identification Act, the rules and regulations of the Consumer Products Safety Commission, the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977 (the "FCPA"), various securities laws and regulations including but not limited to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), the Listing Rules of The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC ("Nasdaq"), various labor, workplace and related laws, and environmental laws and regulations. Failure to comply with such laws and regulations may expose us to potential liability and have an adverse effect on our results of operations.

#### **Corporate Structure and History**

Our company was incorporated in Massachusetts on November 17, 1995 under the name "Strän & Company, Inc." We also use the registered trade name "Stran Promotional Solutions".

On September 26, 2020, we acquired certain assets including the customer account managers and customer base of the Wildman Imprints promotional products business division of Wildman Business Group, LLC, or WBG.

On May 24, 2021, we changed our state of incorporation to the State of Nevada by merging into Stran & Company, Inc., a Nevada corporation that was incorporated on May 19, 2021, and changed the spelling of our name to "Stran & Company, Inc." In addition, on May 24, 2021, our authorized capital stock changed from 200,000 shares of common stock, \$0.01 par value, to 350,000,000 shares, consisting of 300,000,000 shares of Common Stock, \$0.001 par value per share ("common stock"), and 50,000,000 shares of Preferred Stock, \$0.0001 par value per share ("preferred stock"). At the same time, we also completed a 100,000-for-1 forward stock split of our outstanding common stock through the merger by issuing 100,000 shares of our common stock for each previously outstanding share of common stock of our predecessor Massachusetts company. As a result of this stock split, our issued and outstanding common stock increased from 100 shares to 10,000,000 shares, all of which were then held by Andrew Stranberg, our Executive Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, and director.

Following our reincorporation in Nevada, on May 24, 2021, Mr. Stranberg was our sole stockholder then holding a total of 10,000,000 shares of our common stock. On the date of the reincorporation transaction, Mr. Stranberg transferred 3,400,000 shares of common stock to Andrew Shape, our Chief Executive Officer and President and director, and 800,000 shares of common stock to Randolph Birney, a former executive officer of the Company, pursuant to stock purchase agreements. The price per share was equal to \$0.1985 per share, which was the calculated price of a share of common stock of the Company as of December 31, 2020 determined through a valuation of the shares of common stock of the Company dated April 27, 2021. Each of Messrs. Shape and Birney paid the purchase price for the shares to Mr. Stranberg through the delivery to Mr. Stranberg of a secured promissory note effective as of May 24, 2021. Each of the promissory notes provides for 2% simple annual interest, and principal and accrued interest must be repaid by the note's third anniversary, May 24, 2024. Each note grants a security interest to Mr. Stranberg in the transferred shares as to the repayment obligations under the note.



The stock purchase agreements between Mr. Stranberg and Messrs. Shape and Birney provided that the shares are also subject to a lockup provision providing that one-half of the purchased shares may not be sold until the second anniversary of the date of the stock purchase agreement, or May 24, 2023; provided, however, that such restriction on transfer will expire at a rate of  $1/48^{th}$  of the shares subject to the restriction per month over such two-year period. The shares were also subject to a market standoff provision restricting transfers and other dispositions of the shares as reasonably requested by the Company and its underwriter until the date that is two years after its initial public offering, which occurred on November 8, 2021 (the "IPO"). The shares were also formerly subject to a repurchase right which lapsed upon the occurrence of the IPO. Subject to the above remaining restrictions, Messrs. Shape and Birney may sell the shares subject to the security interest at prevailing market prices so long as such portion of the sale proceeds as is required under the promissory note to repay the note is so used to repay the note. The foregoing description of each stock purchase agreement and promissory note referenced above is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of such documents which are filed as Exhibit 10.9, Exhibit 10.10, Exhibit 10.11, and Exhibit 10.12 to this Annual Report, respectively, and which are incorporated herein by reference.

On May 24, 2021, Mr. Stranberg also transferred 700,000 shares of common stock to Theseus Capital Ltd. ("Theseus"), pursuant to a stock purchase agreement. Pursuant to a different arrangement with Mr. Stranberg from Mr. Shape and Mr. Birney's, Theseus paid Mr. Stranberg a nominal cash purchase price of \$100 for its stock. Theseus did not have any relationship with the Company other than as a stockholder after the transfer by Mr. Stranberg, and its payment for Mr. Stranberg's stock was made to Mr. Stranberg and not to the Company. The stock was subject to a market standoff provision restricting transfers and other dispositions of the stock as reasonably requested by the Company and its underwriter until the date that is two years after the IPO. Theseus also executed an irrevocable proxy providing that Mr. Stranberg may vote and exercise all voting and related rights with respect to the shares. During 2021 and 2022, Theseus transferred all of the shares to others with the consent of the Company, its underwriter and Mr. Stranberg. The irrevocable proxy automatically terminated with respect to the shares upon their subsequent sale by Theseus.

On November 12, 2021, we completed the IPO, in which we sold 4,337,349 units, each unit consisting of one share of common stock and a publicly-traded warrant to purchase one share of common stock at the initial public offering price (the "IPO Price") of \$4.15 per unit, plus an additional 650,602 shares of common stock and 650,602 publicly-traded warrants pursuant to the exercise of the underwriters' over-allotment option. Initially, the common stock and publicly-traded warrants had been listed on the Nasdaq Capital Market tier of Nasdaq under the initial ticker symbols "STRN" and "STRNW", respectively. Subsequently, we changed the ticker symbols of the shares and publicly-traded warrants to "SWAG" and "SWAGW", respectively. Each whole share exercisable pursuant to the publicly-traded warrants had an initial exercise price per share of \$5.1875, equal to 125% of the IPO Price. Due to our subsequent private placement of common stock and common stock purchase warrants at a purchase price of \$4.97 for one share and 1.25 warrants combined, after attributing a warrant value of \$0.125, the exercise price per share of the publicly-traded warrants was reduced to \$4.81375 as of December 10, 2021. The publicly-traded warrants were immediately exercisable and will expire on the fifth anniversary of the original issuance date. The units were not certificated. The shares of common stock and publicly-traded warrants were immediately separable and were issued separately, though they were issued and purchased together as a unit in the offering.

On December 10, 2021, we completed a private placement with several investors, wherein a total of 4,371,926 shares of common stock were issued at a purchase price of \$4.97 per share, with each investor also receiving a warrant to purchase up to a number of shares of common stock equal to 125% of the number of shares of common stock purchased by such investor in the private placement, or a total of 5,464,903 shares, at an exercise price of \$4.97 per share, for a total purchase price of approximately \$21.7 million. The warrants were immediately exercisable on the date of issuance, expire five years from the date of issuance and have certain downward-pricing adjustment mechanisms, including with respect to any subsequent equity sale that is deemed a dilutive issuance, in which case the warrants were subject to a floor price of \$4.80 per share before stockholder approval of the private placement was obtained, and after stockholder approval was obtained, such floor price would be reduced to \$1.00 per share, as set forth in the warrants. On December 10, 2021, the holders of shares of common stock entitled to vote approximately 65.4% of our outstanding voting stock on December 10, 2021 approved the Company's entry into the private placement. We filed preliminary and definitive information statements on Schedule 14C with the SEC on December 29, 2021 and January 11, 2022, and delivered copies of the definitive information statement to stockholders January 31, 2022, the stockholders' consent became effective pursuant to Rule 14c-2 under the Exchange Act. As a result, the exercise price of resale or listed on any stock exchange and are subject to restrictions on transfer. We engaged EF Hutton, division of Benchmark Investments, LLC ("EF Hutton") as our placement agent for the private placement. We agreed, among other things, to issue the EF Hutton's designees warrants to purchase an aggregate of 131,158 shares of common stock, which is equal to 3.0% of the total number of shares issued in the private placement, at an exer

On January 31, 2022, we acquired substantially all of the assets used in the branding, marketing and promotional products and services business of G.A.P. Promotions. See "Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Results of Operations and Financial Condition – Liquidity and Capital Resources – Contractual Obligations – G.A.P. Promotions Acquisition" for further discussion of this transaction. On August 31, 2022, we acquired substantially all of the assets used in the branding, marketing and promotional products and services business of Trend Brand Solutions. See "Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Results of Operations and Financial Condition – Liquidity and Capital Resources – Contractual Obligations – Trend Brand Solutions Acquisition" for further discussion of this transaction. On December 20, 2022, we acquired substantially all of the assets used in the branding, marketing and promotional products and services business of Premier NYC. See "Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Results of Operations and Financial Condition – Liquidity and Capital Resources – Contractual Obligations" for further discussion of this transaction. On June 1, 2023, we acquired substantially all of the assets used in the branding, marketing and Financial Condition – Liquidity and Capital Resources – Contractual Obligations – T R Miller. See "Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Results of Operations and Financial Condition – Liquidity and Financial Condition – Liquidity and Capital Resources – Contractual Obligations – T R Miller. See "Item 7. Management's Discussion of this transaction.

As of the date of this report, we have no subsidiaries.

Our principal executive offices are located at 2 Heritage Drive, Suite 600, Quincy, MA 02171 and our telephone number is 800-833-3309. We maintain a website at https://www.stran.com. Information available on our website is not incorporated by reference in and is not deemed a part of this report. Our fiscal year ends on December 31. Neither we nor any of our predecessors have been in bankruptcy, receivership or any similar proceeding.

#### ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS.

An investment in our securities involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully read and consider all of the risks described below, together with all of the other information contained or referred to in this report, before making an investment decision with respect to our securities. If any of the following events occur, our financial condition, business and results of operations (including cash flows) may be materially adversely affected. In that event, the market price of our shares could decline, and you could lose all or part of your investment.

#### **Risks Related to Our Business and Industry**

### Shortages of supply of merchandise from suppliers, interruptions in our manufacturing, and local conditions in the countries in which we source goods and materials could adversely affect our results of operations.

Along with many companies that source goods and raw materials from abroad, we are currently experiencing continued supply disruptions and delays due to a variety of reasons. These changes are partially driven by interruptions in global supply chains (including as a result of port congestion, canal blockages and disruptions, and trucking shortages) and partially by a shift in customer buying habits to e-commerce, which has the effect of increasing demand for shipping capacity from Asia, leading to capacity constraints. Both factors have increased shipping times as well as the price of shipping, whether by sea, air, rail, or vehicle. Shipping delays combined with significant increases in orders for our products have recently created, and are expected to continue to create, inventory pressure for us.

As a distributor, we buy merchandise both from multiple supply sources and from a network of factories in which we have developed direct relationships around the globe over the past 28 years. However, an unexpected interruption in any of the sources or facilities may temporarily adversely affect our results of operations until alternate sources or facilities can be secured. We rely on the supply of different types of raw materials as well as textiles, including plastic, glass, fabric and metal for our promotional products. Further, our suppliers generally source or manufacture finished goods in parts of the world that may be affected by economic uncertainty, political unrest, labor disputes, health emergencies, or the imposition of duties, tariffs or other import regulations by the United States.



#### Increases in the price of merchandise and raw materials used to manufacture our products could materially increase our costs and decrease our profitability.

The principal components in our promotional products are plastic, glass, fabric and metal. The prices we pay for these fabrics and components and our merchandise are dependent on the market price for the raw materials used to produce them, primarily cotton and chemical components of synthetic fabrics including raw materials such as chemicals and dyestuffs. These finished goods and raw materials are subject to price volatility caused by weather, supply conditions, government regulations, economic and political climate, currency exchange rates, labor costs, and other unpredictable factors. Fluctuations in petroleum prices also may influence the prices of related items such as chemicals, dyestuffs and polyester yarn.

During the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, many promotional products companies saw increases in the cost of finished goods and raw materials purchased, as well as in the average cost of finished goods and raw materials purchased, as compared to the prior year, driven by rising inflation rates and challenges in the supply chain which continue to persist. The challenges in the supply chain, which include shipping and logistics issues, also delayed the arrival of product that many promotional products companies could sell; this challenge also persists.

Our shipping costs for importing raw materials from overseas increased significantly after the emergence of COVID-19 and the general inflation in the prices of goods and services that has occurred since that time. Any increase in raw material prices or shipping costs increases our cost of sales and can decrease our profitability unless we are able to pass the costs on to our customers in the form of higher prices. In addition, if one or more of our competitors is able to reduce their production costs by taking advantage of any reductions in raw material prices or favorable sourcing agreements, we may face pricing pressures from those competitors and may be forced to reduce our prices or face a decline in revenues, either of which could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Furthermore, significant or sustained inflation could have an adverse impact on our operating and general and administrative expenses. During inflationary periods, these costs could increase at a rate higher than our ability to offset them via customer-facing pricing adjustments, alternative supply sources or other measures. Inflation could also have an adverse effect on consumer spending, which could adversely impact demand for our products and services. If our operating and other expenses increase faster than anticipated due to inflation, our financial condition, results of operations and cash flow could be materially adversely affected.

#### Our customers may cancel or decrease the quantity of their orders, which could negatively impact our operating results.

Sales to many of our customers are on an order-by-order basis. If we cannot fill customers' orders on time, orders may be cancelled and relationships with customers may suffer, which could have an adverse effect on us, especially if the relationship is with a major customer. Furthermore, if any of our customers experience a significant downturn in their business, or fail to remain committed to our programs or brands, the customer may reduce or discontinue purchases from us. The reduction in the amount of our products purchased by customers could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations or financial condition.

In addition, some of our customers have experienced significant changes and difficulties, including consolidation of ownership, increased centralization of buying decisions, buyer turnover, restructurings, bankruptcies and liquidations. A significant adverse change in a customer relationship or in a customer's financial position could cause us to limit or discontinue business with that customer, require us to assume more credit risk relating to that customer's receivables or limit our ability to collect amounts related to previous purchases by that customer, all of which could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations or financial condition.

#### We may be unable to identify or to complete acquisitions or to successfully integrate the businesses we acquire.

We have evaluated, and may continue to evaluate, potential acquisition transactions. We attempt to address the potential risks inherent in assessing the attractiveness of acquisition candidates, as well as other challenges such as retaining the employees and integrating the operations of the businesses we acquire. Integrating acquired operations involves significant risks and uncertainties, including maintenance of uniform standards, controls, policies and procedures; diversion of management's attention from normal business operations during the integration process; unplanned expenses associated with integration efforts; and unidentified issues not discovered in due diligence, including legal contingencies. Acquisition valuations require us to make certain estimates and assumptions to determine the fair value of the acquired entities (including the underlying assets and liabilities). If our estimates or assumptions to value the acquired assets and liabilities are not accurate, we may be exposed to losses, and/or unexpected usage of cash flow to fund the operations of the acquired operations that may be material.

Even if we are able to acquire businesses on favorable terms, managing growth through acquisition is a difficult process that includes integration and training of personnel, combining facility and operating procedures, and additional matters related to the integration of acquired businesses within our existing organization. Unanticipated issues related to integration may result in additional expense and disruption to our operations, and may require a disproportionate amount of our management's attention, any of which could negatively impact our ability to achieve anticipated benefits, such as revenue and cost synergies. Growth of our business through acquisition generally increases our operating complexity and the level of responsibility for both existing and new management personnel. Managing and sustaining our growth and expansion may require substantial enhancements to our operational and financial systems and controls, as well as additional administrative, operational and financial resources. We may be required to invest in additional support personnel, facilities and systems to address the increased complexities associated with business or segment expansion. These investments could result in higher overall operating costs and lower operating profits for the business as a whole. There can be no assurance that we will be successful in integrating acquired businesses or managing our expanding operations.

In addition, although we conduct due diligence investigations prior to each acquisition, there can be no assurance that we will discover or adequately protect against all material liabilities of an acquired business for which we may be responsible as a successor owner or operator. The failure to identify suitable acquisitions, successfully integrate these acquired businesses, successfully manage our expanding operations, or to discover liabilities associated with such businesses in the diligence process, could adversely affect our business, results of operations or financial condition.

In order to finance such acquisitions, we may need to obtain additional funds either through public or private financings, including bank and other secured and unsecured borrowings and/or the issuance of equity or debt securities. There can be no assurance that such financings would be available to us on reasonable terms. Any future issuances of equity securities or debt securities with equity features may be dilutive to our stockholders.

# If our information technology systems suffer interruptions or failures, including as a result of cyberattacks, our business operations could be disrupted and our reputation could suffer.

We rely on information technology systems to process transactions, communicate with customers, manage our business and process and maintain information. The measures we have in place to monitor and protect our information technology systems might not provide sufficient protection from catastrophic events, power surges, viruses, malicious software (including ransomware), attempts to gain unauthorized access to data or other types of cyberattacks. As cyberattacks become more frequent, sophisticated, damaging and difficult to predict, any such event could negatively impact our business operations, such as by product disruptions that result in an unexpected delay in operations, interruptions in our ability to deliver products and services to our customers, loss of confidential or otherwise protected information, corruption of data and expenses related to the repair or replacement of our information technology systems. Compromising and/or loss of information could result in loss of sales or legal or regulatory claims which could adversely affect our revenues and profits or damage our reputation.

# We rely on software and services from other parties. Defects in or the loss of access to software or services from third parties could increase our costs and adversely affect the quality of our products.

We rely on technologies from third parties to operate critical functions of our business, including cloud infrastructure services, payment processing services, certain aspects of distribution center automation and customer relationship management services. Our business would be disrupted if any of the third-party software or services we utilize, or functional equivalents thereof, were unavailable due to extended outages or interruptions or because they are no longer available on commercially reasonable terms or prices. In each case, we would be required to either seek licenses to software or services from other parties and redesign our business and marketplace to function with such software or services or develop these components ourselves, which would result in increased costs and could result in delays in the launch of new offerings on our marketplace until equivalent technology can be identified, licensed or developed, and integrated into our business and marketplace. Furthermore, we might be forced to limit the features available in our current or future products. These delays and feature limitations, if they occur, could harm our business, results of operations and financial condition.

#### Failure to comply with data privacy and security laws and regulations could adversely affect our operating results and business.

In the ordinary course of our business, we might collect and store in our internal and external data centers, cloud services and networks sensitive data, including our proprietary business information and that of our customers, suppliers and business collaborators, as well as personal information of our customers and employees. The secure processing, maintenance and transmission of this information is critical to our operations and business strategy. The number and sophistication of attempted attacks and intrusions that companies have experienced from third parties has increased over the past few years. Despite our security measures, it is impossible for us to eliminate this risk.

A number of U.S. states have enacted data privacy and security laws and regulations that govern the collection, use, disclosure, transfer, storage, disposal, and protection of personal information, such as social security numbers, financial information and other sensitive personal information. For example, all 50 states and several U.S. territories now have data breach laws that require timely notification to affected individuals, and at times regulators, credit reporting agencies and other bodies, if a company has experienced the unauthorized access or acquisition of certain personal information. Other state laws, such as the CCPA, among other things, contain disclosure obligations for businesses that collect personal information about residents in their state and affords those individuals new rights relating to their personal information that may affect our ability to collect and/or use personal information. Moreover, on January 28, 2022, the California Attorney General announced that certain consumer loyalty programs are subject to the CCPA, which may affect some of our customers who use our loyalty program services if they are found not to comply with the CCPA's requirements. The CDPA also establishes rights for Virginia consumers to control how companies use individuals' personal data. The CDPA dictates how companies must protect personal data in their possession and respond to consumers exercising their rights, as prescribed by the law, regarding such personal data. The CDPA went into effect on January 1, 2023. Effective January 1, 2023, we also became subject to the CPRA, which expands upon the consumer data use restrictions, penalties and enforcement provisions under the California Consumer Privacy Act. Effective July 1, 2023, we also became subject to the Colorado Privacy Act and Connecticut's An Act Concerning Personal Data Privacy and Online Monitoring, which are also comprehensive consumer privacy laws. Effective December 31, 2023, we also became subject to the Utah Consumer Privacy Act, regarding business handling of consumers' personal data. Effective January 1, 2025, we may also become subject to the Iowa Consumer Privacy Act, a similar consumer data privacy law. Meanwhile, several other states and the federal government have considered or are considering privacy laws like the CCPA. We will continue to monitor and assess the impact of these laws, which may impose substantial penalties for violations, impose significant costs for investigations and compliance, allow private class-action litigation and carry significant potential liability for our business.

Outside of the U.S., data protection laws, including the GDPR, also might apply to some of our operations or business collaborators. Legal requirements in these countries relating to the collection, storage, processing and transfer of personal data/information continue to evolve. The GDPR imposes, among other things, data protection requirements that include strict obligations and restrictions on the ability to collect, analyze and transfer EU personal data/information, a requirement for prompt notice of data breaches to data subjects and supervisory authorities in certain circumstances, and possible substantial fines for any violations (including possible fines for certain violations of up to the greater of 20 million Euros or 4% of total company revenue). Other governmental authorities around the world have enacted or are considering similar types of legislative and regulatory proposals concerning data protection.

The interpretation and enforcement of the laws and regulations described above are uncertain and subject to change, and may require substantial costs to monitor and implement and maintain adequate compliance programs. Failure to comply with U.S. and international data protection laws and regulations could result in government enforcement actions (which could include substantial civil and/or criminal penalties), private litigation and/or adverse publicity and could negatively affect our operating results and business.

### The Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act and other existing or future government regulation could harm our business or may cause us to incur additional costs associated with compliance.

We are subject to various federal, state and local laws and regulations, including but not limited to, laws and regulations relating to labor and employment, U.S. customs and consumer product safety, including the CPSIA. The CPSIA created more stringent safety requirements related to lead and phthalates content in children's products. The CPSIA regulates the future manufacture of these items and existing inventories and may cause us to incur losses if we offer for sale or sell any non-compliant items. Failure to comply with the various regulations applicable to us may result in damage to our reputation, civil and criminal liability, fines and penalties and increased cost of regulatory compliance. These current and any future laws and regulations could harm our business, results of operations and financial condition.

### We are subject to international, federal, national, regional, state, local and other laws and regulations, and failure to comply with them may expose us to potential liability.

We are subject to international, federal, national, regional, state, local and other laws and regulations affecting our business, including those promulgated under the Occupational Safety and Health Act, the Consumer Product Safety Act, the Flammable Fabrics Act, the Textile Fiber Product Identification Act, the rules and regulations of the Consumer Products Safety Commission, the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, the rules and regulations of the Food and Drug Administration, the FCPA, various securities laws and regulations including but not limited to the Securities Act, the Exchange Act, the Nasdaq Listing Rules, various labor, workplace and related laws, and environmental laws and regulations. Failure to comply with such laws and regulations may expose us to potential liability and have an adverse effect on our results of operations.

#### Implementation of technology initiatives could disrupt our operations in the near term and fail to provide the anticipated benefits.

As our business grows, we continue to make significant investments in our technology, including in the areas of warehouse management, enterprise risk management and product design. The costs, potential problems and interruptions associated with the implementation of technology initiatives could disrupt or reduce the efficiency of our operations in the near term. They may also require us to divert resources from our core business to ensure that implementation is successful. In addition, new or upgraded technology might not provide the anticipated benefits, might take longer than expected to realize the anticipated benefits, might cost more than anticipated.

#### Inability to attract and retain key management or other personnel could adversely impact our business.

Our success is largely dependent on the skills, experience and efforts of our senior management and other key personnel, including Andrew Shape, our Chief Executive Officer and President, Andrew Stranberg, our Executive Chairman, David Browner, our Chief Financial Officer, Sheila Johnshoy, our Chief Operating Officer, Ian Wall, our Chief Information Officer, and John Audibert, our Vice President of Growth and Strategic Initiatives. If, for any reason, one or more senior executives or key personnel were not to remain active in our company, or if we were unable to attract and retain senior management or key personnel, our results of operations could be adversely affected.

#### Failure to preserve positive labor relationships with our employees could adversely affect our results of operations.

Our operations rely heavily on our employees, and any labor shortage, disruption or stoppage caused by poor relations with our employees could reduce our operating margins and income. While we believe that our employee relations are good, have no knowledge of any employees as subject to collective bargaining agreements, and unions have not traditionally been active in the U.S. marketing industry, unionization of our workforce could increase our operating costs or constrain our operating flexibility.

#### We are exposed to the risk of non-payment by our customers on a significant amount of our sales.

We allow many of our customers to pay us within 30 days of service, also known as net 30 credit terms. For certain customers who are considered low credit risks, we have extended the credit term to 90 days, though in such cases we may also request a personal guaranty of payment from the principal owner of the customer business. Our extension of credit involves considerable judgment and is based on an evaluation of each customer's financial condition and payment history. We monitor our credit risk exposure by periodically obtaining credit reports and updated financials on our customers. We generally see a heightened amount of bankruptcies by our customers during economic downturns and financial crises. While we maintain an allowance for doubtful receivables for potential credit losses based upon our historical trends and other available information, in times of economic turmoil, there is heightened risk that our historical indicators may prove to be inaccurate. The inability to collect on sales to significant customers or a group of customers could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

#### There is a risk of dependence on one or a group of customers.

During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023, our top ten customers accounted for 44.0% of revenues, and our top customer accounted for 13.2% of revenues. During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022, our top ten customers accounted for 42.5% of revenues, and our top customer accounted for 8.8% of revenues. If we are unable to retain our current customers or finding new major customers or gain major new engagements from existing customers to replace any nonrecurring contracts, there may be material adverse effects on our financial condition or results of operations. If on the other hand we successfully source major new contracts, the risk that we may become dependent on one or a few customers may increase. This potential dependency could threaten the sustainability of our growth and have a material adverse effect on our financial condition or results of operations if we are unable to retain such major contracts or replace them with similarly major contracts on a regular basis.



# Our business incurs significant freight and transportation costs. Any changes in our shipping arrangements or any interruptions in shipping could harm our business, results of operations and financial condition.

We incur transportation expenses to ship our products to our customers. Significant increases in the costs of freight and transportation could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, as there can be no assurance that we could pass on these increased costs to our customers. Government regulations can and have impacted the availability of drivers, which will be a significant challenge to the industry. Costs to employ drivers have increased and transportation disruptions have become more prevalent.

If we are not able to negotiate acceptable pricing and other terms with these vendors or they experience performance problems or other difficulties, it could negatively impact our business and results of operations and negatively affect the experiences of our customers, which could affect the degree to which they continue to do business with us. Disruption to delivery services due to inclement weather, climate change, or political instability, among other causes, could result in delays that could adversely affect our reputation, business and results of operations. If our products are not delivered in a timely fashion or are damaged or lost during the supply or the delivery process, our customers could become dissatisfied and cease doing business with us, which could adversely affect our business and results of operations.

## Our business may be impacted by unforeseen or catastrophic events, including the emergence of pandemics or other widespread health emergencies, terrorist attacks, extreme weather events or other natural disasters and other unpredicted events.

The occurrence of unforeseen or catastrophic events, such as the emergence of pandemics or other widespread health emergencies (or concerns over the possibility of such pandemics or emergencies), terrorist attacks, extreme weather events or other natural disasters or other unpredicted events, could create economic and financial disruptions, and could lead to operational difficulties (including travel limitations) that could impair our ability to source and supply products and services and manage our businesses, and could negatively impact our customers' ability or willingness to purchase our products and services.

For example, our corporate headquarters is located in Massachusetts, which experiences natural hazards such as flooding and coastal erosion; should any unforeseen or catastrophic events occur, the possibly resulting infrastructure damage and disruption to the area could negatively affect our company, such as by damage to or total destruction of our headquarters, surrounding transportation infrastructure, network communications and other forms of communication. Some of our other locations and those of our suppliers also are exposed to hurricanes, earthquakes, floods and other extreme weather events; the damage that such events could produce could affect the supply of our products and services.

### We face intense competition within our industry and our revenue and/or profits may decrease if we are not able to respond to this competition effectively.

Customers in the promotional products, tradeshow and event marketplace, loyalty and program management business process outsourcing industries choose distributors primarily based upon the quality, price and breadth of products and services offered. We encounter competition from a number of companies in the geographic areas we serve. The majority of our revenue is derived from the sale of promotional products. Our major competitors for our promotional products business include companies such as 4Imprint Group plc, Brand Addition Limited (The Pebble Group plc), BAMKO LLC (Superior Group of Companies, Inc.), Staples Promotional Products (Staples, Inc.), Boundless Network, Inc. (Zazzle Inc.), Custom Ink, Cimpress plc and HALO Branded Solutions, Inc. We also compete with a multitude of foreign, regional and local competitors that vary by market. If our existing or future competitors seek to gain or retain market share by reducing prices, we may be required to lower our prices, which would adversely affect our operating results. Similarly, if customers or potential customers perceive the products or services offered by our existing or future competitors to be of higher quality than ours or part of a broader product mix, our revenues may decline, which would adversely affect our operating results.

# We face intense competition to gain market share, which may lead some competitors to sell substantial amounts of goods at prices against which we cannot profitably compete.

Our marketing strategy is to differentiate ourselves by providing quality service and quality products to our customers. Even if this strategy is successful, the results may be offset by reductions in demand or price declines due to competitors' pricing strategies or other micro- or macroeconomic factors. We face the risk of our competition following a strategy of selling its products at or below cost in order to cover some amount of fixed costs, especially in stressed economic times.



## Global, national or regional economic slowdowns, high unemployment levels, fewer jobs, changes in tax laws or cost increases might have an adverse effect on our operating results.

Our primary products within our promotional products are used by workers and, as a result, our business prospects are dependent upon levels of employment and overall economic conditions on a global, national and regional level, among other factors. Our revenues are impacted by our customers' opening and closing of locations and reductions and increases in headcount, including from voluntary turnover and increased automation. If we are unable to offset these effects, such as through the addition of new customers, the penetration of existing customers with a broader mix of product and service offerings, or decreased production costs that can be passed on in the form of lower prices, our revenue growth rates will be negatively impacted. Likewise, increases in tax rates or other changes in tax laws or other regulations can negatively affect our profitability.

While we do not believe that our exposure is greater than that of our competitors, we could be adversely affected by increases in the prices of fabric, natural gas, gasoline, wages, employee benefits, insurance costs and other components of product cost unless we can recover such increases through proportional increases in the prices for our products and services. Competitive and general economic conditions might limit our ability and that of our competitors to increase prices to cover any increases in our product cost.

# The promotional products, trade show and events marketplace, loyalty and program management business industries are subject to pricing pressures that may cause us to lower the prices we charge for our products and services that adversely affect our financial performance.

Many of our competitors also source their product requirements from developing countries to achieve a lower cost operating environment, possibly with lower costs than our offshore facilities, and those manufacturers may use these cost savings to reduce prices. Some of our competitors have more purchasing power than we do, which may enable them to obtain products at lower costs. To remain competitive, we may adjust our product and service prices and margins from time-to-time in response to these industry-wide pricing pressures. Additionally, increased customer demands for allowances, incentives and other forms of economic support could reduce our margins and affect our profitability. Our financial performance will be negatively affected by these pricing pressures if we are forced to reduce our prices and we cannot reduce our product costs proportionally or if our product costs increase and we cannot increase our prices proportionally.

### Changes to trade regulation, quotas, duties, tariffs or other restrictions caused by the changing U.S. and geopolitical environments or otherwise, such as those with respect to China, may materially harm our revenue and results of operations, such as by increasing our costs and/or limiting the amount of products that we can import.

Our operations are subject to various international trade agreements and regulations, such as the Dominican Republic–Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR), Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA), Haitian Hemispheric Opportunity through Partnership Encouragement Act, as amended (HOPE), the Food Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (HOPE II), the Haiti Economic Lift Program of 2010 (HELP), the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), the Middle East Free Trade Area Initiative (MEFTA) and the activities and regulations of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Generally, these trade agreements and regulations benefit our business by reducing or eliminating the quotas, duties and/or tariffs assessed on products manufactured in a particular country. However, trade agreements and regulations can also impose requirements that have a material adverse effect on our business, revenue and results of operations, such as limiting the countries from which we can purchase raw materials, limiting the products that qualify as duty free, and setting quotas, duties and/or tariffs on products that may be imported into the United States from a particular country. Certain inbound products to the United States are subject to tariffs assessed on the manufactured cost of goods at the time of import. As a result, we have had to increase prices for certain products and may be required to raise those prices further, or raise our prices on other products, which may result in the loss of customers and harm our operating performance. In response, in part, to tariffs levied on products imported from China we have shifted some production out of China and may seek to shift additional production out of China, which may result in additional costs and disruption to our operations.

The countries in which our products are manufactured or into which they are imported may from time-to-time impose new quotas, duties, tariffs and requirements as to where raw materials must be purchased to qualify for free or reduced duty. These countries also may create additional workplace regulations or other restrictions on our imports or adversely modify existing restrictions. Adverse changes in these costs and restrictions could harm our business. We cannot assure that future trade agreements or regulations will not provide our competitors an advantage over us or increase our costs, either of which could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations or financial condition. Nor can we assure that the changing geopolitical and U.S. political environments will not result in a trade agreement or regulation being altered which adversely affects our company. The U.S. government may decide to impose or alter existing import quotas, duties, tariffs or other restrictions on products or raw materials sourced from those countries, which include countries from which we import raw materials or in which we manufacture our products. Any such quotas, duties, tariffs or restrictions could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations or investing in these countries are effect on our business, results of operations or investing in the manufacture our products. Any such quotas, duties, tariffs or restrictions could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations or financial condition.

# The apparel industry, including corporate identity apparel, is subject to changing fashion trends and if we misjudge consumer preferences, the image of one or more of our brands may suffer and the demand for our products may decrease.

The apparel industry, including corporate identity apparel for promotional products, is subject to shifting customer demands and evolving fashion trends and our success is also dependent upon our ability to anticipate and promptly respond to these changes. Failure to anticipate, identify or promptly react to changing trends or styles may result in decreased demand for our products, as well as excess inventories and markdowns, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition. In addition, if we misjudge consumer preferences, our brand image may be impaired.

# Our success depends upon the continued protection of our intellectual property rights and we may be forced to incur substantial costs to maintain, defend, protect and enforce our intellectual property rights.

Our owned intellectual property and certain of our licensed intellectual property have significant value and are instrumental to our ability to market our products. We cannot assure that our owned or licensed intellectual property or the operation of our business does not infringe on or otherwise violate the intellectual property rights of others. We cannot assure that third parties will not assert claims against us on any such basis or that we will be able to successfully resolve such claims. In addition, the laws of some foreign countries do not allow us to protect, defend or enforce our intellectual property rights to the same extent as the laws of the United States. We could also incur substantial costs to defend legal actions relating to use of our intellectual property or prosecute legal actions against others using our intellectual property, either of which could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations or financial condition. There also can be no assurance that we will be able to negotiate and conclude extensions of existing license agreements on similar economic terms or at all.

### Climate change impacts including supply chain disruptions, operational impacts, and geopolitical events may impact our business operations.

We source a large number of raw materials from third-party suppliers globally. These products include both natural and synthetic materials derived from plants, animal products, and organic and petroleum-based raw materials. Disruptions to the global supply chain due to climate-related impacts or geopolitical events are possible and exist as external risk factors that the Company can respond to but not control. These events could limit the supply of key raw materials to the Company, or could have significant impacts to pricing. We work with multiple raw material suppliers to mitigate lack of availability from a single supplier, however in some cases products with limited numbers of suppliers may become difficult to obtain.

Some of our vendors have manufacturing operations in areas vulnerable to coastal storms which may increase in magnitude and impact due to climate change. Increasingly large and unprecedented weather events may pose a risk to business operations in vulnerable areas. Storms could cause business interruptions, incur additional restoration costs, and impact product availability and pricing.

## Increased focus by governments, vendors, stockholders, and customers on sustainability issues, including those related to climate change, may have a material adverse effect on our business and operations.

Federal, state and local governments, as well as some of our vendors and customers, are beginning to respond to climate change and other sustainability issues. This increased focus on sustainability may result in new legislation or regulations and vendor and customer requirements that could negatively affect us as we may incur additional costs or be required to make changes to our operations in order to comply with any new regulations or vendor, customer, or stockholder requirements. Legislation or regulations that potentially impose restrictions, caps, taxes, or other controls on emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, a by-product of burning fossil fuels such as those used in the trucks of our logistics vendors, may have a material adverse effect on our business and operations. For example, if the logistics vendors we contract with become subject to increasingly restrictive laws protecting the environment, including those relating to climate change, we expect that they would incur increased shipment costs and may pass such costs on to us, which could have a material adverse effect on our business. If our customers or stockholders were to require us to use vendors that source, manufacture, or supply their products in accordance with certain sustainability standards, we expect that such standards would likewise force us to incur additional costs and we may fail to pass such additional costs on to our customers, which could also have a material adverse effect on our business.



On March 6, 2024, the SEC adopted rules that will require us to disclose:

- Climate-related risks that have had or are reasonably likely to have a material impact on our business strategy, results of operations, or financial condition;
- The actual and potential material impacts of any identified climate-related risks on our strategy, business model, and outlook;
- If, as part of our strategy, we have undertaken activities to mitigate or adapt to a material climate-related risk, a quantitative and qualitative description of material expenditures incurred and material impacts on financial estimates and assumptions that directly result from such mitigation or adaptation activities;
- Specified disclosures regarding our activities, if any, to mitigate or adapt to a material climate-related risk including the use, if any, of transition plans, scenario analysis, or internal carbon prices;
- Any oversight by our board of directors of climate-related risks and any role by management in assessing and managing our material climate-related risks;
- Any processes we have for identifying, assessing, and managing material climate-related risks and, if we are managing those risks, whether and how any such
  processes are integrated into our overall risk management system or processes;
- Information about our climate-related targets or goals, if any, that have materially affected or are reasonably likely to materially affect our business, results of operations, or financial condition; required disclosures would include material expenditures and material impacts on financial estimates and assumptions as a direct result of the target or goal or actions taken to make progress toward meeting such target or goal;
- The capitalized costs, expenditures expensed, charges, and losses incurred as a result of severe weather events and other natural conditions, such as hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding, drought, wildfires, extreme temperatures, and sea level rise, subject to applicable one percent and de minimis disclosure thresholds, disclosed in a note to the financial statements;
- The capitalized costs, expenditures expensed, and losses related to carbon offsets and renewable energy credits or certificates if used as a material component of our plans to achieve our disclosed climate-related targets or goals, disclosed in a note to our financial statements; and
- If the estimates and assumptions we use to produce our financial statements were materially impacted by risks and uncertainties associated with severe weather events and other natural conditions or any disclosed climate-related targets or transition plans, a qualitative description of how the development of such estimates and assumptions was impacted, disclosed in a note to our financial statements.

We will be exempt from the SEC rules' requirements to disclose certain information about our greenhouse gas emissions and comply with related auditor assurance requirements as long as we remain a "smaller reporting company" (as described below under —*Risks Related to our Common Stock and Publicly-Traded Warrants – We are a 'smaller reporting company' within the meaning of the Exchange Act, and if we take advantage of certain exemptions from disclosure requirements available to smaller reporting companies, this could make our securities less attractive to investors and may make it more difficult to compare our performance with other public companies.") or an "emerging growth company" (as described below under "<i>Risks Related to our Common Stock and Publicly-Traded Warrants – We are subject to ongoing public reporting requirements that are less rigorous than Exchange Act rules for companies that are not emerging growth companies and our stockholders could receive less information than they might expect to receive from more mature public companies.")*. In addition, these disclosure rules will not require compliance by us until our fiscal year beginning in 2028, if we remain a smaller reporting company or emerging growth company.

A number of petitions have been filed in federal courts seeking to challenge the SEC's climate disclosure rules. As of March 28, 2024, this litigation has been consolidated in the Eight Circuit Court of Appeals. The outcome of this litigation cannot be determined as of the date of this report.

Assuming that the SEC climate disclosure rules are ultimately upheld in their present form, and even in light of the exemptions and accommodations made for smaller reporting companies and emerging growth companies described above, the costs to adopt the necessary disclosure controls and procedures to disclose all required information, the potential costs to make changes in our operations to allow us to improve our climate change-related disclosures, or the potential loss of revenues from these disclosure requirements due to investor, customer, or vendor requirements to disclose and meet certain climate change-related targets pursuant to these disclosure rules, may still have a material adverse effect on our business and operations.

#### **General Risk Factors**

### Adverse developments affecting the financial services industry, such as actual events or concerns involving liquidity, defaults, or non-performance by financial institutions or transactional counterparties, could adversely affect our current and projected business operations and our financial condition and results of operations.

Actual events involving limited liquidity, defaults, non-performance or other adverse developments that affect financial institutions, transactional counterparties or other companies in the financial services industry or the financial services industry generally, or concerns or rumors about any events of these kinds or other similar risks, have in the past and may in the future lead to market-wide liquidity problems. For example, on March 10, 2023, Silicon Valley Bank ("SVB"), was closed by the California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation, which appointed the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (the "FDIC"), as receiver. Similarly, on March 12, 2023, Signature Bank Corp. ("Signature"), and Silvergate Capital Corp. were each swept into receivership

A statement by the Department of the Treasury, the Federal Reserve and the FDIC indicated that all depositors of SVB would have access to all of their money after only one business day of closure, including funds held in uninsured deposit accounts. In addition, U.S. regional banks have experienced a broad recovery since the turmoil of March 2023. Following the acute stress triggered by the collapse of SVB, aggregate financial indicators of the group have shown improvements. Between March 2023 and January 31, 2024, deposit outflows have stabilized. However, vulnerabilities in the U.S. banking sector are believed to persist.

Although we are not a borrower under or party to any material letter of credit or any other such instruments with any financial institution currently in receivership, if we enter into any such instruments and any of our lenders or counterparties to such instruments were to be placed into receivership, we may be unable to access such funds. In addition, if any of our customers, suppliers or other parties with whom we conduct business are unable to access funds pursuant to such instruments or lending arrangements with such a financial institution, such parties' ability to pay their obligations to us or to enter into new commercial arrangements requiring additional payments to us could be adversely affected. In this regard, counterparties to credit agreements and arrangements with these financial institutions, and third parties such as beneficiaries of letters of credit (among others), may experience direct impacts from the closure of these financial institutions and uncertainty remains over liquidity concerns in the broader financial services industry. Similar impacts have occurred in the past, such as during the 2008-2010 financial crisis.

Inflation and rapid increases in interest rates have led to a decline in the trading value of previously-issued government securities with interest rates below current market interest rates. Although the U.S. Department of Treasury, FDIC and Federal Reserve Board have announced a program to provide up to \$25 billion of loans to financial institutions secured by certain of such government securities held by financial institutions to mitigate the risk of potential losses on the sale of such instruments, widespread demands for customer withdrawals or other liquidity needs of financial institutions for immediately liquidity may exceed the capacity of such program.

Our access to funding sources and other credit arrangements in amounts adequate to finance or capitalize our current and projected future business operations could be significantly impaired by factors that affect us, any financial institutions with which we enter into credit agreements or arrangements directly, or the financial services industry or economy in general. These factors could include, among others, events such as liquidity constraints or failures, the ability to perform obligations under various types of financial, credit or liquidity agreements or arrangements, disruptions or instability in the financial services industry or financial markets, or concerns or negative expectations about the prospects for companies in the financial services industry. These factors could involve financial institutions or financial services industry companies with which we have financial or business relationships, but could also include factors involving financial markets or the financial services industry generally.

The results of events or concerns that involve one or more of these factors could include a variety of material and adverse impacts on our current and projected business operations and our financial condition and results of operations. These risks include, but may not be limited to, the following:

- delayed access to deposits or other financial assets or the uninsured loss of deposits or other financial assets;
- inability to enter into credit facilities or other working capital resources;
- potential or actual breach of contractual obligations that require us to maintain letters of credit or other credit support arrangements; or
- termination of cash management arrangements and/or delays in accessing or actual loss of funds subject to cash management arrangements.

In addition, investor concerns regarding the U.S. or international financial systems could result in less favorable commercial financing terms, including higher interest rates or costs and tighter financial and operating covenants, or systemic limitations on access to credit and liquidity sources, thereby making it more difficult for us to acquire financing on acceptable terms or at all. Any decline in available funding or access to our cash and liquidity resources could, among other risks, adversely impact our ability to meet our operating expenses or other obligations, financial or otherwise, result in breaches of our financial and/or contractual obligations, or result in violations of federal or state wage and hour laws. Any of these impacts, or any other impacts resulting from the factors described above or other related or similar factors, could have material adverse impacts on our liquidity and our current and/or projected business operations and financial condition and results of operations.

In addition, any further deterioration in the economy or financial services industry could lead to losses or defaults by our customers, service providers, vendors, or suppliers, which in turn, could have a material adverse effect on our current and/or projected business operations and results of operations and financial condition. For example, a customer may fail to make payments when due, default under their agreements with us, become insolvent or declare bankruptcy, or a service provider, vendor, or supplier may determine that it will no longer deal with us as a customer. In addition, a service provider, vendor or supplier could be adversely affected by any of the liquidity or other risks that are described above as factors that could result in material adverse impacts on us, including but not limited to delayed access or loss of access to uninsured deposits or loss of the ability to draw on existing credit facilities involving a troubled or failed financial institution. The bankruptcy or insolvency of any customers, service providers, vendors, or suppliers, or the failure of any customer to make payments when due, or any breach or default by a customer, service provider, vendor, or supplier, or the loss of any significant supplier relationships, could cause us to suffer material losses and may have a material adverse impact on our business.

# Some of the products that we design or otherwise assist customers with producing create exposure to potential product liability, warranty liability or personal injury claims and litigation.

Some of the products that we design or otherwise assist customers with producing are used in applications and situations that involve risk of personal injury and death. Our services expose us to potential product liability, warranty liability, and personal injury claims and litigation relating to the use or misuse of our products including allegations of defects in manufacturing, defects in design, a failure to warn of dangers inherent in the product or activities associated with the product, negligence and strict liability. If successful, such claims could have a material adverse effect on our business.

# Defects in the products that we design or otherwise assist customers with producing could reduce demand for our products and result in a decrease in sales and market acceptance and damage to our reputation.

Although we carry certain standard commercial insurance, including products-completed operations coverage, we do not currently maintain separate product liability insurance, and we may not be able to obtain and maintain such insurance on acceptable terms, if at all, in the future. Even if we have purchased product liability insurance in the future, product liability claims may exceed the amount of our insurance coverage. In addition, our reputation may be adversely affected by such claims, whether or not successful, including potential negative publicity about our products.

#### We may be subject to periodic litigation in both domestic and international jurisdictions that may adversely affect our financial position and results of operations.

From time to time we may be involved in legal or regulatory actions regarding product liability, employment practices, intellectual property infringement, bankruptcies and other litigation or enforcement matters. These proceedings may be in jurisdictions with reputations for aggressive application of laws and procedures against corporate defendants. We are impacted by trends in litigation, including class-action allegations brought under various consumer protection and employment laws. Due to the inherent uncertainties of litigation in both domestic and foreign jurisdictions, we cannot accurately predict the ultimate outcome of any such proceedings. These proceedings could cause us to incur costs and may require us to devote resources to defend against these claims and could ultimately result in a loss or other remedies, such as product recalls, which could adversely affect our financial position and results of operations.



#### Volatility in the global financial markets could adversely affect results.

In the past, global financial markets have experienced extreme disruption, including, among other things, volatility in securities prices, diminished liquidity and credit availability, rating downgrades of certain investments and declining valuations of others. There can be no assurance that there will not be further change or volatility, which could lead to challenges in our business and negatively impact our financial results. Any future tightening of credit in financial markets could adversely affect the ability of our customers and suppliers to obtain financing for significant purchases and operations and could result in a decrease in orders and spending for our products and services. We are unable to predict the likely duration and severity of any disruption in financial markets and adverse economic conditions and the effects they may have on our business and financial condition.

#### Failure to achieve and maintain effective internal control over financial reporting could adversely affect our business and price of our securities.

Effective internal control over financial reporting is necessary for us to provide reliable financial reports. All internal control systems, no matter how well designed, have inherent limitations. Therefore, even those systems determined to be effective can provide only reasonable assurance with respect to the consolidated financial statement preparation and presentation. While we continue to evaluate our internal control over financial reporting, we cannot be certain that these measures will ensure that we implement and maintain adequate internal control over financial reporting in the future. If we fail to maintain the adequacy of our internal control over financial reporting or if we or our independent registered public accounting firm were to discover material weaknesses in our internal control over financial reporting, as such standards are modified, supplemented or amended, we may not be able to ensure that we can conclude on an ongoing basis that we have effective internal control over financial reporting in accordance with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (the "Sarbanes-Oxley Act"). Failure to achieve and maintain an effective internal control environment could cause us to be unable to produce reliable financial reports or prevent fraud. This may cause investors to lose confidence in our reported financial information, which could have a material adverse effect on the price of our securities.

#### Increases in the cost of employee benefits could impact our financial results and cash flow.

Our expenses relating to employee health benefits are significant. Unfavorable changes in the cost of such benefits could impact our financial results and cash flow. Healthcare costs have risen significantly in recent years, and recent legislative and private sector initiatives regarding healthcare reform could result in significant changes to the U.S. healthcare system. While the Company has various cost control measures in place and employs an outside consultant to review larger claims, employee health benefits have been and are expected to continue to be a significant cost to the Company. Medical costs will continue to be a significant expense to the Company and may increase due to factors outside the Company's control.

#### We may recognize impairment charges, which could adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

We assess our goodwill, intangible assets and long-lived assets for impairment when required by generally accepted accounting principles in the United States ("U.S. GAAP"). These accounting principles require that we record an impairment charge if circumstances indicate that the asset carrying values exceed their estimated fair values. The estimated fair value of these assets is impacted by general economic conditions in the locations in which we operate. Deterioration in these general economic conditions may result in: declining revenue, which can lead to excess capacity and declining operating cash flow; reductions in management's estimates for future revenue and operating cash flow growth; increases in borrowing rates and other deterioration in factors that impact our weighted average cost of capital; and deteriorating real estate values. If our assessment of goodwill, intangible assets or long-lived assets indicates an impairment of the carrying value for which we recognize an impairment charge, this may adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

#### Environmental regulations may impact our future operating results.

We are subject to extensive and changing federal, state and foreign laws and regulations establishing health and environmental quality standards, and may be subject to liability or penalties for violations of those standards. We may be subject to future liabilities or obligations as a result of new or more stringent interpretations of existing laws and regulations. In addition, we may have liabilities or obligations in the future if we discover any environmental contamination or liability at any of our facilities, or at facilities we may acquire.



# If we are unable to accurately predict our future tax liabilities, become subject to increased levels of taxation or our tax contingencies are unfavorably resolved, our results of operations and financial condition could be adversely affected.

Changes in tax laws or regulations in the jurisdictions in which we do business, including the United States, or changes in how the tax laws are interpreted, could further impact our effective tax rate, further restrict our ability to repatriate undistributed offshore earnings, or impose new restrictions, costs or prohibitions on our current practices and reduce our net income and adversely affect our cash flows.

We are also subject to tax audits in the United States and other jurisdictions and our tax positions may be challenged by tax authorities. Although we believe that our current tax provisions are reasonable and appropriate, there can be no assurance that these items will be settled for the amounts accrued, that additional tax exposures will not be identified in the future or that additional tax reserves will not be necessary for any such exposures. Any increase in the amount of taxation incurred as a result of challenges to our tax filing positions could result in a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

# Early termination of or failure to renew our secured line of credit could strain our ability to pay other obligations.

We have a secured line of credit for borrowings of up to \$7 million with Salem Five Cents Savings Bank, or the Lender. The line bears interest at the prime rate plus 0.5% per annum. The line is reviewed annually and is due on demand. This line of credit is secured by substantially all assets of the Company. The Lender may demand immediate repayment of the full balance of this facility at any time, whether or not we are in default, and may refuse to extend it beyond the initial expected one-year term. If we are unable to negotiate, extend or refinance this line of credit with an equivalent line of credit or other financing from another bank, then we may default on the line of credit as well as our other obligations. In that event, the Lender could enforce its security interest in all of our assets, potentially resulting in a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

# **Risks Related to Ownership of Our Securities**

#### The market prices of our securities may fluctuate, and you could lose all or part of your investment.

The market prices for our securities are likely to be volatile, in part because our shares and publicly-traded warrants have only been traded publicly since November 9, 2021. In addition, the market prices of our securities may fluctuate significantly in response to several factors, most of which we cannot control, including:

- actual or anticipated variations in our periodic operating results;
- increases in market interest rates that lead investors of our common stock and publicly-traded warrants to demand a higher investment return;
- changes in earnings estimates;
- changes in market valuations of similar companies;
- actions or announcements by our competitors;
- adverse market reaction to any increased indebtedness we may incur in the future;
- additions or departures of key personnel;
- actions by stockholders;
- speculation in the media, online forums, or investment community; and
- our intentions and ability to maintain the listing of our common stock and publicly-traded warrants on Nasdaq.

Volatility in the market prices of our securities may prevent investors from being able to sell their securities at or above their purchase price. As a result, you may suffer a loss on your investment.



# We may not be able to maintain a listing of our common stock and publicly-traded warrants on Nasdaq.

Although our common stock and publicly-traded warrants are listed on Nasdaq, we must meet certain financial and liquidity criteria to maintain such listing. If we violate Nasdaq's listing requirements, or if we fail to meet any of Nasdaq's listing standards, our common stock and publicly-traded warrants may be delisted. In addition, our board of directors may determine that the cost of maintaining our listing on a national securities exchange outweighs the benefits of such listing. A delisting of our common stock and publicly-traded warrants from Nasdaq may materially impair our stockholders' ability to buy and sell our common stock and publicly-traded warrants. The delisting of our common stock and publicly-traded warrants. The delisting of our common stock and publicly-traded warrants could significantly impair our ability to raise capital and the value of your investment.

