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

#### **SCHEDULE 14A**

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Filed by the Registrant 🛛

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant  $\Box$ 

Check the appropriate box:

- □ Preliminary Proxy Statement
- □ Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- □ Soliciting Material Pursuant to Section 240.14a-12

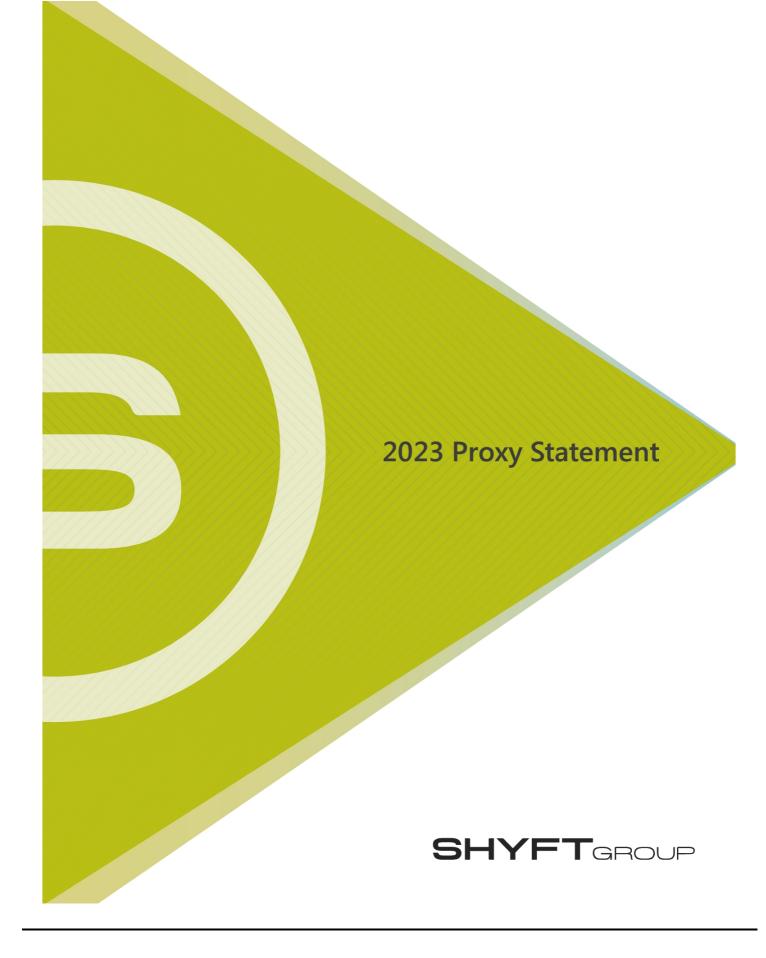
### The Shyft Group, Inc.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check all boxes that apply):

- No fee required.
- □ Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.
- □ Fee computed on table in exhibit required by Item 25(b) per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.





41280 Bridge St. // Novi, MI 48375

theshyftgroup.com





#### April 6, 2023

#### **Dear Fellow Shyft Shareholder:**

In 2022, the Shyft Group team flexed in the face of record inflation, prolonged supply chain standstills, and labor challenges. While a difficult year, our team ended on a high note, surpassing \$1 billion in annual revenue for the first time and achieving our third most profitable year. We accomplished this through the strong performance of our Specialty Vehicles segment and the innovative, exceptional work our employees deliver day in and day out.

Our combination of industry-leading brands, robust product portfolio, financial strength, and world-class team members also allowed the business to increase our strategic investment in electrification. Our Blue Arc<sup>TM</sup> EV initiative unveiled in early 2022 represents Shyft's commitment to a strong, green future as we lead the evolution of commercial fleets toward zero-emission vehicles.

At Shyft, we are charging forward positioned for new growth, profitability, and industry leadership.

It is our pleasure to invite you to join us for The Shyft Group, Inc. 2023 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, which will be webcast on Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time.

The annual meeting will be conducted in a virtual-only format. Information regarding attending the virtual annual meeting can be found in the proxy statement. Details about the annual meeting, nominees for election to the Board of Directors and other matters to be acted on at the annual meeting are presented in the notice of the annual meeting and proxy statement to follow.