#### Our publicly-traded warrants may not have any value.

Our publicly-traded warrants are exercisable for five years from the date of initial issuance and currently have an exercise price of \$4.81375 per share. There can be no assurance that the market price of our shares of common stock will equal or exceed the exercise price of the publicly-traded warrants. In the event that the stock price of our shares of common stock does not exceed the exercise price of the publicly-traded warrants during the period when the publicly-traded warrants are held and exercisable, the publicly-traded warrants may not have any value to their holders.

# Holders of publicly-traded warrants have no rights as stockholders until such holders exercise their publicly-traded warrants and acquire our shares of common stock.

Until holders of our publicly-traded warrants acquire shares of common stock upon exercise thereof, such holders will have no rights with respect to the shares of common stock underlying the publicly-traded warrants. Upon exercise of the publicly-traded warrants, the holders will be entitled to exercise the rights of a stockholder only as to matters for which the record date occurs after the date they were entered in the register of members of the Company as a stockholder.

# The warrant certificate governing our publicly-traded warrants designates the state and federal courts of the State of New York sitting in the City of New York, Borough of Manhattan, as the exclusive forum for actions and proceedings with respect to all matters arising out of the publicly-traded warrants, which could limit a warrantholder's ability to choose the judicial forum for disputes arising out of the publicly-traded warrants.

The warrant certificate governing our publicly-traded warrants provides that all legal proceedings concerning the interpretations, enforcement and defense of the transactions contemplated by the warrant certificate (whether brought against a party to the warrant certificate or their respective affiliates, directors, officers, stockholders, partners, members, employees or agents) shall be commenced exclusively in the state and federal courts sitting in the City of New York. The warrant certificate further provides that we and the warrantholders irrevocably submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the state and federal courts sitting in the City of New York, Borough of Manhattan for the adjudication of any dispute under the warrant certificate or in connection with it or with any transaction contemplated by it or discussed in it, including under the Securities Act. Furthermore, we and the warrantholders irrevocably waive, and agree not to assert in any suit, action or proceeding, any claim that we or they are not personally subject to the jurisdiction of any such court, that such suit, action or proceeding is improper or is an inconvenient venue for such proceeding. With respect to any complaint asserting a cause of action arising under the Securities Act or the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, we note, however, that there is uncertainty as to whether a court would enforce this provision and that investors cannot waive compliance with the federal securities laws and the rules and regulations thereunder. Section 22 of the Securities Act creates concurrent jurisdiction for state and federal courts over all suits brought to enforce any duty or liability created by the Securities Act or the rules and regulations thereunder.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, these provisions of the warrant certificate will not apply to suits brought to enforce any liability or duty created by the Exchange Act or any other claim for which the federal district courts of the United States of America are the sole and exclusive forum.

Any person or entity purchasing or otherwise acquiring or holding or owning (or continuing to hold or own) any interest in any of our publicly-traded warrants shall be deemed to have notice of and consented to the foregoing provisions. Although we believe this exclusive forum provision benefits us by providing increased consistency in the application of the governing law in the types of lawsuits to which it applies, the exclusive forum provision may limit a warrantholder's ability to bring a claim in a judicial forum of its choosing for disputes with us or any of our directors, officers, other employees, stockholders, or others which may discourage lawsuits with respect to such claims. Our warrantholders will not be deemed to have waived our compliance with the federal securities laws and the rules and regulations thereunder as a result of this exclusive forum provision. Further, in the event a court finds the exclusive forum provision contained in our warrant certificates to be unenforceable or inapplicable in an action, we may incur additional costs associated with resolving such action in other jurisdictions, which could harm our results of operations.

# **Risks Related to our Common Stock and Publicly-Traded Warrants**

#### Although we adopted a stock repurchase program, we have discretion to not repurchase your shares, to suspend the program, and to cease repurchases.

On February 23, 2022, we announced that our board of directors had authorized a stock repurchase program under which we may repurchase up to \$10 million of our outstanding shares of common stock in the open market, in accordance with all applicable securities laws and regulations, including Rule 10b-18 of the Exchange Act ("Rule 10b-18"). On May 23, 2022, we filed a Current Report on Form 8-K that announced that on May 20, 2022 we had established a trading plan (the "Trading Plan") with B. Riley Securities, Inc. ("B. Riley") intended to qualify under Rule 10b-18. The Trading Plan instructs B. Riley to repurchase shares of common stock of the Company for the Company's account in accordance with Rule 10b-18 and the Company's instructions. Repurchases under the Trading Plan are scheduled to terminate as late as June 2024. Our insider trading policy generally permits insider purchases of our stock only during the period beginning on the second business day following the day of public release of our quarterly or annual earnings and ending on the last day of the then-current quarter.

Our decision to repurchase our shares, as well as the timing of such repurchases, will also depend on a variety of factors that include ongoing assessments of our capital needs, market conditions and the price of our common stock, and other corporate considerations, as determined by management.

Although we have conducted repurchases of our common stock under the Trading Plan, we may suspend or terminate it at any time. Additionally, a stock repurchase program has many limitations and will be subject to compliance with applicable contractual and regulatory restrictions, and should not be relied upon as a method to sell shares promptly, at a desired price, or at a time that would be advantageous to stockholders.

# The reduction of total outstanding shares through the execution of a stock repurchase program of common stock may increase the risk that a stockholder or group of stockholders could control us.

A stock repurchase program may be conducted from time to time under authorization made by our board of directors. Although no single stockholder or group of stockholders currently owns a majority of our shares, as of March 28, 2024, Andrew Stranberg, our Executive Chairman, beneficially owned approximately 28.7% shares of our common stock, and Andrew Shape, our President and Chief Executive Officer, beneficially owned approximately 19.2% shares of our common stock. As such, our officers and directors together hold a significant percentage of our outstanding shares of common stock and therefore may effectively control our operations. The reduction of total outstanding shares through the execution of a stock repurchase program of common stock may increase the risk that Mr. Stranberg or Mr. Shape alone or that our officers and directors together will be controlling stockholders.

A controlling stockholder or group of stockholders has significant influence over, and may have the ability to control, matters requiring approval by our stockholders, including the election of directors and approval of mergers, consolidations, sales of assets, recapitalizations and amendments to our articles of incorporation. Furthermore, a controlling stockholder or group of stockholders may take actions with which other stockholders do not agree, including actions that delay, defer or prevent a change of control of the Company and that could cause the price that investors are willing to pay for the Company's stock to decline.

## We do not expect to declare or pay dividends in the foreseeable future.

We do not expect to declare or pay dividends in the foreseeable future, as we anticipate that we will invest future earnings in the development and growth of our business. Therefore, holders of our common stock will not receive any return on their investment unless they sell their securities, and holders may be unable to sell their securities on favorable terms or at all.

# If securities industry analysts do not publish research reports on us, or publish unfavorable reports on us, then the market price and market trading volume of our securities could be negatively affected.

Any trading market for our common stock and publicly-traded warrants may be influenced in part by any research reports that securities industry analysts publish about us. We currently do not have any research coverage. We may never obtain new research coverage by securities industry analysts. If no securities industry analysts commence coverage of us, the market price and market trading volume of our securities could be negatively affected. In the event we are covered by new analysts, and one or more analyst downgrades our securities, or otherwise reports on us unfavorably, or discontinues coverage of us, the market price and market trading volume of our securities could be negatively affected.



# Future issuances of our common stock or securities convertible into, or exercisable or exchangeable for, our common stock, or the expiration of lock-up agreements that restrict the issuance of new common stock or the trading of outstanding common stock, could cause the market price of our securities to decline and would result in the dilution of your holdings.

Future issuances of our common stock or securities convertible into, or exercisable or exchangeable for, our common stock, or the expiration of lock-up agreements that restrict the issuance of new common stock or the trading of outstanding common stock, could cause the market price of our common stock to decline. We cannot predict the effect, if any, of future issuances of our securities on the price of our securities. In all events, future issuances of our securities would result in the dilution of your holdings. In addition, the perception that new issuances of our securities could occur, or the perception that locked-up parties will sell their securities when the lock-ups expire, could adversely affect the market price of our securities.

# Future issuances of debt securities, which would rank senior to our common stock upon our bankruptcy or liquidation, and future issuances of preferred stock, which could rank senior to our common stock for the purposes of dividends and liquidating distributions, may adversely affect the level of return you may be able to achieve from an investment in our securities.

In the future, we may attempt to increase our capital resources by offering debt securities. Upon bankruptcy or liquidation, holders of our debt securities, and lenders with respect to other borrowings we may make, would receive distributions of our available assets prior to any distributions being made to holders of our common stock. Moreover, if we issue preferred stock, the holders of such preferred stock could be entitled to preferences over holders of common stock in respect of the payment of dividends and the payment of liquidating distributions. Because our decision to issue debt or preferred stock in any future offering, or borrow money from lenders, will depend in part on market conditions and other factors beyond our control, we cannot predict or estimate the amount, timing or nature of any such future offerings or borrowings. Holders of our securities must bear the risk that any future offerings we conduct or borrowings we make may adversely affect the level of return, if any, they may be able to achieve from an investment in our securities.

#### We are authorized to issue "blank check" preferred stock without stockholder approval, which could adversely impact the rights of holders of our securities.

Our articles of incorporation authorize us to issue up to 50,000,000 shares of blank check preferred stock. Any preferred stock that we issue in the future may rank ahead of our securities in terms of dividend priority or liquidation premiums and may have greater voting rights than our securities. In addition, such preferred stock may contain provisions allowing those shares to be converted into shares of common stock, which could dilute the value of our securities to current stockholders and could adversely affect the market price, if any, of our securities. In addition, the preferred stock could be utilized, under certain circumstances, as a method of discouraging, delaying or preventing a change in control of our company. Although we have no present intention to issue any shares of authorized preferred stock, there can be no assurance that we will not do so in the future.

# If our securities become subject to the penny stock rules, it would become more difficult to trade our shares.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") has adopted rules that regulate broker-dealer practices in connection with transactions in penny stocks. Penny stocks are generally equity securities with a price of less than \$5.00, other than securities registered on certain national securities exchanges or authorized for quotation on certain automated quotation systems, provided that current price and volume information with respect to transactions in such securities is provided by the exchange or system. If we do not retain a listing on Nasdaq or another national securities exchange and if the price of our securities is less than \$5.00, our securities could be deemed a penny stock. The penny stock rules require a broker-dealer, before a transaction in a penny stock not otherwise exempt from those rules, to deliver a standardized risk disclosure document containing specified information. In addition, the penny stock rules require that before effecting any transaction in a penny stock not otherwise exempt from those rules, a broker-dealer must make a special written determination that the penny stock is a suitable investment for the purchaser and receive (i) the purchaser's written acknowledgment of the receipt of a risk disclosure statement; (ii) a written agreement to transactions involving penny stocks; and (iii) a signed and dated copy of a written suitability statement. These disclosure requirements may have the effect of reducing the trading activity in the secondary market for our securities, and therefore stockholders may have difficulty selling their securities.



# We are subject to ongoing public reporting requirements that are less rigorous than Exchange Act rules for companies that are not emerging growth companies and our stockholders could receive less information than they might expect to receive from more mature public companies.

We are required to publicly report on an ongoing basis as an "emerging growth company" (as defined in the JOBS Act) under the reporting rules set forth under the Exchange Act. For so long as we remain an emerging growth company, we may take advantage of certain exemptions from various reporting requirements that are applicable to other Exchange Act reporting companies that are not emerging growth companies, including but not limited to:

- not being required to comply with the auditor attestation requirements of Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act;
- being exempt from certain greenhouse gas emissions disclosure and related third-party assurance requirements;
- being permitted to comply with reduced disclosure obligations regarding executive compensation in our periodic reports and proxy statements; and
- being exempt from the requirement to hold a non-binding advisory vote on executive compensation and stockholder approval of any golden parachute payments not previously approved.

In addition, Section 107 of the JOBS Act also provides that an emerging growth company can take advantage of the extended transition period provided in Section 7(a)(2)(B) of the Securities Act for complying with new or revised accounting standards. In other words, an emerging growth company can delay the adoption of certain accounting standards until those standards would otherwise apply to private companies. We have elected to take advantage of the benefits of this extended transition period. Our financial statements may therefore not be comparable to those of companies that comply with such new or revised accounting standards.

We expect to take advantage of these reporting exemptions until we are no longer an emerging growth company. We will remain an emerging growth company for up to five years, although if the market value of our securities that is held by non-affiliates exceeds \$700 million as of any June 30 before that time, we would cease to be an emerging growth company as of the following December 31.

Because we are subject to ongoing public reporting requirements that are less rigorous than Exchange Act rules for companies that are not emerging growth companies, our stockholders could receive less information than they might expect to receive from more mature public companies. We cannot predict if investors will find our securities less attractive if we elect to rely on these exemptions, or if taking advantage of these exemptions would result in less active trading or more volatility in the price of our securities.

#### As a non-accelerated filer, we are not required to comply with the auditor attestation requirements of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

We are not an "accelerated filer" or a "large accelerated filer" under the Exchange Act. Rule 12b-2 under the Exchange Act defines an "accelerated filer" to mean any company that first meets the following conditions at the end of each fiscal year: The company had a public float of \$75 million or more, but less than \$700 million, as of the last business day of the company's most recently completed second fiscal quarter; the company has been subject to the reporting requirements of the Exchange Act for at least twelve calendar months; the company has filed at least one annual report under the Exchange Act; the company did not have annual revenues of less than \$100 million and either no public float of less than \$700 million; and, once the company determines that it does not qualify for "smaller reporting company" status because it exceeded one or more of the current thresholds for such status, is not eligible to regain "smaller reporting company" status under the test provided under paragraph (3)(iii)(B) of the "smaller reporting company" definition in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. Rule 12b-2 under the Exchange Act defines a "large accelerated filer" in the same way except that the company meeting the definition must have a public float of \$700 million or more as of the last business day of the company's most recently completed second fiscal quarter.

A non-accelerated filer is not required to file an auditor attestation report on internal control over financial reporting that is otherwise required under Section 404(b) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

Therefore, our internal control over financial reporting will not receive the level of review provided by the process relating to the auditor attestation included in annual reports of issuers that are subject to the auditor attestation requirements. In addition, we cannot predict if investors will find our common stock less attractive because we are not required to comply with the auditor attestation requirements. If some investors find our common stock less attractive as a result, there may be a less active trading market for our common stock and trading price for our common stock may be negatively affected. See also above, "*We are subject to ongoing public reporting requirements that are less rigorous than Exchange Act rules for companies that are not emerging growth companies and our stockholders could receive less information than they might expect to receive from more mature public companies.*"



# We are a "smaller reporting company" within the meaning of the Exchange Act, and if we take advantage of certain exemptions from disclosure requirements available to smaller reporting companies, this could make our securities less attractive to investors and may make it more difficult to compare our performance with other public companies.

Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act defines a "smaller reporting company" as an issuer that is not an investment company, an asset-backed issuer, or a majority-owned subsidiary of a parent that is not a smaller reporting company and that:

- had a public float of less than \$250 million as of the last business day of its most recently completed second fiscal quarter, computed by multiplying the aggregate worldwide number of shares of its voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates by the price at which the common equity was last sold, or the average of the bid and asked prices of common equity, in the principal market for the common equity; or
- in the case of an initial registration statement under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act for shares of its common equity, had a public float of less than \$250 million as of a date within 30 days of the date of the filing of the registration statement, computed by multiplying the aggregate worldwide number of such shares held by non-affiliates before the registration plus, in the case of a Securities Act registration statement, the number of such shares included in the registration statement by the estimated public offering price of the shares; or
- in the case of an issuer whose public float as calculated under paragraph (1) or (2) of this definition was zero or whose public float was less than \$700 million, had annual revenues of less than \$100 million during the most recently completed fiscal year for which audited financial statements are available.

If a company determines that it does not qualify for smaller reporting company status because it exceeded one or more of the above thresholds, it will remain unqualified unless when making its annual determination it meets certain alternative threshold requirements which will be lower than the above thresholds if its prior public float or prior annual revenues exceed certain thresholds.

As a smaller reporting company, we are not required to include a Compensation Discussion and Analysis section in our proxy statements; we may provide only two years of financial statements; and we need not provide the table of selected financial data. We will also be exempt from certain greenhouse gas emissions disclosure and related third-party assurance requirements. We also have other "scaled" disclosure requirements that are less comprehensive than issuers that are not smaller reporting companies which could make our securities less attractive to potential investors, which could make it more difficult for our securityholders to sell their securities.

# As a "smaller reporting company," we may at some time in the future choose to exempt our company from certain corporate governance requirements that could have an adverse effect on our public stockholders.

Under Nasdaq rules, a "smaller reporting company," as defined in Rule 12b-2 under the Exchange Act, is not subject to certain corporate governance requirements otherwise applicable to companies listed on Nasdaq. For example, a smaller reporting company is exempt from the requirement of having a compensation committee composed solely of directors meeting certain enhanced independence standards, as long as the compensation committee has at least two members who do meet such standards. Although we have determined not to avail ourselves of this or other exemptions from Nasdaq requirements that are or may be afforded to smaller reporting company may be subject to greater risks of poor corporate governance, poorer management decision-making processes, and reduced results of operations from problems in our corporate organization. Consequently, if we were to avail ourselves of these exemptions, the prices of our securities might suffer, and there is no assurance that we would be able to continue to meet all continuing listing requirements of Nasdaq from which we would not be exempt, including minimum stock price requirements.

# ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS.

Not applicable.



# ITEM 1C. CYBERSECURITY.

#### **Risk Management and Strategy**

The Company recognizes the critical importance of developing, implementing, and maintaining robust cybersecurity measures to safeguard our information systems and protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of our data. We have developed the following processes as part of our strategy for assessing, identifying, and managing material risks from cybersecurity threats.

#### Managing Material Risks & Integrated Overall Risk Management

Information technology is important to our business operations and we are committed to protecting the privacy, security and integrity of our data, as well as our employee and customer data. This program is integrated into the Company's overall enterprise risk management process.

We monitor and update our information technology networks and infrastructure to prevent, detect, address and mitigate risks associated with unauthorized access, misuse, computer viruses and other events that could have a security impact. Additionally, to protect and secure sensitive data such as customer information, we employ multi-factor authentication, a suite of security tools, systems monitoring and alerting, audit logs, and controls across our major systems, corporate devices, and business processes. Our cybersecurity process is designed to assess, identify, prevent, and manage cybersecurity risks and threats, as well as identify, contain and respond to cybersecurity incidents. This process includes a variety of activities, such as company-wide security awareness training, including regular phishing simulations, acceptable use training, self-assessments, and other targeted training throughout the year as appropriate. These cybersecurity trainings provide employees the opportunity to gain an understanding of the various forms of cybersecurity incidents and enable our employees to handle and report any suspicious activity or threat.

To date, our approach to cybersecurity has been effective in protecting the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of our information; however, we cannot guarantee that its efforts will be successful in preventing all cybersecurity incidents. Further, we currently maintain a cyber insurance policy that provides coverage for security breaches; however, such insurance may not be sufficient in type or amount to cover us against claims related to security breaches, cyber-attacks and other related breaches.

# Engaging Third-parties on Risk Management

Recognizing the complexity and evolving nature of cybersecurity threats, we leverage the expertise of a managed service provider, and when warranted will engage with independent third parties in evaluating and testing our risk management systems. These service providers enable us to leverage specialized knowledge and insights, ensuring our cybersecurity strategies meet generally accepted industry best practices. Our Chief Information Officer also performs ongoing review of current practices to further ensure cybersecurity.

# **Overseeing Third-Party Risk**

Because we are aware of the risks associated with third-party service providers, we implement processes to oversee and manage these risks. We conduct thorough security assessments of all third-party providers before engagement and maintain ongoing monitoring to ensure compliance with our cybersecurity standards. The monitoring includes regular assessments by our Chief Information Officer. This approach is designed to mitigate risks related to data breaches or other security incidents originating from third parties.

# **Risks from Cybersecurity Threats**

We have not encountered cybersecurity challenges that have materially affected or are reasonably likely to materially affect us, including our business strategy, results of operations, or financial condition.

#### Governance

#### **Board of Directors Oversight**

Our board of directors oversees the management of risks associated with cybersecurity threats.

# Management's Role Managing Risk

The Company's Chief Information Officer is primarily responsible for assessing, monitoring and managing our cybersecurity risks. The Chief Information Officer must ensure that all industry standard cybersecurity measures are functioning as required to prevent or detect cybersecurity threats and related risks. The Chief Information Officer provides briefings on cybersecurity threats and related risks to the Chief Executive Officer on a regular basis. Our Chief Information Officer has had responsibility over cybersecurity, data privacy and classification, incident response, disaster recovery, and business continuity in a number of positions in the field of information technology. The Chief Information Officer oversees and tests our compliance with standards, remediates known risks, and leads our employee training program.

#### Monitoring Cybersecurity Incidents

The Chief Information Officer is continually informed about the latest developments in cybersecurity, including potential threats and innovative risk management techniques. The Chief Information Officer implements and oversees processes for the regular monitoring of our information systems. This includes the deployment of industry-standard security measures and regular system audits to identify potential vulnerabilities. In the event of a cybersecurity incident, the Chief Information Officer will implement an incident response plan. This plan includes immediate actions to mitigate the impact and long-term strategies for remediation and prevention of future incidents.

#### **Reporting to Board of Directors**

Significant cybersecurity matters, and strategic risk management decisions, will be escalated to the board of directors.

# **ITEM 2. PROPERTIES.**

We are headquartered in Quincy, Massachusetts, where we occupy approximately 10,000 square feet of office space pursuant to a lease agreement, as amended, that will terminate on May 31, 2025. Our management team, client service team, marketing, operations, and sales team are all primarily based in this office. Our monthly rent for this facility was \$24,521 from June 2020 to May 2021, \$25,178 from June 2021 to May 2022, \$25,835 from June 2022 to May 2023, and will be \$26,491 from June 2023 to May 2024 and \$27,148 from June 2024 to May 2025. We may also be required to pay certain taxes and expenses to the landlord under the lease agreement. The foregoing description of the lease agreement and amendment to the lease agreement is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of such agreements which are filed as Exhibit 10.3 and Exhibit 10.4 to this Annual Report, respectively, and which are incorporated herein by reference.

Under a lease agreement dated May 31, 2023 (the "Miller Lease Agreement") with Miller Family Walpole LLC, as landlord (the "Miller Landlord"), for a warehouse facility in Walpole, Massachusetts, we will pay base rent of \$179,550.00 in the first year of the lease and an increase of 2% per annum in each subsequent year. We may extend the term for an additional five years upon the same base rent terms upon 12 months' notice. We will be responsible for all property and other taxes and expenses related to the facility except for maintenance of certain structural elements. The initial lease term commenced on June 1, 2023 and terminates on May 31, 2028. We may assign our rights to the lease and property at the facility as collateral to a lender. The Miller Landlord is also required to execute a landlord lien waiver and collateral access agreement upon request. The Miller Lease Agreement contains provisions for minimum insurance, mutual indemnification from certain claims relating to the Miller Lease Agreement, and customary default and related termination and remedy provisions. The foregoing description of the Miller Lease Agreement is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of the agreement, a copy of which is filed as Exhibit 10.37 to this Annual Report.

We also lease satellite office space in Warsaw, Indiana; Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina; Walpole, Massachusetts; and Tomball, Texas. Our aggregate rent payments for these facilities is \$204,615 per year. Our employees also work remotely from 20 additional locations around the United States using other facilities.

We believe that all our properties have been adequately maintained, are generally in good condition, and are suitable and adequate for our businesses.

#### **ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.**

From time to time, we may become involved in various lawsuits and legal proceedings which arise in the ordinary course of business. However, litigation is subject to inherent uncertainties, and an adverse result in these or other matters may arise from time to time that may harm our business. We are not currently aware of any such legal proceedings or claims that we believe will have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or operating results.

# ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES.

Not applicable.



#### PART II

# ITEM 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES.

#### **Market Information**

Our common stock and publicly-traded warrants were listed and began trading on the Nasdaq Capital Market on November 9, 2021, under the symbols "STRN" and "STRNW," respectively. On December 16, 2022, the ticker symbols for the common stock and publicly-traded warrants were changed to "SWAG" and "SWAGW," respectively. Prior to the listing, there was no public market for our common stock and publicly-traded warrants.

#### Number of Holders of Our Common Stock

As of March 28, 2024, there were approximately 66 holders of record of our common stock, which does not include holders whose shares are held in nominee or "street name" accounts through banks, brokers or other financial institutions.

# Securities Authorized for Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans

The information required by this Item regarding equity compensation plans is incorporated by reference to the information set forth in Item 12. "Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters – Securities Authorized for Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans".

#### **Dividend Policy**

We have never declared or paid cash dividends on our common stock. We currently intend to retain all available funds and any future earnings for use in the operation of our business and do not anticipate paying any cash dividends on our common stock in the near future. We may also enter into credit agreements or other borrowing arrangements in the future that will restrict our ability to declare or pay cash dividends on our common stock. Any future determination to declare dividends will be made at the discretion of our board of directors and will depend on our financial condition, operating results, capital requirements, contractual restrictions, general business conditions and other factors that our board of directors may deem relevant. See also Item 1A. *"Risk Factors—Risks Related to Our Common Stock and Publicly-Traded Warrants—We do not expect to declare or pay dividends in the foreseeable future."* 

# **Recent Sales of Unregistered Securities**

We did not sell any equity securities during the 2023 fiscal year that were not previously disclosed in a Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q or a Current Report on Form 8-K that was filed during the 2023 fiscal year.

# **Purchases of Equity Securities**

The following table provides information about our repurchases of common stock during the three months ended December 31, 2023:

			Total Number of		Aaximum proximate
			Shares		ollar Value
			Purchased		of Shares
			as Part of		at May Yet
	Total	Average	Publicly		Purchased
	Number of	Price	Announced		Jnder the
	Shares	Paid per	Plans or		Plans or
Period	Purchased	 Share	Programs <sup>(1)</sup>	Pr	ograms <sup>(1)</sup>
October 1, 2023 – October 31, 2023	-	\$ -	1,797,159	\$	6,643,289
November 1, 2023 – November 30, 2023	4,505	\$ 1.31	1,801,664	\$	6,637,399
December 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023	13,502	\$ 1.47	1,815,166	\$	6,617,594

(1) For a description of the Company's stock repurchase program, see Item 2. "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations. – Liquidity and Capital Resources – Stock Repurchase Program".

# **ITEM 6. [RESERVED]**

# ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS.

The following discussion and analysis summarizes the significant factors affecting our operating results, financial condition, liquidity and cash flows as of and for the periods presented below. The following discussion and analysis should be read in conjunction with our financial statements and the related notes thereto included elsewhere in this report. The discussion contains forward-looking statements that are based on the beliefs of management, as well as assumptions made by, and information currently available to, management. Actual results could differ materially from those discussed in or implied by forward-looking statements as a result of various factors, including those discussed below and elsewhere in this report, particularly in the sections titled Item 1A. "Risk Factors" and "Introductory Notes – Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements."

#### Overview

We are an outsourced marketing solutions provider that sells branded products to customers. We purchase products and branding through various third-party manufacturers and decorators and resell the finished goods to customers.

In addition to selling branded products, we offer clients custom sourcing capabilities; a flexible and customizable e-commerce solution for promoting branded merchandise and other promotional products, managing promotional loyalty and incentives, print collateral, and event assets, order and inventory management, and designing and hosting online retail popup shops, fixed public retail online stores, and online business-to-business service offerings; creative and merchandising services; warehousing/fulfillment and distribution; print-on-demand; kitting; point of sale displays; and loyalty and incentive programs.

We earn the majority of our revenue from the sale of unique, quality promotional products for a wide variety of industries primarily to support marketing efforts. We also derive revenues from service fees from loyalty programs, event management, print services, fulfillment services, and technology services.

The majority of our revenue is derived from program business, although only a small percentage of our customers are considered programmatic. For the years 2023 and 2022, program clients accounted for 77.2% and 82.2% of total revenue, respectively. Fewer than 350 of our more than 2,000 active customers are considered to be program clients. Our active customers are any organizations, businesses, or divisions of a parent organization which have purchased directly or indirectly from us within the last two years, and include organizations that have bought from other organizations for which Stran acts as an established sub-contractor. We define transactional customers as customers that place an order with us and do not have an agreement with us covering ongoing branding requirements. We define program clients as clients that have a contractual obligation for specific ongoing branding needs. Program offerings include ongoing inventory, use of technology platform, warehousing, creative services, and additional client support. Those program customers are geared towards longer-lasting relationships that helps secure recurring revenue well into the future.

Our sales increased 28.7% year-over-year in 2023 compared to 2022, which we believe was primarily due to higher spending from existing clients as well as business from new customers. Additionally, we benefited from the acquisition of the assets of G.A.P. Promotions in January 2022, the assets of Trend Brand Solutions in August 2022, the assets of Premier NYC in December 2022, and the assets of T R Miller in June 2023.

As of December 31, 2023, we had \$61.6 million of total assets with \$39.5 million of total stockholder equity.



# **Recent Developments**

# Modification of Line of Credit Terms

Under a Commercial Loan Modification Agreement, dated as of February 12, 2024, between the Lender (as defined in "*—Liquidity and Capital Resources – Debt*") and the Company (the "Loan Modification Agreement"), certain obligations and requirements of the Company under the Line of Credit Agreement (as defined in "*—Liquidity and Capital Resources – Debt*") were modified, superseding the initial applicable terms, including as follows (as described in "*—Liquidity and Capital Resources – Debt*"):

- The Company must make payment of Lender's reasonable expenses for a field exam in 2024;
- The Line of Credit (as defined in "-Liquidity and Capital Resources Debt") will now be subject to the Company meeting the following financial requirements:
- The Company must maintain a "Minimum Interest Coverage" of 1.25:1, tested for fiscal year ending December 31, 2024 only, and defined as follows: EBITDA (as defined below), divided by cash interest payments made on all debt. "EBITDA" is defined as the trailing year's total of net income before total interest expense, tax expense, and depreciation and amortization expense. EBITDA will be adjusted for extraordinary and/or non-cash items as defined in accordance with U.S. GAAP.
- The Company must maintain a "Minimum Debt Service Coverage Ratio" of 1.20:1, tested annually beginning with the fiscal year ending December 31, 2025, defined as follows: EBITDA, less cash taxes, distributions, dividends, stockholder withdrawals in any form, and unfinanced capital expenditures (as defined below), divided by all scheduled principal payments on all debt, plus cash interest payments made on all debt, plus cash payments made on contingent earn-out liabilities. "Unfinanced capital expenditures" is defined as the current fiscal-year-end net fixed assets, plus current fiscal-year-end depreciation, less prior fiscal-year-end net fixed assets, less the long-term debt increase.
- The Company's "Ratio of Debt to Tangible Net Worth" must not exceed 1.50:1, tested at financial year-end, defined as total liabilities divided by "tangible net worth," defined as total assets, less total labilities, less intangible assets and amounts due from stockholder/related parties.
- The Company must maintain a "Minimum Liquidity" of \$7,500,000 at all times, defined as cash and short-term investments, less rewards program liabilities.
- Any future investments or acquisitions will continue to require prior approval by the Lender, and any future contingent earn-out obligations must be subordinated to Lender debt.

The foregoing description of the Loan Modification Agreement is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of the Loan Modification Agreement, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit 10.42 to this Annual Report, which is incorporated herein by reference.

# Annual Executive Bonuses

On February 15, 2024, the Company awarded annual bonuses for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023 to Andrew Shape, David Browner, John Audibert, and Sheila Johnshoy. The bonus compensation is described in Item 11. "*Executive Compensation*".

# **Chief Information Officer Compensation**

Effective January 2, 2024, Ian Wall became our Chief Information Officer. Mr. Wall's compensation package is described in Item 11. "Executive Compensation – Executive Officer Employment and Consulting Agreements – Employment Agreement with Ian Wall".



# **Emerging Growth Company and Smaller Reporting Company**

We qualify as an "emerging growth company" under the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act of 2012 (the "JOBS Act"). As a result, we are permitted to, and intend to, rely on exemptions from certain disclosure requirements. For so long as we are an emerging growth company, we will not be required to:

- have an auditor report on our internal control over financial reporting pursuant to Section 404(b) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act;
- present three years, and may instead present only two years, of audited financial statements, with correspondingly reduced "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" disclosure in this report;
- comply with any requirement that may be adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding mandatory audit firm rotation or a supplement to the
  auditor's report providing additional information about the audit and the financial statements (i.e., an auditor discussion and analysis);
- comply with certain greenhouse gas emissions disclosure and related third-party assurance requirements;
- submit certain executive compensation matters to stockholder advisory votes, such as "say-on-pay" and "say-on-frequency;" and
- disclose certain executive compensation related items such as the correlation between executive compensation and performance and comparisons of the chief
  executive officer's compensation to median employee compensation.

In addition, Section 107 of the JOBS Act also provides that an emerging growth company can take advantage of the extended transition period provided in Section 7(a)(2)(B) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, for complying with new or revised accounting standards. In other words, an emerging growth company can delay the adoption of certain accounting standards until those standards would otherwise apply to private companies. We have elected to take advantage of the benefits of this extended transition period. Our financial statements may therefore not be comparable to those of companies that comply with such new or revised accounting standards.

We will remain an emerging growth company until the earliest of (i) the last day of the fiscal year following the fifth anniversary of the IPO, (ii) the last day of the first fiscal year in which our total annual gross revenues are \$1.07 billion or more, (ii) the date that we become a "large accelerated filer" as defined in Rule 12b-2 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), which would occur if the market value of our common stock that is held by non-affiliates exceeds \$700 million as of the last business day of our most recently completed second fiscal quarter or (iv) the date on which we have issued more than \$1 billion in non-convertible debt during the preceding three year period.

To the extent that we continue to qualify as a "smaller reporting company," as such term is defined in Rule 12b-2 under the Exchange Act, after we cease to qualify as an emerging growth company, certain of the exemptions and accommodations available to us as an emerging growth company may continue to be available to us as a smaller reporting company, including as to: (i) the auditor attestation requirements of Section 404(b) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act; (ii) scaled executive compensation disclosures; (iii) presenting three years of audited financial statements; and (iv) compliance with certain greenhouse gas emissions disclosure and related third-party assurance requirements.

# **Principal Factors Affecting Our Financial Performance**

Our operating results are primarily affected by the following factors:

- our ability to acquire new customers or retain existing customers;
- our ability to offer competitive product pricing;
- our ability to broaden product offerings;
- industry demand and competition;
- our ability to leverage technology and use and develop efficient processes;
- our ability to attract and retain talented employees; and
- market conditions and our market position.



# **Results of Operations**

The following table sets forth key components of our results of operations during the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, both in dollars and as a percentage of our revenues.

		Years Ended December 31,					
	·	202	23		2022		
		Amount	% of Revenues		Amount	% of Revenues	
Sales	\$	75,893,871	100.0%	\$	58,953,467	100.0%	
Cost of Sales:							
Purchases		45,399,202	59.8%		37,391,939	63.4%	
Freight		5,613,169	7.4%		4,991,854	8.5%	
Total Cost of Sales	\$	51,012,371	67.2%	\$	42,383,793	71.9%	
Gross Profit	\$	24,881,500	32.8%	\$	16,569,674	28.1%	
Operating Expenses:							
General and Administrative Expenses		26,030,030	34.3%		18,075,369	30.7%	
Total Operating Expenses	\$	26,030,030	34.3%	\$	18,075,369	30.7%	
Earnings (Loss) from Operations	<u>\$</u>	(1,148,530)	(1.5)%	\$	(1,505,695)	(2.6)%	
Other Income and (Expense):							
Other Income		375,063	0.5%		112,507	0.2%	
Interest Income		570,387	0.8%		94,680	0.2%	
Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments		269,587	0.4%		(179,120)	(0.3)%	
Total Other Income and (Expense)	\$	1,215,037	1.6%	\$	28,067	0.0%	
Earnings (Loss) Before Income Taxes	<u>\$</u>	66,507	0.1%	\$	(1,477,628)	(2.5)%	
Provision for Income Taxes	\$	31,449	0.0%	\$	(699,187)	(1.2)%	
Net Earnings (Loss)	\$	35,058	0.0%	\$	(778,441)	(1.3)%	

Sales

Sales consist primarily of the selling price of the merchandise, service or outbound shipping and handling charges, less discounts, coupons redeemed, returns and credits.

Our sales increased 28.7% to approximately \$75.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2023, from approximately \$59.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2022. The increase was primarily due to higher spending from existing clients as well as business from new customers. Additionally, the acquisitions of the G.A.P. Promotions assets in January 2022, the Trend Brand Solutions assets in August 2022, the Premier NYC assets in December 2022, and the T R Miller assets in June 2023 accounted for approximately \$14.7 million, or 19.4%, of sales, for 2023, compared to approximately \$6.5 million, or 11.0%, of sales for 2022, as described in more detail immediately below.

The January 2022 acquisition of the G.A.P. Promotions assets generated approximately \$3.5 million of sales for the year ended December 31, 2023, compared to approximately \$5.4 million from such assets for the year ended December 31, 2022. The August 2022 acquisition of the Trend Brand Solutions assets generated approximately \$3.1 million of sales for the year ended December 31, 2023 compared to approximately \$1.1 million from such assets for the year ended December 31, 2022 acquisition of the Premier NYC assets generated approximately \$1.1 million of sales for the year ended December 31, 2023, compared to no sales from such assets for the year ended December 31, 2023, compared to no sales from such assets for the year ended December 31, 2023, compared to no sales from such assets for the year ended December 31, 2023, compared to no sales from such assets for the year ended December 31, 2023, compared to no sales from such assets for the year ended December 31, 2023, compared to no sales from such assets for the year ended December 31, 2022. Our recurring organic sales, defined as sales excluding revenue from the G.A.P Promotions, Trend Brand Solutions, Premier NYC, and T R Miller asset acquisitions, increased 16.6%, or approximately \$8.7 million, to approximately \$61.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2023, from approximately \$52.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2022.

# Cost of Sales

Cost of sales consists of the costs of purchasing merchandise and freight charges. Our total cost of sales increased 20.4% to approximately \$51.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2023, from approximately \$42.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2022. As a percentage of sales, cost of sales decreased to 67.2% for the year ended December 31, 2023 from 71.9% for the year ended December 31, 2022. More specifically, cost of purchases increased to approximately \$45.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2022. As a percentage of sales, cost of purchases decreased to 59.8% for the year ended December 31, 2023, or 21.4%, from approximately \$37.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2022. As a percentage of sales, cost of purchases decreased to 59.8% for the year ended December 31, 2023, or 12.4%, from approximately \$5.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2022. As a percentage of sales, cost of purchases decreased to 7.4% for the year ended December 31, 2022. As a percentage of sales, cost of purchases decreased to 7.4% for the year ended December 31, 2022. As a percentage of sales, freight costs decreased to 7.4% for the year ended December 31, 2022. As a percentage of sales, freight costs decreased to 7.4% for the year ended December 31, 2022. As a percentage of sales, freight costs decreased to 7.4% for the year ended December 31, 2022. As a percentage of sales, freight costs decreased to 7.4% for the year ended December 31, 2022. As a percentage of sales, freight costs decreased to 7.4% for the year ended December 31, 2022. As a percentage of sales, freight costs decreased to 7.4% for the year ended December 31, 2022. As a percentage of sales, freight costs decreased to 7.4% for the year ended December 31, 2022. As a percentage of sales, freight costs decreased to 7.4% for the year ended December 31, 2022. As a percentage of sales, freight costs decreased to 7.4% for the year ended December 31, 2022. As a percentage of sales, freight costs decreased to 7.4% for the year ended December 31, 2022.

#### Gross Profit

Gross profit consists of sales less total costs of sales. Our gross profit increased 50.2% to approximately \$24.9 million, or 32.8% of sales, for the year ended December 31, 2023, from approximately \$16.6 million, or 28.1% of sales, for the year ended December 31, 2022. The increase in the dollar amount of gross profit was due to an increase in sales of approximately \$16.9 million for the reasons described above, partially offset by an increase in purchasing and freight costs of approximately \$8.6 million in aggregate for the reasons described above.

# **Operating Expenses**

Operating expenses consist of general and administrative expenses. Our operating expenses increased 44.0%, or approximately \$8.0 million, to approximately \$26.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2022. As a percentage of sales, operating expenses increased to 34.3% for the year ended December 31, 2023, from 30.7% for the year ended December 31, 2022. The increase in the dollar amount of operating expenses was due to an increase in general and administrative expenses of approximately \$8.0 million, or 44.0%, which in turn was primarily due to aggregate expenses related to the organic growth in our business.

#### Other Income and Expense

Other income and (expense) consist of other income, interest income, and unrealized gain (loss) on investments. Our other income was \$375,063 for the year ended December 31, 2023, compared to \$112,507 for the year ended December 31, 2022. This change was primarily due to an accrual adjustment to certain earn-out obligations relating to our acquisition of the assets of Wildman Imprints, Trend Brand Solutions, and Premier NYC. Our interest income was \$570,387 for the year ended December 31, 2023, compared to \$94,680 for the year ended December 31, 2022. This change was primarily due to interest generated from investments. Our unrealized gain (loss) on investments was \$269,587 for the year ended December 31, 2023, compared to \$(179,120) for the year ended December 31, 2022. This change was primarily due to the recording of all investments at estimated fair value.

# Income Taxes Provision

Income tax provision reflects statutory tax rates in the jurisdictions in which we operate adjusted for permanent book/tax differences.

Income tax provision for the year ended December 31, 2023 was approximately \$0.03 million compared to income tax provision of approximately \$(0.7) million for the year ended December 31, 2022. Income tax provision for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 accounted for 47.3% and 47.3% of earnings (loss) before income taxes of approximately \$0.1 million and approximately \$(1.5) million for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. For 2023 and 2022, the Company recorded an income tax provision comprised substantially of a deferred tax asset in the form of an operating loss carryforward. No valuation allowance against the deferred tax asset was accounted for due to the indefinite life of the asset.

Our effective tax rate is directly affected by the relative proportions of revenue and income before taxes in the jurisdictions in which we operate. Based on management's expectations of future earnings, we anticipate that our effective tax rate will remain similar to the federal tax rate of 21%. State income taxes will fluctuate based annually on apportionment of sales by state.

Discrete tax events may cause our effective rate to fluctuate on a quarterly basis. Certain events, including, for example, acquisitions and other business changes, which are difficult to predict, may also cause our effective tax rate to fluctuate. We are subject to changing tax laws, regulations, and interpretations in multiple jurisdictions. Corporate tax reform continues to be a priority in the U.S. and other jurisdictions. Additional changes to the tax system in the U.S. could have significant effects, positive and negative, on our effective tax rate and our deferred tax assets and liabilities. For further discussion of changes in the income tax provision, refer to Notes A and S to our financial statements beginning on page F-1 of this Annual Report.

# Net Earnings and Losses

Our net earnings for the year ended December 31, 2023 was approximately \$0.04 million, compared to a net loss of approximately \$0.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2022. This change was primarily due to the increase in sales during 2023 from the acquisition of the assets of each of G.A.P. Promotions, Trend Brand Solutions, Premier NYC, and T R Miller to approximately \$14.7 million in aggregate, from approximately \$6.5 million from the acquisition of the assets of G.A.P. Promotions, Trend Brand Solutions, and Premier NYC during 2022, and the increase of approximately \$8.7 million from recurring organic sales during 2023 compared to 2022. These factors were partially offset by the reasons described above for the increase in operating expenses and the increase in purchasing costs.

# Liquidity and Capital Resources

As of December 31, 2023, we had cash and cash equivalents of approximately \$8.0 million and investments of approximately \$10.5 million. We have financed our operations primarily through cash generated from the IPO in November 2021, our private placement of common stock and warrants to purchase common stock in December 2021, operations, and bank borrowings, including a secured revolving demand line of credit that was opened with Salem Five Cents Savings Bank in November 2021 for aggregate loans of up to \$7.0 million, subject to a number of asset-related and other financial requirements and other covenants, terms and conditions as described in detail below under "*– Debt*".

We believe that our current levels of cash will be sufficient to meet our anticipated cash needs for our operations and cash payment obligations for both the 12 months ended December 31, 2024 and in the long-term beyond this period, including our anticipated costs associated with being a public reporting company. We may, however, in the future require additional cash resources due to changing business conditions, implementation of our strategy to expand our business, or other investments or acquisitions we may decide to pursue. If our own financial resources are insufficient to satisfy our capital requirements, we may seek to sell additional equity or debt securities or obtain additional credit facilities. The sale of additional equity securities could result in dilution to our stockholders. The incurrence of indebtedness would result in increased debt service obligations and could require us to agree to operating and financial covenants that would restrict our operations. Financing may not be available in amounts or on terms acceptable to us, if at all. Any failure by us to raise additional funds on terms favorable to us, or at all, could limit our ability to expand our business operations and could harm our overall business prospects.

# Summary of Cash Flow

The following table provides detailed information about our net cash flow for fiscal years ended December 31, 2023 and December 31, 2022:

# **Cash Flow**

	 Years Ended December 31,		
	 2023		2022
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	\$ (4,365,089)	\$	(2,949,602)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	(2,074,559)		(11,329,536)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	 (825,305)		(2,693,774)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	 (7,264,953)		(16,972,912)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	15,253,756		32,226,668
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	\$ 7,988,803	\$	15,253,756

Net cash used in operating activities was approximately \$4.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2023, as compared to net cash used in operating activities of approximately \$2.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2022. For the year ended December 31, 2023, increases in accounts receivable of approximately \$6.0 million, accrued payroll and related of approximately \$2.0 million, and unearned revenue of approximately \$4.5 million along with a decrease in rewards program liability of approximately \$5.1 million were the primary drivers of the net cash used in operating activities. For the year ended December 31, 2022, an increase in accounts receivable of approximately \$5.5 million, inventory of approximately \$1.6 million, and rewards program liability of approximately \$6.0 million were the primary drivers of net cash used in operating activities. The change in net cash used in operating activities for the year ended December 31, 2023 compared to the year ended December 31, 2022 occurred in the normal course of business due to growth in organic business.

Net cash used in investing activities was approximately \$2.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2023, as compared to net cash used in investing activities of approximately \$11.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2022. For the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, asset acquisitions for net cash outlays totaling approximately \$0.7 million and \$0.7 million, respectively, additions to software-related property and equipment totaling approximately \$1.0 million and \$0.6 million, respectively, and purchases of investments totaling approximately \$0.4 million and \$10.0 million, respectively, were the primary drivers of the net cash used in investing activities. The decrease in net cash used in investing activities for the year ended December 31, 2023 compared to the year ended December 31, 2022 was primarily due to reduced purchases of investments.

Net cash used in financing activities was approximately \$0.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2023, as compared to net cash provided by financing activities of approximately \$2.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2022. For the year ended December 31, 2023, net cash used in financing activities consisted primarily of payments related to a contingent earn-out liability of approximately \$0.8 million and the repurchase of our common stock under our stock repurchase program for approximately \$0.05 million. For the year ended December 31, 2022, net cash used in financing activities consisted primarily of payments related to a contingent earn-out liability of approximately \$0.7 million and the repurchase of our common stock under our stock repurchase program for approximately \$0.7 million and the repurchase of our common stock under our stock repurchase program for approximately \$0.7 million and the repurchase of approximately \$1.3 million. The decrease in net cash used in financing activities for the year ended December 31, 2023 compared to the year ended December 31, 2022 was primarily due to the non-recurrence of proceeds from the exercise of our publicly-traded warrants, offset by reduced repurchases of our common stock, during the year ended December 31, 2022.

# Stock Repurchase Program

As initially announced on February 23, 2022, under our stock repurchase program, we may repurchase up to \$10 million of our outstanding shares of common stock from time to time in the open market, in accordance with all applicable securities laws and regulations, including Rule 10b-18. Our decision to repurchase our shares, as well as the timing of such repurchases, will depend on a variety of factors that include ongoing assessments of our capital needs, market conditions and the price of our common stock, and other corporate considerations, as determined by management. Repurchases will also only be made in accordance with the Company's insider trading policy as if such purchases were made by a person covered by the policy. Our insider trading policy generally permits insider purchases of our stock only during the period beginning on the second business day following the day of public release of our quarterly or annual earnings and ending on the last day of the then-current quarter. There is no defined number of shares to be repurchased over a specified timeframe through the life of the stock repurchase program. The repurchase authorization has no expiration date but may be suspended or discontinued at any time. Stock repurchases are paid using cash generated by operations.

In connection with our stock repurchase program, on May 23, 2022, we announced that we had established a trading plan with B. Riley intended to qualify under Rule 10b-18. In May 2023, we renewed the trading plan. The trading plan instructs B. Riley to repurchase shares of common stock for our account in accordance with Rule 10b-18 and our instructions. Repurchases under the trading plan may continue until the trading plan terminates in June 2024 unless terminated earlier or extended.

As of December 31, 2023, we had repurchased a total of 1,815,166 shares of common stock for total payments of \$3,382,406, and \$6,617,594 remained available under the stock repurchase program for future stock repurchases. During the three months ended December 31, 2023, we repurchased a total of 18,007 shares for aggregate payments of \$25,696 under the Trading Plan. See Item 5. "Market For Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities. – Purchases of Equity Securities" for further information about repurchases of common stock during the three months ended December 31, 2023.

#### Debt

On November 22, 2021, we entered into a Revolving Demand Line of Credit Loan Agreement (the "Line of Credit Agreement"), with Salem Five Cents Savings Bank (the "Lender"), for aggregate loans of up to \$7 million (the "Line of Credit"), evidenced by a Revolving Demand Line of Credit Note, also dated November 22, 2021 (the "Note"). The Line of Credit and Note are secured by a first priority security interest in all assets and property of the Company, as provided in the Security Agreement, also dated November 22, 2021, between the Lender and the Borrower (the "Security Agreement" and together with the Line of Credit Agreement and the Note, the "Line of Credit Documents"), and as described below. In addition, see "*Recent Developments – Modification of Line of Credit Terms*" as to the recent modification of certain terms of the Line of Credit.

The amount available under the Line of Credit is the lesser of \$7.0 million or the sum of (x) 80% of the then-outstanding amount of Eligible Accounts (as defined below), plus (y) 50% of Eligible Inventory (as defined below); minus 100% of the aggregate amount then drawn under the Line of Credit for the account of the Company. In addition, advances based upon Eligible Inventory must be capped at all times at \$2,000,000. "Eligible Accounts" are defined as accounts that meet a number of requirements, including, unless otherwise approved by the Lender, being less than 90 days from the date of invoice not subject to any prior assignment, claim, lien, or security interest, not subject to set-off, credit, allowance or adjustment by the account debtor, arose in the ordinary course of the Company's business, not an intercompany obligation, not subject to notice of bankruptcy or insolvency of the account debtor, not owed by an account debtor 25% or more of business is outside the United States, not a government account, not be evidenced by promissory notes, and not one of the accounts owed by an account debtor 25% or more of whose accounts are 90 or more days past invoice date; or otherwise not deemed acceptable by the Lender in accordance with its normal credit policies. "Eligible Inventory" means all finished goods, work in progress and raw materials and component parts of inventory owned by the Company. It does not include any inventory held on consignment or not otherwise owned by the Company; any inventory which has been returned by a customer or is damaged or subject to any legal encumbrances other than a first priority security interest held by the Company; any inventory which is not on the possession of the Company; any inventory which is held by the Company on property leased by the Company unless the Lender has received a landlord lien waiver and collateral access agreement from the lessor of such property satisfactory to the Lender; any inventory which is not located within the United States; any inventory whi

The Line of Credit is subject to interest at the prime rate plus 0.5% per annum. The Company must repay interest on Line of Credit proceeds on a monthly basis. The Line of Credit will continue indefinitely, subject to the Lender's demand rights and the Company's ongoing affirmative and other obligations under the Line of Credit Documents, as summarized below.

The Company may freely draw upon the Line of Credit subject to the Lender's right to demand complete repayment of the Line of Credit at any time. Late payments are subject to a late payment charge of 5%. In the event of failure to repay the Line of Credit after the Lender makes demand for full repayment, the interest rate will increase by 10%. The Note may be prepaid at any time without penalty. The Lender may assign the Note without the Company's consent.

Under the Security Agreement and the other Line of Credit Documents, the Company granted the Lender a first priority security interest in all of its assets, including both assets owned as of the date of the Line of Credit and afterwards, as collateral for full repayment of the Line of Credit. The Lender may file Uniform Commercial Code financing statements with any jurisdiction and with sufficient descriptions of the property to perfect its security interest in all of the Company's current and future assets. Upon default of the Line of Credit, the Lender may accelerate repayment of the Line of Credit, take possession of the Company's assets, assign a receiver over the Company's assets, and enforce other rights as to the Company's assets as secured creditor. The Company must pay for all of the Lender's reasonable legal fees and expenses incurred to enforce its rights under the Line of Credit Documents.

Under the Line of Credit Agreement, the Company is required to continue its current business of outsourced marketing solutions, and, without the prior consent of the Lender, the Company may not acquire in whole or in part any other company or business and shall not engage in any other business or open any other locations. The Company must use the proceeds of the Line of Credit only in connection with the general and ordinary operations of its business and for the purpose of general working capital for accounts receivable and inventory purchases.

The Line of Credit was also initially subject to the following ongoing affirmative obligations of the Company: Making punctual repayment of the Line of Credit amount; maintaining proper accounting books and records in accordance with the opinion of LMHS, P.C. or another Certified Public Accountant acceptable to the Lender; allowing the Lender to inspect its accounting books and records; furnishing audited, quarterly, monthly and other financial statements to the Lender; making payment of Lender's reasonable expenses for a field exam in 2022 (see "*—Recent Developments – Modification of Line of Credit Terms*" as to the recent modification of this term); allowing the Lender to communicate with its accountants; maintaining its properties in good repair subject to ordinary wear and tear; obtaining replacement-cost insurance for its property with the Lender as Mortgagee/Loss Payee; causing management contracts for the Company's properties to be subordinated to the rights of the Lender; and allowing no change of property management company without the prior written consent of the Lender.

The Line of Credit was also initially subject to the Company meeting the following financial requirements: (a) "Debt Service Coverage Ratio" defined as cash flow to be calculated on an annual basis of at least 1.20 times EBITDA less cash taxes, distributions, dividends, shareholder withdrawals in any form, and unfinanced CAPEX divided by all scheduled principal payments on all debt plus cash interest payments made on all debt; and (b) "Minimum Net Worth" defined as minimum net worth of \$2,000,000 at December 31, 2021, \$2,750,000 at December 31, 2022, and \$3,500,000 at December 31, 2023. See "*Recent Developments – Modification of Line of Credit Terms*" as to the recent modification of these terms.

The Company also may not, without the prior approval by the Lender, incur any additional indebtedness, secured or unsecured, except in the ordinary course of business; make loans or advances to others or guarantee others' obligations except for certain ordinary advances to employees or ordinary customer credit terms; make investments; acquire any business; make capital expenditures except in the ordinary course of business; sell any material assets except in the ordinary course of business; or grant any security interests or mortgages in its properties or assets. See "*—\_Recent Developments – Modification of Line of Credit Terms*" as to the recent modification of these terms.

The foregoing description of the Loan Agreement, the Note, and the Security Agreement is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of the Loan Agreement, the Note, and the Security Agreement, copies of which are attached as Exhibit 10.19, Exhibit 10.20 and Exhibit 10.21 to this Annual Report, respectively, which are incorporated herein by reference.

In connection with the Line of Credit Agreement, on November 22, 2021, the Company, the Lender and Harte Hanks Response Management/Boston, Inc. (the "Warehouse Provider"), the lessor of certain warehouse facilities to the Company, executed a Warehouseman's Waiver in favor of the Lender (the "Warehouseman's Waiver"). Under the Warehouseman's Waiver, the Warehouse Provider disclaimed any interest in the property of the Company stored on the premises (the "Collateral"), and agreed not to interfere with the Lender's enforcement of its rights in the Collateral. The Warehouse Provider further agreed to provide notice to the Lender of any default by the Company of its obligations as to the Warehouse Provider, and to give the Lender at least 30 days to exercise its rights, which period may be extended by the Lender up to 60 days upon its payment of the per-diem rental amount. After that period, unless the default has been cured by the Lender, the Warehouse Provider may dispose of such Collateral as it deems fit. Upon the receipt of written notice from the Lender to dispose of all or any portion of the Collateral at any time, without any further consent or instruction from Company.

The foregoing description of the Warehouseman's Waiver is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of the Warehouseman's Waiver, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit 10.22 to this Annual Report, which is incorporated herein by reference.

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, we had not drawn any funds from the Loan under the Loan Agreement.

#### **Contractual Obligations**

#### Wildman Imprints Assets Acquisition

On August 24, 2020, we entered into an Asset Purchase Agreement (the "Wildman Imprints Asset Purchase Agreement"), to acquire inventory, fixed assets, and a customer list of Wildman Imprints. The acquisition closed on September 26, 2020. In connection with the asset acquisition, the customer list was purchased in part under the following earnout payment terms. The required earn-out payments are equal to 15% of the Gross Profit (as defined by the Wildman Imprints Asset Purchase Agreement) earned from the sale of product to the customer list for the first year following the date of the agreement and 30% for the second and third years following the date of the agreement. Earn-out payments are due within 30 days of the anniversary date of the agreement for the first year and within 30 days of each quarter for the second and third year following the date of the agreement. Any additional Wildman Imprints accounts with a strong history that are purchased will have the same earn-out terms. Additional payments are due for certain referred accounts in the amount of 5% of sales for the first year following the referral date, 3% of sales for the second year following the referral date, and 1% of sales for the third year following the referral date. At December 31, 2023 and December 31, 2022, the current portion of the earn-out liability amounted to \$0 and \$742,874, respectively.

In connection with the asset acquisition, we also had an amount due to the seller under a note in the amount of \$162,358 as of December 31, 2022 for the inventory and property and equipment purchased. This amount accrued no interest, and was to be paid "as used" on a quarterly basis through the three-year earn-out period. As of September 30, 2023, the note was forgiven in full. We expect no deficiencies in our ability to make the payments required under the asset purchase agreement. The aggregate purchase price was \$2,937,222, as follows:

Fair Value of Identifiable Assets Acquired:

Inventory	\$	649,433
Property and Equipment		34,099
Intangible - Customer List	2	2,253,690
Total	\$ 2	,937,222
10141	<u>s 2</u>	2
Consideration Paid:		

Cash	521,174
Note Payable - Wildman	162,358
Contingent Earn-Out Liability	2,253,690
Total	\$ 2,937,222

For further discussion see Notes J and M to our financial statements beginning on page F-1 of this Annual Report.

#### G.A.P. Promotions Assets Acquisition

On January 31, 2022, the Company closed on an asset purchase agreement, dated as of January 21, 2022, as amended on January 31, 2022, to acquire inventory, working capital, and a customer list from G.A.P. Promotions (the "G.A.P. Promotions Asset Purchase Agreement").

The purchase price included cash payments as follows: \$500,000 in cash, subject to adjustment, plus additional cash for the certain inventory on hand at cost; \$180,000 due January 31, 2023; and \$300,000 due January 31, 2024. The Company also issued 46,083 shares of restricted common stock to the principal owner of G.A.P. Promotions.

The seller is also entitled to receive the following earn-out payments to the extent that the acquired business achieves the applicable Gross Profit (as defined by the G.A.P. Promotions Asset Purchase Agreement) targets: (1) An earn-out payment equal to 70% of annual Gross Profit of the acquired business to the extent Gross Profit is above \$1,500,000 for the trailing 12-month period from the first anniversary of the closing date, subject to deductions for certain inventory and accounts receivables that are not purchased or paid for by customers; and (2) an earn-out payment equal to 70% of annual Gross Profit of the acquired business to the extent Gross Profit is above \$1,500,000 for the trailing 12-month period from the second anniversary of the Closing Date. Earn-out payments are due within 30 days from the date on which they are determined to be owed.

In accordance with Financial Accounting Standards Board Accounting Standards Codification Topic 805, "Business Combinations" ("FASB ASC 805"), the acquisition method of accounting has been applied and recognition of the assets acquired has been determined at fair value as of the acquisition date. All acquisition costs have been expensed as incurred. The consideration paid has been allocated to the assets acquired based on their estimated fair values at the acquisition date. The estimate of fair values for tangible assets acquired was agreed to by both buyer and seller. The aggregate purchase price was \$3,245,872, as follows:

Inventory	\$ 91,096
Working Capital	879,486
Intangible - Customer List	 2,275,290
Total	\$ 3,245,872

Consideration Paid:

Cash	1,510,872
Restricted Stock	100,000
Contingent Earn-Out Liability	1,635,000
Total	\$ 3,245,872

For further discussion relating to this transaction, see Notes J and N to our financial statements beginning on page F-1 of this Annual Report. The foregoing description of the G.A.P. Promotions Asset Purchase Agreement and assets acquired from G.A.P. Promotions is qualified in its entirety by the full text of the asset purchase agreement and amendment thereto, which are filed as Exhibit 2.1 and Exhibit 2.2 to this Annual Report, respectively, and incorporated by reference herein.

#### Trend Brand Solutions Assets Acquisition

On August 31, 2022, the Company closed on an asset purchase agreement, dated as of July 13, 2022, as amended on August 31, 2022, to acquire cash, accounts receivable, inventory, fixed assets, and a customer list from Trend Brand Solutions (the "Trend Asset Purchase Agreement").

The purchase price included cash payments as follows: \$175,000 in cash, plus additional cash for certain inventory on hand at cost and the depreciated value of certain fixed assets, on the closing date; \$37,500 within 45 days of August 31, 2023, (ii) \$37,500 within 45 days of August 31, 2024, (iii) \$25,000 within 45 days of August 31, 2025, and (iv) \$25,000 within 45 days of August 31, 2026. These amounts are subject to deductions for certain outstanding indebtedness and unsold inventory and working capital adjustments. Pursuant to the Trend Asset Purchase Agreement, prior to closing, the Company also made a short-term loan to the seller of \$162,174.66 for the repayment of the seller's existing loan to the U.S. Small Business Administration in the same amount (the "SBA Note"). At the closing, the SBA Note was repaid by deduction from the cash purchase price. The Company also issued 54,642 shares of restricted common stock to the principal stockholder of Trend Brand Solutions.

The seller is also entitled to receive up to four annual earn-out payments in an amount equal to 40% of annual Gross Profit (as defined by the Trend Asset Purchase Agreement) of the acquired business to the extent that Gross Profit is in excess of \$800,000, such annual Gross Profit to be determined based on the immediately trailing 12-month period prior to the applicable closing date anniversary. If the seller is determined to be entitled to an earn-out payment, such earn-out payment will be paid on the date that is ten days from the date of such determination.

In accordance with FASB ASC 805, the acquisition method of accounting has been applied and recognition of the assets acquired has been determined at fair value as of the acquisition date. All acquisition costs have been expensed as incurred. The consideration paid has been allocated to the assets acquired based on their estimated fair values at the acquisition date. The estimate of fair values for tangible assets acquired was agreed to by both buyer and seller. The aggregate purchase price was \$2,193,166, as follows:

Fair Value of Identifiable Assets Acquired:

Cash	\$ 63,624
Accounts Receivable	346,822
Inventory	108,44
Fixed Assets	14,444
Intangible – Customer List	1,659,83
Total	\$ 2,193,160

Consideration Paid:

Cash	\$ 1,488
Assumption of Liabilities	721,334
Restricted Stock	100,000
Contingent Earn-Out Liability	1,370,344
Total	\$ 2,193,166

For further discussion see Notes J and N to our financial statements beginning on page F-1 of this Annual Report. The foregoing description of the Trend Asset Purchase Agreement and assets acquired from Trend Brand Solutions is qualified in their entirety by the full text of the asset purchase agreement and amendment thereto, which are filed as Exhibit 2.3 and Exhibit 2.4 to this Annual Report, respectively, and incorporated by reference herein.

# Premier NYC Acquisition

On December 20, 2022, the Company closed on an asset purchase agreement, dated as of November 29, 2022 (the "Premier NYC Asset Purchase Agreement"), to acquire cash, accounts receivable, and a customer list from Premier NYC.

The purchase price included cash payments as follows: \$100,000 in cash, subject to working capital adjustments, on the closing date; \$60,000 within 30 days of December 20, 2023, (ii) \$40,000 within 30 days of December 20, 2024, and (iii) \$30,000 within 30 days of December 20, 2025. These amounts are subject to deductions for certain outstanding indebtedness.

The seller is also entitled to receive up to three annual earn-out payments in an amount equal to 45% of annual Gross Profit (as defined by the Premier NYC Asset Purchase Agreement) of the acquired business to the extent that Gross Profit is in excess of \$350,000, such annual Gross Profit to be determined based on the immediately trailing 12-month period prior to the applicable closing date anniversary. If the seller is determined to be entitled to an earn-out payment, such earn-out payment will be paid on the date that is ten days from the date of such determination.

In accordance with FASB ASC 805, the acquisition method of accounting has been applied and recognition of the assets acquired has been determined at fair value as of the acquisition date. All acquisition costs have been expensed as incurred. The consideration paid has been allocated to the assets acquired based on their estimated fair values at the acquisition date. The estimate of fair values for tangible assets acquired was agreed to by both buyer and seller. The aggregate purchase price was \$1,390,533, as follows:

Fair Value of Identifiable Assets Acquired:

Cash	\$	13,855
Restricted Stock		344,078
Contingent Earn-Out Liability		1,032,600
Total	<u>\$</u>	1,390,533
Consideration Paid:		
	<u>^</u>	440.005

Cash	\$ 440,025
Assumption of Liabilities	17,908
Restricted Stock	25,000
Contingent Earn-Out Liability	907,600
Total	\$ 1,390,533

For further discussion, see Notes J and N to our financial statements beginning on page F-1 of this Annual Report.

#### T R Miller Asset Acquisition Agreement

On January 25, 2023, we entered into an Asset Purchase Agreement (the "T R Miller Purchase Agreement") with T R Miller and Thomas R. Miller (the "Miller Stockholder"), pursuant to which we agreed to acquire substantially all of the assets of T R Miller used in T R Miller's branding, marketing and promotional products and services business (the "T R Miller Business"). The T R Miller Business had existing operations and generated revenues. The T R Miller Purchase Agreement provided that the aggregate purchase price for the T R Miller Business would consist of cash payments by the Company to T R Miller at and following the consummation of the transactions contemplated by the T R Miller Purchase Agreement (the "T R Miller Closing"), subject to certain adjustments.

On June 1, 2023, the T R Miller Closing was completed. Pursuant to the T R Miller Purchase Agreement, the Company paid T R Miller \$2,154,230.21 in cash, reflecting the purchase price of \$1,000,000 as adjusted by a \$1,123,071.82 working capital adjustment; no adjustment for indebtedness as of the date and time of the T R Miller Closing (the "T R Miller Closing Date") that was not part of the Assumed Liabilities (as defined in the T R Miller Purchase Agreement); no separate amount for any Inventory (as defined in the T R Miller Purchase Agreement) that was on hand and owned by T R Miller as of the T R Miller Closing Date, as such amount was included in the working capital adjustment; and first and last month's rent under the Miller Lease Agreement (as defined below) of \$14,962.50 and \$16,195.89, respectively.

Following the T R Miller Closing, the Company will make (a) installment payments equal to (i) \$400,000 on the first anniversary of the T R Miller Closing Date, (ii) \$200,000 on the third anniversary of the T R Miller Closing Date, and (iv) \$200,000 on the fourth anniversary of the T R Miller Closing Date, each such installment payment subject to adjustment for certain uncollected accounts receivable amounts outstanding after the first 12 months following the T R Miller Closing; and (b) four annual earn-out payments, each equal to (i) 45% of the annual Gross Profit (as defined in the T R Miller Purchase Agreement) of T R Miller above \$4,000,000 with respect to certain customers of T R Miller or primarily resulting from the efforts of the Miller Stockholder or certain employees or independent contractors of T R Miller, plus (ii) 25% of the annual Gross Profit above \$4,000,000 with respect to and primary responsibility of any employee or independent contractor of T R Miller as designated by the T R Miller Purchase Agreement, for the trailing 12-month period, as of the first, second, third, and fourth anniversary of the T R Miller Closing Date, each such Earn Out Payment subject to adjustment as set forth in the T R Miller Purchase Agreement.

The timing and manner of the remaining working capital adjustments or payments and the earn-out payments, and the resolution of any disagreements as to such adjustments or payments, will follow the procedures provided by the T R Miller Purchase Agreement.

In addition, as of the T R Miller Closing Date, the Company undertook to perform or otherwise pay, satisfy and discharge as of the T R Miller Closing the Assumed Liabilities (as defined in the T R Miller Purchase Agreement).

The T R Miller Purchase Agreement also contained additional representations, warranties, covenants, indemnification provisions and other terms.

Pursuant to the T R Miller Purchase Agreement, in connection with the T R Miller Closing, the Company, as tenant, and the Miller Landlord, entered into the Miller Lease Agreement for a warehouse facility in Walpole, Massachusetts. The Miller Lease Agreement provides for base rent of \$179,550.00 in the first year of the lease and an increase of 2% per annum in each subsequent year. We may extend the term for an additional five years upon the same base rent terms upon 12 months' notice. We will be responsible for all property and other taxes and expenses related to the facility except for maintenance of certain structural elements. The initial lease term commenced on June 1, 2023 and terminates on May 31, 2028. We may assign our rights to the lease and property at the facility as collateral to a lender. The Miller Landlord is also required to execute a landlord lien waiver and collateral access agreement, and customary default and related termination and remedy provisions. The foregoing description of the Miller Lease Agreement is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of the agreement, a copy of which is filed as Exhibit 10.37 to this Annual Report.

In addition, the Company entered into (i) a consulting agreement with the Miller Stockholder providing for certain consulting services to the Company for a period of three years following the T R Miller Closing Date and (ii) an employment agreement with Stacy Miller.

The foregoing references to the terms and conditions of the T R Miller Purchase Agreement do not purport to be complete and are qualified in their entirety by reference to the full text of the agreement, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit 2.5 to this Annual Report, and incorporated by reference herein.

# **Property Leases**

The following is a schedule by years of future minimum lease payments:

2024	\$ 569,236
2025	387,618
2026	188,981
2027	192,672
2028	64,784
Total Future Non-Cancelable Minimum Lease Payments	\$ 1,403,291

Lease cost for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 totaled \$557,687 and \$466,895, respectively. We anticipate no deficiencies in our ability to make these payments.

# **Other Cash Obligations**

The Company manages reward card programs for clients. Under these programs, the Company receives cash and simultaneously records a liability for the total amount received. These accounts are adjusted on a periodic basis as reward cards are funded or reduced at the direction of the customers. At December 31, 2023 and December 31, 2022, the Company had net deposits totaling \$875,000 and \$6,000,000, respectively.

Our other principal cash payment obligations have consisted principally of obligations under the Line of Credit described above. As stated above, as of December 31, 2023 and December 31, 2022, we had not drawn any funds from the Line of Credit under the Line of Credit Agreement.

#### **Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements**

We have no off-balance sheet arrangements that have or are reasonably likely to have a current or future effect on our financial condition, changes in financial condition, revenues or expenses, results of operations, liquidity, capital expenditures or capital resources.

#### **Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates**

We prepare our financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP. The preparation of financial statements requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenue, costs and expenses, and related disclosures. We evaluate our estimates and assumptions on an ongoing basis. We base our estimates on historical experience and on various other assumptions that we believe to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results could differ significantly from the estimates made by our management. To the extent that there are differences between our estimates and actual results, our future financial statements presentation, financial condition, results of operations, and cash flows will be affected.

We believe that the assumptions and estimates associated with investments, inventory valuation, intangible assets, revenue recognition, stock-based compensation expense and income taxes have the greatest potential impact on our financial statements. Therefore, we consider these to be our critical accounting policies and estimates. For further information on all of our significant accounting policies, see the notes to our financial statements beginning on page F-1 of this Annual Report.

#### Investments

Our investments consist of U.S. treasury bills, corporate bonds, and money market funds. We classify our investments as available-for-sale and record these investments at fair value. Investments with an original maturity of greater than three months at the date of purchase and less than one year from the date of the balance sheet are classified as current and those with maturities of more than one year from the date of the balance sheet are classified as long-term in the consolidated balance sheet.

#### **Inventory Valuation**

Inventory consists of finished goods (branded products) and goods in process (un-branded products awaiting decoration). All inventory is stated at the lower of cost (first-in, first-out method) or market value.

#### Intangible Assets - Customer List

The Company accounts for intangible assets under the provision of ASC 350-20 "Accounting for Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets." The provision establishes standards for valuation and amortization of unidentifiable assets.

Under ASC 350-20-35-1, the cost of unidentifiable intangible assets is measured by the excess cost over the fair value of net assets acquired. Intangible assets with indefinite useful lives shall not be amortized until its useful life is determined to be no longer infinite. The intangible assets are evaluated when a triggering event occurs, at least annually, for potential impairment.

# **Revenue Recognition**

In accordance with Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC") Topic 606, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* ("ASC 606"), we recognize revenues when promised goods or services are transferred to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration that is expected to be received for those goods or services. The guidance defines a five-step process to achieve this core principle and, in doing so, judgment and estimates may be required within the revenue recognition process including identifying performance obligations in the contract, estimating the amount of variable consideration to include in the transaction price and allocating the transaction price to each separate performance obligation. Generally, we recognize revenue when there is persuasive evidence that an arrangement exists, title and risk of loss have passed, delivery has occurred or the services have been rendered, the sales price is fixed or determinable and collection of the related receivable is reasonably assured. Title and risk of loss generally pass to our customers upon shipment. In limited circumstances where either title or risk of loss pass upon destination or acceptance or when collection is not reasonably assured, we defer revenue recognition until such events occur.

We input orders based upon receipt of a customer purchase order, confirm pricing through the customer purchase order, validate credit worthiness through past payment history or other financial data and record revenue upon shipment of goods and when risk of loss and title transfer.

#### Stock-Based Compensation

We account for stock-based compensation under ASC Topic 718, *Compensation-Stock Compensation*, which requires us to record related compensation costs in the statement of operations. Calculating the fair value of stock-based compensation awards requires the input of highly subjective assumptions, including the expected life of the awards and expected volatility of our stock price. Expected volatility is a statistical measure of the amount by which a stock price is expected to fluctuate during a period. Our estimates of expected volatilities are based on weighted historical implied volatility. The expected forfeiture rate applied in calculating stock-based compensation cost is estimated using historical data and is updated annually.

The assumptions used in calculating the fair value of stock-based awards involve estimates that require management judgment. If factors change and we use different assumptions, our stock-based compensation expense could change significantly in the future. In addition, if our actual forfeiture rate is different from our estimate, our stock-based compensation expense could change significantly in the future.

#### Income Taxes

We account for income taxes using the asset and liability method in accordance with ASC Topic 740, *Income Taxes*, which requires recognition of deferred tax liabilities and assets for the expected future tax consequences of events that have been included in the financial statements or tax returns. Under this method, we must make estimates and judgments in determining the provision for taxes for financial statement purposes. These estimates and judgments occur in the calculation of tax credits, benefits, and deductions, and in the calculation of certain tax assets and liabilities that arise from differences in the timing of recognition of revenue and expense for tax and financial statement purposes, as well as the interest and penalties related to uncertain tax positions. In addition, the Company operates within multiple tax jurisdictions and is subject to audit in these jurisdictions. Significant changes in these estimates may result in an increase or decrease to our tax provision in a subsequent period. The effect on deferred tax assets and liabilities of a change in tax rates is recognized in income in the period that includes the enactment date.

We assess the likelihood that our deferred tax assets will be recovered from future taxable income and to the extent we believe that recovery is not determinable beyond a "more likely than not" standard.

The calculation of our tax liabilities involves dealing with uncertainties in the application of complex tax regulations. We recognize liabilities for uncertain tax positions based on a two-step process. The first step is to evaluate the tax position for recognition by determining if the weight of available evidence indicates that it is more likely than not that the position will be sustained on audit, including resolution of related appeals or litigation processes, if any. If we determine that a tax position will more likely than not fail to be sustained on audit, the second step requires us to estimate and measure the tax benefit as the largest amount that is more than 50% likely to be realized upon ultimate settlement. It is inherently difficult and subjective to estimate such amounts, as we have to determine the probability of various hypothetical outcomes. We re-evaluate these uncertain tax positions on a quarterly basis. This evaluation is based on factors such as changes in facts or circumstances, changes in tax law, new audit activity, and effectively settled issues. Determining whether an uncertain tax position is effectively settled requires judgment. Such a change in recognition or measurement would result in the recognition of a tax benefit or an additional charge to the tax provision in the period in which a change in judgment occurs.

#### **Recent Accounting Pronouncements**

For a discussion of recently adopted accounting pronouncements, see *Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements* in Note A to our financial statements beginning on page F-1 of this Annual Report.



# ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK.

Not applicable.

# ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA.

The full text of our audited consolidated financial statements begins on page F-1 of this Annual Report.

#### ITEM 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE.

None.

#### ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES.

#### **Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

Our management, with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, have evaluated our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Exchange Act) prior to the filing of this Annual Report on Form 10-K. Based on that evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that, as of the end of the period covered by this Annual Report on Form 10-K, our disclosure controls and procedures were, in design and operation, effective at a reasonable assurance level.

#### Management's Annual Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting as such term is defined in Rule 13a-15(f) of the Exchange Act. Our internal control system is designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted account principles. All internal control systems, no matter how well designed, have inherent limitations and can provide only reasonable assurance that the objectives of the internal control system are met.

Management assessed the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2023. In making this assessment, management used the framework set forth in the report entitled Internal Control - Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission, or COSO. The COSO framework summarizes each of the components of a company's internal control system, including (i) the control environment, (ii) risk assessment, (iii) control activities, (iv) information and communication, and (v) monitoring.

Based on this evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Financial Officer concluded that the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2023 was effective.

This Annual Report does not include an attestation report of our independent registered public accounting firm regarding internal control over financial reporting. Pursuant to Item 308(b) of Regulation S-K, management's report is not subject to attestation by our independent registered public accounting firm because the Company is neither an "accelerated filer" nor a "large accelerated filer" as those terms are defined by the SEC.

#### **Changes in Internal Controls over Financial Reporting**

There were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting during the quarter ended December 31, 2023 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

#### Inherent Limitation on the Effectiveness of Internal Control.

The effectiveness of any system of internal control over financial reporting, including ours, is subject to inherent limitations, including the exercise of judgment in designing, implementing, operating, and evaluating the controls and procedures, and the inability to eliminate misconduct completely. Accordingly, any system of internal control over financial reporting, including ours, no matter how well designed and operated, can only provide reasonable, not absolute assurances. In addition, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate. We intend to continue to monitor and upgrade our internal controls as necessary or appropriate for our business but cannot assure you that such improvements will be sufficient to provide us with effective internal control over financial reporting.

# **ITEM 9B. OTHER INFORMATION.**

We have no information to disclose that was required to be disclosed in a report on Form 8-K during the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2023 but was not reported.

# ITEM 9C. DISCLOSURE REGARDING FOREIGN JURISDICTIONS THAT PREVENT INSPECTIONS.

Not applicable.

#### PART III

# ITEM 10. DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE.

#### **Directors and Executive Officers**

The following sets forth information about our directors and executive officers:

Name	Age	Position
Andrew Stranberg	52	Executive Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, and Director
Andrew Shape	50	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director
David Browner	35	Chief Financial Officer
John Audibert	37	Vice President of Growth and Strategic Initiatives
Sheila Johnshoy	51	Chief Operating Officer
Ian Wall	52	Chief Information Officer
Travis McCourt	40	Director
Alan Chippindale	65	Director
Alejandro Tani	51	Director
Ashley Marshall	38	Director

Andrew Stranberg co-founded our Company and has served as our Executive Chairman since 1995. From 1995 to January 2020, Mr. Stranberg was also our Chief Executive Officer. In 1995, Mr. Stranberg founded Stran Capital LLC, a family office, and has since been its Chief Executive Officer. From 1997 to 2016 he served as Chairman of STRAN Technologies IT Services, LLC, a U.S.-based producer of harsh environment and tactical interconnect products and services, and which was sold to Corning (NYSE:GLW) in 2016. From 2012 to November 2019, Mr. Stranberg was the founder and manager of Stran Maritime LLC for a joint venture with Atlas Maritime Ltd., an international shipping company, to conduct a joint purchase of two ships. Mr. Stranberg is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire Peter T. Paul College of Business and Economics. We believe that Mr. Stranberg is qualified to serve on our board of directors due to his deep knowledge of Stran and his long executive and board experience with us since his co-founding of the Company.

*Andrew Shape* is our co-founder and since 1996 has served as our President and director, and as our Chief Executive Officer since January 2020. From July 2018 to February 2021, Mr. Shape also served as the Chief Executive Officer and President and a director of Long Blockchain Corp., a Delaware corporation, or LBCC, in connection with a business co-managed with LBCC for its subsidiary Stran Loyalty Group Inc., a Delaware corporation, or SLG, that was focused on co-managing our loyalty and gift card programs. From June 2018 through December 2021, Mr. Shape served as a director for Naked Brand Group Limited (formerly Nasdaq: NAKD) until the closing of its business combination with Cenntro Electric Group Limited (Nasdaq: CENN). Prior to forming Stran, from August 1995 to September 1996, Mr. Shape worked at Copithorne & Bellows Public Relations (a Porter Novelli company) as an Account Executive covering the technology industry. Mr. Shape holds a BA degree from the University of New Hampshire. We believe that Mr. Shape is qualified to serve on our board of directors due to his deep knowledge of Stran, his industry expertise, and his experience as a director on other Nasdaq-listed companies.

*David Browner* has served as the Company's Chief Financial Officer since March 2023 and was our Interim Chief Financial Officer from July 2022 to March 2023. From July 2021 to July 2022, Mr. Browner was our Controller. From November 2015 to July 2021, Mr. Browner was the Company's Accounting Manager. From July 2012 to November 2015, Mr. Browner was a staff accountant for the Company. Mr. Browner has a Master of Business Administration in Accounting and a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

John Audibert has been our Vice President of Growth and Strategic Initiatives since March 2020. Mr. Audibert has over 12 years of investment banking, corporate finance and strategy consulting experience. He has been the President of Josselin Capital Advisors, Inc., a company wholly-owned by John Audibert ("JCA"), since October 2019, which provides consulting services to high-growth businesses. He was formerly President of Woodland Way Advisors, Inc., a consulting firm, from January 2015 through December 2020. Mr. Audibert previously worked in the investment banking group of Sandler O'Neill + Partners, L.P. where he provided merger and acquisition advisory as well as capital raising services to middle-market clients. Prior to joining Sandler O'Neill, he was a strategic consultant at Putnam Associates. Mr. Audibert received a bachelor's degree with a concentration in finance from the Carroll School of Management at Boston College. Mr. Audibert was an employee of the Company from March 2020 to May 2021, and since then has continued acting in his current capacity as an independent contractor.

Sheila Johnshoy has been our Chief Operating Officer since March 2022. From June 2021 to February 2022, Ms. Johnshoy was Vice President of Sourcing & Merchandising at SwagUp, LLC, a promotional products service organization. From June 2020 to June 2021, Ms. Johnshoy was the owner and consultant at Sheila Johnshoy Consulting LLC. From May 2018 to June 2020, Ms. Johnshoy was Chief Revenue Officer at promotional products distributor ePromos Promotional Products, LLC, or ePromos, which was listed on ASI's Top 40 Distributors 2022 list. From February 2017 to April 2018, Ms. Johnshoy was Vice President, Merchandising of Vericast's Harland Clarke business. From February 2010 to February 2017, Ms. Johnshoy was Vice President of Marketing at ePromos. Ms. Johnshoy received a Bachelor of Science in Management and Marketing from St. Cloud State University – Herberger Business School, in 1995. Ms. Johnshoy is a 2009 graduate of the Mini MBA Program of the University of St. Thomas – Opus School of Business.

*Ian Wall* has been our Chief Information Officer since January 2024. From April 2021 to November 2023, Mr. Wall was Senior Vice President of Digital Transformation and Service Delivery at Digital Radius. From November 2019 to January 2021, Mr. Wall held several positions at Bentley University, as Interim Vice President and Chief Information Officer from May 2020 to January 2021, and as Executive Director from November 2019 to May 2020. From February 2016 to May 2020, Mr. Wall was Director, Enterprise Applications at Tufts University. From September 2014 to November 2015, Mr. Wall was Director, Enterprise Business Intelligence at Vertex Pharmaceuticals. Mr. Wall received a Masters in Science and Engineering Management from Tufts University Gordon Institute and a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts from University of Massachusetts Amherst.

*Travis McCourt* has been a member of our board of directors since November 2021. Mr. McCourt has over 20 years of experience from the financial industry working with companies to optimize their operational and financial procedures. In June 2014, he founded Conchoid Capital Fund where he still serves as a principal. From May 2012 to December 2014, he was a Principal at the investment firm McCourt. From November 2007 to May 2012, he was the Vice President of Alternative Capital Markets at Goldman Sachs (NYSE: GS). From November 2004 to December 2007, he served as a Front Office Executive for the Los Angeles Dodgers. Mr. McCourt graduated from Georgetown University. We believe that Mr. McCourt is qualified to serve on our board of directors due to his investment management, buyout analysis, capital markets, investor relations and other business experience. Our board also determined that Mr. McCourt qualifies as an "audit committee financial expert" as defined by Item 407(d)(5) of Regulation S-K.

*Alan Chippindale* has been a member of our board of directors since November 2021. Mr. Chippindale has been President of Engage & Excel Enterprises Inc., or Engage & Excel, an employee recruitment and M&A consulting company, since July 2017. From January 2008 to June 2017, Mr. Chippindale was Chief Business Development Officer of BrandAlliance Inc., a promotional products distributor. Mr. Chippindale graduated from Bowling Green State University with a bachelor degree in International Business and Marketing. Mr. Chippindale has been listed on the ASI Power 50 five times, was Chief Executive Officer and a director of BrandAlliance Inc., and was President of Proforma Inc. from September 1987 to December 2004. He is a leading business development, recruiting and merger and acquisition consultant for the promotional products industry, a strategic think tank member, and a certified marketing professional. He has managed over 100 business combinations and the recruiting of over 1,000 sales professionals. We believe that Mr. Chippindale is qualified to serve on our board of directors due to his leading role in the promotional products industry.

*Alejandro Tani* has been a member of our board of directors since November 2021. Mr. Tani has vast experience from the technology, oil and gas industry and has several successful startups behind him. He is the current owner of Clair Trading, an import and export business since January 2007. He has also been Chief Information Officer and Chief Executive Officer of Innovative Genetics Inc., or IG, a packaging and intellectual property company with a biotech arm serving the cannabis industry, and a Director and Partner of Green Beehive II LLC, a cannabis manufacturing company, since February 2017. Mr. Tani graduated from University Catolica Andres Bello - the largest and oldest Catholic university in Venezuela. We believe that Mr. Tani is qualified to serve on our board of directors due to his business experience. Our board also determined that Mr. Tani qualifies as an "audit committee financial expert" as defined by Item 407(d)(5) of Regulation S-K.

Ashley L. Marshall has been a member of our board of directors since November 2021. Since September 2022, Ms. Marshall has been retired. From December 2021 to September 2022, Ms. Marshall was Merchandise Manager Lighting - Birch Lane at e-commerce furniture and home goods retailer Wayfair (NYSE: W). From January 2015 to September 2021, Ms. Marshall was in the following planner positions with off-price apparel retailer The TJX Companies, Inc. (NYSE: TJX): Allocation Analyst, January 2015 to December 2015; Senior Analyst, December 2015; to September 2017; and Associate Planner, September 2017 to September 2021. From January 2014 to December 2015, Ms. Marshall was an attorney in the United States Treasury Department. Ms. Marshall earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Mississippi and a Juris Doctor from The George Washington University Law School. We believe that Ms. Marshall is qualified to serve on our board of directors due to her over five years' experience developing business strategy for TJX, a leading global retailer, and her background in law.

# Arrangements Between Officers and Directors

Our directors currently have terms which will end at our next annual meeting of the stockholders or until their successors are elected and qualify, subject to their prior death, resignation or removal. Officers serve at the discretion of the board of directors. There is no arrangement or understanding between any director or executive officer and any other person pursuant to which he was or is to be selected as a director, nominee or officer.

#### Family Relationships

There are no family relationships among any of our officers or directors.

#### **Involvement in Certain Legal Proceedings**

To the best of our knowledge, except as described below, none of our directors or executive officers has, during the past ten years:

- been convicted in a criminal proceeding or been subject to a pending criminal proceeding (excluding traffic violations and other minor offences);
- had any bankruptcy petition filed by or against the business or property of the person, or of any partnership, corporation or business association of which he was a
  general partner or executive officer, either at the time of the bankruptcy filing or within two years prior to that time;
- been subject to any order, judgment, or decree, not subsequently reversed, suspended or vacated, of any court of competent jurisdiction or federal or state authority, permanently or temporarily enjoining, barring, suspending or otherwise limiting, his involvement in any type of business, securities, futures, commodities, investment, banking, savings and loan, or insurance activities, or to be associated with persons engaged in any such activity;
- been found by a court of competent jurisdiction in a civil action or by the SEC or the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to have violated a federal or state securities or commodities law, and the judgment has not been reversed, suspended, or vacated;
- been the subject of, or a party to, any federal or state judicial or administrative order, judgment, decree, or finding, not subsequently reversed, suspended or vacated
  (not including any settlement of a civil proceeding among private litigants), relating to an alleged violation of any federal or state securities or commodities law or
  regulation, any law or regulation respecting financial institutions or insurance companies including, but not limited to, a temporary or permanent injunction, order of
  disgorgement or restitution, civil money penalty or temporary or permanent cease-and-desist order, or removal or prohibition order, or any law or regulation
  prohibiting mail or wire fraud or fraud in connection with any business entity; or
- been the subject of, or a party to, any sanction or order, not subsequently reversed, suspended or vacated, of any self-regulatory organization (as defined in Section 3(a) (26) of the Exchange Act (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(26))), any registered entity (as defined in Section 1(a)(29) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 1(a)(29))), or any equivalent exchange, association, entity or organization that has disciplinary authority over its members or persons associated with a member.



# **Committees of the Board of Directors**

Our board of directors established the Company's Audit Committee, Compensation Committee, Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, and Disclosure Controls and Procedures Committee, each with its own charter approved by the board. Each committee's charter is available on our website at https://ir.stran.com//.

In addition, our board of directors may, from time to time, designate one or more additional committees, which shall have the duties and powers granted to it by our board of directors.

For further related discussion, see Item 13. "Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence – Director Independence – Committees of the Board of Directors".

#### Audit Committee and Audit Committee Members

Our Audit Committee was established in accordance with section 3(a)(58)(A) of the Exchange Act. Travis McCourt, Alejandro Tani, and Ashley Marshall, each of whom has been determined by our board of directors to satisfy the "independence" requirements of Rule 10A-3 under the Exchange Act and Nasdaq's rules, serve on our Audit Committee, with Mr. McCourt serving as the chairman. Our board has determined that each of Mr. McCourt and Mr. Tani qualifies as an "audit committee financial expert" as defined by Item 407(d)(5) of Regulation S-K.

#### **Material Changes to Director Nomination Procedures**

There have been no material changes to the procedures by which stockholders may recommend nominees to our board of directors since such procedures were last disclosed.

#### **Code of Ethics and Business Conduct**

We have adopted a Code of Ethics and Business Conduct that applies to all of our directors, officers and employees, including our principal executive officer, principal financial officer and principal accounting officer. Such Code of Ethics and Business Conduct addresses, among other things, honesty and ethical conduct, conflicts of interest, compliance with laws, regulations and policies, including disclosure requirements under the federal securities laws, and reporting of violations of the code.

The full text of the Code of Ethics and Business Conduct is posted on our website at https://ir.stran.com/. Any waiver of the Code of Ethics and Business Conduct for directors or executive officers must be approved by our Audit Committee. We will disclose future amendments to our Code of Ethics and Business Conduct, or waivers from our Code of Ethics and Business Conduct for our principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller, or persons performing similar functions, on our website within four business days following the date of the amendment or waiver. In addition, we will disclose any waiver from our Code of Ethics and Business Conduct for our other executive officers and our directors on our website. A copy of our Code of Ethics and Business Conduct will also be provided free of charge upon request to: Secretary, Stran & Company, Inc., 2 Heritage Drive, Suite 600, Quincy, MA 02171.

# **Insider Trading Policy**

Effective March 27, 2023, we adopted a new insider trading policy that applies to all our executive officers, directors and key employees. The insider trading policy codifies the legal and ethical principles that govern trading in our securities by persons associated with the Company that may possess material nonpublic information relating to the Company. A copy of the insider trading policy is filed as Exhibit 99.1 to this Annual Report.

# **Delinquent Section 16(a) Reports**

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act requires our directors and executive officers and beneficial holders of more than 10% of our shares of common stock to file with the SEC initial reports of ownership and reports of changes in ownership of our equity securities. We believe, based solely on a review of the copies of such reports furnished to us and representations of these persons, that all reports were timely filed for the year ended December 31, 2023 and prior years, except as otherwise disclosed in our previous filings with the SEC and as follows: A late Form 4 was filed for Alan Chippindale on June 29, 2023 relating to a purchase of shares of common stock on June 23, 2023.

# ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION.

#### Summary Compensation Table - Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

The following table sets forth information concerning all cash and non-cash compensation awarded to, earned by or paid to the named persons for services rendered in all capacities during the noted periods. No other executive officers received total annual salary and bonus compensation in excess of \$100,000 during 2023.

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary (\$)	Bonus (\$)	Stock Awards (\$)	Option Awards (\$)	All Other Compensation (\$)	Total (\$)
Andrew Shape, President and	2023	400,000	50,000	-	-	31,220 <sup>(1)</sup>	481,220
Chief Executive Officer	2022	400,000	-	-	-	121,918 <sup>(1)</sup>	521,918
David Browner,	2023	235,577	26,250	67,950 <sup>(2)</sup>	64,963 <sup>(3)</sup>	9,000	403,740
Chief Financial Officer	2022	169,426	-	-	-	4,051	173,477
Andrew Stranberg,	2023	500,000	-	-	-	-	500,000
Executive Chairman	2022	500,000	-	-	-	-	500,000
Randolph Birney,	2023	300,000	-	-	-	86,581 <sup>(4)</sup>	386,581
Vice President	2022	300,000	-	-	-	131,742 <sup>(4)</sup>	431,742
Stephen Paradiso,	2023	167,596	175,000	-	-	-	342,596
Former Chief of Staff <sup>(5)</sup>	2022	176,346	-	-	-	-	176,346

(1) Under the Shape Employment Agreement (as defined below), Mr. Shape was entitled to the payment of \$10,000 per month during 2023 and 2022 as repayment of sales commissions totaling approximately \$140,927 that had been earned in previous years, when the Company has "available cash," defined as sufficient cash to ensure that the Company is not at material risk of default on any material financial obligation due in the next three months. During 2022, Mr. Shape was entitled to \$120,000 in total payments toward prior-year commissions in addition to accrued interest of \$1,918, and was paid \$90,000 towards these commissions. During 2023, Mr. Shape became entitled to an additional \$20,927 in total payments toward these prior-year commissions and accrued interest of \$293. All \$30,927 of outstanding payable prior-year commissions were paid to Mr. Shape during 2023. All outstanding accrued interest upon prior-year commissions payable to Mr. Shape was orally waived on March 25, 2024.

- (2) On April 14, 2023, David Browner became entitled to awards of up to 35,000 shares of common stock subject to performance conditions with respect to the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023. The aggregate grant date fair value of these awards was computed based upon the probable outcome of such conditions consistent with the estimate of aggregate compensation cost to be recognized over the service period determined as of the grant date under FASB ASC Topic 718, excluding the effect of estimated forfeitures, and based upon the assumptions described in Note Q to the Company's financial statements beginning on page F-1 of this Annual Report. The maximum aggregate grant date fair value of these awards was \$60,200 assuming that the highest level of performance conditions will be achieved. In addition, on February 15, 2024, Mr. Browner was granted 5,000 shares of common stock as a bonus award with respect to the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023. The aggregate grant date fair value of this ANNUAL REPORT.
- (3) On April 14, 2023, David Browner was granted an option to purchase 100,000 shares of common stock. The option vests subject to performance conditions with respect to the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023. The aggregate grant date fair value of this award was computed based upon the probable outcome of such conditions consistent with the estimate of aggregate compensation cost to be recognized over the service period determined as of the grant date under FASB ASC Topic 718, excluding the effect of estimated forfeitures, and based upon the assumptions described in Note Q to the Company's financial statements beginning on page F-1 of this Annual Report. The maximum aggregate grant date fair value of the award was \$60,800 assuming that the highest level of performance conditions will be achieved. On February 15, 2024, Mr. Browner was granted an option to purchase 7,500 shares of common stock as a bonus award with respect to the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023. The aggregate grant date fair value of this award was computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718 based on the assumptions described in Note Q to the Company's financial statements beginning on page F-1 of this Annual Report.
- (4) Under the Birney Employment Agreement (as defined below), Mr. Birney was entitled to the payment of \$10,000 per month during 2022 as repayment of sales commissions totaling approximately \$197,110 that had been earned in previous years, when the Company has "available cash," defined as sufficient cash to ensure that the Company is not at material risk of default on any material financial obligation due in the next three months. During 2022, Mr. Birney was entitled to \$120,000 in total payments toward these prior-year commissions in addition to accrued interest of \$2,742, and was paid \$120,000. During 2023, Mr. Birney became entitled to approximately \$77,110 toward these prior-year commissions and was entitled to accrued interest of \$471, and was paid \$77,110 toward these prior year commissions. Effective January 2, 2024, Mr. Birney was no longer an "executive officer" of the Company as such term is defined under Rule 3b-7 of the Exchange Act. Mr. Birney remained an employee of the Company. Mr. Birney also received \$9,000 as an automobile allowance in each of 2022 and 2023. All outstanding accrued interest upon prior-year commissions payable to Mr. Shape was orally waived on March 25, 2024.
- (5) Stephen Paradiso resigned from his position with the Company effective December 1, 2023.

# **Executive Officer Employment and Consulting Agreements**

#### **Employment Agreement with Andrew Shape**

Under our employment agreement with our Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Shape, dated July 13, 2021 and effective as of November 8, 2021 (the "Shape Employment Agreement"), we agreed that, for a three-year term, unless terminated earlier in accordance with its terms, we will pay Mr. Shape an annual salary of \$400,000 and will be eligible to receive an annual cash bonus as determined by the board of directors. Pursuant to the Shape Employment Agreement, on November 12, 2021, we awarded Mr. Shape a stock option for the purchase of 323,810 shares of the Company's common stock with an exercise price equal to the price per share paid by investors in the IPO, or \$4.15 per share. The stock option will vest over a four-year period with 25% of the option vesting on the first anniversary of the date of grant and the balance of the option (75%) vesting monthly over the following three years after the first anniversary of the date of grant at a rate of 1/36 per month. The parties acknowledged that Mr. Shape was owed sales commissions for sales generated for the Company during 2018, 2019 and 2020 in the gross amount of \$140,926.69 that were earned and due to Mr. Shape as of a date prior to the date of the Shape Employment Agreement and that Mr. Shape did not waive his right to these sales commissions by entering into the Shape Employment Agreement. Beginning on the date of the Shape Employment Agreement, and continuing thereafter, interest at the rate of 2% per annum accrues on unpaid earned sales commissions. Beginning one month after the effective date of the Shape Employment Agreement, the Company was required to pay Mr. Shape the gross amount of \$10,000 per month towards Mr. Shape's unpaid earned sales commissions, less deductions applicable to wages, or such lesser amount as the Company can afford, when the Company had "available cash," defined as sufficient cash to ensure that the Company is not at material risk of default on any material financial obligation due in the next three months. Whether the Company has "available cash" shall be determined by the board of directors in its reasonable discretion, acting in good faith, taking into account any factors it deems germane, including without limitation the maintenance of reserves for future liabilities, whether certain or uncertain, and the preservation of funds for capital expenditures. At the earlier of the termination of Mr. Shape's employment for any reason, regardless of whether termination is for cause, and 30 months after the date of the Shape Employment Agreement, Mr. Shape shall have the right to demand immediate payment of all unpaid earned sales commissions and interest in cash. Mr. Shape will be provided with standard executive benefits. The Company will also provide standard indemnification and directors' and officers' insurance. The Company may terminate Mr. Shape's employment by giving at least 30 days written notice. If we terminate Mr. Shape without cause or he resigns for good reason as provided under the Shape Employment Agreement, we must pay at least 24 months' severance, reimbursement of Mr. Shape for the first 18 months of the premiums associated with Mr. Shape's continuation of health insurance for him and his family pursuant to COBRA, and immediate vesting of any outstanding unvested equity granted to Mr. Shape during his employment and immediate lifting of all lockups and restrictions on sales of such equity, or exercise of stock options. If we do not renew the Shape Employment Agreement after the initial three-year term, then we must pay six months' severance and reimburse the first six months of the premiums associated with Mr. Shape's continuation of health insurance for him and his family pursuant to COBRA. Mr. Shape is also subject to standard confidentiality and noncompetition provisions.

On February 15, 2024, in connection with the Company's fiscal year 2023 executive bonus determinations, the Compensation Committee determined that Mr. Shape would be awarded a \$50,000 cash bonus.

Mr. Shape has executed the Company's standard Indemnification Agreement with officers and directors. Mr. Shape is covered by the Company's directors and officers insurance policy as an executive officer.

The foregoing description of the Shape Employment Agreement is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of such agreement, a copy of which is filed as Exhibit 10.5 to this Annual Report.



## **Employment Agreement with David Browner**

From January 1, 2022 to July 28, 2022, David Browner, then the Company's Controller, was provided an annual salary of \$150,000 and standard employee benefits on an at will basis. As of July 29, 2022, Mr. Browner was appointed as the Company's Interim Chief Financial Officer. In connection with the appointment, effective as of July 29, 2022, Mr. Browner's salary was increased to \$200,000, and Mr. Browner was provided with a \$750 monthly car allowance. On March 27, 2023, Mr. Browner was appointed as the Company's Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Browner's compensation was left unchanged pending review by the Compensation Committee.

On April 14, 2023, the Compensation Committee approved an Employment Agreement with Mr. Browner (the "Browner Employment Agreement"), and it was entered into as of the same date. Under the Browner Employment Agreement, Mr. Browner will continue to be employed as the Company's Chief Financial Officer and will continue to function as its principal financial officer and principal accounting officer during the term of the agreement. The initial term of the agreement will be two years and will automatically extend an additional year each year unless one party gives 60 days' notice before the end of the term, unless terminated earlier in accordance with its terms as described below. Mr. Browner will receive an annual base salary of \$250,000. In addition, the Company will pay up to \$750 per month to maintain a leased automobile for business use by Mr. Browner.

For each fiscal year during the term of the Browner Employment Agreement, Mr. Browner will receive up to three cash bonuses and six equity bonuses depending on the board's or the Compensation Committee's certification of the Company's attainment of the performance conditions provided for in the agreement. The performance conditions will be based on an annual sales target, an annual gross profit target, and an annual net profit target. Each target will be set by the board, the Compensation Committee, or an executive officer or other party delegated with such authority other than Mr. Browner, for the applicable fiscal year. Each target will generally be measured against the audited U.S. GAAP-compliant financial statements of the Company for that year, except that net profit or the equivalent item will be adjusted to exclude expenses related to annual bonus payments to the Company's executive officers or members of its management team. The annual targets for fiscal year 2023 for purposes of the Browner Employment Agreement were determined by the Compensation Committee to be \$72,000,000 for the annual sales target, \$21,600,000 for the gross profit target, and \$1,080,000 for the net profit target.

Each portion of an equity bonus consisting of common stock will be granted upon certification of attainment of the respective target. Each portion of an equity bonus consisting of vesting of a stock option will relate to a stock option that was or will be granted on the date of the Browner Employment Agreement and at the beginning of each subsequent fiscal year during the term of the Browner Employment Agreement under a standard form of stock option agreement. In accordance with the Browner Employment Agreement, on April 14, 2023, the Company granted Mr. Browner a stock option for the purchase of 100,000 shares of common stock at an exercise price of \$1.72 per share, which was the closing price of the common stock on the Nasdaq Capital Market on the date immediately preceding the date of grant, and which vests and becomes exercisable upon certification of attainment of the applicable targets by the board or the Compensation Committee in accordance with the equity bonus terms described below.

An annual sales-based cash bonus will be awarded based on the percentage of the annual sales target that is certified as attained, as follows: (a) \$1,250 if 95% of the target is certified as attained; (b) \$5,000 if 100% of the target is certified as attained; (c) \$7,500 if 110% of the target is certified as attained; or (d) \$10,000 if 120% of the target is certified as attained. An annual gross profit-based cash bonus will also be awarded based on the percentage of an annual gross profit target that is attained, as follows: (a) \$6,250 if 95% of the target is certified as attained, (b) \$25,000 if 100% of the target is certified as attained; (c) \$37,500 if 110% of the target is certified as attained; or (d) \$50,000 if 120% of the target is certified as attained. An annual net profit-based cash bonus will also be awarded based on the percentage of annual net profit target that is certified as attained; or (d) \$50,000 if 120% of the target is certified as attained. An annual net profit-based cash bonus will also be awarded based on the percentage of annual net profit target that is certified as attained, as follows: (a) \$5,000 if 95% of the target is certified as attained, (b) \$20,000 if 100% of the target is certified as attained; (c) \$30,000 if 110% of the target is certified as attained; (c) \$30,000 if 110% of the target is certified as attained; (c) \$30,000 if 110% of the target is certified as attained; or (d) \$40,000 if 120% of the target is certified as attained. In accordance with the Browner Employment Agreement, each cash bonus will be paid in three equal installments in the third, fourth and fifth months of the fiscal year following the fiscal year in which the respective target or targets are attained upon certification of the attainment of the respective target or targets.

Five of the six annual equity bonuses will consist of the grant of fully-vested shares of common stock and the vesting of a portion of the stock option granted each year under the Browner Employment Agreement. The other annual equity bonus will consist of the vesting of a portion of such stock option only. In each case, each annual equity bonus will be based on whether such bonus's designated target or target percentage is certified as attained, as follows: (1) grant of 5,000 shares and vesting of the stock option as to 7,500 shares if the annual sales target is certified as attained; (2) grant of 5,000 shares and vesting of the stock option as to 7,500 shares if the annual gross profit target is certified as attained; (3) grant of 5,000 shares and vesting of the stock option as to 7,500 shares if the stock option as to 12,500 shares if 125% of the annual net profit target is certified as attained; (5) grant of 10,000 shares and vesting of the stock option as to 15,000 shares if 150% of the annual net profit target is certified as attained; as attained; (6) vesting of the stock option as to 2,000 shares for every \$100,000 by which net profit is certified as exceeding 150% the annual net profit target, up to a maximum of 50,000 shares.