Thank you for your continued support of Shyft.

Sincerely,

Janut Sham

and M. anne

James A. Sharman Chair of the Board

Daryl M. Adams President and CEO

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### SHYFTGROUP

# Notice of 2023 Annual Meeting of Shareholders

#### To the Shareholders of The Shyft Group, Inc.:

The 2023 Annual Meeting of Shareholders (the "Annual Meeting") of The Shyft Group, Inc. (the "Company" or "Shyft") will be held on Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time. This year's Annual Meeting will be a completely virtual meeting of shareholders. You will be able to attend and vote during the Annual Meeting, via live webcast by visiting *www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/SHYF2023*. You may also submit questions online before the start of the Annual Meeting. Prior to the Annual Meeting, you may vote at *www.proxyvote.com* on the following matters:

- Election of four directors to serve until the Annual Meeting of Shareholders in 2026;
  - Ratification of appointment of independent registered public accounting firm;
- Approval, on an advisory basis, of the compensation of named executive officers;
  - Recommendation, on an advisory basis, of the frequency of advisory votes on the compensation of named executive officers;
- 5 Approval of the amendment and restatement of the Shyft Stock Incentive Plan of 2016; and
- 6 Transaction of other business as may properly come before the meeting.

We encourage you to read this proxy statement and our 2022 Annual Report and to visit our website at *www.theshyftgroup.com* to learn more about Shyft. There you will find additional information about our performance and how we are working to enhance shareholder value.

Finally, we encourage you to vote regardless of the size of your holdings. Every vote is important, and your participation helps us do a better job of understanding and acting on what matters to you as a shareholder. You can cast your vote by internet, by telephone or by mailing a printed proxy card as outlined in this document.

Joshua Sherbin Chief Legal and Compliance Officer and Corporate Secretary April 6, 2023

This notice of Annual Meeting, proxy statement and form of proxy are being distributed and made available on or about April 6, 2023.

# YOUR VOTE IS

Even if you intend to participate electronically during the Annual Meeting, please sign and date your proxy card or voting instruction card and return it in the accompanying envelope, or vote via telephone or internet as indicated on your proxy card or voting instruction card, to ensure the presence of a quorum. Any proxy may be revoked in the manner described in the accompanying proxy statement at any time before it has been voted at the Annual Meeting.

Important notice regarding the availability of proxy materials for the Annual Meeting of shareholders to be held on May 17, 2023.

The Proxy Statement and 2022 Annual Report of The Shyft Group, Inc. are available free of charge on our website at www.theshyftgroup. com or www.proxyvote.com

### **Table of Contents**

Proxy State	ement Summary	<u>1</u>
Corporate	Governance and Board Matters	<u>7</u>
<b>Environme</b>	ntal, Social and Governance Matters	<u>15</u>
Proposal 1	Election of Directors	<u>17</u>
Audit Com	nittee Report	<u>24</u>
Proposal 2	Ratification of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	<u>25</u>
Proposal 3	Approval, on an Advisory Basis, of the Compensation of Named Executive Officers	<u>27</u>
Proposal 4	Recommendation, on an Advisory Basis, of the Frequency of Say on Pay Votes on the Compensation of Named Executive Officers	<u>29</u>
Proposal 5	Approval of the Amendment and Restatement of the Shyft Stock Incentive Plan of 2016	<u>30</u>
<u>Compensa</u>	tion Discussion and Analysis	<u>39</u>
Executive (	Compensation Tables	<u>56</u>
<u>Compensat</u>	tion Committee Report	<u>66</u>
Pay Versus	Performance	<u>67</u>
<u>Ownership</u>	of Securities	<u>71</u>
<b>Additional</b>	Information	<u>74</u>
Appendix A	Non-GAAP Reconciliations	<u>80</u>
Appendix E	<u> 3 The Shyft Group, Inc. Stock Incentive Plan</u>	<u>82</u>