All equity bonuses under the Browner Employment Agreement will be awarded under the Plan. The Plan provides that to the extent that equity bonuses of grants of common stock are designated Performance Compensation Awards (as defined by the Plan) by the board or the Compensation Committee and to the extent that each fiscal year constitutes a Performance Period (as defined by the Plan), pursuant to the Plan, such awards must be granted as soon as administratively practicable following completion of the certification of the attainment of the performance conditions for such awards but in no event later than 2 1/2 months following the end during which the respective Performance Period is completed. Otherwise, such grants will be considered Performance Shares (as defined by the Plan) and will be granted when certified by the board or the Compensation Committee.

Under the Browner Employment Agreement, Mr. Browner will also be eligible for additional bonus amounts as determined by the board or the Compensation Committee within its sole discretion. Mr. Browner will receive unlimited paid time off and paid public holidays, standard executive benefits, standard directors and officers indemnification and insurance coverage, and business-related expense reimbursements.

On February 15, 2024, in connection with the Company's fiscal year 2023 executive bonus determinations, the Compensation Committee certified the attainment of the performance conditions under the Browner Agreement for the award of a \$26,250 cash bonus, the grant of 5,000 shares of common stock, and the vesting of the stock option granted to Mr. Browner on April 14, 2023 as to 7,500 shares of common stock.

Mr. Browner's employment is terminable with cause upon certain grounds by written notice, subject to a 30-day notice and cure period with respect to certain of these grounds for termination for cause. Mr. Browner may be terminated without cause upon 30 days' written notice. Mr. Browner may terminate employment with good reason upon certain grounds, subject to a 30-day notice and cure period with respect to certain of these grounds that must begin within 10 days of Mr. Browner's knowledge of the initial existence of the grounds for termination for good reason. The effect of Mr. Browner's termination of the Browner Employment Agreement without complying with the requirements to terminate with good reason will be equivalent to termination with cause. Termination under any provision of the agreement will generally result in the Company's obligation to provide accrued and unpaid or pending cash, equity or other compensation. If the Company terminates Mr. Browner without cause or he terminates for good reason, and provided that Mr. Browner signs the general release and waiver annexed to the agreement within 60 days, the Company will be required to pay the lesser of the number of months' severance remaining under the term of the agreement and either four months if the termination occurs during the first year of the term or three months if the termination occurs during the second year of the term, provided that Mr. Browner receives at least three months' severance; reimburse Mr. Browner for the first 18 months of the premiums associated with Mr. Browner's continuation of health insurance for him and his family pursuant to COBRA; and approve immediate vesting of any outstanding unvested equity awards granted to Mr. Browner during his employment and immediate lifting of all lockups and restrictions on sales or exercise of such awards. If the Company elects not to renew the Browner Employment Agreement, then the Company must pay three months' severance and reimburse the first six months of the premiums associated with Mr. Browner's continuation of health insurance for him and his family pursuant to COBRA. If Mr. Browner is terminated in the event of death or disability, then the Company must approve immediate vesting of any outstanding unvested equity awards granted to Mr. Browner during his employment and immediate lifting of all lockups and restrictions on sales or exercise of such awards. In addition, if the Company does not renew the term of the Browner Employment Agreement and Mr. Browner's termination occurs within 90 days before or 12 months after a Change in Control (as defined by the Browner Employment Agreement), then, provided that Mr. Browner signs the general release and waiver annexed to the agreement within 60 days, the Company must pay the same severance amount as described above in the event of a termination for cause or resignation for good reason; provide the same COBRA benefits as described above in the event of a termination for cause or resignation for good reason; and approve the immediate vesting of all equity awards held by Mr. Browner unless expressly provided otherwise by the governing documents for such awards. The Browner Employment Agreement also contains general confidentiality and non-competition provisions and Mr. Browner's stock option agreement contains general non-competition and nonsolicitation provisions.

The foregoing description of the Browner Employment Agreement is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of such agreement, a copy of which is filed as Exhibit 10.38 to this Annual Report.

Mr. Browner has executed the Company's standard Indemnification Agreement with officers and directors. Mr. Browner is covered by the Company's directors and officers insurance policy as an executive officer.

# **Employment Agreement with Andrew Stranberg**

Under our employment agreement with our Executive Chairman, Andrew Stranberg, dated July 13, 2021 and effective as of November 8, 2021 (the "Stranberg Employment Agreement"), we agreed that, for a three-year term, unless terminated earlier in accordance with its terms, we will pay Mr. Stranberg an annual salary of \$500,000 and will be eligible to receive an annual cash bonus as determined by the board of directors. Pursuant to the Stranberg Employment Agreement, on November 12, 2021, we awarded Mr. Stranberg a stock option for the purchase of 400,000 shares of the Company's common stock with an exercise price equal to the price per share paid by investors in the IPO, or \$4.15 per share. The stock option will vest over a four-year period with 25% of the option vesting on the first anniversary of the date of grant and the balance of the option (75%) vests monthly over the following three years after the first anniversary of the date of grant at a rate of 1/36 per month. Mr. Stranberg will be provided with standard executive benefits. The Company will also provide standard indemnification and directors' and officers' insurance. The Company may terminate Mr. Stranberg's employment Agreement, we must pay at least 20 days written notice. If we terminate Mr. Stranberg without cause or he resigns for good reason as provided under the Stranberg Employment Agreement, we must pay at least 24 months' severance, reimbursement of Mr. Stranberg of any outstanding unvested equity granted to Mr. Stranberg during his employment and immediate vesting of any outstanding unvested equity granted to Mr. Stranberg the initial three-year term, then we must pay six months' severance and reimburse the first six months of the premiums associated with Mr. Stranberg scontinuation of health insurance for him and his family pursuant to COBRA. Mr. Stranberg is also subject to standard confidentiality and noncompetition provisions.

The foregoing description of the Stranberg Employment Agreement is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of such agreement, a copy of which is filed as Exhibit 10.6 to this Annual Report.

Mr. Stranberg has executed the Company's standard Indemnification Agreement with officers and directors. Mr. Stranberg is covered by the Company's directors and officers insurance policy as an executive officer.

# Consulting Agreement with John Audibert and Josselin Capital Advisors, Inc.

Under the Consulting Agreement among John Audibert, JCA, which is Mr. Audibert's his wholly-owned company, and the Company, dated December 2, 2021 (the "Audibert Consulting Agreement"), which was in effect from December 2, 2021 until April 14, 2023, we agreed that, for a 27-month term, unless terminated earlier in accordance with its terms, we will receive the services of JCA and pay or grant JCA the compensation described below, and Mr. Audibert would continue to serve as our Vice President of Growth and Strategic Initiatives. We agreed to pay JCA a signing fee of \$30,000, an annual fee of \$100,000 and a monthly automobile bonus of \$750. We agreed to grant JCA base restricted stock bonuses as follows: (i) 20,000 restricted shares of common stock, granted as of the agreement date, which vested on the three-month anniversary of the date of grant; (ii) 20,000 additional fully-vested shares of common stock to be granted on the six-month anniversary of the agreement date. Due to an administrative oversight, we did not grant the 20,000 shares required to be granted to JCA on each of the six-month anniversaries of the agreement date as provided under the Audibert Consulting Agreement. JCA agreed to receive these grants in 2023. On April 14, 2023, the Compensation Committee approved the grants.

We also agreed to equity grants to JCA consisting of (i) the grant of an option which may be exercised to purchase 65,000 shares of common stock at the exercise price per share of \$3.90 which will vest based on the attainment of the option's performance conditions, and (ii) fully-vested restricted stock to be granted upon attainment of the same performance conditions, as follows: (a) 10,000 fully-vested restricted shares granted and the stock option vested as to 10,000 shares of common stock if our sales exceed \$21,000,000 combined for any two consecutive quarters or if our market capitalization exceeds \$65,000,000 for twenty-five (25) out of thirty (30) consecutive trading days anytime within the Audibert Consulting Agreement's term; (b) 10,000 additional fully-vested restricted shares granted and the stock option vested as to 10,000 additional shares of common stock if our sales exceed \$25,000,000 combined for any two consecutive quarters or if our market capitalization exceeds \$75,000,000 for twenty-five (25) out of thirty (30) consecutive trading days anytime within the Audibert Consulting Agreement's term; (c) 15,000 additional fully-vested restricted shares granted and the stock option vested as to 20,000 additional shares if our sales exceed \$37,500,000 combined for any two consecutive guarters or if our market capitalization exceeds \$90,000,000 for twenty-five (25) out of thirty (30) consecutive trading days anytime within the Audibert Consulting Agreement's term; and (d) 25,000 additional fully-vested restricted shares granted and the stock option vested as to 25,000 additional shares if our sales exceed \$45,000,000 combined for any two consecutive quarters or if our market capitalization exceeds \$180,000,000 for twenty-five (25) out of thirty (30) consecutive trading days anytime within the Audibert Consulting Agreement's term. "Sales" are determined by our audited or reviewed financial statements and according to U.S. GAAP. Our "market capitalization" is defined as the closing stock price of our common stock as reported by Nasdaq multiplied by the total shares of common stock outstanding as of 4:00 PM E.T. on the date that such closing stock price was determined as reported by our transfer agent. All such grants are subject to standard forms of stock option or restricted stock award agreements and the terms and conditions of the Plan. Pursuant to the Audibert Consulting Agreement, on December 2, 2021, the Company granted a stock option to JCA to purchase up to 65,000 shares of common stock subject to the vesting conditions described above. On March 11, 2022, the Compensation Committee determined that the performance conditions for the vesting of the option as to a total of 20,000 shares of common stock and to the issuance of 20,000 shares of common stock had been met, resulting in vesting of the option as to 20,000 shares and the issuance of 20,000 shares of common stock to JCA.



All equity bonuses under the Audibert Consulting Agreement will be awarded under the Plan. The Plan provides that to the extent that equity bonuses of grants of common stock are designated Performance Compensation Awards (as defined by the Plan) by the board or the Compensation Committee and to the extent that each fiscal year constitutes a Performance Period (as defined by the Plan), pursuant to the Plan, such awards must be granted as soon as administratively practicable following completion of the certification of the attainment of the performance conditions for such awards but in no event later than 2 1/2 months following the end during which the respective Performance Period is completed. Otherwise, such grants will be considered Performance Shares (as defined by the Plan) and will be granted when certified by the board or the Compensation Committee.

Upon the occurrence of a change in control during the Audibert Consulting Agreement's term, whether or not JCA's engagement is terminated, or upon JCA's termination without cause, all restricted stock, stock option, stock appreciation right or similar awards granted to or pending grant to and held by JCA will immediately vest and no longer be subject to forfeiture, unless expressly provided otherwise in the governing documents for such awards. For each fiscal year completed during the Audibert Consulting Agreement's term, JCA was also eligible to receive additional bonuses as determined by the board. Both we and JCA were permitted to terminate the Audibert Consulting Agreement by giving at least 30 days' written notice. If we or JCA terminated the Audibert Consulting Agreement without cause as provided under the Audibert Consulting Agreement, and JCA and Mr. Audibert delivered their signatures to the general release and waiver form annexed to the Audibert Consulting Agreement, we were required to make a \$25,000 severance payment. JCA and Mr. Audibert were also subject to certain independent contractor, non-solicitation, confidentiality and non-interference provisions under the Audibert Consulting Agreement and restricted stock award agreement.

On June 29, 2023, the rights to all equity awards that had been granted to JCA under the Audibert Consulting Agreement were distributed or transferred to Mr. Audibert.

The foregoing description of the Audibert Consulting Agreement is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of such agreement, a copy of which is filed as Exhibit 10.28 to this Annual Report.

#### Amended and Restated Consulting Agreement with John Audibert and Josselin Capital Advisors, Inc.

On April 14, 2023, the Compensation Committee approved an Amended and Restated Consulting Agreement (the "A&R Audibert Consulting Agreement") with John Audibert, the Company's Vice President of Growth and Strategic Initiatives, and JCA, Mr. Audibert's wholly-owned company, and was entered into as of the same date. The A&R Audibert Consulting Agreement amended and restated the Audibert Consulting Agreement. However, a stock option granted to JCA on December 2, 2021 under the Audibert Consulting Agreement and pursuant to the Plan, subsequently assigned to Mr. Audibert, remains outstanding. See "*—Consulting Agreement with John Audibert and Josselin Capital Advisors, Inc.*" for the terms of this stock option.

Under the A&R Audibert Consulting Agreement, JCA will continue to provide services to the Company in connection with Mr. Audibert's position as an executive officer of the Company for a 24-month term, unless terminated earlier in accordance with its terms as described below. JCA will receive an annual fee of \$200,000 and a monthly automobile bonus of \$750.

For each fiscal year during the term of the A&R Audibert Consulting Agreement, JCA will receive up to six equity bonuses depending on the board of directors' or the Compensation Committee's certification of the Company's attainment of the performance conditions provided for such bonuses to be granted in the agreement. The performance conditions will be based on an annual sales target and an annual net profit target. Each target will be set by the board, the Compensation Committee, or an executive officer or other party delegated with such authority other than Mr. Audibert, for the applicable fiscal year. Each target will generally be measured against the audited U.S. GAAP-compliant financial statements of the Company for that year, except that net profit or the equivalent item will be adjusted to exclude expenses related to annual bonus payments to the Company's executive officers or members of its management team. The annual targets for fiscal year 2023 for purposes of the A&R Audibert Consulting Agreement were determined by the Compensation Committee to be \$72,000,000 for the annual sales target and \$1,080,000 for the net profit target.

Each fiscal year during the term of the A&R Audibert Consulting Agreement, JCA will be granted restricted common stock with performance conditions for vesting in the number of shares of restricted stock equal to \$80,000 divided by the closing price of the common stock on the Nasdaq Capital Market on the grant date under a standard form of restricted stock award agreement. Each restricted stock grant will vest as to the amounts described below upon certification by the board or the Compensation Committee of attainment of the respective performance targets. For the first term year, the A&R Audibert Consulting Agreement provided that the restricted stock's grant date would be the date of the agreement and the number of shares would be based on the closing price of the common stock on the Nasdaq Capital Market on the later of that date or the date of the approval of the grant by the Board or the Compensation Committee. For the second term year, the restricted stock will be granted at the beginning of the fiscal year upon approval of the agreement, or as otherwise determined by the Board or Compensation Committee. On April 14, 2023, JCA was granted 46,511 shares of restricted common stock on the Nasdaq Capital Market on the date of grant, and such amount was accepted by JCA as the restricted stock grant provided for by the A&R Audibert Consulting Agreement for the initial year of the term of the agreement.

In addition, on the date of the A&R Audibert Consulting Agreement and at the beginning of each subsequent fiscal year during the term of the agreement, JCA will be granted a stock option under a standard form of stock option agreement to purchase the maximum number of shares subject to approval of the board or the Compensation Committee and the equity bonus performance conditions to vesting described below. Accordingly, on April 14, 2023, the Company granted JCA a stock option for the purchase of 180,000 shares of common stock at an exercise price of \$1.72 per share, which was the closing price of the common stock on the Nasdaq Capital Market on the date immediately preceding the date of grant, and which vests and becomes exercisable upon certification of attainment of the applicable targets by the Board or the Compensation Committee in accordance with the equity bonus terms described below.

Each fiscal year during the term of the A&R Audibert Consulting Agreement, JCA will also be granted fully-vested common stock upon, and in an amount based on, the Board's or the Compensation Committee's certification of attainment of the applicable targets in accordance with the equity bonus terms described below.

Two of the equity bonuses will consist of the vesting of a percentage of the restricted stock granted each year under the A&R Audibert Consulting Agreement based on the percentage of the annual sales target that is certified as attained, the percentage of the net profit target that is certified as attained, or both. The restricted stock will vest based on the certification of attainment of the annual sales target as follows: (a) vesting of 5% of the restricted stock if 95% of the annual sales target is certified as attained; (b) 20% of the restricted stock if 100% of the annual sales target is certified as attained; (c) 30% of the restricted stock if 110% of the annual sales target is certified as attained; (c) 40% of the restricted stock if 120% of the annual sales target is certified as attained. The restricted stock will also vest based on the certified attainment of the annual net profit target is certified as attained; (b) 30% of the restricted stock if 100% of the annual net profit target is certified as attained; (c) 45% of the restricted stock if 110% of the annual net profit target is certified as attained; (c) 45% of the restricted stock if 110% of the annual net profit target is certified as attained; or (d) 60% of the restricted stock if 120% of the annual net profit target is certified as attained; or (d) 60% of the restricted stock if 120% of the annual net profit target is certified as attained; or (d) 60% of the restricted stock if 120% of the annual net profit target is certified as attained; or (d) 60% of the restricted stock if 120% of the annual net profit target is certified as attained.

Two of the other equity bonuses will consist of the grant of fully-vested shares of common stock and the vesting of a portion of the stock option granted each year under the A&R Audibert Consulting Agreement, and two of the other equity bonuses will consist of the vesting of a portion of such stock option only, in each case based on whether each bonus's designated target or target percentage is certified as attained, as follows: (1) grant of 8,000 shares and vesting of the stock option as to 40,000 shares if the annual sales target is certified as attained; (2) grant of 12,000 shares and vesting of the stock option as to 50,000 shares if 125% of the annual net profit target is certified as attained; and (4) vesting of the stock option as to 50,000 shares if 150% of the annual net profit target is certified as attained.

All equity bonuses under the A&R Audibert Consulting Agreement will be awarded under the Plan. The Plan provides that to the extent that equity bonuses of grants of common stock are designated Performance Compensation Awards (as defined by the Plan) by the board or the Compensation Committee and to the extent that each fiscal year constitutes a Performance Period (as defined by the Plan), pursuant to the Plan, such awards must be granted as soon as administratively practicable following completion of the certification of the attainment of the performance conditions for such awards but in no event later than 2 1/2 months following the end during which the respective Performance Period is completed. Otherwise, such grants will be considered Performance Shares (as defined by the Plan) and will be granted when certified by the board or the Compensation Committee.

Under the A&R Audibert Consulting Agreement, JCA will also be eligible for additional bonus amounts as determined by the Board or the Compensation Committee within its sole discretion. JCA will provide services under the A&R Audibert Consulting Agreement as an independent contractor. JCA and Mr. Audibert will not receive employee or executive benefits. JCA and Mr. Audibert will be solely responsible for any business-related expenses.

On February 15, 2024, in connection with the Company's fiscal year 2023 executive bonus determinations, the Compensation Committee certified the attainment of the performance conditions under the A&R Audibert Consulting Agreement for the vesting of 2,339 shares of the restricted stock initially granted to JCA on April 14, 2023. In addition, the Compensation Committee awarded discretionary bonuses of a cash bonus of \$10,000 to JCA, the grant of an additional 2,661 shares of common stock to Mr. Audibert, and the grant of an option to purchase 7,500 shares of common stock to Mr. Audibert at an exercise price of \$1.55 per share, which was equal to the last reported price of the common stock of the Company on Nasdaq on the date of grant.

Upon the occurrence of a Change in Control (as defined by the A&R Audibert Consulting Agreement) during the A&R Audibert Consulting Agreement's term, whether or not JCA's engagement is terminated, or upon JCA's termination without cause, all restricted stock, stock option, stock appreciation right or similar awards granted to or pending grant to and held by JCA will immediately vest and will no longer be subject to forfeiture, unless expressly provided otherwise in the governing documents for such awards. Either the Company or JCA may terminate the Agreement for material breach and failure to cure such breach within 15 days of receipt of notice by the non-breaching party. Both the Company and JCA may terminate the A&R Audibert Consulting Agreement without cause by giving at least 30 days' written notice. Termination under any provision of the Agreement will generally result in the Company's obligation to provide accrued and unpaid or pending cash, equity or other compensation. If the Company or JCA terminates the agreement without cause as provided under the agreement, and JCA and Mr. Audibert then deliver their signatures to the general release and waiver form annexed to the consulting agreement within 60 days, then the Company must pay JCA a \$50,000 fee.

JCA and Mr. Audibert are also subject to general confidentiality and non-interference provisions under the consulting agreement and general non-competition and non-solicitation provisions in JCA's stock option agreement and restricted stock award agreement.

On June 29, 2023, the rights to all equity awards that had been granted to JCA and rights to equity awards that may be granted to JCA under the A&R Consulting Agreement were distributed or transferred to Mr. Audibert. The Company will make any future awards under the A&R Consulting Agreement to Mr. Audibert directly.

The foregoing description of the A&R Consulting Agreement is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of such agreement, a copy of which is filed as Exhibit 10.39 to this Annual Report.

Mr. Audibert has executed the Company's standard Indemnification Agreement with officers and directors. Mr. Audibert is covered by the Company's directors and officers insurance policy as an executive officer.

### **Employment Agreement with Sheila Johnshoy**

The Company and Sheila Johnshoy, Chief Operating Officer, are parties to an employment letter agreement, dated as of March 11, 2022 (the "Johnshoy Agreement"). Under the Johnshoy Agreement, Ms. Johnshoy will receive an initial annual base salary of \$250,000 and potential salary and annual bonus increases in future years based on the successful achievement of personal and business-related goals. With respect to fiscal year 2022, Ms. Johnshoy was also entitled to receive an annual performance cash bonus with a target bonus percentage of 25%, 50%, 75%, or 100% of base salary, conditioned on (i) the occurrence of annual revenue of the Company of \$10 million, \$53 million, \$60 million, or \$70 million, respectively, provided that the Company also has normalized annual operating profit for any annual cash bonus of 50%, 75% or 100% of base salary, or (ii) the discretionary approval of the Company's Chief Executive Officer, subject to approval by the Compensation Committee. In accordance with the Johnshoy Agreement, Ms. Johnshoy received a cash bonus consisting of 50% of base salary earned during 2022, or \$100,000, due to the occurrence of annual revenue of more than \$53 million and normalized annual operating profit during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022.

In addition, under the Johnshoy Agreement, on March 11, 2022, Ms. Johnshoy was granted 5,000 shares of common stock and a stock option to purchase 40,000 shares at an exercise price per share of \$1.60, which was the closing price of the common stock on the Nasdaq Capital Market on March 11, 2022. The stock option was immediately vested as to 5,000 shares of common stock and otherwise subject to a six-month lock-up provision and certain performance conditions to vesting described as follows. Upon the occurrence of the following annual revenue amounts of the Company or at the discretionary approval of the Company's Chief Executive Officer, subject in each case to final approval by the Compensation Committee, Ms. Johnshoy will be granted up to 35,000 additional shares of common stock and the stock option will vest as to 35,000 shares of common stock, as follows: (a) grant of 5,000 shares and the vesting of the stock option as to 10,000 shares upon attainment of annual revenue of \$60 million, (c) grant of 10,000 shares upon attainment of annual revenue of \$80 million. On April 14, 2023, the Compensation Committee certified the attainment of the performance conditions for the grant of 5,000 shares of common stock and the vesting of the stock option as to 5,000 shares of common stock and the vesting of the stock option as to 5,000 shares upon attainment of annual revenue of \$60 million. On April 14, 2023, the Compensation Committee certified the attainment of the performance conditions for the grant of 5,000 shares of common stock and the vesting of the stock option as to 5,000 shares of common stock and the vesting of the stock option as to 5,000 shares of common stock and the vesting of the stock option as to 5,000 shares of common stock and the vesting of the stock option as to 10,000 shares upon attainment of annual revenue of \$80 million. On April 14, 2023, the Compensation Committee certified the attainment of the performance conditions for the grant of 5,000 shares of common stock and the vesting of the stock

Additionally, under the Johnshoy Agreement, if a trailing 12-month revenue of the Company of \$250 million occurs within 3.5 years of Ms. Johnshoy's start of employment, she will earn an additional bonus of 100,000 shares of common stock. All equity compensation under the Johnshoy Agreement has been and will be made under standard forms of award agreements under the Plan unless otherwise disclosed.

All annual equity compensation awards under the Johnshoy Agreement must be reviewed and provided if applicable no later than March 15 of the following fiscal year. This requirement is in addition to the requirements under the Plan, which provides that to the extent that equity bonuses of grants of common stock are designated Performance Compensation Awards (as defined by the Plan) by the board or the Compensation Committee and to the extent that each fiscal year constitutes a Performance Period (as defined by the Plan), pursuant to the Plan, such awards must be granted as soon as administratively practicable following completion of the certification of the attainment of the performance conditions for such awards but in no event later than 2 1/2 months following the end during which the respective Performance Period is completed. Otherwise, such grants will be considered Performance Shares (as defined by the Plan) and will be granted when certified by the board or the Compensation Committee.

After the first year of employment, all cash and equity bonus compensation goals and bonus figures will be reviewed. Benchmarks and bonus percentages are to be adjusted each year based on changing business factors.

On February 15, 2024, the Compensation Committee determined that the cash and equity bonus compensation performance conditions under the Johnshoy Agreement for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023 would be the same cash and equity bonus compensation provided for under the Browner Agreement for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023. In accordance with the foregoing, the Compensation Committee approved the following bonuses for Ms. Johnshoy: The award of a cash payment of \$26,250, the grant of 5,000 shares of common stock, and the grant of a fully vested stock option to purchase 7,500 shares of common stock at an exercise price of \$1.55 per share, which was equal to the last reported price of the common stock of the Company on Nasdaq on the date of grant.

Ms. Johnshoy is entitled to severance benefits equal to four months' salary if terminated without Cause (as defined in the Johnshoy Agreement) during the first year of employment and two months' salary if terminated during the second year of employment. Ms. Johnshoy will be eligible to receive certain health care, dental, life insurance, disability, and retirement benefits after three months' employment. Ms. Johnshoy will receive unlimited vacation days encompassing vacation, personal and sick days, subject to two weeks' notice and approval whenever possible.

The Johnshoy Agreement and Ms. Johnshoy's equity award agreements have general non-solicitation provisions but do not have non-competition provisions. Ms. Johnshoy is also subject to a standard non-disclosure requirement under the Johnshoy Agreement.

The foregoing description of the Johnshoy Agreement is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of such agreement, a copy of which is filed as Exhibit 10.34 to this Annual Report.

Ms. Johnshoy has executed the Company's standard Indemnification Agreement with officers and directors. Ms. Johnshoy is covered by the Company's directors and officers insurance policy as an executive officer.



### **Employment Agreement with Ian Wall**

The Company and Ian Wall, its Chief Information Officer, are parties to an employment letter agreement, dated as of December 11, 2023 (the "Wall Employment Agreement"). Under the Wall Employment Agreement, Mr. Wall will receive an initial annual base salary of \$265,000 and potential salary and annual bonus increases in future years based on the successful achievement of personal and business-related goals. Mr. Wall will receive a monthly car and phone allowance of \$750. Mr. Wall also received a signing bonus of a stock option to purchase 15,000 shares of common stock which vests immediately as to one-third and as to each remaining third each subsequent year subject to its terms and conditions. On January 29, 2024, Mr. Wall was awarded the option to purchase the shares at the exercise price of \$1.46 per share, which was equal to the last reported price of the common stock of the Company on Nasdaq on the date of grant.

Mr. Wall will receive an annual cash bonus based on three performance targets relating to the Company's results of operations. The bonus targets are weighted 10% to sales, 50% to gross profit, and 40% to net profit. The bonus will equal each bonus target's weight percentage multiplied by (i) 5% of base salary if 95% of the target is met, (ii) 20% of base salary if 100% of the target is met, (iii) 30% if 110% of the target are met; or (iv) 40% if 120% of the target is met. The performance targets for 2024 will be \$87,500,000 sales, \$26,250,000 gross profit, and \$1,312,500 net profit. Mr. Wall may receive this cash bonus without the related target performance at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer upon approval of the Compensation Committee.

In addition, Mr. Wall will receive an annual stock option bonus to purchase 100,000 shares each year with an exercise price equal to the stock price at the time of issuance. The annual stock option bonus will vest based on the same annual performance targets set for the annual cash bonus for that year, as follows: (i) If the sales target is met, the option will vest as to 15,000 shares; (ii) if the gross profit target is met, the option will vest as to 15,000 shares; (iii) if the net profit target is met, the option will vest as to 25,000 shares; (iv) if 125% of the net profit target is met, the option will vest as to 30,000 shares.

All equity bonuses under the Wall Employment Agreement will be awarded under the Plan. The Plan provides that to the extent that equity bonuses of grants of common stock are designated Performance Compensation Awards (as defined by the Plan) by the board or the Compensation Committee and to the extent that each fiscal year constitutes a Performance Period (as defined by the Plan), pursuant to the Plan, such awards must be granted as soon as administratively practicable following completion of the certification of the attainment of the performance conditions for such awards but in no event later than 2 1/2 months following the end during which the respective Performance Period is completed. Otherwise, such grants will be considered Performance Shares (as defined by the Plan) and will be granted when certified by the board or the Compensation Committee.

Mr. Wall is entitled to severance benefits equal to four months' salary if terminated without Cause (as defined in the Wall Employment Agreement) during the first year of employment and two months' salary if terminated during the second year of employment. Mr. Wall will be offered certain health care, dental, life insurance, disability, and retirement benefits. Mr. Wall will receive unlimited vacation days encompassing vacation, personal and sick days, subject to two weeks' notice and approval whenever possible.

After the first year of employment, all cash and equity bonus compensation goals and bonus figures will be reviewed. Benchmarks and bonus percentages will be adjusted each year based on changing business factors.

The Wall Employment Agreement and Mr. Wall's equity award agreements have general non-solicitation provisions but do not have non-competition provisions. Mr. Wall is also subject to a standard non-disclosure requirement under the Wall Employment Agreement.

The foregoing description of the Wall Employment Agreement is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of such agreement, a copy of which is filed as Exhibit 10.41 to this Annual Report.

Mr. Wall has executed the Company's standard Indemnification Agreement with officers and directors. Mr. Wall is covered by the Company's directors and officers insurance policy as an executive officer.

### **Employment Agreement with Randolph Birney**

Under our employment agreement with Randolph Birney, dated July 13, 2021 and effective as of November 8, 2021 (the "Birney Employment Agreement"), we agreed that, for a three-year term, unless terminated earlier in accordance with its terms, we will pay Mr. Birney an annual salary of \$300,000 and an annual cash bonus as determined by the board of directors. Pursuant to the employment agreement, on November 12, 2021, we awarded Mr. Birney a stock option for the purchase of 76,190 shares of the Company's common stock with an exercise price equal to the price per share paid by investors in the IPO, or \$4.15 per share. The stock option will vest over a four-year period with 25% of the option vesting on the first anniversary of the date of grant and the balance of the option (75%) vests monthly over the following three years after the first anniversary of the date of grant at a rate of 1/36 per month. The parties acknowledged that Mr. Birney was owed sales commissions for sales generated for the Company during 2018, 2019 and 2020 in the gross amount of \$197,109.95 that were earned and due to Mr. Birney as of a date prior to the date of the Birney Employment Agreement and that Mr. Birney did not waive his right to these sales commissions by entering into the agreement. Beginning on the date of the agreement, and continuing thereafter, interest at the rate of 2% per annum accrues on unpaid earned sales commissions. Beginning one month after the effective date of the Birney Employment Agreement, the Company was required to pay Mr. Birney the gross amount of \$10,000 per month for unpaid earned sales commissions, less deductions applicable to wages, or such lesser amount as the Company can afford, when the Company has "available cash," defined as sufficient cash to ensure that the Company is not at material risk of default on any material financial obligation due in the next three months. Whether the Company has "available cash" shall be determined by the board of directors in its reasonable discretion, acting in good faith, taking into account any factors it deems germane, including without limitation the maintenance of reserves for future liabilities, whether certain or uncertain, and the preservation of funds for capital expenditures. At the earlier of the termination of Mr. Birney's employment for any reason, regardless of whether termination is for cause, and thirty (30) months after the date of the Birney Employment Agreement, he will have the right to demand immediate payment of all unpaid earned sales commissions and interest in cash. Mr. Birney will be provided with standard executive benefits. The Company will also provide standard indemnification and directors' and officers' insurance. The Company may terminate Mr. Birney's employment by giving at least 30 days written notice. If we terminate Mr. Birney without cause or he resigns for good reason as provided under the agreement, we must pay at least 24 months' severance, reimbursement of Mr. Birney for the first 18 months of the premiums associated with Mr. Birney's continuation of health insurance for him and his family pursuant to COBRA, and immediate vesting of any outstanding unvested equity granted to Mr. Birney during his employment and immediate lifting of all lockups and restrictions on sales of such equity, or exercise of stock options. If we do not renew the Birney Employment Agreement after the initial three-year term, then we must pay six months' severance and reimburse the first six months of the premiums associated with Mr. Birney's continuation of health insurance for him and his family pursuant to COBRA. Mr. Birney is also subject to standard confidentiality and noncompetition provisions.

Effective January 2, 2024, Mr. Birney was no longer an "executive officer" of the Company as such term is defined under Rule 3b-7 of the Exchange Act. Mr. Birney remained an employee of the Company.

The foregoing description of the Birney Employment Agreement is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of such agreement, a copy of which is filed as Exhibit 10.7 to this Annual Report.

### **Employment Agreement with Jason Nolley**

Under our employment letter agreement with Jason Nolley, our former Chief Technology Officer, dated November 19, 2021 (the "Nolley Employment Agreement"), Mr. Nolley will receive an annual base salary of \$150,000 and a monthly automobile and cell phone allowance of \$750. As a signing bonus, on November 19, 2021, Mr. Nolley was granted an option to purchase 60,000 shares of common stock at \$4.36 per share, which was the closing price of our common stock on the Nasdaq Capital Market the day before the employment letter agreement was signed. The option vests in three equal amounts at each of the first, second and third anniversaries of the date of the date of the Nolley Employment Agreement. Mr. Nolley was initially eligible to receive a bonus of up to \$125,000 in the Company's common stock upon our achievement of certain amounts of trailing 12-month annual sales amounts. Effective March 8, 2024, Mr. Nolley orally waived his rights to such bonus shares.

Mr. Nolley is entitled to severance benefits equal to six months' salary if terminated without due cause. Mr. Nolley will be eligible to receive certain health care, dental, life insurance, disability, and retirement benefits after three months' employment. Mr. Nolley will receive 15 days of paid time off, subject to two weeks' notice and approval whenever possible. Mr. Nolley is subject to certain nondisclosure and non-solicitation provisions under his stock option agreement.

Effective January 2, 2024, Jason Nolley was no longer an "executive officer" of the Company as such term is defined under Rule 3b-7 of the Exchange Act. Mr. Nolley continued to be employed by the Company under the Nolley Employment Agreement as the Company's Senior Vice President of Information Technology.

The foregoing description of the Nolley Employment Agreement is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of such agreement, a copy of which is filed as Exhibit 10.36 to this Annual Report.



### **Employment Agreement with Stephen Paradiso**

The Company and Stephen Paradiso, the former Chief of Staff of the Company, were parties to an employment letter agreement, dated as of December 6, 2021 (the "Paradiso Agreement"). Mr. Paradiso resigned from his position with the Company on December 1, 2023.

Under the Paradiso Agreement, Mr. Paradiso received an annual base salary of \$175,000 and potential salary and annual bonus increases in future years based on the successful achievement of personal and business-related goals. For each of the first two years of the term of the Paradiso Agreement, Mr. Paradiso was required to receive an annual performance cash bonus based on the review of the Company's results for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022 and the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023, respectively, with a target bonus percentage of 25%, 50%, 75%, or 100% of base salary, conditioned on (i) for fiscal year 2022, the occurrence of trailing 12-month revenue of the Company of \$42 million, \$52 million, or \$57 million, respectively, and, for fiscal year 2023, the occurrence of trailing 12-month revenue of the Company of \$45 million, \$65 million, or \$75 million, respectively, and, for fiscal year 2023, the occurrence of frailing 12-month revenue of the Company of \$45 million, \$65 million, or \$75 million, respectively, or (ii) the discretionary approval of the Company's Chief Executive Officer, subject to approval by the Compensation Committee. In accordance with the Paradiso Agreement, Mr. Paradiso received a cash bonus consisting of 100% of base salary, or \$175,000, due to the occurrence of trailing 12-month revenue of more than \$57 million during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022.

In addition, pursuant to the Paradiso Agreement, on December 6, 2021, Mr. Paradiso was granted a bonus of 65,000 restricted shares and an option to purchase up to 125,000 shares at an exercise price per share of \$4.72, which was the closing price of the common stock on the Nasdaq Capital Market on the date that the Paradiso Agreement was countersigned by Mr. Paradiso. The restricted stock and 65,000 shares under the option were subject to vesting in eight equal installments over two years and were subject to a six-month lockup provision. Mr. Paradiso was also required to be granted up to 40,000 bonus shares of common stock and the option was subject to vesting as to an aggregate of 40,000 additional shares of common stock upon the occurrence of trailing 12-month revenue amounts, as follows: (i) grant of 10,000 shares and vesting of the stock option as to 10,000 shares any trailing 12-month revenue of \$50 million; (ii) grant of 10,000 shares and vesting of the stock option as to 10,000 shares any trailing 12-month revenue of \$60 million; (iii) grant of 10,000 shares and vesting of the stock option as to 10,000 shares any trailing 12-month revenue of \$70 million; and (iv) grant of 10,000 shares and vesting of the stock option as to 10,000 shares any trailing 12-month revenue of \$80 million. Mr. Paradiso was also required to be granted up to an aggregate of 22,500 bonus shares of common stock and the stock option was subject to vesting as to an aggregate of 22,500 shares of common stock once certain service conditions were achieved, as follows: (i) grant of 2,500 shares and vesting of the stock option as to 2,500 shares upon successfully executing a company "rhythm" by setting recurring meetings and tasks; (ii) grant of 10,000 shares and vesting of the stock option as to 10,000 shares upon successfully hiring and onboarding three chief officer-level or executive vice president-level leaders; and (iii) grant of 10,000 shares and vesting of the stock option as to 10,000 shares upon successfully creating and putting in motion a business plan and succession plan. On April 14, 2023, the Compensation Committee certified the attainment of the conditions for the grant of 12,500 shares of common stock and the vesting of the stock option as to 12,500 shares of common stock based on trailing 12-month revenue of more than \$50 million during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022 and Mr. Paradiso's successfully executing a company "rhythm" by setting recurring meetings and tasks. Additionally, under the Paradiso Agreement, if trailing 12-month revenue of the Company of \$250 million occurred within three years of Mr. Paradiso's start of employment, he was required to be granted an additional 100,000 bonus shares of common stock. After the second year of employment, all bonus compensation terms would be subject to review. All equity compensation under the Paradiso Agreement was made under standard forms of award agreements under the Plan unless otherwise disclosed.

Mr. Paradiso was eligible to receive certain health care, dental, life insurance, disability, and retirement benefits since the end of his first three months' employment. Mr. Paradiso was entitled to 25 days of paid time off annually, including vacation and sick days, subject to two weeks' notice and approval whenever possible.

The Paradiso Agreement did not provide for directors and officers indemnification or insurance to Mr. Paradiso. However, due to Mr. Paradiso's position as an executive officer, the Company provided indemnification and advancement of expenses to Mr. Paradiso with respect to certain legal proceedings to the fullest extent not prohibited by the NRS or any other applicable law as directed by the Bylaws, subject to the limitations and exceptions provided therein. Likewise, Mr. Paradiso was automatically covered by the Company's directors and officers insurance policy as an executive officer.

Mr. Paradiso was required to sign a standard nondisclosure and noncompete agreement that will not restrict Mr. Paradiso from working within the print or promotional industry, except for any specific direct competitors that are individually listed in that agreement, but Mr. Paradiso will be required not to solicit any current or existing clients or customers that were obtained prior to Mr. Paradiso's employment or obtained during his employment unless given prior approval by the Company for the period specified in the noncompete agreement. Due to Mr. Paradiso's voluntary execution of the equity award agreements described above, however, Mr. Paradiso is subject to their general non-competition provisions as well as their general non-solicitation provisions. Mr. Paradiso is also subject to a standard non-disclosure requirement under the Paradiso Agreement.

The foregoing description of the Paradiso Agreement is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of such agreement, a copy of which is filed as Exhibit 10.35 to this Annual Report.

### **Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End**

As of December 31, 2023, the following named executive officers had the following unexercised options, stock that has not vested, and equity incentive plan awards:

		<b>Option Awards</b>					Stock Awards							
Name	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options Exercisable (#)	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Unexercisable	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Unearned Options (#)	1	Option Exercise Price (\$)	Option Expiration Date	Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (#)	V SI U Th	Market 'alue of hares of Jnits of Stock hat Have ht Vested (S)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (#)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market or Payout Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (\$)			
Andrew Shape	168,651(1)	155,159(1)	-	\$	4.15	11/11/2031	-		-	-	-			
David Browner	38,667 <sub>(2)</sub>	19,333 <sub>(2)</sub>	-	\$	4.15	11/11/2031	-		-	-	-			
	-	-	-		-	-	2,500 <sub>(3)</sub>	\$	3,700	-	-			
	7,500(4)	-	92,500 <sub>(4)</sub>	\$	1.72	4/14/2033	-		-	-	-			
4 1	-	-	-		-	-	-		-	30,000(5)	\$ 44,400			
Andrew Stranberg	208,333(6)	191,667 <sub>(6)</sub>	-	\$	4.15	11/11/2031	-		-	-	-			
Randolph Birney	39,682(7)	36,508(7)	-	\$	4.15	11/11/2031	-		-	-	-			
Stephen Paradiso	54,688 <sub>(8)</sub>	-	-	\$	4.72	12/5/2031	-		-	-	-			

(1) On November 12, 2021, Andrew Shape was granted an option to purchase 323,810 shares of common stock. The option is subject to vesting over a four-year period with 25% of the option vesting on the first anniversary of the date of grant and the balance (75%) vesting monthly over the following three years after the first anniversary of the date of grant at a rate of 1/36 per month.

(2) On November 12, 2021, David Browner was granted an option to purchase 58,000 shares of common stock. The option is subject to vesting over a three-year period with one-third (1/3) of the option vesting on each of the first, second and third anniversaries of the date of grant.

(3) On November 12, 2021, David Browner was granted 7,500 restricted shares of common stock. The restricted stock is subject to vesting over a three-year period with one-third (1/3) of the restricted stock vesting on each of the first, second and third anniversaries of the date of grant.

- (4) On April 14, 2023, David Browner was granted an option to purchase 100,000 shares of common stock. The option is subject to performance conditions to vesting. On February 15, 2024, the Compensation Committee certified the attainment of performance conditions as to the vesting of 7,500 shares upon exercise of this option.
- (5) On April 14, 2023, David Browner became entitled to grants of an aggregate of 35,000 shares of common stock subject to performance conditions. On February 15, 2024, the Compensation Committee certified the attainment of performance conditions as to the grant and vesting of 5,000 of these shares.
- (6) On November 12, 2021, Andrew Stranberg was granted an option to purchase 400,000 shares of common stock. The option is subject to vesting over a four-year period with 25% of the option vesting on the first anniversary of the date of grant and the balance (75%) vesting monthly over the following three years after the first anniversary of the date of grant at a rate of 1/36 per month.
- (7) Randolph Birney was granted an option to purchase 76,190 shares of common stock on November 12, 2021. The option is subject to vesting over a four-year period with 25% of the option vesting on the first anniversary of the date of grant and the balance (75%) vesting monthly over the following three years after the first anniversary of the date of grant at a rate of 1/36 per month.
- (8) On December 6, 2021, Stephen Paradiso was granted an option to purchase 62,500 shares of common stock subject to vesting as to one-eighth of the shares at the end of every full quarter after the date of grant that Mr. Paradiso remained employed by the Company. Mr. Paradiso resigned from his position with the Company effective December 1, 2023. The vested portion of the option remained exercisable for three months following Mr. Paradiso's resignation.

### **Director Compensation**

The following table sets forth information concerning all cash and non-cash compensation awarded to, earned by or paid to the directors who are not named executive officers for services rendered in all capacities during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023:

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash	_	Stock Awards	Option Awards	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation Earnings		Nonqualifie Deferred Compensatie Earnings		All Other ompensation	Total
Travis McCourt	\$ 26,000	\$	-(1) \$	-(1)	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -	\$ 26,000
Alan Chippindale	\$ 26,000	\$	-(1) \$	-(1)	\$	-	\$	-	\$ 37,500	\$ 63,500
Alejandro Tani	\$ 20,000	\$	-(1) \$	-(1)	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -	\$ 20,000
Ashley Marshall	\$ 20,000	\$	-(1) \$	-(1)	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -	\$ 20,000

 Each of Travis McCourt, Alan Chippindale, Alejandro Tani and Ashley Marshall had outstanding option awards consisting of a fully-vested option to purchase up to 5,000 shares of common stock and outstanding stock awards consisting of 2,892 shares of common stock as of December 31, 2023.

Under their independent director agreements, each director that has been determined to be independent will receive an annual cash fee and an initial award of restricted common stock and a stock option. We will pay the annual cash compensation fee to each non-employee director in four equal installments no later than the fifth business day of each calendar quarter commencing in the quarter ending March 31, 2022. We granted the restricted stock and options to the non-employee directors on November 12, 2021. The cash fee paid to each non-employee director will be \$20,000 as to Ms. Marshall, \$26,000 as to Mr. McCourt, \$26,000 as to Mr. Chippindale, and \$20,000 as to Mr. Tani. Under their agreements, 2,892 shares of restricted common stock were awarded to each independent director. The restricted stock vested in four (4) equal quarterly installments commencing in the quarter ending March 31, 2022. The option that was awarded to each non-employee director may be exercised to purchase 5,000 shares of common stock at the exercise price of \$4.15 per share. The option vested and became exercisable in twelve (12) equal monthly installments over the first year following the date of grant, subject to the respective non-employee director continuing in service on our board through each such vesting date. The term of each stock option is ten years from the date of grant. We will also reimburse each non-employee director for pre-approved reasonable business-related expenses incurred in good faith in connection with the performance of the non-employee director's duties for us. As also required under the independent director agreements, we have separately entered into a standard indemnification agreement with each of our independent directors.

The foregoing description of the independent director agreements and indemnification agreements is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of the forms of such documents which are filed as 10.13 and Exhibit 10.14 to this Annual Report, respectively, and which are incorporated herein by reference.

### Indemnification Agreements and Directors and Officers Liability Insurance

We have entered into a standard indemnification agreement with each of our officers and directors. The full text of the form of indemnification agreement is filed with this Annual Report as Exhibit 10.14.

We have also obtained standard policies of insurance under which coverage is provided (a) to our directors and officers against loss rising from claims made by reason of breach of duty or other wrongful act, and (b) to us with respect to payments which we may make to such officers and directors pursuant to the indemnification agreements referred to above, our articles of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws, or otherwise as a matter of law.

### Amended and Restated 2021 Equity Incentive Plan

On September 14, 2021, we established the Stran & Company, Inc. Amended and Restated 2021 Equity Incentive Plan. The purpose of the Plan is to grant restricted stock, stock options and other forms of incentive compensation to our officers, employees, directors and consultants. The maximum number of shares of common stock that may be issued pursuant to awards granted under the Plan is 3,000,000 shares. Cancelled and forfeited stock options and stock awards may again become available for grant under the Plan. As of December 31, 2023, 1,041,147 shares remained available for issuance under the Plan, including shares not otherwise reserved for outstanding stock options issued under the Plan.

The following summary briefly describes the principal features of the Plan and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of the Plan which is filed as Exhibit 10.15 to this Annual Report, and which is incorporated herein by reference.

Awards that may be granted include: (a) Incentive Stock Options, (b) Non-qualified Stock Options, (c) Stock Appreciation Rights, (d) Restricted Awards, (e) Performance Share Awards, and (f) Performance Compensation Awards. These awards offer our officers, employees, consultants and directors the possibility of future value, depending on the long-term price appreciation of our common stock and the award holder's continuing service with our company.

Stock options give the option holder the right to acquire from us a designated number of shares of common stock at a purchase price that is fixed upon the grant of the option. The exercise price generally will not be less than the market price of the common stock on the date of grant. Stock options granted may be either tax-qualified stock options (so-called "incentive stock options") or non-qualified stock options.

Stock appreciation rights, or SARs, may be granted alone or in tandem with options, and have an economic value similar to that of options. When a SAR for a particular number of shares is exercised, the holder receives a payment equal to the difference between the fair market value of the shares on the date of exercise and the exercise price of the shares under the SAR. The exercise price for SARs is normally the market price of the shares on the date the SAR is granted. Under the Plan, holders of SARs may receive this payment — the appreciation value — either in cash or shares of common stock valued at the fair market value on the date of exercise. The form of payment will be determined by the Compensation Committee of the board of directors.

Restricted awards are awards of shares of common stock or rights to shares of common stock to participants at no cost. Restricted stock awards represent issued and outstanding shares of common stock which may be subject to vesting criteria under the terms of the award within the discretion of the Compensation Committee. Restricted stock which may be subject to satisfaction of vesting criteria under the terms of the award within the discretion of the Compensation Committee. Restricted stock and the rights under restricted stock units are forfeitable and non-transferable until they vest. The vesting date or dates and other conditions for vesting are established when the shares are awarded.

The Plan also provides for performance compensation awards, representing the right to receive a payment, which may be in the form of cash, shares of common stock, or a combination, based on the attainment of pre-established goals.

All of the permissible types of awards under the Plan are described in more detail as follows:

*Purposes of Plan:* The purposes of the Plan are (a) to enable the Company and any affiliate company to attract and retain the types of employees, consultants and directors who will contribute to the Company's long-term success; (b) provide incentives that align the interests of employees, consultants and directors with those of the stockholders of the Company; and (c) promote the success of the Company's business.

Administration of the Plan: The Plan is administered by the Compensation Committee. Among other things, the Compensation Committee has the authority to select persons who will receive awards, determine the types of awards and the number of shares to be covered by awards, and to establish the terms, conditions, performance criteria, restrictions and other provisions of awards. The Compensation Committee has authority to establish, amend and rescind rules and regulations relating to the Plan.

*Eligible Recipients:* Persons eligible to receive awards under the Plan are employees (including officers or directors who are also treated as employees); consultants, i.e., persons engaged to provide consulting or advisory services to the Company; and directors.

Shares Available Under the Plan: The maximum number of shares of our common stock that may be delivered to participants under the Plan is 3,000,000, subject to adjustment for certain corporate changes affecting the shares, such as stock splits. Shares subject to an award under the Plan which is canceled, forfeited or expires again become available for grants under the Plan.

### Stock Options:

*General.* Subject to the provisions of the Plan, the Compensation Committee has the authority to determine all grants of stock options. That determination will include: (i) the number of shares subject to any option; (ii) the exercise price per share; (iii) the expiration date of the option; (iv) the manner, time and date of permitted exercise; (v) other restrictions, if any, on the option or the shares underlying the option; and (vi) any other terms and conditions as the Compensation Committee may determine.

*Option Price.* The exercise price for stock options will be determined at the time of grant. Normally, the exercise price will not be less than the fair market value on the date of grant. As a matter of tax law, the exercise price for any incentive stock option awarded may not be less than the fair market value of the shares on the date of grant. However, incentive stock option grants to any person owning more than 10% of our voting stock must have an exercise price of not less than 110% of the fair market value on the grant date.

*Exercise of Options.* An option may be exercised only in accordance with the terms and conditions of the option agreement as established by the Compensation Committee at the time of the grant. The option must be exercised by notice to us, accompanied by payment of the exercise price. Payments may be made in cash or, at the option of the Compensation Committee, by actual or constructive delivery of shares of common stock based upon the fair market value of the shares on the date of exercise.

*Expiration or Termination.* Options, if not previously exercised, will expire on the expiration date established by the Compensation Committee at the time of grant. In the case of incentive stock options, such term cannot exceed ten years provided that in the case of holders of more than 10% of our voting stock, such term cannot exceed five years. Options will terminate before their expiration date if the holder's service with the Company or an affiliate company terminates before the expiration date. The option may remain exercisable for specified periods after certain terminations of employment, including terminations as a result of death, disability or retirement, with the precise period during which the option may be exercised to be established by the Compensation Committee and reflected in the grant evidencing the award.

Incentive and Non-Qualified Options. As described elsewhere in this summary, an incentive stock option is an option that is intended to qualify under certain provisions of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the Code, for more favorable tax treatment than applies to non-qualified stock options. Only employees may be granted incentive stock options. Any option that does not qualify as an incentive stock option will be a non-qualified stock option. Under the Code, certain restrictions apply to incentive stock options. For example, the exercise price for incentive stock options may not be less than the fair market value of the shares on the grant date and the term of the option may not exceed ten years. In addition, an incentive stock options may not be transferred, other than by will or the laws of descent and distribution, and is exercisable during the holder's lifetime only by the holder. In addition, no incentive stock options may be granted to a holder that is first exercisable in a single year if that option, together with all incentive stock options previously granted to the holder that also first become exercisable in that year, relate to shares having an aggregate market value in excess of \$100,000, measured at the grant date.

*Stock Appreciation Rights:* Awards of SARs may be granted alone or in tandem with stock options. SARs provide the holder with the right, upon exercise, to receive a payment, in cash or shares of stock, having a value equal to the excess of the fair market value on the exercise date of the shares covered by the award over the exercise price of those shares. Essentially, a holder of a SAR benefits when the market price of the common stock increases, to the same extent that the holder of an option does, but, unlike an option holder, the SAR holder need not pay an exercise price upon exercise of the award.