#### Cautionary note regarding forward-looking statements.

This document contains information that may constitute "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. We intend the forward-looking statements to be covered by the safe harbor provisions for forward-looking statements in those sections. Generally, we have identified such forward-looking statements by using words such as "believe," "expect," "intend," "potential," "future," "may," "will," "should," and similar expressions or by using future dates in connection with any discussion of, among other things, the construction or operation of new or existing facilities, operating performance, trends, events or developments that we expect or anticipate will occur in the future, statements relating to volume changes, share of sales and earnings per share changes, anticipated cost savings, potential capital and operational cash improvements, anticipated disruptions to our operation and industry due to the COVID-19 pandemic, changes in supply and demand conditions and prices for our products, trade duties and other aspects of trade policy, statements regarding our future strategies, products and innovations, and statements expressing general views about future operating results. However, the absence of these words or similar expressions does not mean that a statement is not forward-looking. Forward-looking statements are not historical facts, but instead represent only the Company's believes that these forward-looking statements are reasonable as of the time made. However, caution should be taken not to place undue reliance on any such forward-looking statements because such statements speak only as of the date when made. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements because such statements speak only as of the date when made. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements are subject to certain risks and uncertainties

Shyft does not incorporate into this document the contents of any website or the documents referred to in this proxy statement.

Throughout this proxy statement, we refer to certain non-GAAP measures, including Adjusted EBITDA, and free cash flow. See the reconciliation to the corresponding GAAP measure set forth in Appendix A of this proxy statement.



## **Proxy Statement Summary**

This summary highlights information contained elsewhere in this proxy statement. It does not contain all the information that you should consider. Please read this entire proxy statement carefully before voting.

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#### **Annual Meeting of Shareholders**

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

DATE

TIME
10:00 a.m. Eastern Time

LOCATION

Meeting live via the Internet – please visit www.virtualshareholder meeting.com/SHYF2023.



RECORD DATE

March 20, 2023

#### **Shareholder Voting Matters**

Propos	sal		Board's Recommendation	Page
1	Election of Directors - Michael Dinkins - Angela K. Freeman - Pamela L. Kermisch - Mark B. Rourke	~	FOR EACH NOMINEE	Page <u>17</u>
2	Ratification of appointment of independent registered public accounting firm	•	FOR	Page <u>25</u>
3	Approval, on an advisory basis, of the compensation of named executive officers	•	FOR	Page <u>27</u>
4	Recommendation, on an advisory basis, of the frequency of advisory votes on compensation of named executive officers	•	1 YEAR	Page <u>29</u>
5	Approval of amendment and restatement of the Shyft Stock Incentive Plan of 2016	✓	FOR	Page <u>30</u>

#### **General Information**

Stock Symbol: SHYF Exchange: The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC ("Nasdaq") Shares Outstanding (as of the record date): 34,875,382 Transfer Agent: American Stock & Transfer Co. Corporate Website: TheShyftGroup.com

#### **Named Executive Officers**

DARYL ADAMS

President and Chief Executive Officer JONATHAN DOUYARD Chief Financial Officer

STEPHEN GUILLAUME\* Former President, Specialty Vehicles

COLIN HINDMAN Chief Human Resources Officer JOSHUA SHERBIN

Chief Legal and Compliance Officer

\* Mr. Guillaume resigned on March 15, 2023



#### Shyft's Board of Directors

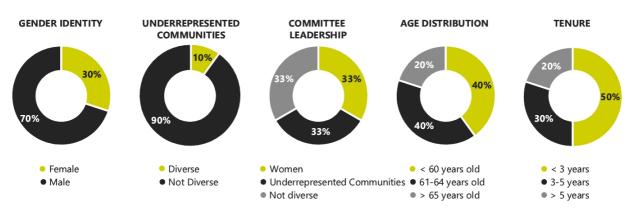
Shyft is overseen by directors with diverse skills, qualities, attributes and experiences that effectively address the Company's evolving needs and represent the best interests of Shyft's shareholders.