*Restricted Stock Awards*. A restricted stock award is a grant of shares of common stock. These awards may be subject to such vesting conditions, restrictions and contingencies as the Compensation Committee shall determine at the date of grant. Those may include requirements for continuous service and/or the achievement of specified performance goals. Restricted stock is forfeitable and generally non-transferable until it vests. The vesting date or dates and other conditions for vesting are established when the shares are awarded. The Compensation Committee may remove any vesting or other restrictions from restricted stock whenever it may determine that, by reason of changes in applicable laws or other changes in circumstances arising after the date of grant, such action is appropriate. Holders of restricted stock otherwise generally have the rights of stockholders of the Company, including voting and dividend rights, to the same extent as other stockholders of the Company.

*Restricted Stock Units*. A restricted stock unit is a right to receive stock on a future date, at which time the restricted stock unit will be settled and the stock to which it granted rights will be issued to the restricted stock unit holder. These awards may be subject to such vesting conditions, restrictions and contingencies as the Compensation Committee shall determine at the date of grant. Restricted stock units are forfeitable and generally non-transferable until they vest. The Compensation Committee may remove any vesting or other restrictions from a restricted stock unit whenever it may determine that, by reason of changes in applicable laws or other changes in circumstances arising after the date of grant, such action is appropriate. A restricted stock unit holder has no rights as a stockholder. The Compensation Committee may exercise discretion to credit a restricted stock unit with cash and stock dividends, with or without interest, and distribute such credited amounts upon settlement of a restricted stock unit, and if the restricted stock unit is forfeited, such dividend equivalents will also be forfeited.

**Performance Share Awards and Performance Compensation Awards:** The Compensation Committee may grant performance share awards and performance compensation awards. A performance share means the grant of a right to receive a number of actual shares of common stock or share units based upon the performance of the Company during a performance period, as determined by the Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee may determine the number of shares subject to the performance share award, the performance period, the conditions to be satisfied to warn an award, and the other terms, conditions and restrictions of the award. No payout of a performance share award will be made except upon written certification by the Compensation Committee that the minimum threshold performance goal(s) have been achieved.

The Compensation Committee may also designate any of the other awards described above as a performance compensation award (other than stock options and SARs granted with an exercise price equal to or greater than the fair market value per share of common stock on the grant date). In addition, the Compensation Committee shall have the authority to make an award of a cash bonus to any participant and designate such award as a performance compensation award. The participant must be employed by the Company on the last day of the performance period to be eligible for payment in respect of a performance compensation award unless otherwise provided in the applicable award agreement. A performance compensation award will be paid only to the extent that the Compensation Committee certifies in writing whether and the extent to which the applicable performance goals for the performance period have been achieved and the applicable performance formula determines that the performance compensation award has been earned. A performance formula means, for a performance period, the one or more objective formulas applied against the relevant performance goal to determine, with regard to the performance compensation award of a particular participant, whether all, some portion but less than all, or none of the performance compensation award has been earned for the performance period. The Compensation Committee will not have the discretion to grant or provide payment in respect of a performance compensation award for a performance period have not been attained.

The Compensation Committee will establish performance goals for each performance compensation award based upon the performance criteria that it has selected. The performance criteria shall be based on the attainment of specific levels of performance of the Company and may include the following: (a) net earnings or net income (before or after taxes); (b) basic or diluted earnings per share (before or after taxes); (c) net revenue or net revenue growth; (d) gross revenue; (e) gross profit or gross profit growth; (f) net operating profit (before or after taxes); (g) return on assets, capital, invested capital, equity, or sales; (h) cash flow (including, but not limited to, operating cash flow, free cash flow, and cash flow return on capital); (i) earnings before or after taxes, interest, depreciation and/or amortization; (j) gross or operating margins; (k) improvements in capital structure; (l) budget and expense management; (m) productivity ratios; (n) economic value added or other value added measurements; (o) share price (including, but not limited to, growth measures and total stockholder return); (p) expense targets; (q) margins; (r) operating efficiency; (s) working capital targets; (t) enterprise value; (u) safety record; (v) completion of acquisitions or business expansion; (w) achieving research and development goals and milestones; (x) achieving product commercialization goals; and (y) other criteria as may be set by the Compensation Committee from time to time.

The Compensation Committee will also determine the performance period for the achievement of the performance goals under a performance compensation award. At any time during the first 90 days of a performance period (or such longer or shorter time period as the Compensation Committee shall determine) or at any time thereafter, in its sole and absolute discretion, to adjust or modify the calculation of a performance goal for such performance period in order to prevent the dilution or enlargement of the rights of participants based on the following events: (a) asset write-downs; (b) litigation or claim judgments or settlements; (c) the effect of changes in tax laws, accounting principles, or other laws or regulatory rules affecting reported results; (d) any reorganization and restructuring programs; (e) extraordinary nonrecurring items as described in Accounting Principles Board Opinion No. 30 (or any successor or pronouncement thereto) and/or in management's discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations appearing in the Company's annual report to stockholders for the applicable year; (f) acquisitions or divestitures; (g) any other specific unusual or nonrecurring events, or objectively determinable category thereof; (h) foreign exchange gains and losses; and (i) a change in the Company's fiscal year.

Any one or more of the performance criteria may be used on an absolute or relative basis to measure the performance of our company, as the Compensation Committee may deem appropriate, or as compared to the performance of a group of comparable companies, or published or special index that the Compensation Committee deems appropriate.

In determining the actual size of an individual performance compensation award, the Compensation Committee may reduce or eliminate the amount of the award through the use of negative discretion if, in its sole judgment, such reduction or elimination is appropriate. The Compensation Committee shall not have the discretion to (i) grant or provide payment in respect of performance compensation awards if the performance goals have not been attained or (ii) increase a performance compensation award above the maximum amount payable under the Plan.

*Other Material Provisions:* Awards will be evidenced by a written agreement, in such form as may be approved by the Compensation Committee. In the event of various changes to the capitalization of our company, such as stock splits, stock dividends and similar re-capitalizations, an appropriate adjustment will be made by the Compensation Committee to the number of shares covered by outstanding awards or to the exercise price of such awards. The Compensation Committee generally has the power to accelerate the exercise or vesting period of an award. The Compensation Committee is also permitted to include in the written agreement provisions that provide for certain changes in the award in the event of a change of control of our company, including acceleration of vesting or payment of the value of the award in cash or stock. Except as otherwise determined by the Compensation Committee at the date of grant, awards will generally not be transferable, other than by will or the laws of descent and distribution. Prior to any award distribution, to the extent provided by the terms of an award agreement and subject to the discretion of the Compensation Committee, a participant may satisfy any employee withhold from any compensation paid to the participant as a result of the exercise or acquisition of common stock under the award (in addition to the Company's right to withhold from any compensation paid to the participant by the Company). Our board has the authority, at any time, to discontinue the granting of awards. The board also has the authority to alter or amend the Plan or any outstanding award or may terminate the Plan as to further grants, provided that no amendment to the Plan will be made, without the approval of our stockholders, to the extent that such approval is required by law or the rules of an applicable securities exchange, or such alteration or amendment would change the number of shares available under the Plan or change the persons eligible for awards under the Plan. No amendment to an outstanding awa

### **Clawback Policy**

On November 2, 2023, our board of directors adopted a Clawback Policy in accordance with applicable Nasdaq rules (the "Clawback Policy"). The Clawback Policy provides that we will recover reasonably promptly the amount of erroneously awarded incentive-based compensation to any current or former executive officers in the event that the Company is required to prepare an accounting restatement due to the material noncompliance of the Company with any financial reporting requirement under the securities laws, including any required accounting restatement to correct an error in previously issued financial statements that is material to the previously issued financial statements, or that would result in a material misstatement if the error were corrected in the current period or left uncorrected in the current period. A copy of the Clawback Policy is filed as Exhibit 97.1 to this Annual Report.

### ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS.

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to the beneficial ownership of our common stock as of March 28, 2024 by (i) each of our named executive officers, other executive officers, and directors; (ii) all of our executive officers and directors as a group; and (iii) each person who is known by us to beneficially own more than 5% of our common stock.

		Amount and Nature of	
		Beneficial	Percent of
Title of Class	Name and Address of Beneficial Owner <sup>(1)</sup>	Ownership <sup>(2)</sup>	Class (%) <sup>(3)</sup>
Common Stock	Andrew Shape	3,619,381(4)	19.2
Common Stock	David Browner	58,667(5)	0.3
Common Stock	Andrew Stranberg	5,416,190.143(6)	28.7
Common Stock	John Audibert	215,255(7)	1.2
Common Stock	Sheila Johnshoy	32,500(8)	0.2
Common Stock	Alan Chippindale	15,892(9)	*
Common Stock	Travis McCourt	7,892(10)	*
Common Stock	Alejandro Tani	7,892(10)	*
Common Stock	Ashley Marshall	8,652(11)	*
Common Stock	All directors and executive officers (9 persons)	9,382,321.143	48.9%
Common Stock	Randolph Birney <sup>(12)</sup>	847,619(13)	4.5
Common Stock	Stephen Paradiso <sup>(14)</sup>	51,562	0.3

\* The percentage of shares beneficially owned by this person, a director of the Company, does not exceed one percent of the outstanding shares of common stock as of March 28, 2024.

(1) Unless otherwise specified, the address of each of the persons named in this table is c/o Stran & Company, Inc., 2 Heritage Drive, Suite 600, Quincy, MA 02171.

- (2) Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with the rules of the SEC and generally includes voting or investment power with respect to securities. Under those rules, beneficial ownership includes any shares as to which a person has sole or shared voting power or investment power, and also any shares which the person has the right to acquire within 60 days of March 28, 2024, through the exercise or conversion of any stock option, convertible security, warrant or other right. Except as set forth below, each of the beneficial owners listed above has direct ownership of and sole voting power and investment power with respect to the shares of our common stock.
- (3) Based on 18,607,329 shares of common stock issued and outstanding as of March 28, 2024. For each beneficial owner above, any options exercisable within 60 days of March 28, 2024 have been included in the denominator.
- (4) Consisted of 3,417,000 shares of common stock and 202,381 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of an option within 60 days of March 28, 2024. 3,400,000 of the shares of common stock are pledged as a security interest pursuant to a purchase money promissory note issued to Andrew Stranberg as collateral for Andrew Shape's repayment obligations under this instrument. Mr. Shape may sell these shares subject to the security interest at prevailing market prices so long as such portion of the sale proceeds as is required under the promissory note to repay the note is so used to repay the note. The foregoing description of this instrument is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of such instrument which is filed as Exhibit 10.9 to this Annual Report.
- (5) Consisted of (i) 12,500 shares of common stock, (ii) 7,500 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of an option, and (iii) 38,667 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of an option within 60 days of March 28, 2024.
- (6) Consisted of 5,166,190.143 shares of common stock and 250,000 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of an option within 60 days of March 28, 2024.
- (7) Consisted of (i) 152,422 shares of common stock, (ii) 7,500 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of an option, and (iii) 35,333 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of an option within 60 days of March 28, 2024.
- (8) Consisted of (i) 15,000 shares of common stock, (ii) 7,500 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of an option, and (iii) 10,000 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of an option.
- (9) Consisted of 10,892 shares of common stock and 5,000 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of an option.
- (10) Consisted of 2,892 shares of common stock and 5,000 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of an option.

- (11) Consisted of 3,652 shares of common stock and 5,000 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of an option.
- (12) Effective January 2, 2024, Mr. Birney was no longer an "executive officer" of the Company as such term is defined under Rule 3b-7 of the Exchange Act. Mr. Birney remained an employee of the Company.
- (13) Consisted of 800,000 shares of common stock and 47,619 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of an option within 60 days of March 28, 2024. 800,000 of the shares of common stock are pledged as a security interest pursuant to a purchase money promissory note issued to Andrew Stranberg as collateral for Randolph Birney's repayment obligations under this instrument. Mr. Birney may sell these shares subject to the security interest at prevailing market prices so long as such portion of the sale proceeds as is required under the promissory note to repay the note is so used to repay the note. The foregoing description of this instrument is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of such instrument which is filed as Exhibit 10.10 to this Annual Report.

(14) Stephen Paradiso resigned from his position with the Company effective December 1, 2023.

#### **Changes in Control**

We do not have any arrangements known to us the operation of which may at a subsequent date result in a change in control of the Company.

### Securities Authorized for Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans

The following table sets forth certain information about the securities authorized for issuance under our incentive plans as of December 31, 2023.

Plan Category	Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights (a)	Weighted- average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights (b)	Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a)) (c)
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders <sup>(1)</sup>	1,958,853(2)(3)	\$ 4.02(3)	1,041,147(4)
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders	-	-	-
Total	1,958,853(2)(3)	\$ 4.02 <sub>(3)</sub>	$1,041,147_{(4)}$

- (1) On September 14, 2021, the board of directors and the stockholders of the Company approved the Stran & Company, Inc. Amended and Restated 2021 Equity Incentive Plan. The purpose of the Plan is to grant restricted stock, stock options and other forms of incentive compensation to our officers, employees, directors and consultants. The maximum number of shares of common stock that may be issued pursuant to awards granted under the Plan is 3,000,000 shares. Cancelled and forfeited stock options and stock awards may again become available for grant under the Plan. For a further description of the Plan, see Item 11. "Executive Compensation Amended and Restated 2021 Equity Incentive Plan".
- (2) Includes both vested and unvested options to purchase common stock under the Plan. Does not include any restricted stock that has been granted subject to forfeiture as of December 31, 2023.
- (3) The amount in column (a) includes the following maximum number of shares of common stock that must be issued under performance share awards if specified targets are met and pursuant to the other terms and conditions of the Plan as of December 31, 2023: (i) up to 35,000 shares to David Browner, Chief Financial Officer; (ii) up to 40,000 shares to John Audibert, Vice President of Growth and Strategic Initiatives; (iii) up to 100,000 shares to Sheila Johnshoy, Chief Operating Officer; and (iv) up to 84,459 shares to Jason Nolley, former Chief Technology Officer, based on the price at which the common stock of the Company was last sold on the Nasdaq Capital Market as of December 31, 2023 (\$1.48), which may overstate or understate the actual number of shares to be issued to Mr. Nolley, which must be valued at up to \$125,000 in aggregate when issued. The number of shares subject to these awards may overstate expected dilution because the awards reflect the maximum number of shares to be awarded under best-case targets that may be unlikely to be achieved. The weighted-average exercise price in column (b) does not take these awards into account.
- (4) Represents shares available for award grant purposes under the Plan. Does not include any restricted stock that has been granted subject to forfeiture as of December 31, 2023.



### ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS, AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE.

### **Transactions with Related Persons**

The following includes a summary of transactions since the beginning of our 2022 fiscal year, or any currently proposed transaction, in which we were or are to be a participant and the amount involved exceeded or exceeds the lesser of \$120,000 or 1% of the average of our total assets at year-end for the last two completed fiscal years, and in which any related person had or will have a direct or indirect material interest (other than compensation described under Item 11 *"Executive Compensation"* above). We believe the terms obtained or consideration that we paid or received, as applicable, in connection with the transactions described below were comparable to terms available or the amounts that would be paid or received, as applicable, in arm's-length transactions.

### Transactions Involving Non-Employee Directors

#### Transaction with Innovative Genetics Inc.

Alejandro Tani, a member of our board of directors, the chairman of our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, and a member of our Compensation Committee and Audit Committee, is the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Information Officer, and majority owner of IG. Under a Branded Packaging Agreement between IG and the Company, dated as of March 6, 2023 (the "IG Packaging Agreement"), IG granted the Company a limited, non-exclusive, revocable license to use IG's logos, trade names and trademarks on apparel and promotional products as branded products for sale to IG and IG-authorized persons. The branded products must meet IG's quality standards. IG will pay the Company within 90 days after the date of an invoice under the agreement, subject to the Company's credit policies and procedures and discretionary right to modify payment or credit. Each statement of work under the IG Packaging Agreement must have a personal guaranty stating that IG's principal will pay any invoices related to that statement of work regardless of financial stability of IG. All products and services provided to IG and any services that IG may provide to the Company in exchange for such products and services under the IG Packaging Agreement will be based on a commercial relationship and any such services will include only non-advisory services. The IG Packaging Agreement does not contemplate any accounting, consulting, legal, investment banking or financial advisory services. The IG Packaging Agreement will terminate upon 90 days' written notice to the other party.

Under Statement of Work No. 1 under the IG Packaging Agreement, effective as of March 6, 2023 (the "IG SOW"), the Company will provide IG with branded packaging products from various factories located in China, finance the cost to manufacture that packaging, and import/transport those goods into one location in the United States where IG will then co-pack, sell, and distribute the final product itself. The Company will only deliver the packaging to IG and will not touch or be involved in the co-packing, distribution, or any other matter related to the final product, which will include cannabis. The Company will invoice IG upon delivery of each shipment. In connection with the foregoing, the Company will purchase products from various factories, pay them directly, and subsequently charge IG the prices following an outline set forth in the IG SOW. The IG SOW will not require the Company to, and the Company will not, make any payments to IG in connection with this SOW, including any extensions of credit involving any payments to IG. The total amount to be charged to IG under the IG SOW will be \$1,159,331, related shipping costs with a 15% markup, and duties, taxes, or tariffs will be charged at cost. The Company will not be a participant in any transaction involving the packaging, sale or distribution of the final product.

In connection with the IG SOW, Mr. Tani executed a Guaranty, dated as of March 6, 2023, in favor of and for the benefit of the Company (the "Tani Guaranty"). Under the Tani Guaranty, Mr. Tani guaranteed the payment of all obligations of IG under the IG Packaging Agreement and IG SOW. The Tani Guaranty contains other standard provisions for a personal guaranty, including standard waivers of defenses to payment obligations, reinstatement in the event that any payment must be returned to IG, non-exercise of subrogation rights against IG or any other guarantor until all payments required under the IG SOW have been made, subordination of any debts against IG to the obligations of IG to the Company, including attorneys' fees and legal expenses, which the Company may incur in enforcing its rights under the IG SOW or the Tani Guaranty.

As of December 31, 2023, the balance owed by IG under the IG SOW was \$877,779, in addition to related shipping costs with a 15% markup, and duties, taxes, or tariffs at cost. 8% annual interest will become due for past due payment status subsequent to December 31, 2023.

As of December 31, 2023, the approximate dollar value of Mr. Tani's interest in the transaction described above was \$877,779. In addition, accrued annual interest of 8% for past due payment status, related shipping costs with a 15% markup, and duties, taxes, or tariffs at cost will be the responsibility of Mr. Tani as guarantor of IG's payment obligations and a potential debtor to the Company pursuant to the Tani Guaranty. The payments by IG in the current or any of the past three fiscal years do not exceed 5% of our consolidated gross revenues for that year, or \$200,000, whichever is more.

### Transactions with Engage & Excel Enterprises Inc.

Alan Chippindale, a member of our board of directors, the chairman of our Compensation Committee, and a member of our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, is the President of Engage & Excel. We and Engage & Excel are parties to a Buyer's Agreement, dated June 25, 2020, or the Buyer's Agreement. Under the Buyer's Agreement, Engage & Excel agreed to provide certain merger and acquisition, management and recruitment consulting services in connection with our acquisition of the Wildman Imprint assets. We agreed to pay Engage & Excel a fee of \$20,000 upon completion of a purchase and sale agreement and two annual fees of 1.5% of gross margin less costs attributable to the acquisition. We paid Engage & Excel \$9,954 as the first annual fee in November 2021 and \$12,836 in December 2022 under the Buyer's Agreement. Separately from the Buyer's Agreement, in 2023, we paid Engage & Excel \$17,500 for recruiting fees and \$20,000 for consulting fees relating to the T R Miller assets acquisition. We also agreed to pay Engage & Excel 1.5% of the contribution margin of the T R Miller assets for two years, paid annually. In September 2022, we paid Engage & Excel a one-time fee of \$15,000 for providing certain merger and acquisition consulting services. The fees paid or that we have agreed to pay to Engage & Excel for consulting services to date have totaled less than \$200,000. Our board of directors has determined that Mr. Chippindale remains eligible under Nasdaq rules to serve as an "independent director" of the Company and as a member and chairman of our Compensation Committee and a member of our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. Due to Mr. Chippindale's indirect compensation under the agreement, the board has determined that he is currently not eligible to be a member of our Audit Committee. The foregoing description of the Buyer's Agreement is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of such document which is filed as Exhibit 10.2 to this Annual Report, and which is incorporated herein b

## **Open-Market Purchases of Common Stock by Related Persons**

On June 23, 2023, Alan Chippindale, a director of the Company, purchased 8,000 shares of common stock on the open market at \$1.4667 per share.

On August 28, 2023, Andrew Stranberg, Executive Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, and director, purchased 10,560 shares of common stock on the open market at \$1.0995 per share.

On June 30, 2023, Mr. Stranberg purchased 9,934.436 shares of common stock on the open market at \$1.5099 per share.

On June 29, 2023, Mr. Stranberg purchased 2,695.707 shares of common stock on the open market at \$1.4838 per share.

On December 14, 2022, Mr. Stranberg purchased 25,000 shares of common stock on the open market at \$1.2702 per share.

On May 20, 2022, Mr. Stranberg purchased 18,000 shares of Common stock on the open market at \$1.7563 per share.

On December 13, 2022, Andrew Shape, Chief Executive Officer and President of the Company, purchased 141.2639 shares of common stock on the open market at \$1.3892 per share.

On December 12, 2022, Mr. Shape purchased 1,858.7361 shares of common stock on the open market at \$1.345 per share.

On May 20, 2022, Andrew Shape purchased 15,000 shares of common stock on the open market at \$1.7584 per share.

On May 20, 2022, John Audibert, Vice President of Growth and Strategic Initiatives of the Company, purchased 5,000 shares of common stock on the open market at \$1.7656 per share.

On December 9, 2022, Mr. Audibert purchased 5,000 shares of common stock on the open market at \$1.3617 per share.

On June 27, 2023, Mr. Audibert purchased 3,250 shares of common stock on the open market at \$1.4723 per share.

On September 7, 2023, Ashley Marshall, a director of the Company, purchased 760 shares of common stock on the open market at \$1.26 per share.

On December 30, 2022, Jason Nolley, a former executive officer of the Company, purchased 4,000 shares of common stock on the open market at \$1.24 per share.

#### **Director Independence**

#### **Independent Directors**

Nasdaq's rules generally require that a majority of an issuer's board of directors consist of independent directors. Our board of directors consists of six directors, four of whom have been determined by our board of directors to be "independent directors" within the meaning of Nasdaq Listing Rule 5605(a)(2). For a discussion of certain considerations relating to transactions with Alan Chippindale, see "*Transactions with Related Persons – Transactions with Non-Employee Director*", which is incorporated by reference herein. For discussion of compensation and indemnification arrangements with our independent directors for services performed as members of our board of directors, see Item 11 "*Executive Compensation – Director Compensation*", which is incorporated by reference herein.

### Committees of the Board of Directors

Our board of directors has established the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, and the Disclosure Controls and Procedures Committee, each with its own charter approved by the board. Each committee's charter is also available on our website at https://www.ir.stran.com/.



In addition, our board of directors may, from time to time, designate one or more additional committees, which shall have the duties and powers granted to it by the board.

## Audit Committee

Travis McCourt, Alejandro Tani, and Ashley Marshall, each of whom has been determined by our board of directors to satisfy the "independence" requirements of Rule 10A-3 under the Exchange Act and Nasdaq's rules, serve on our Audit Committee, with Mr. McCourt serving as the chairman. Our board has determined that each of Mr. McCourt and Mr. Tani qualifies as an "audit committee financial expert" as defined by Item 407(d)(5) of Regulation S-K. The Audit Committee oversees our accounting and financial reporting processes and the audits of the financial statements of our company.

#### Compensation Committee

Alan Chippindale, Travis McCourt and Alejandro Tani, each of whom has been determined by our board of directors to satisfy the "independence" requirements of Rule 10C-1 under the Exchange Act and Nasdaq's rules, serve on our Compensation Committee, with Mr. Chippindale serving as the chairman. The members of the Compensation Committee are also "non-employee directors" within the meaning of Section 16 of the Exchange Act. The Compensation Committee assists the board in reviewing and approving the compensation structure, including all forms of compensation, relating to our directors and executive officers.

### Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee

Alejandro Tani, Ashley Marshall, and Alan Chippindale, each of whom has been determined by our board of directors to satisfy the "independence" requirements of Nasdaq's rules, serve on our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, with Mr. Tani serving as the chairman. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee assists the board of directors in selecting individuals qualified to become our directors and in determining the composition of the board and its committees.

### Disclosure Controls and Procedures Committee

The members of the Disclosure Controls and Procedures Committee are the officers and directors of the Company. The Chief Financial Officer of the Company acts as the chair of the committee. The Disclosure Controls and Procedures Committee assist the Company's officers and directors in fulfilling the Company's and their responsibilities regarding (i) the identification and disclosure of material information about the Company and (ii) the accuracy, completeness and timeliness of the Company's financial reports under the Exchange Act and the rules of Nasdaq.

### ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES.

### **Independent Auditors' Fees**

The aggregate fees billed to the Company by BF Borgers CPA PC, the Company's principal registered public accounting firm performing services in connection with engagements for which independence is required (the "principal accountant"), for the indicated services for each of the last two fiscal years were as follows:

	Year End December	
	2023	2022
Audit Fees	\$ 170,500 \$	150,900
Audit-Related Fees	38,500	_
Tax Fees	—	—
All Other Fees	—	_
Total	\$ 209,000 \$	150,900

As used in the table above, the following terms have the meanings set forth below.

#### Audit Fees

Audit fees consist of aggregate fees billed for each of the last two fiscal years for professional services performed by the Company's principal accountant for the audit of the financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K and review of the financial statements included in our quarterly Form 10-Q filings, reviews of registration statements and issuances of consents, and services that are normally provided in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements for those fiscal years.

### Audit-Related Fees

Audit-related fees consist of aggregate fees billed for each of the last two fiscal years for assurance and related services performed by the Company's principal accountant that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit or review of our financial statements and are not reported under the paragraph captioned "Audit-Fees" above. These services consisted of an audit of T R Miller financial statements related to the acquisition of the T R Miller assets that closed in June 2023.

### Tax Fees

Tax fees consist of aggregate fees billed for each of the last two fiscal years for professional services performed by the Company's principal accountant with respect to tax compliance, tax advice, tax consulting and tax planning. We did not engage our principal accountant to provide tax compliance, tax advice or tax planning services during the last two fiscal years.

### All Other Fees

All other fees consist of aggregate fees billed for each of the last two fiscal years for products and services provided by the Company's principal accountant, other than for the services reported under the headings "Audit Fees," "Audit-Related Fees" and "Tax Fees" above. We did not engage our principal accountant to render services to us during the last two fiscal years, other than as reported above.

### **Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures**

The Audit Committee has reviewed and approved all fees earned in 2023 and 2022 by the Company's principal accountant, and actively monitored the relationship between audit and non-audit services provided. The Audit Committee has concluded that the fees earned by the principal accountant were consistent with the maintenance of the principal accountant's independence in the conduct of its auditing functions.

None of the services described in "*—Audit-Related Fees*" above for 2023 were approved by the Audit Committee pursuant to paragraph (c)(7)(i)(C) of Rule 2-01 of Regulation S-X.

The Audit Committee annually considers the provision of audit services. The Audit Committee must pre-approve all services provided and fees earned by the Company's principal accountant. The Audit Committee has established pre-approval policies and procedures that are detailed as to the particular service, that require that the Audit committee be informed of each service, and that do not include delegation of the Audit Committee's responsibilities under the Exchange Act to management. The pre-approval policies and procedures provide only for defined audit services and, if any, specified audit-related fees, tax services, and other services, and may impose specific dollar value limits for the fees for pre-approved services. The Audit Committee also considers on a case-by-case basis specific engagements that are not otherwise pre-approved under the pre-approved policies and procedures or that materially exceed pre-approved fee amounts. On an interim basis, any proposed engagement that does not fit within the definition of a pre-approved service may be presented to a designated member of the Audit Committee for approval and to the full Audit Committee at its next regular meeting.

The percentage of hours expended on the Company's principal accountant's engagement to audit the Company's financial statements for the most recent fiscal year that were attributed to work performed by persons other than the principal accountant's full-time, permanent employees was not greater than 50%.

### PART IV

## ITEM 15. EXHIBIT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES.

## (a) List of Documents Filed as a Part of This Report:

(1) Index to Financial Statements:

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	F-2
Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2023 and 2022	F-3
Consolidated Statements of Operations for the Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022	F-4
Consolidated Statement of Stockholders' Deficit for the Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022	F-5
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022	F-6
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements	F-8

## (2) Index to Financial Statement Schedules:

All schedules have been omitted because the required information is included in the financial statements or the notes thereto, or because it is not required.

(3) Index to Exhibits:

See exhibits listed under "-(b) Exhibits" below.

## (b) Exhibits:

Exhibit No.	Description
2.1	Asset Purchase Agreement, dated as of January 21, 2022, by and among Stran & Company, Inc., G.A.P. Promotions, LLC, and Gayle Piraino and Stephen
	Piraino (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.1 to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on January 26, 2022)
2.2	Amendment No. 1 to Asset Purchase Agreement, dated as of January 31, 2022, by and among Stran & Company, Inc., G.A.P. Promotions, LLC, and Gayle
	Piraino and Stephen Piraino (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.2 to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on February 1, 2022)
2.3	Asset Purchase Agreement, dated as of July 13, 2022, by and among Stran & Company, Inc., Trend Promotional Marketing Corporation (d/b/a Trend Brand
	Solutions) and Michael Krauser (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.1 to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on July 19, 2022)
2.4	Amendment No. 1 to Asset Purchase Agreement, dated as of August 31, 2022, by and among Stran & Company, Inc., Trend Promotional Marketing
	Corporation (d/b/a Trend Brand Solutions) and Michael Krauser (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.2 to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on
	<u>September 7, 2022)</u>
2.5	Asset Purchase Agreement, dated as of January 25, 2023, by and among Stran & Company, Inc., T R Miller Co., Inc. and Thomas R. Miller (incorporated by
	reference to Exhibit 2.1 to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on January 31, 2023)
3.1	Articles of Incorporation of Stran & Company, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed on October 7,
	<u>2021)</u>
3.2	Amended and Restated Bylaws of Stran & Company, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Amendment No.1 to Registration Statement on
	Form S-1 filed on October 22, 2021)
4.1	Description of Securities of Stran & Company, Inc.
10.1	Asset Purchase Agreement between Wildman Business Group, LLC and Stran & Company, Inc., dated as of August 24, 2020 (incorporated by reference to
	Exhibit 10.1 to Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed on October 7, 2021)
10.2	Buyer's Agreement between Engage & Excel Enterprises Inc. and Stran & Company, Inc., dated as of June 25, 2020 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit
10.2	10.2 to Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed on October 7, 2021)
10.3	Lease Agreement between Campanelli-Trigate Heritage Quincy, LLC and Stran & Company, Inc., dated as of December 26, 2014 (incorporated by reference
10.4	to Exhibit 10.12 to Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed on October 7, 2021)
10.4	First Amendment to Lease Agreement among GCP H2 LLC, GCP H2 A LLC, GCP H2 B LLC, GCP H2 C LLC and Stran & Company, Inc., dated as of May
10.54	31, 2019 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.13 to Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed on October 7, 2021)
10.5†	Employment Agreement between Stran & Company, Inc. and Andrew Shape, dated as of July 13, 2021 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.14 to Basistration Statement on Form S. 1 filed on October 7, 2021)
	Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed on October 7, 2021)

10.6†	Employment Agreement between Stran & Company, Inc. and Andrew Stranberg, dated as of July 13, 2021 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.15 to
	Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed on October 7, 2021)
10.7†	Employment Agreement between Stran & Company, Inc. and Randolph Birney, dated as of July 13, 2021 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.16 to
	Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed on October 7, 2021)
10.8†	Employment Agreement between Stran & Company, Inc. and Christopher Rollins, dated as of September 7, 2021 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.17
	to Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed on October 7, 2021)
10.9	Purchase Money Promissory Note between Andrew Shape and Andrew Stranberg, effective as of May 24, 2021 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.18 to
	Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed on October 7, 2021)
10.10	Purchase Money Promissory Note between Randolph Birney and Andrew Stranberg, effective as of May 24, 2021 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.19
	to Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed on October 7, 2021)
10.11	Stock Purchase Agreement between Andrew Shape and Andrew Stranberg, dated as of May 24, 2021 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.20 to
	Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed on October 7, 2021)
10.12	Stock Purchase Agreement between Randolph Birney and Andrew Stranberg, dated as of May 24, 2021 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.21 to
	Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed on October 7, 2021)
10.13†	Form of Independent Director Agreement between Stran & Company, Inc. and each non-employee director (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.24 to
	Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed on October 7, 2021)
10.14	Form of Indemnification Agreement between Stran & Company, Inc. and each officer or director
10.15†	Stran & Company, Inc. Amended and Restated 2021 Equity Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.26 to Registration Statement on Form S-1
	filed on October 7, 2021)
10.16†	Form of Stock Option Agreement for Stran & Company, Inc. Amended and Restated 2021 Equity Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.27
	to Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed on October 7, 2021)
10.17†	Form of Restricted Stock Award Agreement for Stran & Company, Inc. Amended and Restated 2021 Equity Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to
	Exhibit 10.28 to Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed on October 7, 2021)
10.18	Warrant Agency Agreement, dated November 8, 2021, between Stran & Company, Inc. and Vstock Transfer, LLC and Form of Warrant (incorporated by
	reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on November 12, 2021)
10.19	Revolving Demand Line of Credit Loan Agreement, dated November 22, 2021, by and between Stran & Company, Inc. and Salem Five Cents Savings Bank
	(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on November 26, 2021)
10.20	Revolving Demand Line of Credit Note, dated November 22, 2021, by Stran & Company, Inc. in favor of Salem Five Cents Savings Bank (incorporated by
	reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on November 26, 2021)
10.21	Security Agreement, dated November 22, 2021, by and between Stran & Company, Inc. in favor of Salem Five Cents Savings Bank (incorporated by reference
	to Exhibit 10.3 to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on November 26, 2021)
10.22	Warehouseman's Waiver, dated November 4, 2021 and executed November 22, 2021, by and among Harte Hanks Response Management/ Boston, Inc., Stran
	& Company, Inc. and Salem Five Cents Savings Bank (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on November 26,
	<u>2021)</u>
10.23	Underwriting Agreement, dated November 8, 2021, by and between Stran & Company, Inc. and EF Hutton, division of Benchmark Investments, LLC (as
	representative of the underwriters named therein) (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 1.1 to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on November 12, 2021)
10.24	Representative's Warrant Agreement, dated November 12, 2021, between Stran & Company, Inc. and Benchmark Investments, LLC (incorporated by
10.05	reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed on December 7, 2021)
10.25	Representative's Warrant Agreement, dated November 12, 2021, between Stran & Company, Inc. and David W. Boral (incorporated by reference to Exhibit
	10.3 to the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed on December 7, 2021)

10.4 to the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed on December 7, 2021).         10.27       Representative's Warrant Agreement, dated November 12, 2021, between Stran & Company, Inc. and U.S. Tiger Securities, Inc. (incorporated by Exhibit 10.5 to the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed on December 7, 2021).         10.28†       Consulting Agreement between Stran & Company, Inc., Josselin Capital Advisors, Inc. and John Audibert, dated as of December 2, 2021 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.11 to the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed on December 7, 2021).         10.29       Form of Securities Purchase Agreement, dated as of December 8, 2021 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.11 to the Current Report on Form 3 December 13, 2021).         10.30       Placement Agency Agreement dated December 8, 2021 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Current Report on Form 3 December 13, 2021).         10.31       Form of Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of December 8, 2021 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Current Report on Form 3 December 13, 2021).         10.32       Form of Private Placement Common Stock Purchase Warrant, dated December 10, 2021 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Current	rporated by 3-K filed on ecember 13,
<ul> <li>Exhibit 10.5 to the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed on December 7, 2021).</li> <li>10.28† Consulting Agreement between Stran &amp; Company, Inc., Josselin Capital Advisors, Inc. and John Audibert, dated as of December 2, 2021 (incorreference to Exhibit 10.11 to the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed on December 7, 2021).</li> <li>10.29 Form of Securities Purchase Agreement, dated as of December 8, 2021 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Current Report on Form 10-Q filed on December 13, 2021).</li> <li>10.30 Placement Agency Agreement dated December 8, 2021 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on December 13, 2021).</li> <li>10.31 Form of Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of December 8, 2021 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on December 13, 2021).</li> </ul>	rporated by 3-K filed on ecember 13,
<ul> <li>10.28† Consulting Agreement between Stran &amp; Company, Inc., Josselin Capital Advisors, Inc. and John Audibert, dated as of December 2, 2021 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.11 to the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed on December 7, 2021).</li> <li>10.29 Form of Securities Purchase Agreement, dated as of December 8, 2021 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Current Report on Form 3 December 13, 2021).</li> <li>10.30 Placement Agency Agreement dated December 8, 2021 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on December 8, 2021).</li> <li>10.31 Form of Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of December 8, 2021 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Current Report on Form 8 December 13, 2021).</li> </ul>	3-K filed on ecember 13,
reference to Exhibit 10.11 to the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed on December 7, 2021)         10.29       Form of Securities Purchase Agreement, dated as of December 8, 2021 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Current Report on Form 4 December 13, 2021)         10.30       Placement Agency Agreement dated December 8, 2021 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on December 2021)         10.31       Form of Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of December 8, 2021 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Current Report on Form 4, 2021)	3-K filed on ecember 13,
<ul> <li>10.29 Form of Securities Purchase Agreement, dated as of December 8, 2021 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Current Report on Form 8 December 13, 2021)</li> <li>10.30 Placement Agency Agreement dated December 8, 2021 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on December 13, 2021)</li> <li>10.31 Form of Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of December 8, 2021 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Current Report on Form 8 December 13, 2021)</li> </ul>	ecember 13,
December 13, 2021)         10.30       Placement Agency Agreement dated December 8, 2021 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on December 10, 2021)         10.31       Form of Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of December 8, 2021 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Current Report on Form 8 December 13, 2021)	ecember 13,
December 13, 2021)         10.30       Placement Agency Agreement dated December 8, 2021 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on December 10, 2021)         10.31       Form of Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of December 8, 2021 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Current Report on Form 8 December 13, 2021)	ecember 13,
2021)         10.31       Form of Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of December 8, 2021 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Current Report on Form 3 December 13, 2021)	
2021)         10.31       Form of Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of December 8, 2021 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Current Report on Form 3 December 13, 2021)	
December 13, 2021)	<u>}-K filed on</u>
December 13, 2021)	
10.32 Form of Private Placement Common Stock Purchase Warrant, dated December 10, 2021 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Curren	
	t Report on
Form 8-K filed on December 13, 2021)	
10.33 Form of Placement Agent Warrant (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on December 13, 2021)	
10.34† Employment Offer Letter, dated March 11, 2022, by and between Stran & Company, Inc. and Sheila Johnshoy (incorporated by reference to Exl	nibit 10.1 to
the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on March 16, 2022)	
10.35† Employment Offer Letter, dated December 6, 2021, by and between Stran & Company, Inc. and Stephen Paradiso (incorporated by reference to E	<u>khibit 10.45</u>
to the Annual Report on Form 10-K filed on March 28, 2022)	
10.36† Employment Offer Letter, dated November 19, 2021, by and between Stran & Company, Inc. and Jason Nolley (incorporated by reference to Exh.	bit 10.46 to
the Annual Report on Form 10-K filed on March 28, 2022)	
10.37 Land and Building Lease Agreement, dated May 31, 2023, between Miller Family Walpole LLC and Stran & Company, Inc. (incorporated by	reference to
Exhibit 10.1 to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on June 1, 2023)	
10.38† Employment Agreement, dated as of April 14, 2023, by and between Stran & Company, Inc. and David Browner (incorporated by reference to Ex	<u>nibit 10.1 to</u>
the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on April 20, 2023)	
10.39† Amended and Restated Consulting Agreement, dated as of April 14, 2023, by and between Stran & Company, Inc., John Audibert and Joss	elin Capital
Advisors, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on April 20, 2023)	
10.40† Employment Agreement between Stran & Company, Inc. and David Leuci, dated August 14, 2023 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the	e Quarterly
Report on Form 10-Q filed on November 6, 2023)	
10.41† Employment Agreement between Stran & Company, Inc. and Ian Wall, dated December 11, 2023	
10.42 Commercial Loan Modification Agreement, dated as of February 12, 2024, between Salem Five Cents Savings Bank and Stran & Company, Inc.	
14.1 Code of Ethics and Business Conduct (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 14.1 to Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed on October 7, 2021)	
23.1 Consent of BF Borgers CPA PC	
31.1 Certifications of Principal Executive Officer filed pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002	
31.2 Certifications of Principal Financial and Accounting Officer filed pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002	
32.1 Certifications of Principal Executive Officer furnished pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002	
32.2 Certifications of Principal Financial and Accounting Officer furnished pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002	
97.1 Stran & Company, Inc. Clawback Policy	
99.1 Stran & Company, Inc. Second Amended and Restated Insider Trading Policy	
101.PRE Inline XBRL Instance Document	
101.INS Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document	
101.SCH         Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document	
101.CAL Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document	
101.DEF Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document	
101.LAB         Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document	
104 Cover Page Interactive Data File (formatted as Inline XBRL and contained in Exhibit 101).	

\* Executive compensation plan or arrangement

## ITEM 16. FORM 10-K SUMMARY.

None.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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Statements of Earnings for the Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022	F-4
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### **Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

To the shareholders and the board of directors of Stran & Company, Inc.

### **Opinion on the Financial Statements**

We have audited the accompanying balance sheets of Stran & Company, Inc. as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the related statements of operations, stockholders' equity (deficit), and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes (collectively referred to as the "financial statements"). In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

### **Basis for Opinion**

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's financial statements based on our audit. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) ("PCAOB") and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. The Company is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. As part of our audits we are required to obtain an understanding of internal control over financial reporting but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion.

Our audit included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audit also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

/S/ BF Borgers CPA PC

## BF Borgers CPA PC (PCAOB ID 5041)

We have served as the Company's auditor since 2021

Lakewood, CO March 28, 2024



## STRAN & COMPANY, INC. BALANCE SHEETS

	D	ecember 31, 2023	D	ecember 31, 2022
ASSETS				
CURRENT ASSETS:				
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$	7,988,803	\$	15,253,756
Investments		10,463,799		9,779,355
Accounts Receivable, Net		20,465,564		14,442,626
Deferred Income Taxes		841,000		841,000
Inventory		6,639,358		6,867,564
Prepaid Corporate Taxes		16,800		87,459
Prepaid Expenses		952,691		386,884
Deposits		1,717,444		910,486
		49,085,459		48.569.130
		19,000,109		10,509,150
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, NET:		1,520,933		1,000,090
OTHER ASSETS: Intangible Assets - Customer Lists, Net		9,659,481		6,272,205
Right of Use Asset - Office Leases		1,335,653		784,683
		10,995,134		7,056,888
	\$	61,601,526	\$	56,626,108
	-	, ,	-	, ,
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDER'S EQUITY				
CURRENT LIABILITIES:				
Current Portion of Contingent Earn-Out Liabilities	\$	2,870,274	\$	1,809,874
Current Portion of Lease Liability		527,548		324,594
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses		4,316,198		4,051,657
Accrued Payroll and Related		2,563,238		608,589
Unearned Revenue		5,171,479		633,148
Rewards Program Liability		875,000		6,000,000
Sales Tax Payable		343,944		365,303
Note Payable - Wildman		-		162,358
		16,667,681		13,955,523
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES:				
Long-Term Contingent Earn-Out Liabilities		4,586,765		2,845,944
Long-Term Lease Liability		797,558		460,089
Long torm Louse Encontry	_	5,384,323	_	3,306,033
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY:				
Common Stock, \$.0001 Par Value; 300,000,000 Shares Authorized, 18,534,073 and 18,475,521 Shares Issued and Outstanding as		1.054		1.0.40
of December 31, 2023 and December 31, 2022, respectively		1,854		1,848
Additional Paid-In Capital		38,429,057		38,279,151
Retained Earnings	_	1,118,611		1,083,553
	_	39,549,522		39,364,552
	S	61,601,526	\$	56,626,108

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

## STRAN & COMPANY, INC. STATEMENTS OF EARNINGS (LOSS) AND RETAINED EARNINGS YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

	 2023		2022
SALES	\$ 75,893,871	\$	58,953,467
COST OF SALES:			
Purchases	45,399,202		37,391,939
Freight	5,613,169		4,991,854
	 51,012,371		42,383,793
GROSS PROFIT	24,881,500		16,569,674
OPERATING EXPENSES:			
General and Administrative Expenses	26,030,030		18,075,369
	26,030,030		18,075,369
EARNINGS (LOSS) FROM OPERATIONS	(1,148,530)		(1,505,695)
OTHER INCOME AND (EXPENSE):			
Other Income	375,063		112,507
Interest Income	570,387		94,680
Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments	 269,587	_	(179,120)
	 1,215,037		28,067
EARNINGS (LOSS) BEFORE INCOME TAXES	66,507		(1,477,628)
PROVISION FOR INCOME TAXES	31,449		(699,187)
NET EARNINGS (LOSS)	35,058		(778,441)
NET EARNINGS (LOSS) PER COMMON SHARE			
Basic	\$ 0.00	\$	(0.04)
Diluted	\$ 0.00	\$	(0.04)
WEIGHTED-AVERAGE COMMON SHARES OUTSTANDING			
Basic	18,519,615		19,202,619
Diluted	29,453,206		19,202,619

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

## STRAN & COMPANY, INC. STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

	Commo	n Ste	ock		Additional Paid in	Retained	S	Total tockholders
	Shares		Value		Capital	Earnings		Equity
Balance, January 1, 2022	19,753,852		\$1,976	_	\$39,747,649	\$1,861,994		\$41,611,619
IPO Warrants Exercised	271,589		27		1,307,335	-		1,307,362
Asset Acquisition	120,660		12		224,988	-		225,000
Stock-Based Compensation	107,077		11		331,406	-		331,417
Stock Repurchase Program	(1,777,657)		(178)		(3,332,227)	-		(3,332,405)
Net Earnings	-		-		-	(778,441)		(778,441)
Balance, December 31, 2022	18,475,521	\$	1,848	\$	38,279,151	\$ 1,083,553	\$	39,364,552
Balance, January 1, 2023	18,475,521	\$	1,848	\$	38,279,151	\$ 1,083,553	\$	39,364,552
Stock-Based Compensation	96,061		10		199,903	-		199,913
Stock Repurchase Program	(37,509)		(4)		(49,997)	-		(50,001)
Net Earnings	-		-		-	35,058		35,058
Balance, December 31, 2023	18,534,073	\$	1,854	\$	38,429,057	\$ 1,118,611	\$	39,549,522

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

## STRAN & COMPANY, INC. STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

		2023		2022
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:				
Net Earnings (Loss)	\$	35,058	\$	(778,441)
Adjustments to Reconcile Net Earnings (Loss) to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities:	Ψ	55,050	Ψ	(770,111)
Deferred Income Taxes (Credit)		-		(728,000)
Depreciation and Amortization		1,506,242		725,398
Debt Forgiveness		(162,358)		-
Intangible Asset Impairment, Net		(178,134)		(149,326)
Stock-Based Compensation		199,913		331,417
Unrealized Gain on Investments		(269,587)		179,120
Adjustment to Reconcile Operating Lease Expense to Cash Paid		(10,547)		-
Changes in Operating Assets and Liabilities:		· · · ·		
Accounts Receivable, Net		(6,022,938)		(5,459,858)
Inventory		228,206		(1,636,772)
Prepaid Taxes		70,659		-
Prepaid Expenses		(565,807)		(87,473)
Deposits		(806,958)		(287,084)
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses		264,541		(931,839)
Accrued Payroll and Related		1,954,649		(228,326)
Unearned Revenue		4,538,331		(113,019)
Rewards Program Liability		(5,125,000)		5,956,122
Sales Tax Payable		(21,359)		258,479
		(4,365,089)		(2,949,602)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:				
Asset Acquisition, Net of Cash Acquired		(660,340)		(737,368)
Additions to Property and Equipment		(999,362)		(626,345)
Purchase of Investments		(414,857)		(9,965,823)
		(2,074,559)		(11,329,536)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:				
Debt Reduction:				
Contingent Earn-Out Liabilities		(775,304)		(668,731)
Stock Repurchase		(50,001)		(3,332,405)
Proceeds from Warrants Exercised		-		1,307,362
		(825,305)	-	(2,693,774)
		(0-0,000)		(_,;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH		(7,264,953)		(16,972,912)
CASH - BEGINNING		15,253,756		32,226,668
CASH - ENDING	\$	7,988,803	\$	15,253,756

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

## STRAN & COMPANY, INC. STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022 (CONTINUED)

## SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURES OF CASH FLOW INFORMATION

		2023		2022
Cash Paid During The Period For:				
Interest	\$	-	\$	-
Income Taxes	\$	29,043	\$	85,163
Schedule of Noncash Investing and Financing Transactions:				
Cost of Property and Equipment	\$	-	\$	640,789
Equipment Acquired in Asset Acquisition		-		(14,444)
Cash Used for Purchase of Property and Equipment	\$	-	\$	626,345
Non-Cash G.A.P. Promotions Asset Acquisition	\$	-	\$	1,735,000
Non-Cash Trend Brand Solutions Asset Acquisition	\$		\$	1,470,344
Non-Cash Premier Asset Acquisition	\$	-	\$	932,600
Non-Cash T R Miller Asset Acquisition	\$	4,551,095	\$	-
Reduction in Contingent Earnout Liabilities	\$	654,069	\$	140,746
Reduction in Intangible Asset Associated With Contingent Earnout Liabilities	Ψ	(654,069)	Ψ	(140,746)
	\$	-	\$	-
Lease Liabilities Arising from Obtaining Right-Of-Use Assets	\$	1,034,216	\$	-

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

### A. ORGANIZATION AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES:

- 1. Organization Stran & Company, Inc., (the "Company") was incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and commenced operations on November 17, 1995. The Company re-incorporated under the laws of the State of Nevada on May 24, 2021.
- 2. Operations The Company is an outsourced marketing solutions provider that sells branded products to customers. The Company purchases products and branding through various third-party manufacturers and decorators and resells the finished goods to customers.

In addition to selling branded products, the Company offers clients custom sourcing capabilities; a flexible and customizable e-commerce solution for promoting branded merchandise and other promotional products, managing promotional loyalty and incentives, print collateral, and event assets, order and inventory management, and designing and hosting online retail popup shops, fixed public retail online stores, and online business-to-business service offerings; creative and merchandising services; warehousing/fulfillment and distribution; print-on-demand; kitting; point of sale displays; and loyalty and incentive programs.

- 3. Method of Accounting The Company's financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. ("U.S. GAAP").
- 4. Emerging Growth Company The Company is an "emerging growth company," as defined in Section 2(a) of the Securities Act, of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), as modified by the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act of 2012 (the "JOBS Act"), and it may take advantage of certain exemptions from various reporting requirements that are applicable to other public companies that are not emerging growth companies including, but not limited to, not being required to comply with the auditor attestation requirements of Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, reduced disclosure obligations regarding executive compensation in its periodic reports and proxy statements, and exemptions from the requirements of holding a nonbinding advisory vote on executive compensation and approval of any golden parachute payments not previously approved. Further, Section 102(b)(1) of the JOBS Act exempts emerging growth companies from being required to comply with new or revised financial accounting standards until private companies (that is, those that have not had a Securities Act registration statement declared effective or do not have a class of securities registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act")) are required to comply with the new or revised financial accounting standards. The JOBS Act provides that a company can elect to opt out of the extended transition period and comply with the requirements that apply to non-emerging growth companies but any such election to opt out is irrevocable. The Company has elected not to opt out of such extended transition period which means that when a standard is issued or revised and it has different application dates for public or private companies of the Company's consolidated financial statements with another public company which is neither an emerging growth company on a emerging growth company as an emerging growth company, can adopt the new or revised standard. This may make companies of the Company's consolidated financial statements with anothe
- 5. Cash and Cash Equivalents For purposes of the statement of cash flows, the Company considers all highly liquid investments with an initial maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.
- 6. Fair Value Measurements and Fair Value of Financial Instruments The carrying value of certain financial instruments, including cash, investments, accounts receivable, accounts payable and accrued expenses, and contingent earnout liabilities are carried at historical cost basis, which approximates their fair values because of the nature of these instruments.

The Company analyzes all financial instruments with features of both liabilities and equity under the Financial Accounting Standard Board's (the "FASB") accounting standard for such instruments. Under this standard, financial assets and liabilities are classified in their entirety based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. The Company did not identify any assets or liabilities that are required to be presented on the balance sheet at fair value in accordance with the FASB Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC") Topic 820.

ASC 825-10 "Financial Instruments", allows entities to voluntarily choose to measure certain financial assets and liabilities at fair value (fair value option). The fair value option may be elected on an instrument-by-instrument basis and is irrevocable unless a new election date occurs. If the fair value option is elected for an instrument, unrealized gains and losses for that instrument should be reported in earnings at each subsequent reporting date. The Company did not elect to apply the fair value option to any outstanding instruments.