				Committees			
Director	Age	Director Since	Independent	Audit	Human Resources and Compensation	Governance and Sustainability	Term Ending
James A. Sharman, Board Chair	64	2016	~	•		•	2025
Daryl M. Adams, President and CEO	61	2014					2024
Thomas R. Clevinger	70	2018	~		•		2024
Michael Dinkins <sup>(1)</sup>	69	2020	~	•		•	2023
Carl A. Esposito	55	2022	~	•			2025
Angela K. Freeman <sup>(1)</sup>	55	2019	~		•	•	2023
Pamela L. Kermisch <sup>(1)</sup>	48	2023	~				2023
Paul A. Mascarenas	61	2018	~		•	٠	2024
Terri A. Pizzuto	64	2021	~	•			2025
Mark B. Rourke <sup>(1)</sup>	58	2021	~		•		2023

😑 Member 🛛 🕒 Chair

1. Standing for re-election at the 2023 Annual Meeting.

#### **Composition and Diversity of Directors**



#### **Our Business**

#### **2022 Performance Highlights**

Key achievements of the Company during the year included:

\$1,027 м

Exceeded \$1B in sales for the first time in Company history.

<mark>\$37м/\$7</mark>1м

\$37M in Net Income and \$71M in Adjusted EBITDA, the third highest Adjusted EBITDA in Company history, despite significant R&D investments in electric vehicles ("EV") and supply base challenges.

2,000

brand and secured 2,000 unit preorder. X

Net leverage ratio strong despite strategic investments and working capital increases.

#### **Executive Compensation Highlights**

Motivating and retaining a talented and experienced leadership team is a key component of Shyft's long-term success. We are committed to an effective executive compensation program that incorporates sound policies and best practices, and delivers a majority of our named executive officers' ("NEOs") annual compensation through performance based incentives.

The Board recommends that shareholders vote to approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation for NEOs as disclosed in the proxy statement for the 2023 Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

#### 2022 Compensation Overview

The 2022 performance based incentives paid to our NEOs reflect strong alignment with our key performance metrics, Adjusted EBITDA, Free Cash Flow, individual management business objectives, total shareholder return ("TSR") and cumulative GAAP net income over the applicable performance periods.

#### **Annual Incentive**

Consistent with the supply chain and macroeconomic challenges we faced in 2022, we did not achieve the threshold financial metrics necessary to pay the portion of the annual cash incentive indexed at the corporate level to Adjusted EBITDA and Free Cash Flow. At the corporate level, annual incentive payments were based solely on achievement by the NEOs of individual management business objectives which comprised 20% of the target incentive with maximum payout being made at 200% of that metric. NEOs achieved between 100% and 175% of their respective management business objectives. Mr. Guillaume's annual incentive payment also reflected the strong performance of the Specialty Vehicles segment.

Shyft Group // 2023 Proxy Statement



To provide the tools and technologies to safely and efficiently deliver people, packages, and services where they're needed most.

#### **OUR VISION**

Purpose-built technology for the road ahead.

#### **OUR CORE VALUES**

Are engrained in how we do our work every day on behalf of our stakeholders.

- Honesty and Integrity Do what's right every time.
- Accountability Own it.
- Trust With trust comes empowerment.
- Performance Excellence Improving never ends.



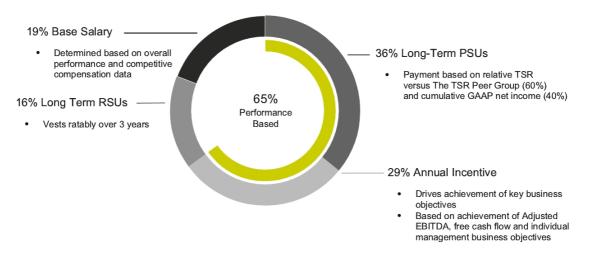


Shyft's TSR was at the 56th percentile relative to other companies in the TSR Peer Group (as defined on page <u>52</u>) for the performance periods applicable to performance-based restricted stock units ("PSUs") eligible to vest in 2022 and Shyft achieved cumulative GAAP net income of \$172 million over the performance period. As a result, PSUs vested at 200% of the GAAP net income target and 124% of the TSR target for each of our NEOs who had PSUs vesting in 2022.

#### **Compensation Best Practices**

- Pay for performance, aligning executive pay with Company results and shareholder returns
- Robust stock ownership guidelines
- Clawback policy
- Restrictive covenants for executives as a condition to receipt of severance compensation
- Independent compensation consultant
- Anti-hedging and anti-pledging policies
- "Double trigger" change in control severance
- External benchmarking of compensation practices

#### Pay for Performance Alignment: 2022 CEO Target Compensation



For more information on our executive compensation program and the 2022 compensation of our named executive officers, see the section titled "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" beginning on page <u>39</u>.



#### **Corporate Governance Highlights**

- Separate Chair and CEO roles
- Independent Chair
- 100% independent Board committees
- Regular executive sessions of independent directors
- Robust shareholder engagement
- Active risk oversight by Board and Committees
- Director retirement policy (age 74)

- No stockholder rights plan
- Active Board refreshment approach to align Board composition with corporate strategy — 80% of the Board has served for less than 5 years
- Annual Board and committee self-evaluations
- Diverse Board with appropriate mix of skills, experience and perspective — 66% of Committee leadership roles held by women and underrepresented communities

#### Environmental, Social, and Governance Highlights

- Issued inaugural Sustainability Report detailing Shyft's commitment to developing clean technology for last-mile delivery market and other industry sectors, as well as the Company's approach to responsible and socially conscious business practices
- Capital investment exceeding \$10 million in 2022 in support of Shyft's commitment to sustainability with its existing operations and more than \$27 million in capital and expense related to the advancement of its Blue Arc EV initiatives to create a clean, energy efficient future
- Updated the Shyft Code of Conduct, to a simplified, principles-based tool to guide our employees and directors in our commitment to doing the right thing
- Signatory to the United Nations Global Compact on Human Rights
- Concerted focus on diversity and inclusion through recognition and celebration of employees throughout the year, driven by 10 recognition days celebrating the diversity of the Shyft workforce
- Enhanced employee engagement through quarterly all employee meetings, monthly leadership round-up emails, employee surveys, and regular communication
- Commitment to supporting the communities where our employees live and work through direct contributions to local non-profit organizations, including a leadership gift to The Heat and Warmth Fund (THAW) whose mission is to help keep Michigan families healthy, safe, and warm



#### Shareholder Engagement in 2022

We proactively engage with shareholders throughout the year to better understand their priorities and perspectives on significant issues, including company performance and strategy, executive compensation, corporate governance, shareholder proposals, and environmental and social matters. Members of our senior management lead our shareholder engagement and Shyft and its Board consider feedback and insights from shareholders and other stakeholders as we review our practices and disclosures.

#### SELL-SIDE CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

- Attended 8 sell-side conferences across various markets in 2022 including Chicago, Nashville, Orlando, and New York.
- Met with 100+ investors and potential investors and hosted 4 fireside chats with sell-side analysts to drive increased investor interest in The Shyft Group.



#### INVESTOR NON-DEAL ROADSHOW ENGAGEMENT

- Hosted 3 non-deal roadshows across key markets including Los Angeles, Minneapolis and Montreal.
- Met with 20+ investors and potential investors managing money for leading buy-side firms.

#### **INDUSTRY TRADESHOWS**

- Engaged with 25+ analysts and investors at the following industry venues:
  - · NTEA Work Truck Week Indianapolis, IN
  - · Advanced Clean Transportation Expo Anaheim, CA
  - North American International Auto Show Detroit, MI
  - Blue Arc Ride and Drive Event Pontiac, MI
- Demonstrated portfolio of leading specialty vehicles serving the commercial, retail, and service specialty vehicle markets.



## **Corporate Governance and Board Matters**

#### **Our Corporate Governance Framework**

Shyft operates under a corporate governance framework designed to be a flexible working structure for principled actions, effective decision-making, and appropriate monitoring of both compliance and performance. Shyft's key governance documents, including our Corporate Governance Guidelines are available at https://theshyftgroup.com/about-us/policies-charters/.