- 7. Investments Our investments consist of U.S. treasury bills, corporate bonds, mutual funds, and money market funds. We classify our investments as available-for-sale and record these investments at fair value. Investments with an original maturity of greater than three months at the date of purchase and less than one year from the date of the balance sheet are classified as current and those with maturities of more than one year from the date of the balance sheet are classified as long-term in the balance sheet.
- 8. Concentration of Credit Risk Financial instruments that potentially subject the Company to concentrations of credit risk consist primarily of accounts receivable and deposits in excess of federally insured limits. These risks are managed by performing ongoing credit evaluations of customers' financial condition and by maintaining all deposits in high quality financial institutions.
- 9. Inventory Inventory consists of finished goods (branded products) and goods in process (un-branded products awaiting decoration). All inventory is stated at the lower of cost (first-in, first-out method) or market value.
- 10. Property and Equipment Property and equipment are recorded at cost. Maintenance and repairs are charged to expense as incurred whereas major betterments are capitalized. Depreciation is provided using straight-line and accelerated methods over five years.
- 11. Intangible Asset Customer List The Company accounts for intangible assets under the provision of ASC 350-20 "Accounting for Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets." The provision establishes standards for valuation and amortization of unidentifiable assets.

Under ASC 350-20-35-1, the cost of unidentifiable intangible assets is measured by the excess cost over the fair value of net assets acquired. Intangible assets with indefinite useful lives shall not be amortized until its useful life is determined to be no longer infinite. The intangible assets are evaluated when a triggering event occurs, at least annually, for potential impairment.

12. Revenue Recognition - The Company accounts for revenue recognition in accordance with Accounting Standards Codification Topic 606, Revenue from Contracts with Customers ("ASC 606"). This guidance provides a comprehensive model for entities to use in accounting for revenue arising from contracts with customers. ASC 606 also requires both qualitative and quantitative disclosures, including descriptions of performance obligations.

Performance Obligations - Revenue from contracts with customers is recognized when, or as, the Company satisfies its performance obligations by transferring goods or services to customers. A good or service is transferred to a customer when, or as, the customer obtains control of that good or service. A performance obligation may be satisfied over time or at a point in time. Revenue from a performance obligation satisfied at a point in time is recognized at the point in time that the company determines the customer has obtained control over the promised good or service. The amount of revenue recognized reflects the consideration of which the Company expects to be entitled in exchange for the promised goods or services.

The following provides detailed information on the recognition of the Company's revenue from contracts with customers:

<u>Product Sales</u> - The Company is engaged in the development and sale of promotional programs and products. Revenue on the sale of these products is recognized after orders are shipped.

<u>Reward Card Program</u> - The Company facilitates a reward card program for a customer and receives a transaction fee when the customer issues or replenishes a new reward card. Revenue is recognized when cards are issued or replenished.

All performance obligations are satisfied at a point in time.

13. Freight - The Company includes freight charges as a component of cost of goods sold.

- 14. Uncertainty in Income and Other Taxes The Company adopted the standards for Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes (income, sales, use, and payroll), which required the Company to report any uncertain tax positions and to adjust its financial statements for the impact thereof. As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Company determined that it had no tax positions that did not meet the "more likely than not" threshold of being sustained by the applicable tax authority. The Company files tax and information returns in the United States Federal, Massachusetts, and other state jurisdictions. These returns are generally subject to examination by tax authorities for the last three years.
- 15. Income Taxes Income taxes are provided for the tax effects of transactions reported in the financial statements and consist of taxes currently due plus deferred taxes. Deferred taxes are provided for differences between the basis of assets and liabilities for financial statements and income tax purposes. The Company has historically utilized accelerated tax depreciation to minimize federal income taxes.
- 16. Earnings/ Loss per Share Basic earnings per share ("EPS") is computed based on the weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding during the period. Diluted EPS is computed based on the weighted average number of shares of common stock plus the effect of dilutive potential shares of common stock outstanding during the period using the treasury stock method. Dilutive potential common shares include the issuance of potential shares of common stock for outstanding stock options and warrants.
- 17. Stock-Based Compensation The Company accounts for its stock-based awards in accordance with FASB ASC 718, Compensation Stock Compensation. ASC 718 requires all stock-based payments to employees to be recognized in the consolidated statements of operations based on their fair values. The Company uses the Black-Scholes option pricing model to determine the fair value of options granted. The Company is recognizing compensation costs only for those stock-based awards expected to vest after considering expected forfeitures. Cumulative compensation expense is at least equal to the compensation expense for vested awards. Stock-based compensation is recognized on a straight-line basis over the service period of each award. The Company records compensation cost as an element of general and administrative expense in the accompanying statements of operations.
- 18. Stock Option and Warrant Valuation Stock option and warrant valuation models require the input of highly subjective assumptions. The fair value of stock-based payment awards was estimated using the Black-Scholes option model with a volatility figure derived from an index of historical stock prices for comparable entities. For warrants and stock options issued to non- employees, the Company accounts for the expected life based on the contractual life of the warrants and stock options. For employees, the Company accounts for the expected life of options in accordance with the "simplified" method, which is used for "plain-vanilla" options, as defined in the accounting standards codification. The risk-free interest rate was determined from the implied yields of U.S. Treasury zero-coupon bonds with a remaining life consistent with the expected term of the options.
- 19. Sales Tax Sales tax collected from customers is recorded as a liability, pending remittance to the taxing jurisdiction. Consequently, sales taxes have been excluded from revenues and costs. The Company remits sales, use, and GST taxes to Massachusetts, other state jurisdictions, and Canada, respectively.
- 20. Use of Estimates The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.
- 21. Recent Accounting Pronouncements Management does not believe that any recently issued, but not yet effective accounting pronouncements, if adopted, would have a material effect on its financial statements.
- 22. Subsequent Events Management has evaluated events occurring after the balance sheet date through March 28, 2024, the date in which the financial statements were available to be issued.

## B. <u>INVESTMENTS</u>:

The Company's investments consisted of the following as of December 31, 2023:

		Un	realized	Fair
	 Cost	Ga	in (Loss)	 Value
Money Market Fund	\$ 761,964	\$	-	\$ 761,964
Corporate Bonds	3,964,784		(57,216)	3,907,568
Mutual Funds	740,188		14,965	755,153
US Treasury Bills	 5,028,228		10,886	 5,039,114
	\$ 10,495,164	\$	(31,365)	\$ 10,463,799



The Company's investments consisted of the following as of December 31, 2022:

	Un	realized		Fair
 Cost	Ga	in (Loss)		Value
\$ 487,324	\$	-	\$	487,324
4,540,067		(136,273)		4,403,794
-		-		-
 4,931,084		(42,847)		4,888,237
\$ 9,958,475	\$	(179,120)	\$	9,779,355
\$ \$	\$ 487,324 4,540,067 4,931,084	Cost         Ga           \$ 487,324         \$           4,540,067         -           4,931,084         -	\$ 487,324 \$ 4,540,067 (136,273) 4,931,084 (42,847)	Cost         Gain (Loss)           \$ 487,324         \$ \$ \$           4,540,067         (136,273)           4,931,084         (42,847)

### C. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS:

We measure certain financial assets and liabilities at fair value. Fair value is determined based upon the exit price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants, as determined by either the principal market or the most advantageous market. Inputs used in the valuation techniques to derive fair values are classified based on a three-level hierarchy, as follows:

- Level 1: Observable inputs that reflect quoted prices (unadjusted) for identical assets or liabilities in active markets.
- Level 2: Observable inputs other than Level 1 prices such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities; quoted prices in markets with insufficient volume or infrequent transactions (less active markets); or model-derived valuations in which all significant inputs are observable or can be derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the assets or liabilities.
- Level 3: Unobservable inputs that are supported by little or no market activity and that are significant to the fair value of the asset or liability.

We consider an active market to be one in which transactions for the asset or liability occur with sufficient frequency and volume to provide pricing information on an ongoing basis, and we consider an inactive market to be one in which there are infrequent or few transactions for the asset or liability, the prices are not current, or price quotations vary substantially either over time or among market makers.

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, all investments are classified as level 1.

## D. ALLOWANCE FOR DOUBTFUL ACCOUNTS, NET:

The Company uses the allowance method to account for uncollectible accounts receivable balances. Under the allowance method, an estimate of uncollectible customer balances is made based on the Company's prior history and other factors such as credit quality of the customer and economic conditions of the market. Based on these factors, at December 31, 2023 and 2022, there was an allowance for doubtful accounts of \$317,403 and \$264,160, respectively.

### E. <u>INVENTORY</u>:

Inventory consists of the following as of December 31,:

	20	23	 2022
Finished Goods (branded products)	\$ 6	,041,816	\$ 6,557,040
Goods in Process (un-branded products)		597,542	 310,524
	\$ 6	,639,358	\$ 6,867,564

### F. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT:

Property and Equipment consists of the following as of December 31,:

	 2023	 2022
Leasehold Improvements	\$ 5,664	\$ 5,664
Office Furniture and Equipment	558,329	501,395
Software	2,467,804	1,525,376
Transportation Equipment	 62,424	 62,424
	3,094,221	2,094,859
Accumulated Depreciation	 (1,573,288)	 (1,094,769)
	\$ 1,520933	\$ 1,000,090

## G. INTANGIBLE ASSET - CUSTOMER LISTS:

### Wildman Acquisition

The Company has acquired select assets and the customer list of an entity as discussed in Note J. The Company, using a Contingent Earn-Out Calculation, made the determination that the amounts allocated to Intangible Asset - Customer List amounted to \$2,253,690. The intangible asset - customer list is amortized over 10 years. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Company's evaluation of Intangible Asset - Customer List has resulted in accumulated impairment of \$484,981 and \$299,912, respectively.

Amortization expense related to intangible asset - customer list was \$174,697 and \$211,584 for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022.

Estimated future amortization expense for the years:

2024	\$ 176,871
2025	176,871
2026	176,871
2027 2028	176,871
2028	176,871
	\$ 884,355

## G.A.P. Acquisition

The Company has acquired select assets and the customer list of an entity as discussed in Note J and Note N. The Company, using a Contingent Earn-Out Calculation, made the determination that the amounts allocated to Intangible Asset - Customer List amounted to \$2,275,290. The intangible asset - customer list is amortized over 10 years. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Company's evaluation of Intangible Asset - Customer List has resulted in accumulated impairment of \$469,000 and zero, respectively.

Amortization expense related to intangible asset - customer lists was \$137,634 and \$208,571 for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

Estimated future amortization expense for the years:

2024	\$ 180,629
2025	180,629
2026	180,629
2027 2028	180,629
2028	180,629
	\$ 903,145



## Trend Acquisition

The Company has acquired select assets and the customer list of an entity as discussed in Note J and Note N. The Company, using a Contingent Earn-Out Calculation, made the determination that the amounts allocated to Intangible Asset - Customer List amounted to \$1,659,831. The intangible asset - customer list is amortized over 10 years. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Company's evaluation of Intangible Asset - Customer List has resulted in accumulated impairment of \$118,000 and zero, respectively.

Amortization expense related to intangible asset - customer lists was \$150,249 and \$55,328 for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

Estimated future amortization expense for the years:

2024	\$ 154,183
2025 2026 2027	154,183
2026	154,183
2027	154,183
2028	154,183
	\$ 770,915

#### Premier Acquisition

The Company has acquired select assets and the customer list of an entity as discussed in Note J and Note N. The Company, using a Contingent Earn-Out Calculation, made the determination that the amounts allocated to Intangible Asset - Customer List amounted to \$1,032,600. The intangible asset - customer list is amortized over 10 years. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Company's evaluation of Intangible Asset - Customer List has resulted in accumulated impairment of \$202,500 and zero, respectively.

Amortization expense related to intangible asset - customer lists was \$83,010 and zero for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

Estimated future amortization expense for the years:

2024 2025	\$ 83,010 83,010
2025	
2026 2027 2028	83,010
2027	83,010
2028	83,010
	\$ 415,050

#### TR Miller Acquisition

The Company has acquired select assets and the customer list of an entity as discussed in Note J and Note N. The Company, using a Contingent Earn-Out Calculation, made the determination that the amounts allocated to Intangible Asset - Customer List amounted to \$5,292,205 after post-closing adjustments of \$339,660. The intangible asset - customer list is amortized over 10 years. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Company's evaluation of Intangible Asset - Customer List has resulted in accumulated impairment of zero.

Amortization expense related to intangible asset - customer lists was \$304,001 and zero for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

Estimated future amortization expense for the years:

2024       \$ 521,14         2025       521,14         2026       521,14         2027       521,14         2028       521,14
2025 521,14 2026 521,14 2027 521,14
2026 521,14 2027 521,14
2027 521,14
2019
2028 521,14
\$ 2,605,724



### H. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED EXPENSES:

Accounts payable and accrued expenses consists of the following as of December 31,:

	2023	2022
Cost of Sales - Purchases	\$ 2,922,066	\$ 3,571,942
Other Payables and Accrued Expenses	1,394,132	 479,715
	\$ 4,316,198	\$ 4,051,657

### I. NOTE PAYABLE - LINE OF CREDIT:

The Company has a \$7,000,000 line of credit with Salem Five Cents Savings Bank at December 31, 2023 and 2022, borrowings on this line of credit amounted to zero. The line bears interest at prime rate plus .5% per annum. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the interest rate was 9.00% and 8.00%, respectively. The line is reviewed annually and is due on demand. This line of credit is secured by substantially all assets of the Company.

### J. <u>CONTINGENT EARN-OUT LIABILITIES</u>:

### Wildman Acquisition

In connection with the asset acquisition of Wildman Imprints on September 26, 2020, the customer list was purchased using a Contingent Earn-Out Calculation.. The purchase price is equal to fifteen percent (15%) of the gross profit earned from the sale of product to the customer list for years 1 and thirty percent (30%) for years 2 and 3. Payments are due on the first anniversary date of the purchase and then quarterly thereafter. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the current portion of the earn-out liability amounted to zero and \$742,874, respectively. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the long-term portion of the earn-out liability amounted to zero.

### G.A.P. Acquisition

In connection with the asset acquisition, as discussed in Note N, the customer list was purchased using a Contingent Earn-Out Calculation. The purchase price is equal to seventy percent (70%) of the gross profit over \$1,500,000 earned from the sale of product to the customer list for years 1 and 2 in addition to fixed payments of \$180,000 and \$300,000 for years 1 and 2, respectively. Payments are due on the anniversary date of the purchase. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the current portion of the earn-out liability amounted to \$986,000 and \$649,000, respectively. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the long-term portion of the earn-out liability amounted to zero and \$986,000, respectively.

#### Trend Acquisition

In connection with the asset acquisition, as discussed in Note N, the customer list was purchased using a Contingent Earn-Out Calculation. The purchase price is equal to forty percent (40%) of the gross profit over \$800,000 earned from the sale of product to the customer list for years 1 through 4 in addition to fixed payments of \$37,500 for years 1 and 2 and \$25,000 for years 3 and 4, respectively. Payments are due on the anniversary date of the purchase. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the current portion of the earn-out liability amounted to \$265,000 and \$155,500, respectively. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the long-term portion of the earn-out liability amounted to \$949,844 and \$1,214,844, respectively.

### Premier Acquisition

In connection with the asset acquisition, as discussed in Note N, the customer list was purchased using a Contingent Earn-Out Calculation. The purchase price is equal to forty-five percent (45%) of the gross profit over \$350,000 earned from the sale of product to the customer list for years 1 through 3 in addition to fixed payments of \$60,000 for year 1, \$40,000 for year 2, and \$30,000 for year 3. Payments are due on the anniversary date of the purchase. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the current portion of the earn-out liability amounted to \$356,500 and \$262,500, respectively. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the long-term portion of the earn-out liability amounted to \$348,600 and \$645,100, respectively.



### TR Miller Acquisition

In connection with the asset acquisition, as discussed in Note N, the customer list was purchased using a Contingent Earn-Out Calculation. The purchase price is equal to forty-five percent (45%) of the gross profit over \$4,000,000 earned from the sale of product to the customer list for years 1 through 4 in addition to a fixed payments of \$400,000 for year 1, \$300,000 for year 2, and \$200,000 for years 3 and 4. Payments are due on the anniversary date of the purchase. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the current portion of the earn-out liability amounted to \$1,262,774 and zero, respectively. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the long-term portion of the earn-out liability amounted to \$3,288,321 and zero, respectively.

## K. <u>UNEARNED REVENUE</u>:

Unearned revenue includes customer deposits and deferred revenue which represent prepayments from customers. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Company had unearned revenue totaling \$5,171,479 and \$633,148, respectively.

	2023	2022	
Balance at January 1,	\$ 633,148	\$	721,608
Revenue Recognized	(75,893,871)		(58,953,467)
Amounts Collected or Invoiced	80,432,202		58,865,007
Unearned Revenue	\$ 5,171,479	\$	633,148

### L. <u>REWARD CARD PROGRAM LIABILITY</u>:

The Company manages reward card programs for customers. Under this program, the Company receives cash and simultaneously records a liability for the total amount received. These accounts are adjusted on a periodic basis as reward cards are funded or reduced at the direction of the customers. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the company had deposits totaling \$875,000 and \$6,000,000, respectively.

### M. NOTE PAYABLE - WILDMAN:

In connection with the asset acquisition of Wildman Imprints on September 26, 2020, the Company had an amount due to the seller of \$162,358 for the inventory purchased. This amount accrues no interest, and is to be paid "as used" on a quarterly basis through the three years earn-out period as discussed in Note J. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the note totaled \$0 and \$162,358, respectively.

### N. AQUISITIONS:

## G.A.P. Acquisition

On January 31, 2022, the Company closed on an asset purchase agreement to acquire inventory, working capital, and a customer list from G.A.P. Promotions LLC (G.A.P.). In accordance with Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB" ASC 805), "Business Combinations", the acquisition method of accounting is used and recognition of the assets acquired is at fair value as of the acquisition dates. All acquisition costs are expensed as incurred. The consideration paid has been allocated to the assets acquired based on their estimated fair values at the acquisition date. The estimate of fair values for tangible assets acquired were agreed to by both buyer and seller. The aggregate purchase price was \$3,245,872.

91,096

\$

Fair Value of Identifiable Assets Acquired: Inventory Working Capital

Working Capital	879,486
Intangible - Customer List	 2,275,290
	\$ 3,245,872
Consideration Paid:	
Cash	\$ 1,510,872
Restricted Stock	100,000
Contingent Earn-Out Liability	 1,635,000
	\$ 3,245,872

### Trend Acquisition

On August 31, 2022, the Company closed on an asset purchase agreement to acquire cash, accounts receivable, inventory, fixed assets, and a customer list from Trend Promotional Marketing Corporation (Trend). In accordance with Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB" ASC 805), "Business Combinations", the acquisition method of accounting is used and recognition of the assets acquired is at fair value as of the acquisition dates. All acquisition costs are expensed as incurred. The consideration paid has been allocated to the assets acquired based on their estimated fair values at the acquisition date. The estimate of fair values for tangible assets acquired were agreed to by both buyer and seller. The aggregate purchase price was \$2,193,166.

Fair Value of Identifiable Assets Acquired:	
Cash	\$ 63,624
Accounts Receivable	346,822
Inventory	108,445
Fixed Assets	14,444
Intangible - Customer List	1,659,831
	\$ 2,193,166
Consideration Paid:	
Cash	\$ 1,488
Assumption of Liabilities	721,334
Restricted Stock	100,000
Contingent Earn-Out Liability	1,370,344

### Premier Acquisition

On December 20, 2022, the Company closed on an asset purchase agreement to acquire cash, accounts receivable, and a customer list from Premier Business Services (Premier). In accordance with Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB" ASC 805), "Business Combinations", the acquisition method of accounting is used and recognition of the assets acquired is at fair value as of the acquisition dates. All acquisition costs are expensed as incurred. The consideration paid has been allocated to the assets acquired based on their estimated fair values at the acquisition date. The estimate of fair values for tangible assets acquired were agreed to by both buyer and seller. The aggregate purchase price was \$1,390,533.

2,193,166

\$

## Fair Value of Identifiable Assets Acquired:

\$ 13,855
344,078
 1,032,600
\$ 1,390,533
\$ 440,025
17,908
25,000
 907,600
\$ 1,390,533
\$ \$ \$

## TR Miller Acquisition

On June 1, 2023, the Company closed on an asset purchase agreement to acquire working capital, fixed assets, and a customer list from T R Miller Co., Inc. (T R Miller). In accordance with Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB" ASC 805), "Business Combinations", the acquisition method of accounting is used and recognition of the assets acquired is at fair value as of the acquisition dates. All acquisition costs are expensed as incurred. The consideration paid has been allocated to the assets acquired based on their estimated fair values at the acquisition date. The estimate of fair values for tangible assets acquired were agreed to by both buyer and seller. The aggregate purchase price was \$6,674,167.

# Fair Value of Identifiable Assets Acquired:

Working Capital, Net	\$ 1,462,732
Intangible - Customer List	 5,211,435
	\$ 6,674,167
Consideration Paid:	
Cash	\$ 2,123,072
Contingent Earn-Out Liability	 4,551,095
	\$ 6,674,167

## O. LEASE OBLIGATIONS:

We lease facilities under non-cancellable operating leases. The leases expire at various dates through fiscal 2028 and frequently include renewal provisions for varying periods of time, provisions which require us to pay taxes, insurance and maintenance costs, and provisions for minimum rent increases. Minimum leases payments, including scheduled rent increases are recognized as rent expenses on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

ROU assets for operating leases are periodically reduced by impairment losses. We use the long-lived assets impairment guidance in ASC Subtopic 360-10, Property, Plant and Equipment – Overall, to determine whether a ROU asset is impaired, and if so, the amount of the impairment loss to recognize. As of December 31, 2023, we have not recognized any impairment losses for our ROU assets.

We monitor for events or changes in circumstances that require a reassessment of our leases. When a reassessment results in the remeasurement of a lease liability, a corresponding adjustment is made to the carrying amount of the corresponding ROU asset unless doing so would reduce the carrying amount of the ROU asset to an amount less than zero. In that case, the amount of the adjustment that would result in a negative ROU asset balance is recorded in profit or loss.

We lease a 10,509 square-foot office space in Quincy, MA for approximately \$26,000 per month with annual increases of approximately 2.5% per year. This lease term ends May 2025.

We lease an approximately 25,000 square-foot facility which holds an office space and warehouse in Walpole, MA for approximately \$16,000 per month with annual increases of 2% per year. This lease term ends May 2028.

We lease a 5,565 square-foot office space in Tomball, TX for approximately \$5,300 per month with annual increases of approximately 2.3% per year. This lease term ends January 2026.

The following is a summary of the Company's right of use assets and lease liabilities as of December 31,:

	 2023		2022
Operating Leases	 		
Right-Of-Use Assets	\$ 1,335,653	\$	784,683
Lease Liability:			
Office Leases - Current	527,548		324,594
Office Leases - Non-Current	797,558		460,089
	\$ 1,325,106	\$	784,683

Lease cost for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 totaled \$557,687 and \$466,895, respectively.

The following is a schedule by years of future minimum lease payments:

2024	\$ 569,236
2025	387,618
2026	188,981
2027	192,672
2028	64,784
Total Undiscounted Future Non-Cancelable Minimum Lease Payments	\$ 1,403,291
Less: Imputed Interest	(78,185)
Present Value of Lease Liabilities	\$ 1,325,106

As of December 31, 2023, the Company's operating leases had a weighted average remaining lease term of 3.74 years and a weighted average discount rate of 4%.

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## P. STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY:

#### Common Stock

In accordance with the Company's Articles of Incorporation dated May 24 2021, the Company is authorized to issue 300,000,000 shares of \$.0001 par value common stock, of which 18,534,073 and 18,475,521 shares were issued and outstanding at December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. Common stockholders are entitled to one vote per share and are entitled to receive dividends when, as and if declared by the Board of Directors.

## Initial Public Offering

On November 12, 2021, the Company consummated its Initial Public Offering (the IPO) of 4,987,951 Units at a price of \$4.15 per Unit, generating gross proceeds of \$20,699,996, with each Unit consisting of one share of common stock, \$0.0001 par value, and one redeemable publicly-traded warrant. IPO proceeds were recorded net of offering costs of \$2,755,344. Offering costs consisted principally of underwriting, legal, accounting and other expenses that are directly related to the IPO.

Each redeemable publicly-traded warrant entitles the holder to purchase one share of common stock, at a price of \$4.81375 per share as of December 31, 2023, which will expire five years from issuance.

Simultaneously with the consummation of the closing of the IPO, the Company issued the underwriters a total of 149,639 warrants that are exercisable beginning six months after the date of the IPO at an exercise price of \$5.19 with a five-year expiration term.

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, warrant holders exercised 659,456 warrants. As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, there were 4,478,134 warrants outstanding.

# Private Placement

On December 10, 2021, the Company consummated the sale of 4,371,926 shares of common stock at a price of \$4.97 per share in a private placement (the PIPE), generating gross proceeds of \$21,278,472, with each investor also receiving a warrant to purchase up to a number of shares of common stock equal to 125% of the number of shares of common stock purchased by such investor in the private placement, or a total of 5,464,903 shares, at an exercise price of \$4.97 per share. PIPE proceeds were recorded net of offering costs of \$1,499,858. Offering costs consisted principally of placement agent, legal, accounting and other expenses that are directly related to the PIPE.

Each warrant entitles the holder to purchase up to 125% of the number of shares of common stock purchased by such investor in the private placement, or a total of 5,464,903 shares which will expire five years from issuance. The warrants have certain downward pricing adjustment mechanisms, including with respect to any subsequent equity sale that is deemed a dilutive issuance, in which case the warrants will be subject to a floor price of \$4.80 per share before shareholder approval is obtained, and after shareholder approval is obtained, such floor price will be reduced to \$1.00 per share, as set forth in the warrants. On December 10, 2021, the holders of shares of common stock entitled to vote approximately 65.4% of the Company's outstanding voting stock on December 10, 2021 approved the Company's entry into the private placement. The Company filed preliminary and definitive information statements on Schedule 14C with the SEC on December 29, 2021 and January 11, 2022, respectively, and delivered copies of the definitive information statement to shareholders January 12, 2022. On January 31, 2022, the stockholders' consent became effective pursuant to Rule 14c-2 under the Exchange Act. As a result, the exercise price of the private placement warrants may be reduced to as low as \$1.00 per share if their downward-pricing adjustment mechanisms become applicable.

Simultaneously with the consummation of the closing of the PIPE, the Company issued the placement agent a total of 131,158 warrants that are exercisable beginning six months from the date of the PIPE at an exercise price of \$4.97 with a five-year expiration term.

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022 warrant holders have exercised zero warrants. As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, there were 5,596,061 warrants outstanding.

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## Stock Purchase Warrants

Stock purchase warrants issued with the IPO and the PIPE are accounted for as equity in accordance with ASC 480, Accounting for Derivative Financial Instruments Indexed to, and Potentially Settled in, a Company's Own Stock, Distinguishing Liabilities from Equity.

The following table reflects all outstanding and exercisable warrants at December 31, 2023 and 2022:

	Numbers of Warrants Outstanding	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Weighted Average Life (Years)
Balance January 1, 2022	10,345,784	\$ 4.90	5
Warrants Issued	-	-	-
Warrants Exercised	(271,589)	\$ 4.81	-
Balance December 31, 2022	10,074,195	\$ 4.91	5
Balance January 1, 2023	10,074,195	\$ 4.91	4
Warrants Issued	-	-	-
Warrants Exercised	-	-	-
Balance December 31, 2023	10,074,195	\$ 4.91	4

All warrants are exercisable for a period of five years from the date of issuance.

## Stock Repurchase Program

On February 21, 2022, the Board of Directors of the Company authorized a repurchase of up to \$10 million of the Company's shares from time to pursuant to a stock repurchase program, or the Repurchase Program. Under the terms of the Repurchase Program, the Company may repurchase shares through open market or negotiated private transactions. The timing and extent of any purchases depend upon ongoing assessments of the Company's capital needs, market conditions and the price of the Company's common stock, and other corporate considerations, as determined by management, and are subject to the restrictions relating to volume, price and timing under applicable laws, including but not limited to, Rule 10b-18 promulgated under the Exchange Act.

Below is a table containing information about purchases made by the company:

Period	Total Number of Shares Purchased	verage Price 1id per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs	A D	Maximum pproximate oollar Value of Shares that May Yet be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs
January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022	1,777,657	\$ 1.87	1,777,657	\$	6,667,595
January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023	37,509	\$ 1.32	1,815,166	\$	6,617,594

## Q. STOCK-BASED COMPENSATION:

In November 2021, the Board of Directors adopted the Amended and Restated 2021 Equity Incentive Plan (the "2021 Plan") which provides for the granting of nonqualified stock options and restricted stock to the Company's employees, officers, directors, and outside consultants to purchase shares of the Company's common stock. The number of shares of common stock available for issuance under the 2021 Plan is 1,041,147 shares of common stock.

Stock-based compensation expense included the following components as of December 31,:

	2023	2022		
Stock Options	\$ 150,556	\$	164,576	
Restricted Stock	 49,356		170,100	
	\$ 199,913	\$	334,676	

All stock-based compensation expense is recorded in General and Administrative expense in the Statement of Earnings.

#### Non-Qualified Stock Options

The fair value of options is estimated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option pricing model using the assumptions noted in the table below. The fair value is amortized as compensation cost on a straight-line basis over the requisite service period of the awards, which is generally the vesting period. The Company uses historical data on employee turnover and terminations to estimate the percentage of options that will ultimately be exercised. Expected volatility is based on historical volatility from a representative sample of publicly traded companies. The expected term represents the period of time that the options are expected to be outstanding. The risk-free interest rate is estimated using the rate of return on U.S. Treasury Notes with a life that approximates the expected life of the option. Forfeitures are estimated at the time of grant and revised, if necessary, in subsequent periods if actual results differ from the estimates. Stock-based compensation is based on awards that are ultimately expected to vest.

Option awards are generally granted with an exercise price equal to the fair value of the Company's stock at the date of grant; those options generally vest based on four years of continuous service and have 10-years contractual terms.

The Black-Scholes option pricing model assumptions are as follows:

Risk-Free Interest Rate	3.86%
Expected Term	5.5-6.25 years
Expected Volatility	29.24%
Expected Dividends	0%

A summary of option activity under the 2021 Plan as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 and changes during the years then ended is presented below:

Options	Shares	Veighted Average Exercise Price	Aggregate Intrinsic Value
Outstanding at January 1, 2022	1,587,000	\$ 4.15	\$ 3,045,700
Granted	68,000	\$ 1.80	-
Forfeited or Expired and Other Adjustments	(97,000)	\$ 4.11	-
Outstanding at December 31, 2022	1,558,000	\$ 4.15	\$ -
Exercisable at December 31, 2022	453,918	\$ 4.16	\$ -
Outstanding at January 1, 2023	1,558,000	\$ 4.15	
Granted	109,500	\$ 1.54	-
Forfeited or Expired and Other Adjustments	(45,000)	\$ 3.11	 -
Outstanding at December 31, 2023	1,622,500	\$ 3.96	\$ -
Exercisable at December 31, 2023	859,396	\$ 4.09	\$ -

The weighted-average grant-date fair value of options granted during the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 was \$1.54 and \$1.80, respectively. The weightedaverage remaining contractual term for the outstanding options is approximately 8 years and 9 years as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

## Restricted Stock:

Restricted stock consists of time-based restricted stock units (RSUs) and performance-based restricted stock units (PSUs). RSUs granted under the 2021 Plan generally vest over 3 to 4 years, based on continued employment, and are settled upon vesting shares of the Company's common stock on a one-for-one basis. PSUs granted under the 2021 Plan are issued and vest immediately as various performance goals and targets are achieved.

A summary of restricted stock activity under the 2021 Plan as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 and changes during the years then ended is presented below:

Restricted Stock	Time-Based
Outstanding at January 1, 2022	154,960
Granted	145,660
Vested	(227,737)
Forfeited	(8,717)
Outstanding at December 31, 2022	64,166
Outstanding at January 1, 2023	64,166
Granted	32,252
Vested	(33,333)
Forfeited	(10,897)
Outstanding at December 1, 2023	52,188

## R. EARNINGS (LOSS) PER SHARE:

The following table presents the computation of basic and diluted net earnings (loss) per common share as of December 31,:

			2	023				2	022	
	Net	t Income			Shares	Ν	et Income			Shares
Net Earnings (Loss)	\$	35,058		_	18,519,615	\$	(778,441)			19,202,619
Basic earnings (loss) per share			\$	0.00				\$	(0.04)	
Effect of dilutive securities:										
Warrants					10,074,195					-
Stock Options					859,396					-
	\$	35,058			29,453,206	\$	(778,441)			19,202,619
Diluted earnings (loss) per share			\$	0.00				\$	(0.04)	

For the year ended December 31, 2022, as a result of the net loss for the year, all warrants and stock options have been excluded from the calculation of diluted earnings per share and, therefore, there was no difference in the weighted average number of common shares for basic and diluted loss per share as the effect of all potentially dilutive shares outstanding was anti-dilutive. Warrants to purchase 10,074,195 shares of common stock outstanding as of December 31, 2022, and stock options to purchase 453,918 shares of common stock outstanding as of December 31, 2022, were excluded from the computation of diluted earnings per share.



## S. INCOME TAX PROVISION:

The Company computes its provision for income taxes by applying the estimated annual effective tax rate to pretax income and adjust the provision for discrete tax items recorded in the period.

The provision for income taxes as of and for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 consisted of the following:

	 2023	 2022
Federal:		 
Current	\$ 18,040	\$ 48,282
Deferred	-	(532,700)
Total	18,040	(484,418)
State:		
Current	13,409	(19,469)
Deferred	-	(195,300)
Total	13,409	(214,769)
Provision for income taxes	\$ 31,449	\$ (699,187)

The Company has an income tax NOL carryforward related to continued operations as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 of approximately \$3,154,000. As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the carryforward is recorded as a deferred tax asset of \$841,000. Such deferred tax assets can be carried forward indefinitely.

## T. <u>ADVERTISING</u>:

The Company follows the policy of charging the costs of advertising to expense as incurred. For the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, advertising costs amounted to \$418,206 and \$375,162, respectively.

## U. MAJOR CUSTOMERS:

For the year ended December 31, 2022, the Company had no major customers.

For the year ended December 31, 2023, the Company had one major customer to which sales accounted for approximately 13.2% of the Company's revenues. The Company had accounts receivable from this customer amounting to 0.8% of the total accounts receivable balance.

## SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

Date: March 28, 2024

## STRAN & COMPANY, INC.

/s/ Andrew Shape

 Name:
 Andrew Shape

 Title:
 Chief Executive Officer and President

 (Principal Executive Officer)

/s/ David Browner

Name: David Browner Title: Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

SIGNATURE	TITLE	DATE
/s/ Andrew Shape Andrew Shape	Chief Executive Officer, President and Director (principal executive officer)	March 28, 2024
/s/ David Browner David Browner	Chief Financial Officer (principal financial and accounting officer)	March 28, 2024
/s/ Andrew Stranberg Andrew Stranberg	Executive Chairman and Director	March 28, 2024
/s/ Travis McCourt Travis McCourt	Director	March 28, 2024
/s/ Alan Chippindale Alan Chippindale	Director	March 28, 2024
/s/ Alejandro Tani Alejandro Tani	Director	March 28, 2024
/s/ Ashley Marshall Ashley Marshall	Director	March 28, 2024



## **DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES**

## General

The authorized capital stock of Stran & Company, Inc., a Nevada corporation ("we," "us," "our," the "Company," "Stran," and "our company"), currently consists of 350,000,000 shares, consisting of 300,000,000 shares of Common Stock, \$0.0001 par value per share ("common stock"), and 50,000,000 shares of Preferred Stock, \$0.0001 par value per share ("preferred stock").

The following description summarizes important terms of the classes of our capital stock following the filing of our articles of incorporation. This summary does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by the provisions of our articles of incorporation and our amended and restated bylaws ("bylaws") which are filed as Exhibit 3.1 and Exhibit 3.2, respectively, to the Annual Report on Form 10-K to which this Exhibit 4.1 is attached (the "Annual Report").

As of March 28, 2024, there were 18,607,329 shares of common stock and no shares of preferred stock issued and outstanding.

#### **Common Stock**

*Voting Rights.* The holders of common stock are entitled to one vote for each share held of record on all matters submitted to a vote of the stockholders. Under our articles of incorporation and bylaws, any corporate action to be taken by vote of stockholders other than for election of directors or such actions requiring a different number of votes by statute or our articles of incorporation or bylaws, shall be authorized by the vote of the majority of the shares having voting power of those present in person or represented by proxy at a meeting of stockholder, or by written consent signed by shareholders holding a majority of the voting power, or by a different proportion of voting power if required for such corporate action. Directors are elected by a plurality of votes. Stockholders do not have cumulative voting rights.

*Dividend Rights*. Subject to preferences that may be applicable to any then-outstanding preferred stock, holders of common stock are entitled to receive ratably those dividends, if any, as may be declared from time to time by the board of directors out of legally available funds.

*Liquidation Rights.* In the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, holders of common stock will be entitled to share ratably in the net assets legally available for distribution to stockholders after the payment of all of our debts and other liabilities and the satisfaction of any liquidation preference granted to the holders of any then-outstanding shares of preferred stock.

*Other Rights.* Holders of common stock have no preemptive, conversion or subscription rights and there are no redemption or sinking fund provisions applicable to the common stock. The rights, preferences and privileges of the holders of common stock are subject to, and may be adversely affected by, the rights of the holders of shares of any series of preferred stock.

## **Preferred Stock**

Our articles of incorporation authorize our board to issue up to 50,000,000 shares of preferred stock in one or more series, to determine the designations and the powers, preferences and rights and the qualifications, limitations and restrictions thereof, including the dividend rights, conversion or exchange rights, voting rights (including the number of votes per share), redemption rights and terms, liquidation preferences, sinking fund provisions and the number of shares constituting the series. Our board of directors could, without stockholder approval, issue preferred stock with voting and other rights that could adversely affect the voting power and other rights of the holders of common stock and which could have the effect of making it more difficult for a third party to acquire, or of discouraging a third party from attempting to acquire, a majority of our outstanding voting stock.

#### Warrants Issued in Initial Public Offering

*Form.* The publicly-traded warrants issued in our initial public offering were issued under a warrant agency agreement between us and Vstock Transfer, LLC, as warrant agent. The material terms and provisions of the publicly-traded warrants are summarized below. The following description is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by, the form of warrant agency agreement and accompanying form of warrant, which is filed as Exhibit 10.18 to the Annual Report. You should review a copy of the form of warrant agency agreement and accompanying form of warrant for a complete description of the terms and conditions applicable to the publicly-traded warrants.

*Exercisability*. The publicly-traded warrants are exercisable immediately upon issuance and will thereafter remain exercisable at any time up to five (5) years from the date of original issuance. The publicly-traded warrants will be exercisable, at the option of each holder, in whole or in part by delivering to us a duly executed exercise notice.

*Exercise Price*. Each warrant represents the right to purchase one share of common stock at an initial exercise price of \$5.1875, equal to 125% of the initial public offering price. Due to our subsequent private placement of common stock and common stock purchase warrants at a purchase price of \$4.97 for one share and 1.25 warrants combined, after attributing a warrant value of \$0.125, the exercise price per share of the publicly-traded warrants was reduced to \$4.81375 as of December 10, 2021. The exercise price is subject to appropriate adjustment in the event of certain share dividends and distributions, stock splits, stock combinations, reclassifications or similar events affecting our shares of common stock and also upon any distributions of assets, including cash, stock or other property to our stockholders. The warrant exercise price is also subject to further anti-dilution adjustments under certain circumstances.

*Cashless Exercise*. If, at any time during the term of the publicly-traded warrants, the issuance of shares of common stock upon exercise of the publicly-traded warrants is not covered by an effective registration statement, the holder is permitted to effect a cashless exercise of the publicly-traded warrants (in whole or in part) by having the holder deliver to us a duly executed exercise notice, canceling a portion of the warrant in payment of the purchase price payable in respect of the number of shares of common stock purchased upon such exercise. On June 29, 2023, the Company filed a post-effective amendment to effect the termination of the registration statement relating to the offering of the warrants and shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrants. As a result, under their terms, the publicly-traded warrants will only be exercisable on a cashless basis.

*Failure to Timely Deliver Shares*. If we fail for any reason to deliver to the holder the shares subject to an exercise by the date that is the earlier of (i) two (2) trading days and (ii) the number of trading days that is the standard settlement period on our primary trading market as in effect on the date of delivery of the exercise notice, we must pay to the holder, in cash, as liquidated damages and not as a penalty, for each \$1,000 of shares subject to such exercise (based on the daily volume weighted average price of our shares of common stock on the date of the applicable exercise notice), \$10 per trading day (increasing to \$20 per trading day on the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) trading day after such liquidated damages begin to accrue) for each trading day after such date until such shares are delivered or the holder rescinds such exercise. In addition, if after such date the holder is required by its broker to purchase (in an open market transaction or otherwise) or the holder's brokerage firm otherwise purchases, shares of common stock to deliver in satisfaction of a sale by the holder of the shares which the holder anticipated receiving upon such exercise, then we shall (A) pay in cash to the holder the amount, if any, by which (x) the holder's total purchase price (including brokerage commissions, if any) for the shares of common stock so purchased exceeds (y) the amount obtained by multiplying (1) the number of shares that we were required to deliver to the holder in connection with the exercise at issue times (2) the price at which the sell order giving rise to such purchase obligation was executed, and (B) at the option of the holder, either reinstate the portion of the number of shares for which such exercise was not honored (in which case such exercise shall be deemed rescinded) or deliver to the holder the number of shares of common stock that would have been issued had we timely complied with our exercise and delivery obligations.

*Exercise Limitation*. A holder will not have the right to exercise any portion of a warrant if the holder (together with its affiliates) would beneficially own in excess of 4.99% of the number of shares of common stock outstanding immediately after giving effect to the exercise, as such percentage ownership is determined in accordance with the terms of the publicly-traded warrants. However, any holder may increase or decrease such percentage to any other percentage not in excess of 9.99%, provided that any increase in such percentage shall not be effective until 61 days following notice from the holder to us.

Exchange Listing. The publicly-traded warrants are listed and traded on the Nasdaq Capital Market tier of The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC under the symbol "SWAGW".

**Rights as a Stockholder.** Except as otherwise provided in the publicly-traded warrants or by virtue of such holder's ownership of our shares of common stock, the holder of a warrant does not have the rights or privileges of a holder of our shares of common stock, including any voting rights, until the holder exercises the warrant.

*Governing Law and Jurisdiction*. The warrant agency agreement and form of the publicly-traded warrants provide that the validity, interpretation, and performance of the warrant agency agreement and the publicly-traded warrants will be governed by the laws of the State of New York, without giving effect to conflicts of law principles that would result in the application of the substantive laws of another jurisdiction. In addition, the warrant agency agreement and warrant provide that any action, proceeding or claim against any party arising out of or relating to the warrant agency agreement or the publicly-traded warrants must be brought and enforced in the state and federal courts sitting in the City of New York, Borough of Manhattan. Warrant holders will be bound by these provisions. With respect to any complaint asserting a cause of action arising under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), or the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, we note, however, that there is uncertainty as to whether a court would enforce this provision and that investors cannot waive compliance with the federal securities laws and the rules and regulations thereunder. Section 22 of the Securities Act creates concurrent jurisdiction for state and federal courts over all suits brought to enforce any duty or liability created by the Securities Act or the rules and regulations thereunder. Furthermore, notwithstanding the foregoing, these provisions of the warrant agency agreement and warrant will not apply to suits brought to enforce any liability or duty created by the Exchange Act or any other claim for which the federal district courts of the United States of America are the sole and exclusive forum.

#### **Representative's Warrants**

We also issued warrants to purchase 149,639 shares of common stock to the designees of EF Hutton, division of Benchmark Investments, LLC, as the representative of the underwriters in our initial public offering (the "Representative's Warrants"). The Representative's Warrants will be exercisable at a per share exercise price of \$5.1875. The Representative's Warrants are exercisable at any time and from time to time, in whole or in part, during the four-and-a-half-year period commencing six months after their issuance on November 12, 2021. The foregoing description of the Representative's Warrants is qualified in its entirety by reference to such documents which have been filed as Exhibit 10.25, Exhibit 10.26, and Exhibit 10.27 to the Annual Report, respectively, and are incorporated herein by reference.

#### **Private Placement Warrants and Placement Agent's Warrants**

## **Private Placement Warrants**

On December 10, 2021, the Company issued warrants (the "Private Placement Warrants") for the purchase of 5,464,903 shares of common stock, at an initial exercise price of \$4.97 per share, the number of warrant shares and exercise price each being subject to adjustment as provided under the Private Placement Warrants. The Private Placement Warrants were immediately exercisable on the date of issuance, and expire five years from the date of issuance.

The Private Placement Warrants have certain downward-pricing adjustment mechanisms. If at any time the Private Placement Warrants are outstanding, if the Company issues or sells common stock, or convertible securities or options issuable or exchangeable into common stock (a "Dilutive Issuance"), under which such common stock is sold for a consideration per share less than the exercise price then in effect, the exercise price of the Private Placement Warrant will be adjusted to the Dilutive Issuance price in accordance with the formulas provided in the Private Placement Warrants subject to a floor price. The floor price was \$4.80 per warrant share before stockholder approval of the private placement was obtained and effective. On December 10, 2021, the holders of shares of common stock entitled to vote approximately 65.4% of our outstanding voting stock on December 10, 2021 approved the Company's entry into the private placement. We filed preliminary and definitive information statements on Schedule 14C with the SEC on December 29, 2021 and January 11, 2022, and delivered copies of the definitive information statement to stockholders January 12, 2022. On January 31, 2022, the stockholders' consent became effective pursuant to Rule 14c-2 under the Exchange Act. As a result, the exercise price of the Private Placement Warrants also have certain registration rights provided to the purchasers under the Registration Rights Agreement (as defined below) entered into in connection with the private placement.

The Private Placement Warrants also have customary antidilution provisions with respect to stock splits and equity dividends by which the exercise price of the warrant shares and number of shares purchasable under the Private Placement Warrants will be changed proportionately; participation rights in certain asset distributions and rights offerings and certain changes of control and other major corporate changes; and will be provided comparable rights to alternative consideration if provided to stockholders with respect to certain transactions. The Private Placement Warrants may not be exercised if, after giving effect to the exercise by the purchaser, the purchaser would beneficially own in excess of 4.99% of the number of shares of common stock outstanding immediately after giving effect to the issuance of the warrant shares. Upon not less than 61 days' prior notice to the Company, a warrant holder may increase or decrease the ownership limitation, provided that the ownership limitation in no event exceeds 9.99% of the number of shares of common stock outstanding immediately after giving effect to the issuance of the warrant shares. If there is no effective registration statement registering, or no current prospectus available for, the resale of the warrant shares by the purchaser, then the Private Placement Warrants may also be exercised, in whole or in part, by means of a "cashless exercise".

In connection with the private placement, the Company entered into a Securities Purchase Agreement (the "Private Placement Purchase Agreement") with investors containing customary representations and warranties. The Company and investors also entered into a Registration Rights Agreement (the "Registration Rights Agreement"), pursuant to which the Company was required to file a resale registration statement (the "Resale Registration Statement") with the SEC to register for resale the shares of common stock and the shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the Private Placement Warrants, promptly following the closing date but in no event later than 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Registration Rights Agreement, and to have such Resale Registration Statement declared effective by the 30th day after the effective date of the Registration Rights Agreement. The Company would have been obligated to pay certain liquidated damages to the investors if the Company failed to file the Resale Registration Statement to be declared effective by the SEC when required, and will become so obligated if it fails to maintain the effectiveness of the Resale Registration Statement pursuant to the terms of the Registration Rights Agreement.

On December 23, 2021, the Company filed the Resale Registration Statement with the SEC (File No. 333-261883) and it was declared effective on January 5, 2022. On June 10, 2022, a post-effective amendment to the Resale Form S-1 (the "Post-Effective Amendment to Resale Form S-1") was filed to update the Resale Registration Statement's prospectus to include, among other things, the information contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2021 that was filed with the SEC on March 28, 2022 and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-O for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2022 that was filed with the SEC on May 13, 2022. The Post-Effective Amendment to Resale Form S-1 became effective on June 16, 2022. Prospectus Supplement No. 1 to the prospectus relating to the Post-Effective Amendment to Resale Form S-1 was filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) under the Securities Act with the SEC on July 21, 2022 to include the information set forth in our Current Reports on Form 8-K, which were filed with the SEC on July 19, 2022 and July 21, 2022. Prospectus Supplement No. 2 to the prospectus relating to the Post-Effective Amendment to Resale Form S-1 was filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) under the Securities Act with the SEC on August 15, 2022 to include the information in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2022, which was filed with the SEC on August 15, 2022. Prospectus Supplement No. 3 to the prospectus relating to the Post-Effective Amendment to Resale Form S-1 was filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) under the Securities Act with the SEC on September 7, 2022 to include the information in our Current Report on Form 8-K, which was filed with the SEC on September 7, 2022. Prospectus Supplement No. 4 to the prospectus relating to the Post-Effective Amendment to Resale Form S-1 was filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) under the Securities Act with the SEC on November 14, 2022 to include the information in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q which was filed with the SEC on November 14, 2022. Prospectus Supplement No. 5 to the prospectus relating to the Post-Effective Amendment to Resale Form S-1 was filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) under the Securities Act with the SEC on December 2, 2022 to include the information in our Current Report on Form 8-K which was filed with the SEC on December 2, 2022. Prospectus Supplement No. 6 to the prospectus relating to Resale Form S-1 was filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) under the Securities Act with the SEC on January 31, 2023 to include the information in our Current Report on Form 8-K which was filed with the SEC on January 31, 2023.

The Registration Rights Agreement provided that the Company would not be required to maintain the effectiveness of the Resale Registration Statement when the shares of common stock and shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the Private Placement Warrants otherwise required to be registered for sale under it become eligible for resale without volume or manner-of-sale restrictions and without current public information pursuant to Rule 144 under the Securities Act as set forth in a written opinion letter to such effect, addressed, delivered and acceptable to the transfer agent and the affected holders (assuming that such securities and any securities issuable upon exercise, conversion or exchange of which, or as a dividend upon which, such securities were issued or are issuable, were at no time held by any affiliate of the Company), as reasonably determined by the Company, upon the advice of counsel to the Company. Accordingly, on June 29, 2023, the Company filed a post-effective amendment to the Resale Registration Statement to effect this termination. As a result, under their terms, the outstanding Private Placement Warrants will only be exercisable on a cashless basis.

The foregoing description of each of the Private Placement Purchase Agreement, the Registration Rights Agreement, and Private Placement Warrants is qualified in its entirety by reference to such documents or forms of such documents which have been filed as Exhibit 10.29, Exhibit 10.31, and Exhibit 10.32 to the Annual Report, respectively, and are incorporated herein by reference.

#### **Placement Agent Warrants**

As partial payment for its placement agent services, the designees of the placement agent in our private placement were issued warrants ("Placement Agent Warrants"), for the purchase of 3% of the number of shares of common stock purchased by the purchasers. The Placement Agent Warrants become exercisable on June 8, 2022 and expire on December 8, 2026. The Placement Agent Warrants have an initial exercise price equal to the exercise price of the Private Placement Warrants, or \$4.97 per share, and otherwise have the same antidilution provisions as the Private Placement Warrants, except that the exercise price of the Placement Agent Warrants will not change as a result of a Dilutive Issuance (as defined above). The Placement Agent Warrants may not be exercised if, after giving effect to the exercise the holder would beneficially own in excess of 4.99% of the number of shares of common stock outstanding immediately after giving effect to the issuance of the shares purchased pursuant to exercise of the Placement Agent Warrants. Upon not less than 61 days' prior notice to the Company, the holder may increase or decrease the ownership limitation, provided that the ownership limitation in no event exceeds 9.99% of the number of shares of common stock outstanding immediately after giving effect to the issuance of shares of common stock pursuant to exercise of the Placement Agent Warrants.

If at the time of an exercise of such Placement Agent Warrants there is no effective registration statement registering, or no current prospectus available for, the resale of the shares that may be purchased under the Placement Agent Warrants, then the Placement Agent Warrants may also be exercised, in whole or in part, by means of a "cashless exercise". The Placement Agent Warrants have the same registration rights provided to the purchasers under the Registration Rights Agreement entered in connection with the private placement. As discussed above, the Company filed the Resale Registration Statement on December 23, 2021 and it was declared effective on January 5, 2022. The Company filed the Post-Effective Amendment to Resale Form S-1 and a number of prospectus supplements to maintain the effectiveness of the Registration Rights Agreement. As discussed above, the Company subsequently determined that Registration Rights Agreement no longer required the Company to maintain the effectiveness of the Resale Registration. As a result, under their terms, the outstanding Placement Agent Warrants will only be exercisable on a cashless basis.

The foregoing description of the Placement Agent Warrants is qualified in its entirety by reference to the form of such documents which has been filed as Exhibit 10.33 to the Annual Report.