One share equals one vote	We have a single class of shares with equal voting rights.
Majority voting	We have majority voting standard for uncontested elections of directors requiring any nominee for director who receives more "withheld" votes for their re-election than "for" votes for their re-election to promptly offer their resignation to the Board Chair.
Separation of Chair and CEO roles	Our CEO is focused on managing Shyft and our independent Chair drives accountability at the Board level.
Stock ownership guidelines	We have robust stock ownership guidelines for our directors and executive officers.
Shareholder engagement	We have a comprehensive year-round shareholder engagement program.
Access to management	Our Board has significant interaction with senior management and access to other employees.
Strategic planning	The Board reviews the Company's long-term strategic planning at least annually and regularly monitors implementation.
Financial expertise	50% of the members of our Audit Committee qualify as audit committee financial experts and each member is financially literate and satisfies the Nasdaq required accounting and financial expertise.
Continuing education and training	Our Board regularly receives training and updates on ethics, compliance, and governance and Board members are encouraged to attend director education programs.
Goals, evaluations, and succession planning	Our Board and CEO collaborate to set the CEO's performance goals. The Board annually assesses CEO performance. Our Board regularly reviews executive succession planning.
Executive sessions	All quarterly Board and committee meetings include executive sessions.
Board refreshment	The Governance and Sustainability Committee reviews Board member succession on a regular basis.
Prohibitions on hedging, pledging, and other transactions	We prohibit short sales, transactions in derivatives, and hedging of Shyft securities by directors, executive officers, and employees, and prohibit pledging of Shyft securities by directors and executive officers.



#### **Role of the Board of Directors**

Shyft's Board oversees the CEO and other senior management in the competent and ethical operation of Shyft and seeks to ensure that the long-term interests of shareholders are being served. Directors are expected to take a proactive, focused approach to their position to ensure Shyft is committed to business success through the maintenance of high standards of responsibility and ethics.

#### **Board Independence**

Shyft's Corporate Governance Principles require a majority of Board members to be independent. The Board has determined that all Board members, other than Mr. Adams, are independent under applicable rules of the Nasdaq. Additionally, the Board determined that Mr. Ronald Harbour, who retired from the Board at the conclusion of his then-current term in 2022, was independent under applicable rules of the Nasdaq.

Shyft's Board has a standing Audit Committee (the "Audit Committee"), Human Resources and Compensation Committee (the "Compensation Committee"), and Governance and Sustainability Committee (the "Governance Committee"). The Board has determined that all committee members are independent under applicable Nasdaq and Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") rules for committee memberships, and that each member of the Audit Committee also meets the additional independence criteria set forth in Rule 10A-3(b)(1) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act").

#### **Board and Committee Structure**

Shyft regularly reviews the Board's leadership structure and the responsibilities and composition of its standing committees. The structure and composition of Shyft's Board and its committees are intended to leverage the diverse perspectives of the Board members and promote effective oversight.

The Board believes its current leadership structure, in which the roles of Chair and CEO are separated, best serves Shyft's overall corporate structure and the Board's ability to carry out its roles and responsibilities on behalf of Shyft's shareholders, including its oversight of management and corporate governance matters. The Board also believes that the current structure allows our CEO to focus on managing Shyft, while leveraging our independent Chair's experience to drive accountability at the Board level.

The current membership and function of each standing committee is described on the following page. Each committee operates under a written charter adopted by the Board, which is available at *https://theshyftgroup.com/about-us/policies-charters/*. Each committee reviews and assesses its charter annually.

#### New for 2022

Refreshed Code of Conduct	The Board adopted a revised Code of Conduct to make the expectations of the Board regarding compliance and ethical business conduct more accessible and principles based.
Oversight of Environmental and Social Matters	The Board formalized the Governance Committee's oversight of Shyft's strategies, policies, and practices relating to environmental and social matters and changed the name of the committee from the Nominating and Governance Committee to the Governance and Sustainability Committee.
Oversight of Cybersecurity	The Board amended the charter of the Audit Committee to formalize the committee's oversight of cybersecurity developments, threats and strategies to mitigate cybersecurity risk.
Oversight of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion	The Board amended the charter of the Compensation Committee to formalize the committee's oversight of the Company's performance regarding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion ("DEI") and Human Capital Management.