#### Options

On November 12, 2021, we filed a Registration Statement on Form S-8 to register restricted stock and options to purchase stock issuable to certain of our employees, consultants and directors pursuant to the Stran & Company, Inc. Amended and Restated 2021 Equity Incentive Plan. We then granted options to purchase a total of 934,000 shares of our common stock to our executive officers, including an option to purchase up to 400,000 shares to our Executive Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary, Andrew Stranberg; an option to purchase 32,810 shares to our Chief Executive Officer, President and director, Andrew Shape; an option to purchase 76,190 shares to our Randolph Birney, a former executive officer of the Company; an option to purchase 53,000 shares to our Vice President of Growth and Strategic Initiatives, John Audibert; and an option to purchase 81,000 shares to our former Chief Financial Officer, Christopher Rollins. The option granted to Mr. Rollins terminated prior to exercise after his resignation from the Company; all the other options granted to executive officers remain outstanding and unexercised. We also granted David Browner, our Controller at that time and currently our Chief Financial Officer, an option to purchase 58,000 shares of common stock at an exercise price of \$4.15 per share. The option is subject to vesting over a three (3) year period with one-third (1/3) of the stock option vesting on each of the first, second and third anniversaries of the date of grant. We also granted options to our independent directors. The options have an exercise price of \$4.15 per share, and a term of ten years. The options granted to Mr. Stranberg, Mr. Shape and Mr. Birney vest over a four-year period with 25% of the options vesting on the first anniversary of the date of grant at a rate of 1/36 per month; and our independent directors' options vest in monthly over the following three years after the first anniversary of the date of grant at a rate of 1/36 per month; and our independent directors' options vest in m

On November 19, 2021, we granted Jason Nolley, our Chief Technology Officer, an option to purchase up to 60,000 shares of common stock at an exercise price of \$4.36 per share, which vests one-third per year of employment for three years.

On December 2, 2021, we granted Josselin Capital Advisors, Inc., a company wholly-owned by Mr. Audibert ("JCA"), our Vice President of Growth and Strategic Initiatives, an option to purchase 65,000 shares of common stock at an exercise price of \$3.90 per share. The option vests based on the satisfaction of certain performance criteria by the Company. On March 11, 2022, the Compensation Committee of the board of directors of the Company (the "Compensation Committee") certified the achievement of the performance conditions for the vesting of the option as to a total of 20,000 shares of common stock had been met, resulting in vesting of the option as to 20,000 shares. On June 29, 2023, the option was distributed or transferred to Mr. Audibert.

On December 6, 2021, we granted Stephen Paradiso, our former Chief of Staff, an option to purchase up to 62,500 shares of common stock at an exercise price of \$4.72 per share, which vested one-eighth per quarter of employment, and an option to purchase up to 62,500 shares of common stock at an exercise price of \$4.72 per share, which will vest subject to the achievement of certain performance conditions. On April 14, 2023, the Compensation Committee certified the attainment of the conditions for the vesting of the stock option as to 12,500 shares of common stock. On December 1, 2023, Mr. Paradiso resigned, and his options subsequently expired unexercised.

On January 31, 2022, we granted 13 new employees options to purchase a total of 22,000 shares of common stock at an exercise price of \$2.17 per share. The options vest over a three-year period with one-third (1/3) of the options vesting on each of the first, second and third anniversaries of the date of grant. Of these, options for 18,000 shares remained outstanding as of March 28, 2024.

On March 11, 2022, we granted Shiela Johnshoy, our Chief Operating Officer, an option to purchase 40,000 shares of common stock at an exercise price of \$1.60 per share. 5,000 shares under the option were subject to certain restrictions on transfer until September 11, 2022, and 35,000 shares under the option will vest subject to the achievement of certain performance conditions. On April 14, 2023, the Compensation Committee certified the achievement of the performance conditions for the vesting of the stock option as to 5,000 shares of common stock.

On February 7, 2023, we granted seven employees options to purchase a total of 7,000 shares of common stock at an exercise price of 1.77 per share. The options vest over a three-year period with one-third (1/3) of the options vesting on each of September 1, 2023, September 1, 2024, and September 1, 2025. On the same date, we also granted an employee an option to purchase 15,000 shares of common stock at an exercise price of 1.77 per share which vested immediately as to 7,500 shares, with the balance vesting on the first anniversary of the grant date. Of these, options for 5,000 shares remained outstanding as of March 28, 2024.

On April 14, 2023, we granted Mr. Browner a stock option for the purchase of 100,000 shares of common stock at an exercise price of \$1.72 per share, which will vest subject to the achievement of certain performance conditions.

On April 14, 2023, we granted JCA a stock option for the purchase of 180,000 shares of common stock at an exercise price of \$1.72 per share, will vest subject to the achievement of certain performance conditions. On June 29, 2023, the option was distributed or transferred to Mr. Audibert.

On September 18, 2023, we granted David Leuci, a former Chief Information Officer, an option to purchase 21,000 shares of common stock at an exercise price of \$1.16 per share, which was subject to certain vesting conditions. On November 10, 2023, Mr. Leuci resigned, and his option subsequently expired unexercised.

On August 15, 2023, we granted an employee an option to purchase a total of 20,000 shares of common stock at an exercise price of \$1.28 per share. The option vests subject to performance conditions.

On October 30, 2023, we granted an employee an option to purchase a total of 12,000 shares of common stock at an exercise price of \$0.9313 per share. The option vested as to 4,000 shares immediately, and will vest as to 4,000 shares on each of the first and second anniversaries of the date of grant.

On October 30, 2023, we granted an employee an option to purchase a total of 9,000 shares of common stock at an exercise price of \$0.9313 per share. The option vested as to 3,000 shares immediately, and will vest as to 3,000 shares on each of the first and second anniversaries of the date of grant.

On January 2, 2024, we granted Ian Wall, our Chief Information Officer, an option to purchase 115,000 shares of common stock at an exercise price of \$1.46 per share. The option vested as to 5,000 shares immediately on the grant date, and will vest as to 5,000 shares on each of the first and second anniversaries of the grant date. The remaining 100,000 shares under the option vests subject to performance conditions.

On January 1, 2024, we granted Mr. Browner an option to purchase up to 100,000 shares of common stock at an exercise price of \$1.48 per share. The option vests subject to performance conditions.

On January 1, 2024, we granted Mr. Audibert an option to purchase up to 180,000 shares of common stock at an exercise price of \$1.48 per share. The option vests subject to performance conditions.

On February 15, 2024, we granted Ms. Johnshoy an option to purchase up to 7,500 shares of common stock at an exercise price of \$1.55 per share.

On February 15, 2024, we granted Mr. Audibert an option to purchase up to 7,500 shares of common stock at an exercise price of \$1.55 per share.

For further discussion of the terms of the option grants to our executive officers and directors described above, please see Item 11. "Executive Compensation – Executive Officer Employment and Consulting Agreements" and Item 11. "Executive Compensation – Director Compensation" of the Annual Report.

#### Anti-Takeover Provisions

Provisions of the Nevada Revised Statutes, our articles of incorporation and our bylaws could have the effect of delaying or preventing a third-party from acquiring us, even if the acquisition would benefit our stockholders. Such provisions of the Nevada Revised Statutes, our articles of incorporation and our bylaws are intended to enhance the likelihood of continuity and stability in the composition of our board of directors and in the policies formulated by the board of directors and to discourage certain types of transactions that may involve an actual or threatened change of control of our company. These provisions are designed to reduce our vulnerability to an unsolicited proposal for a takeover that does not contemplate the acquisition of all of our outstanding shares, or an unsolicited proposal for the restructuring or sale of all or part of our company.

#### Nevada Anti-Takeover Statutes

Pursuant to our articles of incorporation, we have elected not to be governed by the terms and provisions of Nevada's control share acquisition laws (Nevada Revised Statutes 78.378 - 78.3793), which prohibit an acquirer, under certain circumstances, from voting shares of a corporation's stock after crossing specific threshold ownership percentages, unless the acquirer obtains the approval of the issuing corporation's stockholders. The first such threshold is the acquisition of at least one-fifth but less than one-third of the outstanding voting power.

Pursuant to our articles of incorporation, we have also elected not to be governed by the terms and provisions of Nevada's combination with interested stockholders statute (Nevada Revised Statutes 78.411 - 78.444) which prohibits an "interested stockholder" from entering into a "combination" with the corporation, unless certain conditions are met. An "interested stockholder" is a person who, together with affiliates and associates, beneficially owns (or within the prior two years, did beneficially own) 10% or more of the corporation's voting stock, or otherwise has the ability to influence or control such corporation's management or policies.

## **Bylaws**

In addition, various provisions of our bylaws may also have an anti-takeover effect. These provisions may delay, defer or prevent a tender offer or takeover attempt of the company that a stockholder might consider in his or her best interest, including attempts that might result in a premium over the market price for the shares held by our stockholders. Our bylaws may be adopted, amended or repealed by the affirmative vote of the holders of at least a majority of our outstanding shares of capital stock entitled to vote for the election of directors, and except as provided by Nevada law, our board of directors shall have the power to adopt, amend or repeal the bylaws by a vote of not less than a majority of our directors. Any bylaw provision adopted by the board of directors may be amended or repealed by the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of capital stock entitled to vote for the election of directors. Our bylaws also contain limitations as to who may call special meetings as well as require advance notice of stockholder matters to be brought at a meeting. Additionally, our bylaws also provide that no directors to establish the number of directors and fill any vacancies and newly created directorships. These provisions will prevent a stockholder from increasing the size of our board of directors and gaining control of our board of directors by filling the resulting vacancies with its own nominees.

Our bylaws establish an advance notice procedure for stockholder proposals to be brought before an annual meeting of our stockholders, including proposed nominations of persons for election to the board of directors. Stockholders at an annual meeting will only be able to consider proposals or nominations specified in the notice of meeting or brought before the meeting by or at the direction of the board of directors or by a stockholder who was a stockholder of record on the record date for the meeting, who is entitled to vote at the meeting and who has given us timely written notice, in proper form, of the stockholder's intention to bring that business before the meeting. Although our bylaws do not give the board of directors the power to approve or disapprove stockholder nominations of candidates or proposals regarding other business to be conducted at a special or annual meeting, our bylaws may have the effect of precluding the conduct of certain business at a meeting if the proper procedures are not followed or may discourage or deter a potential acquirer from conducting a solicitation of proxies to elect its own slate of directors or otherwise attempting to obtain control of our company.

#### Authorized but Unissued Shares

Our authorized but unissued shares of common stock are available for our board of directors to issue without stockholder approval. We may use these additional shares for a variety of corporate purposes, including raising additional capital, corporate acquisitions and employee stock plans. The existence of our authorized but unissued shares of common stock could render it more difficult or discourage an attempt to obtain control of the company by means of a proxy context, tender offer, merger or other transaction since our board of directors can issue large amounts of capital stock as part of a defense to a take-over challenge. In addition, we have authorized in our articles of incorporation 50,000,000 shares of preferred stock, none of which are currently designated or outstanding. However, the board acting alone and without approval of our stockholders can designate and issue one or more series of preferred stock containing super-voting provisions, enhanced economic rights, rights to elect directors, or other dilutive features, that could be utilized as part of a defense to a take-over challenge.

## Supermajority Voting Provisions

Nevada law provides generally that the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares entitled to vote on any matter is required to amend a corporation's articles of incorporation or bylaws, unless a corporation's articles of incorporation or bylaws, as the case may be, require a greater percentage. Although our articles of incorporation and bylaws do not currently provide for such a supermajority vote on any matters other than as required by Nevada law, our board of directors can amend our bylaws and we can, with the approval of our stockholders, amend our articles of incorporation to provide for such a supermajority voting provision.

#### **Cumulative Voting**

Furthermore, neither the holders of our common stock nor the holders of our preferred stock have cumulative voting rights in the election of our directors. The combination of the present ownership by a few stockholders of a significant portion of our issued and outstanding common stock and lack of cumulative voting makes it more difficult for other stockholders to replace our board of directors or for a third party to obtain control of our company by replacing its board of directors.

#### Listing

Our common stock and publicly-traded warrants are listed and traded under the symbols "SWAG" and "SWAGW," respectively, on the Nasdaq Capital Market tier of The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC.

#### **Transfer Agent and Registrar**

We have appointed VStock Transfer, LLC, 8 Lafayette Place, Woodmere, NY 11598, telephone 212-828-8436, as the transfer agent for our common stock.

## [AMENDED AND RESTATED] INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT

[AMENDED AND RESTATED] INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT (this "Agreement"), dated [ ], by and between STRAN & COMPANY, INC., a Nevada corporation (the "Company"), and the undersigned (the "Indemnitee"). [This Agreement amends and restates the Indemnification Agreement, dated [ ], by and between Indemnitee and the Company (the "Original Agreement").]

## RECITALS

#### [A.] [The Original Agreement is hereby amended and restated in its entirety on the date of this Agreement.]

[B.] The Company desires to attract and retain the services of highly qualified individuals as directors, officers, employees and agents.

[C.] The Company's Amended and Restated Bylaws (the "Bylaws") require that the Company indemnify its directors and executive officers as authorized by the Nevada Revised Statues (the "NRS") or any other applicable law, under which the Company is organized, and the Bylaws expressly provide that the Company may modify the extent of such indemnification provided therein by individual contracts with its directors and officers to set forth specific indemnification provisions.

[D.] The Indemnitee may not regard the protection currently provided by applicable law, the Company's governing documents and available insurance, if any, as adequate under the present circumstances, and the Company has determined that the Indemnitee may not be willing to serve the Company without additional protection.

[E.] The Company desires and has requested the Indemnitee to serve as a director and/or executive officer of the Company and has proffered this Agreement to the Indemnitee as an additional inducement to serve in such capacity.

## AGREEMENT

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements set forth herein, the parties hereto, intending to be legally bound, hereby agree as follows:

1. <u>INDEMNITY OF INDEMNITEE</u>. The Company hereby agrees to hold harmless and indemnify the Indemnitee to the fullest extent permitted by law, as such may be amended from time to time. In furtherance of the foregoing indemnification, and without limiting the generality thereof:

(a) <u>Proceedings Other Than Proceedings by or in the Right of the Company</u>. The Indemnitee shall be entitled to the rights of indemnification provided in this <u>Section</u> <u>1(a)</u> if, by reason of the Indemnitee's Corporate Status (as hereinafter defined), the Indemnitee is, or is threatened to be made, a party to or participant in any Proceeding (as hereinafter defined) other than a Proceeding by or in the right of the Company. Pursuant to this <u>Section 1(a)</u>, the Indemnitee shall be indemnified against all Expenses (as hereinafter defined), judgments, penalties, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by the Indemnitee, or on the Indemnitee's behalf, in connection with such Proceeding or any claim, issue or matter therein, if the Indemnitee acted in good faith and in a manner the Indemnitee reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the Company, and with respect to any criminal Proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe the Indemnitee's conduct was unlawful.

(b) <u>Proceedings by or in the Right of the Company</u>. The Indemnitee shall be entitled to the rights of indemnification provided in this <u>Section 1(b)</u> if, by reason of the Indemnitee's Corporate Status, the Indemnitee is, or is threatened to be made, a party to or participant in any Proceeding brought by or in the right of the Company. Pursuant to this <u>Section 1(b)</u>, the Indemnitee shall be indemnified against all Expenses actually and reasonably incurred by the Indemnitee, or on the Indemnitee's behalf, in connection with such Proceeding if the Indemnitee acted in good faith and in a manner the Indemnitee reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the Company; provided, however, if applicable law so provides, no indemnification against such Expenses shall be made in respect of any claim, issue or matter in such Proceeding as to which the Indemnitee shall have been adjudged to be liable to the Company unless and to the extent that a court of competent jurisdiction shall determine that such indemnification may be made.

(c) <u>Indemnification for Expenses of a Party Who is Wholly or Partly Successful</u>. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, to the extent that the Indemnitee is, by reason of the Indemnitee's Corporate Status, a party to and is successful, on the merits or otherwise, in any Proceeding, the Indemnitee shall be indemnified to the maximum extent permitted by law, as such may be amended from time to time, against all Expenses actually and reasonably incurred by the Indemnitee or on the Indemnitee's behalf in connection therewith. If the Indemnitee is not wholly successful in such Proceeding but is successful, on the merits or otherwise, as to one or more but less than all claims, issues or matters in such Proceeding, the Company shall indemnify the Indemnitee against all Expenses actually and reasonably incurred by the Indemnitee or on the Indemnitee's behalf in connection with each successfully resolved claim, issue or matter. For purposes of this Section and without limitation, the termination of any claim, issue or matter in such a Proceeding by dismissal, with or without prejudice, shall be deemed to be a successful result as to such claim, issue or matter.

2. <u>ADDITIONAL INDEMNITY</u>. In addition to, and without regard to any limitations on, the indemnification provided for in <u>Section</u> 1 of this Agreement, the Company shall and hereby does indemnify and hold harmless the Indemnitee against all Expenses, judgments, penalties, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by the Indemnitee or on the Indemnitee's behalf if, by reason of the Indemnitee's Corporate Status, the Indemnitee is, or is threatened to be made, a party to or participant in any Proceeding (including a Proceeding by or in the right of the Company), including, without limitation, all liability arising out of the negligence or active or passive wrongdoing of the Indemnitee. The only limitation that shall exist upon the Company's obligations pursuant to this Agreement shall be that the Company shall not be obligated to make any payment to the Indemnitee that is finally determined (under the procedures, and subject to the presumptions, set forth in <u>Sections</u> 6 and 7 hereof) to be unlawful.

#### 3. CONTRIBUTION.

(a) Whether or not the indemnification provided in <u>Sections 1</u> and 2 hereof is available, in respect of any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding in which the Company is jointly liable with the Indemnitee (or would be if joined in such action, suit or proceeding), the Company shall pay, in the first instance, the entire amount of any judgment or settlement of such action, suit or proceeding without requiring the Indemnitee to contribute to such payment and the Company hereby waives and relinquishes any right of contribution it may have against the Indemnitee. The Company shall not enter into any settlement of any action, suit or proceeding in which the Company is jointly liable with the Indemnitee (or would be if joined in such action, suit or proceeding) unless such settlement provides for a full and final release of all claims asserted against the Indemnitee.

(b) Without diminishing or impairing the obligations of the Company set forth in the preceding subsection, if, for any reason, the Indemnitee shall elect or be required to pay all or any portion of any judgment or settlement in any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding in which the Company is jointly liable with the Indemnitee (or would be if joined in such action, suit or proceeding), the Company shall contribute to the amount of Expenses, judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred and paid or payable by the Indemnitee in proportion to the relative benefits received by the Company and all officers, directors or employees of the Company, other than the Indemnitee, who are jointly liable with the Indemnitee (or would be if joined in such action, suit or proceeding), on the one hand, and the Indemnitee, on the other hand, from the transaction(s) or event(s) from which such action, suit or proceeding arose; provided, however, that the proportion determined on the basis of relative benefit may, to the extent necessary to conform to law, be further adjusted by reference to the relative fault of the Company and all officers, directors or employees of the Company other than the Indemnitee who are jointly liable with Indemnitee (or would be if joined in such action, suit or proceeding), on the one hand, and the Indemnitee, on the other hand, in connection with the transaction(s) or event(s) that resulted in such expenses, judgments, fines or settlement amounts, as well as any other equitable considerations which applicable law may require to be considered. The relative fault of the Company and all officers, directors or employees of the Indemnitee (or would be if joined in such action, suit or proceeding), on the one hand, and the Indemnitee, on the other hand, in connection with the transaction(s) or event(s) that resulted in such expenses, judgments, fines or settlement amounts, as well as any other than the Indemnitee, who are jointly liable with Indemnitee

(c) The Company hereby agrees to fully indemnify and hold the Indemnitee harmless from any claims of contribution which may be brought by officers, directors, or employees of the Company, other than the Indemnitee, who may be jointly liable with the Indemnitee.

(d) To the fullest extent permissible under applicable law, if the indemnification provided for in this Agreement is unavailable to the Indemnitee for any reason whatsoever, the Company, in lieu of indemnifying the Indemnitee, shall contribute to the amount incurred by the Indemnitee, whether for judgments, fines, penalties, excise taxes, amounts paid or to be paid in settlement and/or for Expenses, in connection with any claim relating to an indemnifiable event under this Agreement, in such proportion as is deemed fair and reasonable in light of all of the circumstances of such Proceeding in order to reflect (i) the relative benefits received by the Company and the Indemnitee as a result of the event(s) and/or transaction(s) giving cause to such Proceeding and/or (ii) the relative fault of the Company (and its directors, officers, employees and agents) and the Indemnitee in connection with such event(s) and/or transaction(s).

4. <u>INDEMNIFICATION FOR EXPENSES OF A WITNESS</u>. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, to the extent that the Indemnitee is, by reason of the Indemnitee's Corporate Status, a witness, or is made (or asked) to respond to discovery requests, in any Proceeding to which the Indemnitee is not a party, the Indemnitee shall be indemnified against all Expenses actually and reasonably incurred by the Indemnitee or on the Indemnitee's behalf in connection therewith.

5. <u>ADVANCEMENT OF EXPENSES</u>. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, the Company shall advance all Expenses incurred by or on behalf of the Indemnitee in connection with any Proceeding by reason of the Indemnitee's Corporate Status within thirty (30) days after the receipt by the Company of a statement or statements from the Indemnitee requesting such advance or advances from time to time, whether prior to or after final disposition of such Proceeding. Such statement or statements shall reasonably evidence the Expenses incurred by the Indemnitee and shall include or be preceded or accompanied by a written undertaking by or on behalf of the Indemnitee to repay any Expenses advanced if it shall ultimately be determined by a court of competent jurisdiction that the Indemnitee is not entitled to be indemnified by the Company. Any advances and undertakings to repay pursuant to this <u>Section 5</u> shall be unsecured and interest free.

6. <u>PROCEDURES AND PRESUMPTIONS FOR DETERMINATION OF ENTITLEMENT TO INDEMNIFICATION.</u> It is the intent of this Agreement to secure for the Indemnitee rights of indemnity that are as favorable as may be permitted under the NRS and public policy of the State of Nevada. Accordingly, the parties agree that the following procedures and presumptions shall apply in the event of any question as to whether the Indemnitee is entitled to indemnification under this Agreement:

(a) To obtain indemnification under this Agreement, the Indemnitee shall submit to the Company a written request, including therein or therewith such documentation and information as is reasonably available to the Indemnitee and is reasonably necessary to determine whether and to what extent the Indemnitee is entitled to indemnification. The Secretary of the Company shall, promptly upon receipt of such a request for indemnification, advise the Company's board of directors (the "**Board**") in writing that the Indemnitee has requested indemnification. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any failure of the Indemnitee to provide such a request to the Company, or to provide such a request in a timely fashion, shall not relieve the Company of any liability that it may have to the Indemnitee unless, and to the extent that, such failure actually and materially prejudices the interests of the Company.

(b) Upon written request by the Indemnitee for indemnification pursuant to the first sentence of Section 6(a) hereof, a determination with respect to the Indemnitee's entitlement thereto shall be made in the specific case by one of the following four methods, which shall be at the election of the Board: (1) by a majority vote of the Disinterested Directors, even though less than a quorum, (2) by a committee of Disinterested Directors designated by a majority vote of the disinterested directors, even though less than a quorum, (2) if there are no Disinterested Directors or if the Disinterested Directors so direct, by Independent Counsel (as hereinafter defined) in a written opinion to the Board, a copy of which shall be delivered to the Indemnitee, or (4) if so directed by the Board, by the stockholders of the Company.

(c) If the determination of entitlement to indemnification is to be made by Independent Counsel pursuant to <u>Section 6(b)</u> hereof, the Independent Counsel shall be selected as provided in this <u>Section 6(c)</u>. The Independent Counsel shall be selected by the Board. The Indemnitee may, within ten (10) days after such written notice of selection shall have been given, deliver to the Company a written objection to such selection; <u>provided, however</u>, that such objection may be asserted only on the ground that the Independent Counsel so selected does not meet the requirements of "Independent Counsel" as defined in <u>Section 13</u> of this Agreement, and the objection shall set forth with particularity the factual basis of such assertion. Absent a proper and timely objection, the person so selected shall act as Independent Counsel. If a written objection is made and substantiated, the Independent Counsel selected may not serve as Independent Counsel unless and until such objection is withdrawn or the Nevada Court has determined that such objection is without merit. If, within twenty (20) days after submission by the Indemnitee of a written request for indemnification pursuant to <u>Section 6(a)</u> hereof, no Independent Counsel shall have been made by the Indemnitee to the Company's selection of Independent Counsel and/or for the appointment as Independent Counsel of a person so appointed shall act as Independent Counsel under <u>Section 6(b)</u> hereof. The Company shall pay any and all reasonable fees and expenses incident to the person so appointed shall act as Independent Counsel incurred by such Independent Counsel under <u>Section 6(b)</u> hereof, the Company shall pay all reasonable fees and expenses incident to the procedures of this <u>Section 6(c)</u>, regardless of the manner in which such Independent Counsel was selected or appointed.

(d) In making a determination with respect to entitlement to indemnification hereunder, the person or persons or entity making such determination shall presume that the Indemnitee is entitled to indemnification under this Agreement. Anyone seeking to overcome this presumption shall have the burden of proof and the burden of persuasion by clear and convincing evidence. Neither the failure of the Company (including by its directors or independent legal counsel) to have made a determination prior to the commencement of any action pursuant to this Agreement that indemnification is proper in the circumstances because the Indemnitee has met the applicable standard of conduct, nor an actual determination by the Company (including by its directors or independent legal counsel) that Indemnitee has not met such applicable standard of conduct, shall be a defense to the action or create a presumption that the Indemnitee has not met the applicable standard of conduct.

(e) The Indemnitee shall be deemed to have acted in good faith if the Indemnitee's action is based on the records or books of account of the Enterprise (as hereinafter defined), including financial statements, or on information supplied to the Indemnitee by the officers of the Enterprise in the course of their duties, or on the advice of legal counsel for the Enterprise or on information or records given or reports made to the Enterprise by an independent certified public accountant or by an appraiser or other expert selected with reasonable care by the Enterprise. In addition, the knowledge and/or actions, or failure to act, of any director, officer, agent or employee of the Enterprise shall not be imputed to the Indemnitee for purposes of determining the right to indemnification under this Agreement. Whether or not the foregoing provisions of this <u>Section 6(e)</u> are satisfied, it shall in any event be presumed that the Indemnitee has at all times acted in good faith and in a manner the Indemnitee reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the Company. Anyone seeking to overcome this presumption shall have the burden of proof and the burden of persuasion by clear and convincing evidence.

(f) If the person, persons or entity empowered or selected under this Section 6 to determine whether the Indemnitee is entitled to indemnification shall not have made a determination within sixty (60) days after receipt by the Company of the request therefor, the requisite determination of entitlement to indemnification shall be deemed to have been made and the Indemnitee shall be entitled to such indemnification absent (i) a misstatement by the Indemnife of a material fact, or an omission of a material fact necessary to make the Indemnitee's statement not materially misleading, in connection with the request for indemnification, or (ii) a prohibition of such indemnification under applicable law; provided, however, that such sixty (60) day period may be extended for a reasonable time, not to exceed an additional thirty (30) days, if the person, persons or entity making such determination with respect to entitlement to indemnification in good faith requires such additional time to obtain or evaluate documentation and/or information relating thereto; and provided further, that the foregoing provisions of this Section 6(f) shall not apply if the determination of entitlement to indemnification is to be made by the stockholders pursuant to Section 6(b) of this Agreement and if (A) within fifteen (15) days after receipt by the Company of the request for such determination, the Board or the Disinterested Directors, if appropriate, resolve to submit such determination to the stockholders for their consideration at an annual meeting thereof to be held within seventy-five (75) days after such receipt and such determination is made thereat, or (B) a special meeting of stockholders is called within fifteen (15) days after such receipt for the purpose of making such determination, such meeting is held for such purpose within sixty (60) days after having been so called and such determination is made thereat.

(g) The Indemnitee shall cooperate with the person, persons or entity making such determination with respect to the Indemnitee's entitlement to indemnification, including providing to such person, persons or entity upon reasonable advance request any documentation or information which is not privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure and which is reasonably available to the Indemnitee and reasonably necessary to such determination. Any Independent Counsel, member of the Board or stockholder of the Company shall act reasonably and in good faith in making a determination regarding the Indemnitee's entitlement to indemnification under this Agreement. Any costs or expenses (including attorneys' fees and disbursements) incurred by the Indemnitee in so cooperating with the person, persons or entity making such determination shall be borne by the Company (irrespective of the determination as to the Indemnitee's entitlement to indemnification) and the Company hereby indemnifies and agrees to hold the Indemnitee harmless therefrom.

(h) The Company acknowledges that a settlement or other disposition short of final judgment may be successful if it permits a party to avoid expense, delay, distraction, disruption and uncertainty. In the event that any action, claim or proceeding to which the Indemnitee is a party is resolved in any manner other than by adverse judgment against the Indemnitee (including, without limitation, settlement of such action, claim or proceeding with or without payment of money or other consideration) it shall be presumed that the Indemnitee has been successful on the merits or otherwise in such action, suit or proceeding. Anyone seeking to overcome this presumption shall have the burden of persuasion by clear and convincing evidence.

(i) The termination of any Proceeding or of any claim, issue or matter therein, by judgment, order, settlement or conviction, or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent, shall not (except as otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement) of itself adversely affect the right of the Indemnitee to indemnification or create a presumption that the Indemnitee did not act in good faith and in a manner which the Indemnitee reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the Company or, with respect to any criminal Proceeding, that the Indemnitee had reasonable cause to believe that the Indemnitee's conduct was unlawful.

#### 7. <u>Remedies of Indemnitee</u>.

(a) In the event that (i) a determination is made pursuant to <u>Section</u> 6 of this Agreement that the Indemnitee is not entitled to indemnification under this Agreement, (ii) advancement of Expenses is not timely made pursuant to <u>Section</u> 5 of this Agreement, or (iii) payment of indemnification is not made within ten (10) days after a determination has been made that the Indemnitee is entitled to indemnification or such determination is deemed to have been made pursuant to <u>Section</u> 6 of this Agreement, the Indemnitee shall be entitled to an adjudication in a court of competent jurisdiction of the Indemnitee's entitlement to such indemnification. The Indemnitee shall commence such proceeding seeking an adjudication within one hundred eighty (180) days following the date on which the Indemnitee first has the right to commence such proceeding pursuant to this <u>Section 7(a)</u>. The Company shall not oppose the Indemnitee's right to seek any such adjudication.

(b) In the event that a determination shall have been made pursuant to <u>Section 6(b)</u> of this Agreement that the Indemnitee is not entitled to indemnification, any judicial proceeding commenced pursuant to this <u>Section 7</u> shall be conducted in all respects as a de novo trial on the merits, and the Indemnitee shall not be prejudiced by reason of the adverse determination under <u>Section 6(b)</u>.

(c) If a determination shall have been made pursuant to  $\underline{Section 6(b)}$  of this Agreement that the Indemnitee is entitled to indemnification, the Company shall be bound by such determination in any judicial proceeding commenced pursuant to this  $\underline{Section 7}$ , absent (i) a misstatement by the Indemnitee of a material fact, or an omission of a material fact necessary to make the Indemnitee's misstatement not materially misleading in connection with the application for indemnification, or (ii) a prohibition of such indemnification under applicable law.

(d) In the event that the Indemnitee, pursuant to this <u>Section 7</u>, seeks a judicial adjudication of the Indemnitee's rights under, or to recover damages for breach of, this Agreement, or to recover under any directors' and officers' liability insurance policies maintained by the Company, the Company shall pay on the Indemnitee's behalf, in advance, any and all expenses (of the types described in the definition of Expenses in <u>Section 13</u> of this Agreement) actually and reasonably incurred by the Indemnitee in such judicial adjudication, regardless of whether the Indemnitee ultimately is determined to be entitled to such indemnification, advancement of expenses or insurance recovery.

(e) The Company shall be precluded from asserting in any judicial proceeding commenced pursuant to this <u>Section</u> 7 that the procedures and presumptions of this Agreement are not valid, binding and enforceable and shall stipulate in any such proceeding that the Company is bound by all the provisions of this Agreement. The Company shall indemnify the Indemnitee against any and all Expenses and, if requested by Indemnitee, shall (within ten (10) days after receipt by the Company of a written request therefor) advance, to the extent not prohibited by law, such expenses to the Indemnitee, which are incurred by the Indemnitee in connection with any action brought by the Indemnitee for indemnification or advance of Expenses from the Company under this Agreement or under any directors' and officers' liability insurance policies maintained by the Company, regardless of whether the Indemnitee ultimately is determined to be entitled to such indemnification, advancement of Expenses or insurance recovery, as the case may be.

(f) Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, no determination as to entitlement to indemnification under this Agreement shall be required to be made prior to the final disposition of the Proceeding.

#### 8. Non-Exclusivity; Survival of Rights; Insurance; Primacy of Indemnification; Subrogation.

(a) The rights of indemnification as provided by this Agreement shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which the Indemnitee may at any time be entitled under applicable law, the Company's articles of incorporation, as may be amended from time to time (the "Articles of Incorporation"), the Bylaws, any agreement, a vote of stockholders, a resolution of directors of the Company, or otherwise. No amendment, alteration or repeal of this Agreement or of any provision hereof shall limit or restrict any right of the Indemnitee under this Agreement in respect of any action taken or omitted by the Indemnitee in the Indemnitee's Corporate Status prior to such amendment, alteration or repeal. To the extent that a change in the NRS, whether by statute or judicial decision, permits greater indemnification than would be afforded currently under the Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws, and this Agreement, it is the intent of the parties hereto that the Indemnitee shall enjoy by this Agreement the greater benefits so afforded by such change. No right or remedy herein conferred is intended to be exclusive of any other right or remedy, and every other right and remedy shall be cumulative and in addition to every other right and remedy given hereunder or now or hereafter existing at law or in equity or otherwise. The assertion or employment of any right or remedy hereunder, or otherwise, shall not prevent the concurrent assertion or employment of any other right or remedy.

(b) To the extent that the Company maintains an insurance policy or policies providing liability insurance for directors, officers, employees, or agents or fiduciaries of the Company or of any other corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise that such person serves at the request of the Company, the Indemnitee shall be covered by such policy or policies in accordance with its or their terms to the maximum extent of the coverage available for any director, officer, employee, agent or fiduciary under such policy or policies. If, at the time of the receipt of a notice of a claim pursuant to the terms hereof, the Company has directors' and officers' liability insurance in effect, the Company shall give prompt notice of the commencement of such proceeding to the insurers in accordance with the procedures set forth in the respective policies. The Company shall thereafter take all necessary or desirable action to cause such insurers to pay, on behalf of the Indemnitee, all amounts payable as a result of such proceeding in accordance with the terms of such policies.

(c) In the event of any payment under this Agreement, the Company shall be subrogated to the extent of such payment to all of the rights of recovery of the Indemnitee, who shall execute all papers required and take all action necessary to secure such rights, including execution of such documents as are necessary to enable the Company to bring suit to enforce such rights.

(d) The Company shall not be liable under this Agreement to make any payment of amounts otherwise indemnifiable hereunder if and to the extent that the Indemnitee has otherwise actually received such payment under any insurance policy, contract, agreement or otherwise.

(e) The Company's obligation to indemnify or advance Expenses hereunder to the Indemnitee who is or was serving at the request of the Company as a director, officer, employee or agent of any other corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise shall be reduced by any amount the Indemnitee has actually received as indemnification or advancement of expenses from such other corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise.

9. EXCEPTION TO RIGHT OF INDEMNIFICATION. Notwithstanding any provision in this Agreement, the Company shall not be obligated under this Agreement to make any indemnity in connection with any claim made against the Indemnitee:

(a) for which payment has actually been made to or on behalf of the Indemnitee under any insurance policy or other indemnity provision, except with respect to any excess beyond the amount paid under any insurance policy or other indemnity provision;

(b) for an accounting of profits made from the purchase and sale (or sale and purchase) by the Indemnitee of securities of the Company within the meaning of Section 16(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or similar provisions of state statutory law or common law; or

(c) in connection with any Proceeding (or any part of any Proceeding) initiated by the Indemnitee, including any Proceeding (or any part of any Proceeding) initiated by the Indemnitee against the Company or its directors, officers, employees or other indemnitees, unless (i) the Board authorized the Proceeding (or any part of any Proceeding) prior to its initiation, or (ii) the Company provides the indemnification, in its sole discretion, pursuant to the powers vested in the Company under applicable law.

10. **DURATION OF AGREEMENT**. All agreements and obligations of the Company contained herein shall continue during the period the Indemnitee is an officer or director of the Company (or is or was serving at the request of the Company as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise) and shall continue thereafter so long as the Indemnitee shall be subject to any Proceeding (or any proceeding commenced under <u>Section</u> 7 hereof) by reason of the Indemnitee's Corporate Status, whether or not the Indemnitee is acting or serving in any such capacity at the time any liability or expense is incurred for which indemnification can be provided under this Agreement. This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of and be enforceable by the parties hereto and their respective successors (including any direct or indirect successor by purchase, merger, consolidation or otherwise to all or substantially all of the business or assets of the Company), assigns, spouses, heirs, executors and personal and legal representatives.

11. SECURITY. To the extent requested by the Indemnitee and approved by the Board, the Company may at any time and from time to time provide security to the Indemnitee for the Company's obligations hereunder through an irrevocable bank line of credit, funded trust or other collateral. Any such security, once provided to the Indemnitee, may not be revoked or released without the prior written consent of the Indemnitee.

#### 12. Enforcement.

(a) The Company expressly confirms and agrees that it has entered into this Agreement and assumes the obligations imposed on it hereby in order to induce the Indemnitee to serve as an officer or director of the Company, and the Company acknowledges that the Indemnitee is relying upon this Agreement in serving as an officer or director of the Company.

(b) This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties hereto with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all prior agreements and understandings, oral, written and implied, between the parties hereto with respect to the subject matter hereof.

(c) The Company shall not seek from a court, or agree to, a "bar order" which would have the effect of prohibiting or limiting the Indemnitee's rights to receive advancement of expenses under this Agreement.

#### 13. DEFINITIONS. For purposes of this Agreement:

(a) "Corporate Status" describes the status of a person who is or was a director, officer, employee, agent or fiduciary of the Company or of any other corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise that such person is or was serving at the express written request of the Company.

(b) "Disinterested Directors" means all of the directors of the Company who are not and were not a party to the Proceeding in respect of which indemnification is sought by the Indemnitee.

(c) "Enterprise" shall mean the Company and any other corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise that the Indemnitee is or was serving at the express written request of the Company as a director, officer, employee, agent or fiduciary.

(d) "**Expenses**" shall include all reasonable attorneys' fees, retainers, court costs, transcript costs, fees of experts, witness fees, travel expenses, duplicating costs, printing and binding costs, telephone charges, postage, delivery service fees and all other disbursements or expenses of the types customarily incurred in connection with prosecuting, defending, preparing to prosecute or defend, investigating, participating, or being or preparing to be a witness in a Proceeding, or responding to, or objecting to, a request to provide discovery in any Proceeding. Expenses also shall include Expenses incurred in connection with any appeal resulting from any Proceeding, including without limitation the premium, security for, and other costs relating to any cost bond, supersedeas bond, or other appeal bond or its equivalent. Expenses, however, shall not include amounts paid in settlement by the Indemnitee or the amount of judgments or fines against the Indemnitee.

(e) "Independent Counsel" means a law firm, or a member of a law firm, that is experienced in matters of corporation law and neither presently is, nor in the past five years has been, retained to represent (i) the Company or the Indemnitee in any matter material to either such party (other than with respect to matters concerning the Indemnitee under this Agreement, or of other indemnitees under similar indemnification agreements), or (ii) any other party to the Proceeding giving rise to a claim for indemnification hereunder. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the term "Independent Counsel" shall not include any person who, under the applicable standards of professional conduct then prevailing, would have a conflict of interest in representing either the Company or the Indemnitee in an action to determine the Indemnitee's rights under this Agreement. The Company agrees to pay the reasonable fees of the Independent Counsel referred to above and to fully indemnify such counsel against any and all Expenses, claims, liabilities and damages arising out of or relating to this Agreement or its engagement pursuant hereto.

(f) "**Proceeding**" includes any threatened, pending or completed action, suit, arbitration, alternative dispute resolution mechanism, investigation, inquiry, administrative hearing or any other actual, threatened or completed proceeding, whether brought by or in the right of the Company or otherwise and whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, in which the Indemnitee was, is or will be involved as a party or otherwise, by reason of the Indemnitee's Corporate Status, by reason of any action taken by the Indemnitee or of any inaction on the part of the Indemnitee while acting in the Indemnitee's Corporate Status; in each case whether or not the Indemnitee is acting or serving in any such capacity at the time any liability or expense is incurred for which indemnification may be provided under this Agreement; including one pending on or before the date of this Agreement, but excluding one initiated by the Indemnitee pursuant to <u>Section</u> 7 of this Agreement to enforce the Indemnitee's rights under this Agreement.

14. <u>SEVERABLETTY</u>. The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision hereof shall in no way affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision. Further, the invalidity or unenforceability of any provision hereof as to the Indemnitee shall in no way affect the validity or enforceability of any provision hereof as to the other. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, this Agreement is intended to confer upon the Indemnitee indemnification rights to the fullest extent permitted by applicable laws. In the event any provision hereof conflicts with any applicable law, such provision shall be deemed modified, consistent with the aforementioned intent, to the extent necessary to resolve such conflict.

15. MODIFICATION AND WAIVER. No supplement, modification, termination or amendment of this Agreement shall be binding unless executed in writing by both of the parties hereto. No waiver of any of the provisions of this Agreement shall be deemed or shall constitute a waiver of any other provisions hereof (whether or not similar) nor shall such waiver constitute a continuing waiver.

16. <u>NOTICE BY INDEMNITEE</u>. The Indemnitee agrees promptly to notify the Company in writing upon being served with or otherwise receiving any summons, citation, subpoena, complaint, indictment, information or other document relating to any Proceeding or matter which may be subject to indemnification covered hereunder. The failure to so notify the Company shall not relieve the Company of any obligation which it may have to the Indemnitee under this Agreement or otherwise unless and only to the extent that such failure or delay materially prejudices the Company.

17. Notices. All notices and other communications given or made pursuant to this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be deemed effectively given (a) upon personal delivery to the party to be notified, (b) when sent by confirmed electronic mail or facsimile if sent during normal business hours of the recipient, and if not so confirmed, then on the next business day, (c) five (5) days after having been sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, or (d) one (1) day after deposit with a nationally recognized overnight courier, specifying next day delivery, with written verification of receipt. All communications shall be sent to the addresses specified on the signature page hereto, or to such other address as may have been furnished to the Company by the Indemnitee, or, if to the Company, to the Company's address as specified in filings made by the Company with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

18. <u>COUNTERPARTS</u>. This Agreement may be executed in two (2) or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same the same instrument. Counterparts may be delivered via facsimile, electronic mail (including pdf or any electronic signature complying with the U.S. federal ESIGN Act of 2000, *e.g.*, www.docusign.com) or other transmission method and any counterpart so delivered shall be deemed to have been duly and validly delivered and be valid and effective for all purposes.

19. HEADINGS. The headings of the paragraphs of this Agreement are inserted for convenience only and shall not be deemed to constitute part of this Agreement or to affect the construction thereof.

20. <u>GOVERNING LAW AND CONSENT TO JURISDICTION</u>. This Agreement and the legal relations among the parties shall be governed by, and construed and enforced in accordance with, the laws of the State of Nevada, without regard to its conflict of laws rules. The Company and the Indemnitee hereby irrevocably and unconditionally (a) agree that any action or proceeding arising out of or in connection with this Agreement shall be brought only in the District Court of the State of Nevada (the "Nevada Court"), and not in any other state or federal court in the United States of America or any court in any other country, (b) consent to submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Nevada Court for purposes of any action or proceeding arising out of or in connection with this Agreement, (c) waive any objection to the laying of venue of any such action or proceeding in the Nevada Court, and (d) waive, and agree not to plead or to make, any claim that any such action or proceeding brought in the Nevada Court has been brought in an improper or inconvenient forum.

[Signature Page to Follow]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Indemnification Agreement on and as of the day and year first above written.

# **COMPANY:**

STRAN & COMPANY, INC.

By: Nama:

Name:Andy ShapeTitle:Chief Executive Office

# **INDEMNITEE:**

Name:

Address:



December 11, 2023

Ian Wall 1 Nickerson Road Lexington, MA 02421 Email: ianthomaswall@gmail.com Phone: (617) 694-8524

Dear Ian,

STRAN and Company, Inc. (Stran Promotional Solutions) is pleased to extend you an offer for the position of Chief Information Officer (CIO) to begin employment at a mutually agreeable time.

**Position:** Chief Information Officer (CIO). In this position, you will provide sound technical and strategic leadership while overseeing the direction and oversight for the company's IT operations and communications aiming to improve processes within the company. The CIO will also provide direction and oversight for the development, implementation, and dissemination of technology for external customers, vendors, and other clients. You will delegate tasks and responsibilities to other Stran employees, while communicating directly with stakeholders and customers to ensure our company's technologies are performing or exceeding their intended objective. This is a vital leadership role that will drive results, spur growth, and increase the overall profitability and efficiency of Stran. The four primary technology components that you will oversee currently consist of the following categories:

- Internal operations oversee the company's technology infrastructure that allow the order processes to flow smoothly and efficiently while implementing automation wherever possible. (NetSuite ERP, API integrations between vendors and 3PL's, enablement of Promo Standards, Product search, CRM and presentation tools, etc. We need to optimize our technology and the processes we use to allow for efficient workflows, reduce friction and create capacity within our team.
- Customer facing technology and e-commerce that makes it easier for our customers to do business with Stran and is a value-added differentiator. These are both custom developed and industry specific solutions (Magento, Shopify, WebJaguar, OMG, BrightStores) that enable the requirements of our clients.
- General IT tools needed for Stran employees to effectively function daily while remaining secure and compliant in partnership with our current outsourced IT provider (computers, email, cloud network, connectivity, MS Teams, Jira, Trello, communication tools, telecommunications)
- Public Facing Technology as related to Stran's presence on the web (stran.com, Demand Gen, DAM, email blasts, Social Media platforms, etc).

Your overall efforts should build upon the foundation that we have developed to sustain our current overhead and continue to grow. Your success will be measured with quantifiable and measurable results compared to goals set forth and established together.

**<u>Reporting</u>:** This position will report to the CEO. You will also be expected to work with and be held accountable to the other department heads to understand how the different business units need to work with one another to make the company more effective.

#### 1. Mission:

- Develop technical aspects for Stran's strategy to ensure alignment with its short and long-term business goals.
- Create, document, and implement a clear and concise technology roadmap that is constantly reviewed, updated, and improved upon while shared with the executive team.



- Discover, evaluate, and implement new technologies and infrastructures that create value and yield competitive advantages.
- Effectively and concisely communicate technology strategy to peers, employees, partners, vendors, and customers.
- Lead strategic planning for the IT department personnel structure, roles, responsibilities, and skillsets required.
- Play an integral role in the ongoing management and oversight of NetSuite as Stran's ERP ensuring that processes are established and followed efficiently and appropriately.
- Strategically build out, streamline, and manage Stran's e-commerce offerings that currently includes multiple platforms including Magento, Shopify, WebJaguar, FAST, nexTouch, BrightStores, CoreXpand. Collaborate with the COO and the Programs Management leader to create and support a programmatic offering that delivers new capabilities aligned to business strategy that is industry-leading, nimble and efficient.
- Managing, monitor, and enforce technology budgets and time frames.
- Ensure all technology practices adhere to regulatory standards.
- Ensuring technologies are being used efficiently, profitably, and securely companywide.
- Work with Executive team to strategize and understand company financials, business opportunities, and overall company direction while relaying appropriate information related to technology appropriately.
- Participate in the development and execution of strategic and tactical business plans that support the strategic initiatives across the organization.

## 2. Four major activities and the % of time.

Activity	% of Time
Internal Tech Operations and ERP management	40%
e-Commerce strategy, development, execution, and management	40%
General IT and Communication management	10%
Public Facing Technology oversight and understanding	10%

#### 3. Supervision & Guidance:

CEO / President / Executive Vice President / Other C-Level Executives where appropriate

## 4. People Supervised:

Entire IT and e-commerce Department and specific operations team members if deemed appropriate.

## 5. Other leadership contacts in the Organization:

We expect you to work in partnership with each C-Level Executive and/or each department leader in order to accomplish your goals as well as accomplishing overall company goals.

## 6. External Contacts:

Customers

Technology providers and outsourced developers Suppliers & Partners

Other 3<sup>rd</sup> party service providers and 3PL's



## 7. Performance Criteria:

- Confidence from Executive team that you are strategically implementing and administering technology plans that will help us reach our short and long-term business goals.
- Confidence from employees that you are delivering solutions that help them do their jobs and keep our customers satisfied technologically.
- Confidence from customers that you are providing technology tools that differentiate Stran and helps them accomplish their e-commerce goals.
- Ability to show quantifiable results as related to the goals set out in the Technology Roadmap.
- Successful training and education of Stran employees for all technology offerings and the benefits, drawbacks, financials of each model.
- Ensure compliance and security measures are being met.

<u>Compensation</u>: Stran will provide you with an annual base salary of **\$265,000.00** with the potential for increases in salary and annual bonus based on the successful achievement of both personal and business-related goals as outlined below/attached.

Car and Phone Allowance: Stran will provide you with a monthly car and phone allowance of \$750.00.

Signing Bonus: 15,000 options that vest over 2 years; 1/3 immediately, 1/3 each subsequent year.

#### **Bonus Structure:**

Stran would like to offer you a bonus structure that encompasses both personal goals and overall business goals. After the first year of employment, and each subsequent year, these goals and bonus figures will be reviewed to ensure that proper benchmarks and goals are a benefit to the organization, realistic, attainable, and fair for everyone.

Performance Bonus Structure: Stran has developed a 2024 bonus plan that ties directly to the overall sales, profitability, and growth of Stran. Stran expects significant yearover-year growth with relative increased profitability as our main success benchmark. Should the company achieve the goals as outlined below, you can expect a bonus based on these criteria. These benchmarks and bonus % are based on the current landscape (not including any future acquisitions) and will be adjusted each year based on changing business factors.

<u>Cash Bonuses (2024)</u>: Achieve the following goals OR at the discretion of the CEO and approval by compensation committee – reviewed and paid annually, based on fiscal year. Performance targets are based on Company sales, gross profit and net profit, as defined under GAAP and reported in the Company's annual 10-K financial statements. Target weighting is 10% on sales, 50% on gross profit and 40% on net profit.

Your cash bonus is based on your base salary, with 5% of your base salary as a bonus if 95% of all target amounts are achieved, 20% if 100% of target amounts are achieved, 30% if 110% of target amounts are achieved and 40% if 120% of target amounts are achieved. For example, if Stran achieves sales of \$87.5 million, gross profit of \$26.25 million (30%) and net profit of \$1.312 million (1.5%), you will receive a cash bonus of \$53,000. If 120% of all targets are achieved, you will receive a cash bonus of \$106,000. Each target (sales, gross profit, net profit) are measured separately, allowing for example the opportunity to achieve one target for sales and another target for net profit, with the total cash bonus based on the weighting of the target achieved. Please refer to the attached excel file for additional information.

Stock Option Bonuses (2024): Achieve the following goals OR at the discretion of the CEO and approval by compensation committee – reviewed and paid annually, based on fiscal year.





100,000 stock options will be issued annually with an exercise price equal to the stock price at the time issuance. Such options will vest based on the achievement of the same annual targets set for the cash bonus for that year and based on the below:

- Sales target achieved: 15,000 options
- Gross profit target achieved: 15,000 options
- Net profit target achieved: 15,000 options
- 125% of net profit target achieved: 25,000 options
- 150% of net profit target achieved: 30,000 options

Any stock options or shares of the Company's common stock will follow all regulatory and compliance rules including filing a registration statement or restricting the sale or exercise of shares due to SEC, FINRA, Nasdaq or other regulatory requirements.

#### Non-solicitation:

Stran will execute a standard non-disclosure and non-solicitation agreement with you that will not restrict you from working within the promotional industry, but will require you to maintain confidentiality and refrain from soliciting current clients or employees that were existing or obtained during your employment with Stran.

#### Severance:

Should Stran terminate your employment within the first 2 years of your start date, you will be eligible for the following compensation benefits:

- (i) Year1. You will receive 4 months of your salary, paid per the company's current pay schedule during that time.
- (ii) Year2. You will receive 2 months of your salary, paid per the company's current pay schedule during that time.

Severance will not be applicable if you are terminated for "Cause". As used herein, "Cause" shall mean: (a) conviction of or plea of guilty or nolo contendere to a felony (b) commission of fraud or embezzlement on the Company or any of its subsidiaries; (c) willful act or omission which results in an assessment of a civil or criminal penalty against the Company or any of its subsidiaries that causes material financial or reputational harm to the Company or any of its subsidiaries; (d) any intentional act of dishonesty resulting or intending to result in personal gain or enrichment at the expense of the Company or any of its subsidiaries; (f) a material financial harm or material reputational harm to the Company or any of its subsidiaries; (f) a material violation by Executive of the Company's (or any of its subsidiaries') bona fide, written equal employment opportunity, antidiscrimination, anti-harassment, or anti- retaliation policies; (g) the Executive's consistent abuse of alcohol, prescription drugs or controlled substances, which interferes with the performance of her duties to the Company; or (i) excessive absenteeism of the Executive other than for reasons of illness.

**Benefits:** Stran offers Medical Care Coverage under an HMO or PPO plan whereby the company contributes 65% of the monthly premium if you choose to participate. Stran provides life insurance and short-term disability as outlined in our benefits package. Stran also offers a Section 125 Flexible Spending Account and elective participation in dental insurance and long-term disability programs. Additionally, you are eligible to participate in the 401K savings plan with a company match of 3% of your annual salary – up to the legal maximum. You will be eligible for these benefits immediately upon employment.

In addition, Stran has adopted an unlimited vacation policy that encompasses vacation, personal, and sick days. You must receive approval and give at least two weeks' notice prior to taking time off whenever possible. Stran also offers a generous holiday schedule each year. For calendar year 2023 STRAN has 10 paid holidays.

A performance review of stated goals will take place at 3, 6 and 12 months following your start date.

Working hours will be from 8:30am-5:30pm. Please note that due to the increasing level of growth that our business has been experiencing over the past few years, and as the newest member of our senior management team, it would be expected that additional hours be put in to ensure that all areas under your responsibility are properly tended to. Upon acceptance of this role, you will need to complete the I-9, W-4 and other employee information forms by the first day of work. Also, you will need to read and sign the Stran employee Handbook before the end of you first week of employment.





Please let us know of your decision to accept this offer in writing. Congratulations, we think you will be a great addition to our team and look forward to working with you in your new role and position!

Sincerely,

/s/ Andy Shape Andy Shape, President and CEO STRAN and Company, Inc.

/s/ Ian Wall Name 12/11/2023 ate

# Sran CIO Bonus Worksheet for Ian Wall 12/11/2023

	Floor			Ceiling	
Stran Target Achieved	95.0%	6 100.0%	110.0%		120.0%
Cash Bonus Percentage of Base	5.0%	20.0%	30.0%		40.0%
				<b>Base Salary</b>	
				\$	265,000
	Target Weighting:				
Sales					10.0%
Gross Profit					50.0%
Net Profit					40.0%
	2024 Goals:				
Sales				\$	87,500,000
Gross Profit - 30.0%				\$	26,250,000
Net Profit - 1.5%				\$	1,312,500

## Notes:

- Net profit calculatons excludes bonus payments to Executives Team
- Forecasted Revenue for Stran in 2023 is \$72mm plus TRM of estimated \$15mm.
- Reviewed and modified each fiscal year to meet changing environment.
- Financial goals and results exclude future acquisitions. Bonus formulas reset after financial expectations for acquisition determined.
- Cash payments staggered over 3 months starting on March after year end.

## Cash Bonus Estimates

Stran FY24 Results	% of Target % of Bonus %		% of Salary	Amount	
Sales	120.0%	40.0%	4.0%	\$	10,600
Gross Profit	120.0%	40.0%	20.0%		53,000
Net Profit	120.0%	40.0%	16.0%		42,400
Total Cash Bonus Estimate			40.0%	\$	106,000

# <u>Equity Bonus Estimates</u>

Executive Equity Bonus	 Goal	Shares	Options	 Value
Revenue Goal achieved	\$ 87,500,000		15,000	\$ 39,750
Gross Profit Goal achieved	\$ 26,250,000		15,000	\$ 39,750
Net Profit Goal achieved	\$ 1,312,500		15,000	\$ 39,750
25.0% Net Profit Goal +125% achieved	\$ 1,640,625		25,000	\$ 66,250
50.0% Net Profit Goal +150% achieved	\$ 1,968,750		30,000	\$ 79,500
Exercise Price				\$ 1.35
Stock Price				\$ 4.00



## COMMERCIAL LOAN MODIFICATION AGREEMENT

Agreement entered into as of the <u>12th</u> day of February, 2024 by and between Salem Five Cents Savings Bank, a Massachusetts savings Lender with a usual place of business at 210 Essex Street, Salem, Massachusetts 01970, (hereinafter referred to as the "Lender") and Stran & Company, Inc., a Nevada corporation duly qualified as a foreign corporation in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts with a principal business address of 2 Heritage Drive, Quincy, Massachusetts (hereinafter referred to as the "Borrower").

At the request of the Borrower, and upon the conditions hereinafter set forth, the Lender has agreed to modify the terms of the Revolving Demand Line of Credit Loan Agreement entered into by the parties on November 22, 2021, in connection with the Borrower's \$7,000,000.00 Revolving Demand Line of Credit Note dated November 22, 2021 (hereinafter referred to as "Note").

The parties hereto do hereby covenant and agree that the Loan Agreement is hereupon modified as specifically set forth herein:

1. Section 3.3 of the Loan Agreement is deleted in its entirety, and replaced with the following:

3.3 Financial Statements. Borrower shall provide to the Lender throughout the term of the Loan is outstanding:

- a) Audited financial statements within 120 days of fiscal year end, on a consolidated and consolidating basis, including all supporting schedules;
- b) Quarterly agings of accounts receivable and payable within 20 days of each period end upon request of the Lender;
- c) Quarterly management-prepared financial statements within 30 days of each period end;
- Monthly borrowing base certificates due within 15 days of month end with accounts receivable agings and inventory reports when sums are outstanding hereunder or requested by Lender;
- e) Borrower shall pay for the reasonable fees and expenses in connection with a field exam, at the Lender's discretion, which is to be performed by Lender in 2024 within 30 days following the completion of the NetSuite transition; and
- f) From time to time, such financial data and information about Borrower as Lender may reasonably request.

2. Section 4.1 of the Loan Agreement is deleted in its entirety, and replaced with the following:

4.1. <u>Financial Covenants</u>. Notwithstanding the fact that this is a Demand facility, the Borrower shall comply with the Covenants set forth herein. The Borrower will not at any time or during any fiscal period (as applicable) fail to be in compliance with any of the financial covenants in this section.

a) Borrower shall maintain a Minimum interest coverage of 1.25:1, tested for fiscal year ending 12/31/24 only, and defined as follows:

EBITDA, divided by, cash interest payments made on all debt.

"EBITDA" shall be defined as follows: the trailing year's total of net income before total interest expense, tax expense, and depreciation and amortization expense. EBITDA will be adjusted for extraordinary and/or non-cash items as defined in accordance with GAAP, if any, determined in Lender's sole discretion.

b) Borrower shall maintain a Minimum Debt Service Coverage Ratio of 1.20:1, tested annually beginning with fiscal year ending 12/31/25, and defined as follows:

EBITDA, less, cash taxes, distributions, dividends, shareholder withdrawals in any form, and unfinanced capital expenditures, Divided By, all scheduled principal payments on all debt, plus, cash interest payments made on all debt, plus, cash payments made on contingent earn-out liabilities. "Unfinanced Capital Expenditures" shall be defined as: the current FYE Net Fixed Assets, PLUS, current FYE depreciation, LESS, prior FYE Net Fixed Assets, LESS, the increase Long-Term Debt.

- c) Borrower's ratio of Debt to Tangible Net Worth shall never exceed 1.50:1, tested at fiscal year-end to be defined as follows: Total Liabilities, divided by, Tangible Net Worth. Tangible Net Worth shall be defined as Total Assets, Less, Total Liabilities, Less, Intangible assets and amounts due from shareholder/related parties.
- d) Borrower shall maintain a Minimum Liquidity of \$7,500,000 to be maintained at all times to be defined as follows: Cash and Short-Term Investments, less, Rewards Program liabilities.
- e) Any future investments and/or acquisitions would continue to require prior approval by the Lender but any future contingent earnout obligations shall be subordinated to Lender debt.

By executing the within Commercial Loan Modification Agreement, the Borrower does hereby specifically ratify and confirm the Note, the Loan Agreement, any and all Security Agreement and each and every other document executed by or delivered by the Borrower to the Lender as evidence of or collateral security for the obligations of the Borrower owed to the Lender under the Note. Each and every term and provision of all Loan Documents shall, except as herein modified, remain in full force and effect, including "inter alia", the terms and conditions pertaining to the rights of the Lender in the event of any default.

The Borrower acknowledges that it has submitted current financial information to the Lender for the for the Lender's consideration of the Borrower's request for modification of the terms of the Note. The Borrower understands that the Lender has relied upon all the information supplied to the Lender by the Borrower for consideration of the Borrower's request. The Borrower states that the information it has supplied is true, accurate and complete and that the Borrower understands that the Lender will, having relied upon said information, prosecute any misrepresentation or inaccuracy that results in a detriment to the Lender. The Borrower agrees that it shall provide accurate and complete financial information to the Lender, at least annually, or at such other times as may be called for in the loan documents or security agreements or when the Lender may reasonably request.

The provisions of this Commercial Loan Modification Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the respective heirs, executors, administrators, legal representatives, successors and assigns of the parties hereto.

The Borrower agrees to fully cooperate with the Lender in adjusting for clerical errors and/or omissions in any loan documentation and agrees to execute and deliver to the Lender any documents and to do all things reasonably necessary, whether discovered prior to or after the date of this Agreement, which may be requested to carry into effect the intent of this Agreement.

This Agreement may be executed using Electronic Signatures (as defined herein), including, without limitation, facsimile and/or pdf. I agree that my Electronic Signature (including, without limitation, facsimile or pdf) on or associated with this Agreement shall be valid and binding on me to the same extent as a manual, original signature and that this Agreement signed by me by Electronic Signature will constitute my legal, valid and binding obligation enforceable against me in accordance with the terms hereof to the same extent as if a manually executed original signature was delivered to the Lender. Also, the Lender may, at its option, create one or more copies of this Agreement in the form of an imaged Electronic Record (as defined herein) ("Electronic Copy"), which shall be deemed created in the ordinary course of the Lender's business, and destroy the original paper document. This Agreement in the form of an Electronic Record, including an Electronic Copy, shall be considered an original for all purposes, and shall have the same legal effect, validity and enforceability as a paper record. For purposes hereof, "Electronic Signature" and "Electronic Record" shall have the meanings assigned to them by 15 USC §7006, respectively, as it may be amended from time to time.

THE BORROWER HEREBY KNOWINGLY, VOLUNTARILY AND INTENTIONALLY, AND AFTER AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT WITH LEGAL COUNSEL, WAIVES ANY AND ALL RIGHTS TO A TRIAL BY JURY IN ANY ACTION OR PROCEEDING IN CONNECTION WITH THE NOTE OR THIS AGREEMENT, THE OBLIGATIONS, IN ALL MATTERS CONTEMPLATED HEREBY AND ALL DOCUMENTS EXECUTED IN CONNECTION HEREWITH. THE BORROWER CERTIFIES THAT NEITHER THE LENDER NOR ANY OF ITS REPRESENTATIVES, AGENTS OR COUNSEL HAS REPRESENTED, EXPRESSLY OR OTHERWISE, THAT THE LENDER WOULD NOT IN THE EVENT OF ANY SUCH PROCEEDING, SEEK TO ENFORCE THIS WAIVER OF RIGHT TO TRIAL BY JURY.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Commercial Loan Modification Agreement to be executed as a sealed instrument the day and year first above written.

BORROWER: Stran & Company, Inc.

By: /s/ Andy Shape Andrew J. Shape, President and CEO

LENDER: Salem Five Cents Savings Bank

By: /s/ Daniel Rapoza Daniel Rapoza, Sr. Vice President

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# CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

We hereby consent to the incorporation in the Registration Statement on Form S-8 (File No. 333-261050) and the Registration Statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-271337) of Stran & Company, Inc. (the "Company"), of our report dated March 28, 2024, relating to the financial statements of the Company as of and for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 appearing in the Annual Report on Form 10-K of the Company for the year ended December 31, 2023.

# /s/ BF Borgers CPA PC

Certified Public Accountants Lakewood, CO March 28, 2024 I, Andrew Shape, certify that:

- 1. I have reviewed this annual report on Form 10-K of Stran & Company, Inc.;
- 2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
- 3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
- 4. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
  - a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
  - b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
  - c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
  - d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
- 5. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
  - a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
  - b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: March 28, 2024

/s/ Andrew Shape

Andrew Shape Chief Executive Officer and President (Principal Executive Officer) I, David Browner, certify that:

- 1. I have reviewed this annual report on Form 10-K of Stran & Company, Inc.;
- 2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
- 3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
- 4. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
  - a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
  - b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
  - c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
  - d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
- 5. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
  - a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
  - b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: March 28, 2024

/s/ David Browner

David Browner Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)

#### CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO 18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350, AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002

The undersigned Chief Executive Officer of Stran & Company, Inc. (the "Company"), DOES HEREBY CERTIFY that to my knowledge:

- 1. The Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2023 (the "Report") fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- 2. Information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operation of the Company.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has executed this statement on March 28, 2024.

/s/ Andrew Shape

Andrew Shape Chief Executive Officer and President (Principal Executive Officer)

A signed original of this written statement required by Section 906 has been provided to Stran & Company, Inc. and will be retained by Stran & Company, Inc. and furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission or its staff upon request.

The forgoing certification is being furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to § 18 U.S.C. Section 1350. It is not being filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and is not to be incorporated by reference into any filing of the Company, whether made before or after the date hereof, regardless of any general incorporation language in such filing.

#### CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO 18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350, AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002

The undersigned Chief Financial Officer of Stran & Company, Inc. (the "Company"), DOES HEREBY CERTIFY that to my knowledge:

- 1. The Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2023 (the "Report") fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- 2. Information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operation of the Company.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has executed this statement on March 28, 2024.

/s/ David Browner

David Browner Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)

A signed original of this written statement required by Section 906 has been provided to Stran & Company, Inc. and will be retained by Stran & Company, Inc. and furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission or its staff upon request.

The forgoing certification is being furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to § 18 U.S.C. Section 1350. It is not being filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and is not to be incorporated by reference into any filing of the Company, whether made before or after the date hereof, regardless of any general incorporation language in such filing.

#### CLAWBACK POLICY

# A. OVERVIEW

In accordance with Rule 5608 of The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC Rules (the "Nasdaq Rules"), Section 10D and Rule 10D-1 ("Rule 10D-1") of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), the Board of Directors (the "Board") of Stran & Company, Inc. (the "Company") has adopted this Policy (the "Policy") to provide for the recovery of erroneously awarded Incentive-based Compensation from Executive Officers. All capitalized terms used and not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings set forth in Section H, below.

## B. RECOVERY OF ERRONEOUSLY AWARDED COMPENSATION

(1) In the event of an Accounting Restatement, the Company will reasonably promptly recover the Erroneously Awarded Compensation Received in accordance with the Nasdaq Rules and Rule 10D-1 as follows:

- (i) After an Accounting Restatement, the Compensation Committee of the Board (the "Committee") shall determine the amount of any Erroneously Awarded Compensation Received by each Executive Officer and shall promptly notify each Executive Officer with a written notice containing the amount of any Erroneously Awarded Compensation and a demand for repayment or return of such compensation, as applicable.
  - (a) For Incentive-based Compensation based on (or derived from) the Company's stock price or total shareholder return, where the amount of Erroneously Awarded Compensation is not subject to mathematical recalculation directly from the information in the applicable Accounting Restatement:
    - i. The amount to be repaid or returned shall be determined by the Committee based on a reasonable estimate of the effect of the Accounting Restatement on the Company's stock price or total shareholder return upon which the Incentive-based Compensation was Received; and
    - ii. The Company shall maintain documentation of the determination of such reasonable estimate and provide the relevant documentation as required to Nasdaq.
- (ii) The Committee shall have discretion to determine the appropriate means of recovering Erroneously Awarded Compensation based on the particular facts and circumstances. Notwithstanding the foregoing, except as set forth in Section B(2) below, in no event may the Company accept an amount that is less than the amount of Erroneously Awarded Compensation in satisfaction of an Executive Officer's obligations hereunder.
- (iii) To the extent that the Executive Officer has already reimbursed the Company for any Erroneously Awarded Compensation Received under any duplicative recovery obligations established by the Company or applicable law, it shall be appropriate for any such reimbursed amount to be credited to the amount of Erroneously Awarded Compensation that is subject to recovery under this Policy.
- (iv) To the extent that an Executive Officer fails to repay all Erroneously Awarded Compensation to the Company when due, the Company shall take all actions reasonable and appropriate to recover such Erroneously Awarded Compensation from the applicable Executive Officer. The applicable Executive Officer shall be required to reimburse the Company for any and all expenses reasonably incurred (including legal fees) by the Company in recovering such Erroneously Awarded Compensation in accordance with the immediately preceding sentence.

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(2) Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the Company shall not be required to take the actions contemplated by Section B(1) above if the Committee determines that recovery would be impracticable *and* any of the following two conditions are met:

- The Committee has determined that the direct expenses paid to a third party to assist in enforcing the Policy would exceed the amount to be recovered. Before
  making this determination, the Company must make a reasonable attempt to recover the Erroneously Awarded Compensation, document such attempt(s) and
  provide such documentation to Nasdaq;
- (ii) Recovery would likely cause an otherwise tax-qualified retirement plan, under which benefits are broadly available to employees of the Company, to fail to meet the requirements of Section 401(a)(13) or Section 411(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and regulations thereunder.

## C. DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS

The Company shall file all disclosures with respect to this Policy required by applicable U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") filings and rules.

## D. PROHIBITION OF INDEMNIFICATION

The Company shall not be permitted to insure or indemnify any Executive Officer against (i) the loss of any Erroneously Awarded Compensation that is repaid, returned or recovered pursuant to the terms of this Policy, or (ii) any claims relating to the Company's enforcement of its rights under this Policy. Further, the Company shall not enter into any agreement that exempts any Incentive-based Compensation that is granted, paid or awarded to an Executive Officer from the application of this Policy or that waives the Company's right to recovery of any Erroneously Awarded Compensation, and this Policy shall supersede any such agreement (whether entered into before, on or after the Effective Date of this Policy). It is hereby acknowledged that Rule 10D-1(b)(1)(v) and Nasdaq Rule 5608 provide that the Company is prohibited from indemnifying any executive officer or former executive officer against the loss of erroneously awarded compensation. It is therefore acknowledged that such indemnification is prohibited by applicable law for all purposes, including any and all such agreements.

# E. ADMINISTRATION AND INTERPRETATION

This Policy shall be administered by the Committee, and any determinations made by the Committee shall be final and binding on all affected individuals.

The Committee is authorized to interpret and construe this Policy and to make all determinations necessary, appropriate, or advisable for the administration of this Policy and for the Company's compliance with the Nasdaq Rules, Section 10D, Rule 10D-1 and any other applicable law, regulation, rule or interpretation of the SEC or Nasdaq promulgated or issued in connection therewith.

## F. AMENDMENT; TERMINATION

The Committee may amend this Policy from time to time in its discretion and shall amend this Policy as it deems necessary. Notwithstanding anything in this Section F to the contrary, no amendment or termination of this Policy shall be effective if such amendment or termination would (after taking into account any actions taken by the Company contemporaneously with such amendment or termination) cause the Company to violate any federal securities laws, SEC rule or Nasdaq rule.

# G. OTHER RECOVERY RIGHTS

This Policy shall be binding and enforceable against all Executive Officers and, to the extent required by applicable law or guidance from the SEC or Nasdaq, their beneficiaries, heirs, executors, administrators or other legal representatives. The Committee intends that this Policy will be applied to the fullest extent required by applicable law. Any employment agreement, equity award agreement, compensatory plan or any other agreement or arrangement with an Executive Officer shall be deemed to include, as a condition to the grant of any benefit thereunder, an agreement by the Executive Officer to abide by the terms of this Policy. Any right of recovery under this Policy is in addition to, and not in lieu of, any other remedies or rights of recovery that may be available to the Company under applicable law, regulation or rule or pursuant to the terms of any policy of the Company or any provision in any employment agreement, equity award agreement, compensatory plan, agreement or other arrangement.

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## H. DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this Policy, the following capitalized terms shall have the meanings set forth below.

(1) "Accounting Restatement" means an accounting restatement due to the material noncompliance of the Company with any financial reporting requirement under the securities laws, including any required accounting restatement to correct an error in previously issued financial statements that is material to the previously issued financial statements (a "Big R" restatement), or that would result in a material misstatement if the error were corrected in the current period or left uncorrected in the current period (a "little r" restatement).

(2) "**Clawback Eligible Incentive Compensation**" means all Incentive-based Compensation Received by an Executive Officer (i) on or after the effective date of the applicable Nasdaq rules, (ii) after beginning service as an Executive Officer, (iii) who served as an Executive Officer at any time during the applicable performance period relating to any Incentive-based Compensation (whether or not such Executive Officer is serving at the time the Erroneously Awarded Compensation is required to be repaid to the Company), (iv) while the Company has a class of securities listed on a national securities exchange or a national securities association, and (v) during the applicable Clawback Period (as defined below).

(3) "Clawback Period" means, with respect to any Accounting Restatement, the three completed fiscal years of the Company immediately preceding the Restatement Date (as defined below), and if the Company changes its fiscal year, any transition period of less than nine months within or immediately following those three completed fiscal years.

(4) "Erroneously Awarded Compensation" means, with respect to each Executive Officer in connection with an Accounting Restatement, the amount of Clawback Eligible Incentive Compensation that exceeds the amount of Incentive-based Compensation that otherwise would have been Received had it been determined based on the restated amounts, computed without regard to any taxes paid.

(5) "**Executive Officer**" means each individual who is currently or was previously designated as an "officer" of the Company as defined in Rule 16a-1(f) under the Exchange Act. For the avoidance of doubt, the identification of an executive officer for purposes of this Policy shall include each executive officer who is or was identified pursuant to Item 401(b) of Regulation S-K or Item 6.A of Form 20-F, as applicable, as well as the principal financial officer and principal accounting officer (or, if there is no principal accounting officer, the controller).

(6) "Financial Reporting Measures" means measures that are determined and presented in accordance with the accounting principles used in preparing the Company's financial statements, and all other measures that are derived wholly or in part from such measures. Stock price and total shareholder return (and any measures that are derived wholly or in part from stock price or total shareholder return) shall, for purposes of this Policy, be considered Financial Reporting Measures. For the avoidance of doubt, a Financial Reporting Measure need not be presented in the Company's financial statements or included in a filing with the SEC.

(7) "Incentive-based Compensation" means any compensation that is granted, earned or vested based wholly or in part upon the attainment of a Financial Reporting Measure.

(8) "Nasdaq" means The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC.

(9) "**Received**" means, with respect to any Incentive-based Compensation, actual or deemed receipt, and Incentive-based Compensation shall be deemed received in the Company's fiscal period during which the Financial Reporting Measure specified in the Incentive-based Compensation award is attained, even if the payment or grant of the Incentive-based Compensation to the Executive Officer occurs after the end of that period.

(10) "Restatement Date" means the earlier to occur of (i) the date the Board, a committee of the Board or the officers of the Company authorized to take such action if Board action is not required, concludes, or reasonably should have concluded, that the Company is required to prepare an Accounting Restatement, or (ii) the date a court, regulator or other legally authorized body directs the Company to prepare an Accounting Restatement.

Effective as of November 2, 2023.

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## STRAN & COMPANY, INC.

### SECOND AMENDED AND RESTATED INSIDER TRADING POLICY

# 1. PURPOSE

This Second Amended and Restated Insider Trading Policy (this "**Policy**") states the policy with respect to transactions in the securities of Stran & Company, Inc. (the "**Company**"), and the handling of confidential information about the Company and the companies with which the Company engages in transactions or does business. The Company's Board of Directors has adopted this Policy to promote compliance with U.S. federal, state and foreign securities laws that prohibit certain persons who are aware of material nonpublic information about a company from (i) engaging in transactions in the securities of that company, or (ii) providing material nonpublic information to other persons who may engage in transactions on the basis of that information. References to "you" or "your" refer to any person to whom this Policy applies.

## 2. PERSONS SUBJECT TO THE POLICY

This Policy applies to all members of the Company's Board of Directors (collectively, "directors" and each, a "director"), officers and key employees of the Company and its subsidiaries. A "key employee" is an individual that has been designated as such by the Administrator due to their position in the Company and possible access to material nonpublic information. Key employees generally include senior employees in human resources, accounting and finance functions, but may include other employees as designated by the Administrator. The Company may also determine that other persons should be subject to this Policy, such as contractors or consultants who have access to material nonpublic information about the Company. With respect to any person covered by this Policy, this Policy also applies to that person's family members, other members of that person's household, and entities controlled by that person, as described below under "Transactions by Family Members and Others" and "Transactions by Entities That You Influence or Control."

## 3. TRANSACTIONS SUBJECT TO THE POLICY

This Policy applies to transactions in the Company's securities (collectively, "Company Securities"), including the Company's common stock, restricted stock, options to purchase common stock, or any other type of security the Company may issue, including (but not limited to) preferred stock, convertible debentures and warrants. In addition, this Policy applies to derivative securities that are not issued by the Company but which relate to Company Securities, such as exchange-traded put or call options or swaps. Transactions subject to this Policy include purchases, sales and bona fide gifts of Company Securities. This Policy similarly applies to transactions in or relating to the securities of certain other companies with which the Company engages in transactions or does business.

# 4. INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

Persons subject to this Policy have ethical and legal obligations to maintain the confidentiality of information about the Company and to not engage in transactions in Company Securities while in possession of material nonpublic information. Persons subject to this policy must not engage in illegal trading and must avoid the appearance of improper trading. Each individual is responsible for making sure that he, she or they complies with this Policy, and that any family member, household member or related entity whose transactions are subject to this Policy, as discussed below, also comply with this Policy. In all cases, the responsibility for determining whether an individual is in possession of material nonpublic information rests with that individual, and any action on the part of the Company, the Administrator (as defined below) or any other employee, officer or director pursuant to this Policy (or otherwise) does not in any way constitute legal advice or insulate an individual from liability under applicable securities laws. You could be subject to severe legal penalties and disciplinary action by the Company for any conduct prohibited by this Policy or applicable securities laws, as described below under "Consequences of Violations."

## 5. ADMINISTRATION OF THE POLICY

The "Administrator" of this Policy is the Company's Vice President of Growth and Strategic Initiatives or such other individual designated by the Company's Board of Directors from time to time. All determinations and interpretations by the Administrator are final and not subject to further review.

#### 6. PRINCIPAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

(a) Trading in Company Securities and Disclosure of Nonpublic Information. No director, officer or key employee of the Company (or any other person designated by this Policy or by the Administrator as subject to this Policy) who is aware of material nonpublic information relating to the Company may, directly or indirectly through family members or other persons or entities:

(i) engage in transactions in Company Securities, except as otherwise specified in this Policy under the heading "Limited Exceptions;"

(ii) recommend that others engage in transactions in any Company Securities;

(iii) disclose material nonpublic information to persons within the Company whose jobs do not require them to have that information, or to persons outside of the Company, including, but not limited to, family, friends, business associates, investors and consultants, except as required in the performance of regular corporate duties and only to the extent appropriate confidentiality protections are effective and the disclosure conforms to Company policies; or

(iv) assist anyone engaged in the above activities.

(b) Trading in Securities of Other Companies. No director, officer or key employee of the Company (or any other person designated by this Policy or by the Administrator as subject to this Policy) who, in the course of working for the Company, learns of <u>material nonpublic information</u> about a company with which the Company does or intends to do business, including a distributor, customer, supplier, vendor, or service provider of the Company, or otherwise involved in a potential transaction or business relationship with the Company, may engage in transactions in that company's securities until the information becomes public or is no longer material.

(c) No Exceptions. There are no exceptions to this Policy, except as specifically noted herein. Transactions that may be necessary or justifiable for independent reasons (such as the need to raise money for an emergency expenditure), or small transactions, are not excluded from this Policy. The securities laws do not recognize any mitigating circumstances, and, in any event, even the appearance of an improper transaction must be avoided to preserve the Company's reputation for adhering to the highest standards of conduct.

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# 7. DEFINITION OF MATERIAL NONPUBLIC INFORMATION

(a) Material Information. Information is considered "material" if a reasonable investor would consider that information important in making a decision to buy, hold or sell securities. <u>Any information that could be expected to impact the Company's stock price, whether it is positive or negative, is considered material.</u> There is no bright-line standard for assessing materiality; rather, materiality is based on an assessment of all of the facts and circumstances, and is often evaluated by enforcement authorities with the benefit of hindsight. While it is not possible to define all categories of material information, some examples of information that ordinarily would be regarded as material are:

- operating or financial results or projections, including earnings guidance;
- changes to previously announced earnings guidance, or downgrades of the decision to suspend earnings guidance;
- analyst upgrades or downgrades of the Company or one of its securities;
- corporate transactions, such as mergers, acquisitions, joint ventures or restructurings;
- significant related party transactions;
- dividend, share repurchase or recapitalization matters;
- debt or equity financing matters;
- regulatory matters;
- major marketing changes;
- gain or loss of a significant customer or supplier;
- a change in the Board of Directors or senior management;
- a change in auditors or notification that the auditor's reports may no longer be relied upon;
- a significant cybersecurity incident, such as a data breach, or any other significant disruption in the company's operations or loss, potential loss, breach or unauthorized access of its property or assets, whether at its facilities or through its information technology infrastructure;
- impending bankruptcy or the existence of severe liquidity problems;
- litigation or regulatory proceedings and investigations;
- the imposition of a ban or restriction on trading in Company Securities or other securities;
- intellectual property and other proprietary information; and
- significant corporate developments, including with respect to research and development activities.

(b) Nonpublic Information. Information is considered "nonpublic" if that information has not been broadly disclosed to the marketplace, such as by press release or a filing with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), and/or the investing public has not had time to fully absorb that information. Nonpublic information may include:

- information available to a select group of persons subject to confidentiality obligations to the Company;
- undisclosed facts that are the subject of rumors, even if the rumors are widely circulated; and
- information that has been entrusted to the Company on a confidential basis.

As a general rule, information should not be considered fully absorbed by the investing public until the second full business day after the day on which the information is released. If, for example, the Company makes an announcement at 9:00 a.m. Eastern Time on Monday, a person subject to this Policy should not engage in transactions in Company Securities until the market opens on Wednesday. If such an announcement were made at 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Monday, the person subject to this Policy should not engage in transactions in Company Securities until the market opens on Thursday. Depending on the particular circumstances, the Company may determine that a longer or shorter period should apply.

## 8. TRANSACTIONS BY FAMILY MEMBERS AND OTHERS

This Policy applies to your family members who reside with you (including a spouse, a child, a child away at college, stepchildren, grandchildren, parents, stepparents, grandparents, siblings and in-laws), anyone else who lives in your household and any family members who do not live in your household but whose transactions in Company Securities are directed by you or are subject to your influence or control, such as parents or children who consult with you before they engage in transactions in Company Securities (collectively, "Family Members"). You are responsible for the transactions of your Family Members and therefore should make them aware of the need to confer with you before they engage in transactions in Company Securities, and you should treat all such transactions for the purposes of this Policy and applicable securities laws as if the transactions were for your own account. This Policy does not, however, apply to personal securities transactions of Family Members where the transaction decision is made by a third party not controlled by, influenced by or related to you or your Family Members.

# 9. TRANSACTIONS BY ENTITIES THAT YOU INFLUENCE OR CONTROL

This Policy applies to any entities that you influence or control, including any corporations, partnerships or trusts (collectively, "**Controlled Entities**"), and transactions by these Controlled Entities should be treated for the purposes of this Policy and applicable securities laws as if they were for your own account.

#### 10. LIMITED EXCEPTIONS

This Policy does not apply in the case of the following transactions (although these transactions may nevertheless be subject to the requirements of Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), applicable to directors and officers (as defined by Rule 16a-1 under the Exchange Act ("Rule 16a-1")):

(a) Stock Option Exercises. This Policy does not apply generally to the exercise of an employee stock option, including a cashless exercise solely through the Company or the exercise of a tax withholding right through the Company to satisfy tax withholding requirements. However, this Policy does apply to any sale of stock received upon exercise of an option, including any deemed sale caused by an election to make a cashless exercise through a broker, or any other market sale for the purpose of generating the cash necessary to pay the option exercise price.

(b) Restricted Stock Awards. This Policy does not apply to the vesting of restricted stock, or the exercise of a tax withholding right pursuant to which you elect to have the Company withhold shares of stock to satisfy tax withholding requirements upon the vesting of any restricted stock. The Policy does apply, however, to any market sale of restricted stock.

(c) 401(k) Plan. This Policy does not apply to purchases of Company Securities in the Company's 401(k) plan resulting from periodic contribution of money to the plan pursuant to payroll deduction election. This Policy does apply, however, to certain elections you may make under the 401(k) plan, including: (i) an election to increase or decrease the percentage of periodic contributions that will be allocated to any Company Securities fund; (ii) an election to make an intra-plan transfer of an existing account balance into or out of any Company Securities fund; (iii) an election to borrow money against a 401(k) plan account if the loan will result in a liquidation of some or all of any Company Securities fund balance; and (iv) an election to pre-pay a plan loan if the pre-payment will result in allocation of loan proceeds to any Company Securities fund. It should be noted that sales of Company Securities from a 401(k) account are also subject to Rule 144, and therefore affiliates should ensure that a Form 144 is filed when required.

(d) Employee Stock Purchase Plan. This Policy does not apply to purchases of Company Securities in an employee stock purchase plan resulting from periodic contribution of money to the plan pursuant to the election made at the time of enrollment in the plan. This Policy also does not apply to purchases of Company Securities resulting from lump sum contributions to such plan, provided that it is elected to participate by lump sum payment at the beginning of the applicable enrollment period. This Policy does apply, however, to an election to participate in such plan for any enrollment period, and to sales of Company Securities purchased pursuant to the plan.



(e) Dividend Reinvestment Plan. This Policy does not apply to purchases of Company Securities under a dividend reinvestment plan resulting from reinvestment of dividends paid on Company Securities. This Policy does apply, however, to voluntary purchases of Company Securities resulting from additional contributions chosen to make to a dividend reinvestment plan, and to an election to participate in the plan or increase the level of participation in the plan. This Policy also applies to the sale of any Company Securities purchased pursuant to such plan.

(f) Other Similar Transactions. Any other purchase of Company Securities from the Company or sales of Company Securities to the Company are not subject to this Policy.

(g) Rule 10b5-1 Plans. Rule 10b5-1 under the Exchange Act ("Rule 10b5-1") provides a defense from insider trading liability under Rule 10b-5 under the Exchange Act ("Rule 10b-5"). In order to be eligible to rely on this defense, a person subject to this Policy must enter into a Rule 10b5-1 plan for transactions in Company Securities that meets certain conditions specified in the Rule (a "Rule 10b5-1 Plan"). If the plan meets the requirements of Rule 10b5-1, Company Securities may be traded without regard to certain insider trading restrictions. To comply with this Policy, a Rule 10b5-1 Plan must be approved by the Administrator and meet the requirements of Rule 10b5-1 and the Company's "Guidelines for Rule 10b5-1 Plans," which are set forth in Appendix 10(b) to this Policy. In general, to ensure that a Rule 10b5-1 Plan is entered into at a time when the person entering into the plan is not aware of material nonpublic information, it must be entered into during an Open Trading Window. Once the Rule 10b5-1 Plan is adopted, the person must not exercise any influence over the amount of securities to be traded, the price at which they are to be traded or the date of the trade. The Rule 10b5-1 Plan must either specify the amount, pricing and timing of transactions in advance or delegate discretion on these matters to an independent third party. The Rule 10b5-1 Plan must include a cooling-off period before trading can commence that, for directors or officers, ends on the later of 90 days after the adoption of the Rule 10b5-1 Plan or two business days following the disclosure of the Company's financial results in an SEC periodic report for the fiscal quarter in which the Rule 10b5-1 Plan was adopted (but in any event, the required cooling-off period is subject to a maximum of 120 days after adoption of the Rule 10b5-1 Plan), and for persons other than directors or officers, 30 days following the adoption or modification of a Rule 10b5-1 Plan. A person may not enter into overlapping Rule 10b5-1 Plans (subject to certain exceptions) and may only enter into one single-trade Rule 10b5-1 Plan during any 12-month period (subject to certain exceptions). Directors and officers must include a representation in their Rule 10b5-1 Plan certifying that: (i) they are not aware of any material nonpublic information; and (ii) they are adopting the plan in good faith and not as part of a plan or scheme to evade the prohibitions in Rule 10b-5. All persons entering into a Rule 10b5-1 Plan must act in good faith with respect to that plan. Any Rule 10b5-1 Plan must be submitted for approval at least five business days prior to the entry into the Rule 10b5-1 Plan. No further pre-approval of transactions conducted pursuant to the Rule 10b5-1 Plan will be required.

# 11. SPECIAL AND PROHIBITED TRANSACTIONS

The Company has determined that there is a heightened legal risk and/or the appearance of improper or inappropriate conduct if the persons subject to this Policy engage in certain types of transactions. Therefore, it is the Company's policy that any persons covered by this Policy may not engage in any of the following transactions, or should otherwise consider the Company's preferences as described below:

(a) Short-Term Trading. Short-term trading of Company Securities may be distracting to the person and may unduly focus the person on the Company's short-term stock market performance instead of the Company's long-term business objectives. For these reasons, all persons subject to this Policy who purchase Company Securities in the open market are discouraged from selling any Company Securities of the same class during the six months following the purchase (or vice versa). Furthermore, such short-term trading by directors or officers (as defined by Rule 16a-1) may result in short-swing profit liability under Section 16(b) of the Exchange Act.

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(b) Short Sales. Short sales of Company Securities (i.e., the sale of a security that the seller does not own) may evidence an expectation on the part of the seller that the securities will decline in value, and therefore have the potential to signal to the market that the seller lacks confidence in the Company's prospects. In addition, short sales may reduce a seller's incentive to seek to improve the Company's performance. For these reasons, short sales of Company Securities are prohibited. Furthermore, Section 16(c) of the Exchange Act prohibits directors and officers (as defined by Rule 16a-1) from engaging in short sales. Short sales arising from certain types of hedging transactions are subject to the paragraph below captioned "Hedging Transactions."

(c) Publicly-Traded Options. Given the relatively short term of publicly-traded options, transactions in options may create the appearance that a director, officer or key employee is trading based on material nonpublic information and focus that director's, officer's or employee's attention on short-term performance at the expense of the Company's long-term objectives. Accordingly, transactions in put options, call options or other derivative securities, on an exchange or in any other organized market, are prohibited by this Policy. Option positions arising from certain types of hedging transactions are governed by the paragraph below captioned "Hedging Transactions."

(d) Hedging Transactions. Hedging or monetization transactions can be accomplished through a number of possible mechanisms, including through the use of financial instruments such as prepaid variable forwards, equity swaps, collars and exchange funds. Such hedging transactions may permit a director, officer or key employee to continue to own Company Securities obtained through employee benefit plans or otherwise, but without the full risks and rewards of ownership. When that occurs, the director, officer or key employee may no longer have the same objectives as the Company's other stockholders. Therefore, directors, officers and key employees are prohibited from engaging in any such transactions.

(e) Margin Accounts and Pledged Securities. Securities held in a margin account as collateral for a margin loan may be sold by the broker without the customer's consent if the customer fails to meet a margin call. Similarly, securities pledged (or hypothecated) as collateral for a loan may be sold in foreclosure if the borrower defaults on the loan. Because a margin sale or foreclosure sale may occur at a time when the pledgor is aware of material nonpublic information or otherwise is not permitted to engage in transactions in Company Securities, directors, officers and key employees are prohibited from holding Company Securities in a margin account or otherwise pledging Company Securities as collateral for a loan unless the arrangement is specifically approved in advance by the Administrator. Any person seeking an exception must submit a request for approval to the Administrator at least two weeks prior to the transaction. Pledges of Company Securities arising from certain types of hedging transactions are governed by the paragraph above captioned "Hedging Transactions."

(f) Standing and Limit Orders. Standing and limit orders (except standing and limit orders under approved Rule 10b5-1 Plans, as described above) create heightened risks for insider trading violations similar to the use of margin accounts. There is no control over the timing of purchases or sales that result from standing instructions to a broker, and as a result the broker could execute a transaction when a director, officer or key employee is in possession of material nonpublic information. The Company therefore discourages placing standing or limit orders on Company Securities. If a person subject to this Policy determines that they must use a standing order or limit order, the order should be limited to short duration and should otherwise comply with the restrictions and procedures outlined below under the heading "Additional Procedures."

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#### 12. ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES

The Company has established additional procedures in order to assist the Company in the administration of this Policy, to facilitate compliance with laws prohibiting insider trading while in possession of material nonpublic information, and to avoid the appearance of any impropriety. These additional procedures are applicable only to those individuals described below.

(a) Pre-Clearance Procedures. All directors, officers and key employees of the Company and its subsidiaries, as well as the Family Members and Controlled Entities of such persons ("Restricted Persons"), may not engage in <u>any transaction</u> in Company Securities without first obtaining pre-clearance of the transaction from the Administrator. The list of Restricted Persons is updated periodically by the Administrator. You will be notified by the Administrator if you are considered a Restricted Person for purposes of this Policy. <u>Restricted Persons should submit a request for pre-clearance to the Administrator at least two business days in advance of the proposed transaction.</u> The Administrator is under no obligation to approve a transaction submitted for pre-clearance and may determine not to permit the transaction. If the Administrator wishes to transact in Company Securities, the Administrator should submit any request for pre-clearance and may determine not to engage in the transaction of the proposed by the Company's Board of Directors from time to time. If a Restricted Person seeks pre-clearance and permission to engage in the transaction is denied, then he, she or they should refrain from initiating any transaction in Company Securities and should not inform any other person of the restriction.

When a request for pre-clearance is made, the requestor should carefully consider whether he, she or they may be aware of any material nonpublic information about the Company and should describe fully those circumstances to the Administrator. The requestor should also indicate whether he, she or they has effected any non-exempt "opposite-way" transactions (e.g., an open market sale would be "opposite" any open market purchase, and vice versa) within the past six months, and should be prepared to report the proposed transaction on an appropriate Form 4 or Form 5. The requestor should also be prepared to comply with SEC Rule 144 and file Form 144, if necessary, at the time of any sale.

A request for pre-clearance must be made in writing, preferably by submission of a completed Request for Pre-Clearance in the form of <u>EXHIBIT A</u> to this Policy. Precleared transactions should be effected promptly. Requestors are required to refresh the request for pre-clearance if a pre-cleared transaction is not effected within five business days after pre-clearance is received.

## Furthermore, requestors must immediately notify the Administrator following the execution of any transaction.

(b) Quarterly Trading Restrictions. Restricted Persons, as well as their Family Members and Controlled Entities, may not conduct transactions involving the Company's Securities (other than as specified by this Policy) except during an Open Trading Window. An "Open Trading Window" generally begins on the second business day following the day of public release of the Company's quarterly (or annual) earnings and ends on the last day of the then-current quarter. The Administrator will notify Restricted Persons of the opening and closing of the trading window.

(c) Event-Specific Trading Restriction Periods. From time to time, an event may occur that is material to the Company and is known by only a few Restricted Persons. So long as the event remains material and nonpublic, the persons designated by the Administrator may not engage in transactions in Company Securities. In addition, the Company's financial results may be sufficiently material in a particular fiscal quarter that, in the judgment of the Administrator, designated persons should refrain from trading in Company Securities even during the ordinary Open Trading Window described above. In that situation, the Administrator may notify these persons that they should not engage in transactions in the Company's Securities, without disclosing the reason for the restriction. The existence of an event-specific trading restriction period or the closing of the Open Trading Window will be announced by the Administrator to persons designated by the Administrator. Even if the Administrator has not designated you a person who should not trade due to an event-specific trading restriction, you may not trade while aware of material nonpublic information. Exceptions will not be granted during an event-specific trading restriction period.



#### (d) Exceptions.

(i) The quarterly trading restrictions and event-driven trading restrictions do not apply to those transactions to which this Policy does not apply, as described above under the heading "Limited Exceptions," nor do they apply to an election to participate in an employer plan during an open enrollment period.

(ii) The Administrator in his, her or their discretion may approve other or further exceptions to these requirements on a case-by-case basis in extraordinary circumstances. Any request for an exception pursuant to this paragraph must be submitted in advance and in writing, and any approval must be in writing.

# 13. POST-TERMINATION TRANSACTIONS

This Policy continues to apply to transactions in Company Securities even after termination of service to the Company. If an individual is in possession of material nonpublic information when his, her or their service terminates, that individual may not engage in transactions in Company Securities until that information has become public or is no longer material. The pre-clearance procedures specified under the heading "Additional Procedures" above and applicable to directors and certain executives will continue to apply for a period of six months after a termination of service, in order to facilitate compliance with Section 16 of the Exchange Act.

# 14. CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLATIONS

Engaging in transactions in securities while aware of material nonpublic information, or the disclosure of material nonpublic information to others who then engage in transactions in the Company's Securities, is prohibited by federal and state laws. Insider trading violations are pursued vigorously by the SEC, the U.S. Department of Justice and state enforcement authorities, as well as enforcement authorities in foreign jurisdictions. Punishment for insider trading violations is severe and could include significant fines and imprisonment. While the regulatory authorities concentrate their efforts on the individuals who trade, or who tip inside information to others who trade, the federal securities laws also impose potential liability on companies and other "controlling persons" if they fail to take reasonable steps to prevent insider trading by company personnel.

In addition, an individual's failure to comply with this Policy may subject the individual to Company-imposed sanctions, up to and including termination of employment, whether or not the individual's failure to comply results in a violation of law. Needless to say, a violation of law, or even an SEC investigation that does not result in prosecution, can tarnish a person's reputation and irreparably damage a career.

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# 15. REPORTING OF VIOLATIONS

Any person who violates this Policy or any federal or state law governing insider trading or tipping, or who knows of or reasonably suspects any such violation by another person, should report the matter immediately to his, her or their supervisor and/or to the Administrator identified in Section 5. Company personnel subject to this Policy are obligated to report suspected and actual violations of Company policy or the law. Doing so brings the concern into the open so that it can be resolved quickly and more serious harm can be prevented. Failure to do so could result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

If you encounter a situation or are considering a course of action and its appropriateness is unclear, do not hesitate to reach out to the Administrator with any questions; even the appearance of impropriety can be very damaging and should be avoided, and the Administrator may be in the best position to provide helpful information or other resources.

## 16. CERTIFICATION

All persons subject to this Policy may be required to certify and re-certify, from time to time, their understanding of, and intent to comply with, this Policy.

# 17. AMENDMENT

This Policy may be amended by the Board of Directors or any committee or designee to which the Board of Directors delegates this authority.

The Administrator has the authority to make determinations under, and interpretations of, this Policy, as specified in this Policy under the heading "Administration of the Policy." In addition, the Administrator is authorized to approve amendments to this Policy that: (i) correct obvious errors (e.g., typographical or grammatical errors); (ii) are necessitated by changes in legal requirements; (iii) are necessary to clarify the meaning of this Policy; or (iv) are administrative in nature, such as the provisions of this Policy under the heading "Additional Procedures."

Effective: March 27, 2023

#### Guidelines for Rule 10b5-1 Plans\*

Rule 10b5-1 under the Exchange Act provides a defense from insider trading liability under Rule 10b-5. In order to be eligible to rely on this defense, a person subject to our Second Amended and Restated Insider Trading Policy must enter into a Rule 10b5-1 Plan for transactions in Company Securities (as defined in the Second Amended and Restated Insider Trading Policy) that meets certain conditions specified in the Rule. If the plan meets the requirements of Rule 10b5-1, Company Securities may occur even when the person who has entered into the plan is aware of material nonpublic information. In general, a Rule 10b5-1 Plan must be entered into at a time when the person entering into the plan is not aware of material nonpublic information. Once the plan is adopted, the person must not exercise any influence over the amount of securities to be traded, the price at which they are to be traded or the date of the trade. The plan must either specify the amount, pricing and timing of transactions in advance or delegate discretion on these matters to an independent third party.

A Rule 10b5-1 Plan must include a cooling-off period before trading can commence that, for directors or officers, ends on the later of 90 days after the adoption of the Rule 10b5-1 Plan or two business days following the disclosure of the Company's financial results in an SEC periodic report for the fiscal quarter in which the plan was adopted (but in any event, the required cooling- off period is subject to a maximum of 120 days after adoption of the plan), and for persons other than directors or officers, 30 days following the adoption or modification of a Rule 10b5-1 Plan. A person may not enter into overlapping Rule 10b5-1 Plans (subject to certain exceptions) and may only enter into one single-trade Rule 10b5-1 Plan during any 12-month period (subject to certain exceptions). Directors and officers must include a representation in their Rule 10b5-1 Plan certifying that: (i) they are not aware of any material nonpublic information; and (ii) they are adopting the plan in good faith and not as part of a plan or scheme to evade the prohibitions in Rule 10b5-5. All persons entering into a Rule 10b5-1 Plan must act in good faith with respect to that plan.

As specified in the Company's Second Amended and Restated Insider Trading Policy, a Rule 10b5-1 Plan must be approved by the Administrator and meet the requirements of Rule 10b5-1 and these guidelines. Any Rule 10b5-1 Plan must be submitted for approval at least five business days prior to the entry into the Rule 10b5-1 Plan. Once a 10b5-1 Plan is approved, no further pre-approval of transactions conducted pursuant to the plan will be required.

The following guidelines apply to all Rule 10b5-1 Plans:

- You may not enter into, modify or terminate a Rule 10b5-1 Plan outside of an Open Trading Window or while in possession of material nonpublic information.
- All Rule 10b5-1 Plans must have a duration of at least six months and no more than two years.
- For officers and directors, no transaction may take place under a Rule 10b5-1 Plan until the later of (a) 90 days after adoption or modification (as specified in Rule 10b5-1) of the Rule 10b5-1 Plan or (b) two business days following the disclosure of the Company's financial results in a Form 10-Q or Form 10-K for the fiscal quarter (the Company's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of a Form 10-K) in which the Rule 10b5-1 Plan was adopted or modified (as specified in Rule 10b5-1). In any event, the cooling-off period is subject to a maximum of 120 days after adoption of the plan.

<sup>\*</sup> Capitalized terms used but not defined herein have the meanings ascribed to them in the Stran & Company, Inc. Second Amended and Restated Insider Trading Policy.

- For persons other than officers and directors, no transaction may take place under a Rule 10b5-1 Plan until 30 days following the adoption or modification (as specified in Rule 10b5-1) of a Rule 10b5-1 Plan.
- Subject to certain limited exceptions specified in Rule 10b5-1, you may not enter into more than one Rule 10b5-1 Plan at the same time;
- Subject to certain limited exceptions specified in Rule 10b5-1, you are limited to only one Rule 10b5-1 Plan designed to effect an open market purchase or sale of the total amount of securities subject to the Rule 10b-1 Plan as a single transaction in any 12- month period;
- You must act in good faith with respect to a Rule 10b5-1 Plan. A Rule 10b5-1 Plan cannot be entered into as part of a plan or scheme to evade the prohibition of Rule 10b-5. Therefore, although modifications to an existing Rule 10b5-1 Plan are not prohibited, a Rule 10b5-1 Plan should be adopted with the intention that it will not be amended or terminated prior to its expiration.
- Officer and directors must include a representation to the Company at the time of adoption or modification of a Rule 10b5-1 Plan that (i) the person is not aware of material nonpublic information about the Company or Company Securities and (ii) the person is adopting the plan in good faith and not as part of plan or scheme to evade the prohibitions of Rule 10b-5.
- You may not enter into any transaction in Company Securities while the Rule 10b5-1 Plan is in effect.

The Company and the Company's officers and directors must make certain disclosures in SEC filings concerning Rule 10b5-1 Plans. Officers and directors of the Company must undertake to provide any information requested by the Company regarding Rule 10b5-1 Plans for the purpose of providing the required disclosures or any other disclosures that the Company deems to be appropriate under the circumstances.

The approval or adoption of a Rule 10b5-1 Plan in no way reduces or eliminates a person's obligations under Section 16 of the Exchange Act, including disclosure obligations and liability for short- swing profits. Persons subject to Section 16 of the Exchange Act should consult with their own counsel in implementing a Rule 10b5-1 Plan.

Exhibit A

## **Request for Pre-Clearance\***

Transaction Initiated By (check one)

□ Employee or immediate family member directly □ Court or government decree (e.g., divorce decree)

□ Broker (provide name, firm, telephone and e-mail):

## For pre-clearance to transact in Company Securities.

#### Upon executing a transaction, directors, officers and key employees must immediately notify the Company.

## Transaction Vehicle (check one)

Open Market Transaction
 Equity Compensation Plan
 Other (specify):

#### Type of Transaction (check one)

- $\hfill\square$  Purchase or acquire common stock
- $\square$  Sell or dispose of common stock
- $\hfill\square$  Move Company Securities from one account to another (e.g., in or out of a trust)
- $\square$  Dispose of fractional shares
- $\hfill\square$  Pledge Company Securities for margin account, or otherwise
- □ Exercise options without subsequent sale
- $\square$  Exercise options with subsequent sale (e.g., a "cashless exercise")
- □ Gift of Company Securities

Other (describe):

# Transaction Detail (provide the following information)

Number of securities:

Estimated share price: Contemplated execution date:

Date of your last "opposite way" transaction\*\*:

## Certification

I certify that I have fully disclosed the information requested in this form, I have read the Stran & Company, Inc. Second Amended and Restated Insider Trading Policy, I am not in possession of material nonpublic information, and to the best of my knowledge and belief the proposed transaction will not violate the Stran & Company, Inc. Second Amended and Restated Insider Trading Policy.

(Sign Above)

(Print Name Above)

(Date)

\* Capitalized terms used but not defined herein have the meanings ascribed to them in the Stran & Company, Inc. Second Amended and Restated Insider Trading Policy.

If a Section 16 insider buys and sells (or sells and buys) Company Securities within a six-month time frame and such transactions are not exempt under SEC rules, the two transactions can be "matched" for purposes of Section 16. The insider may be sued and will be strictly liable for any profits made, regardless of whether the insider was in possession of material nonpublic information.