### Corporate Governance and Board Matters



Audit Committee Michael Dinkins (Chair)	The Audit Committee assists the Board in the oversight and monitoring of Shyft's financial statements an other financial information provided by Shyft to its shareholders and others; compliance with legal, regulatory, and public disclosure requirements; the independent auditors, including their gualifications an
Carl Esposito	independence; Shyft's systems of internal controls, including the internal audit function; treasury and
Terri Pizzuto	finance matters; enterprise risk management; enterprise wide cybersecurity; and the auditing, accounting
James Sharman	and financial reporting process generally. The Audit Committee also appoints Shyft's independent
7 montings during 2022	registered public accounting firm and pre-approves services performed by them.
7 meetings during 2022	The Board has determined that Mr. Dinkins and Ms. Pizzuto are "audit committee financial experts" as
Audit Committee Report: page 24	that term is defined under SEC rules and that each Audit Committee member qualifies as financially literate and satisfies Nasdaq's listing standards regarding accounting and finance expertise.
Compensation Committee	The Compensation Committee reviews and approves the compensation arrangements for the CEO,
	Shyft's other executive officers, and, to the extent it deems appropriate, other employees; administers
Angela Freeman (Chair) Thomas Clevinger	Shyft's equity compensation plans; reviews and makes recommendations to the Board regarding the compensation of members of the Board and Board committees; oversees the Company's DEI strategy
Paul Mascarenas	and human capital management initiatives; and assists the Board in the oversight of management's
Mark Rourke	strategies, polices, and practices relating to Shyft's people and teams, including leadership succession.
Mark Rourke	The Compensation Committee may delegate certain elements of its authority to certain executive officers
5 meetings during 2022	including authority to approve certain equity awards, subject to applicable law, rules and regulations, and
Compensation Committee	the determination of the Compensation Committee under the scope of its charter.
Report: page <u>66</u>	The Board has determined that all members of the Compensation Committee meet the independence requirements under Nasdaq's rules for persons serving on compensation committees. No member of the Compensation Committee is or was previously an officer or employee of the Company.
	For a description of the Compensation Committee's processes and procedures, including the roles of its independent compensation consultant and the CEO in support of the Compensation Committee's decision-making process, see the section entitled "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" beginning on page <u>39</u> .
Governance Committee	The Governance Committee's duties and responsibilities include assisting the Board on matters relating t the identification, evaluation, and selection of Board members and candidates nominated to the Board;
Paul Mascarenas (Chair)	making recommendations to the Board concerning the size, structure, and composition of the Board and
Michael Dinkins	its committees; overseeing and making recommendations regarding corporate governance matters,
Angela Freeman	including Shyft's Corporate Governance Principles; and overseeing Shyft's strategies, policies, and
James Sharman	practices relating to Environmental, Social, and Governance ("ESG"). The Governance Committee is committed to actively seeking out individuals who will contribute to the Board through their skills,
4 meetings during 2022	experience, commitment, and diversity. The Governance Committee also oversees the annual Board performance self-evaluation process.
	The Governance Committee has evaluated and recommended to the full Board each of the nominees named in this Proxy Statement for election to the Board. See the section entitled "Election of Directors" beginning on page <u>17</u> .

Shyft Group // 2023 Proxy Statement

9



#### **Board Oversight of Risk Management**

The Board has oversight responsibility regarding the assessment of the major risks inherent in our business. Accordingly, the Board reviews management's efforts to address and mitigate risks, including strategic, regulatory, compliance, operational, financial, reputational, and cybersecurity. The Board reviews risk in the context of discussions and management reports at each regular Board meeting. The Board also evaluates the risks inherent in significant transactions. While the Board is ultimately responsible for risk oversight, the committees of the Board assist it in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities. The Board's committees do so by considering the risks within their respective areas of expertise.

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee oversees risk related to financial matters (including internal controls), business conduct, and legal and regulatory compliance, including antitrust matters, cybersecurity, and tax matters and has primary responsibility for assisting the Board with risk oversight. In 2022, we changed the charter of the Audit Committee to reflect its leadership in the oversight of the Company's cybersecurity initiatives.

#### COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

The Compensation Committee oversees risks associated with compensation program design and management development and retention. In 2022, we updated the charter of the Compensation Committee to reflect its leadership in the oversight of DEI initiatives, as well as human capital management more generally.

#### GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The Governance Committee oversees structural governance and composition matters including recommending to the Board the allocation of oversight responsibilities to the Board committees. In 2022, we changed the name of the Committee to the Governance Committee and expanded its responsibilities to reflect the committee's broader oversight regarding our ESG initiatives.



At each regular Board meeting, the Board receives reports on significant committee activities, including oversight of risks addressed by each committee. In addition, risk management is incorporated in the Company's annual strategic planning process, which is periodically reviewed by the Board. The Board also periodically reviews with management the Company's insurance program and policies, including our cyber insurance coverage.

Management plays an important role in implementing the processes and procedures designed to mitigate risk and assist the Board in the exercise of its oversight function. In addition to the daily risk management processes of management, we use an enterprise risk management prioritization approach, involving risk ranking and assessment of management progress in monitoring and mitigating key identified risks, including financial, operational, compliance, and reputational risks.

#### **Selected Areas of Oversight**

#### Compliance and Business Conduct

Our Chief Legal and Compliance Officer oversees our corporate ethics and compliance program, our Code of Conduct training, and compliance with Company policies, standards and procedures. Our Chief Legal and Compliance Officer, or a delegee, reports to the Audit Committee regarding Code of Conduct matters related to accounting and auditing concerns. This officer also reports throughout the year to the Governance Committee regarding all other Code of Conduct concerns. At least annually, our Chief Legal and Compliance Officer reviews the effectiveness of our corporate ethics and compliance program with the Governance Committee.

#### **Environment**

The Governance Committee's oversight of Shyft's strategies relating to ESG includes reviewing and discussing environmental matters with Shyft's Chief Legal and Compliance Officer, who is responsible for coordinating activities related to minimizing Shyft's impact on the environment.

#### Human Rights

In 2020, the Board adopted Shyft's human rights policy. The policy governs how we treat all stakeholders, including our customers, employees, business partners and participants in our supply chain. Consistent with our human rights policy, we became a signatory in 2021 to the United Nations Compact in support of principles relating to human rights, labor, environment, and anti-corruption. The Board is responsible for overseeing and periodically reviewing our human rights policy. Shyft's Chief Legal and Compliance Officer is responsible for its ongoing implementation and reports to the Board and its committees on any significant related issues.

#### People and Teams

The Board takes an active role in overseeing matters related to our people and teams, including with respect to inclusion and diversity, culture and engagement, talent recruitment, development, and retention, and in 2022 formalized its policy of allocating direct responsibilities for DEI and human capital management to the Compensation Committee. On a regular basis, the Chief Human Resources Officer, reports to the Compensation Committee on DEI, talent related developments and risks.

Additionally, Shyft's Compensation Committee oversees risks related to the Company's compensation programs. Each year, the Compensation Committee evaluates whether the design and operation of Shyft's compensation programs or policies encourage management to take unnecessary or excessive risks. In assessing Shyft's compensation programs for risk, the Compensation Committee evaluates program features that mitigate against potential risks for our executive officers, such as fixed base salaries; goals that are tied to specific company financial measures and payout caps for the annual cash incentive program; clawbacks for our cash and equity incentives; the quantity and mix of long-term performance-based and time-based equity incentives; and stock ownership requirements. In its annual review, the Compensation Committee concluded that Shyft's executive compensation programs and policies continue to provide an effective and appropriate mix of incentives to help ensure performance is focused on long-term shareholder value creation, and do not encourage short-term risk taking at the expense of long-term results.



The Board together with the Audit Committee, which formally assumed responsibility for cybersecurity risk oversight in 2022, regularly reviews with the Chief Information Officer our information security and enterprise-wide cybersecurity risk management program. Oversight includes visibility to our mandatory cybersecurity training for Shyft employees and third parties who may have access to our systems, the maintenance of internal controls for our systems, our ongoing evaluation of the cybersecurity threat landscape, our implementation of the NIST Cybersecurity Framework, our management of information technology risks and resources, and conducting penetration testing of our information technology infrastructure.

#### Supply Chain

The Board reviews management reports regarding Shyft's supply chain and operations. These records include updates from Shyft's business segment leadership and Chief Operating Officer on the performance and management of our supply chain with focus on potential operational impacts.

#### **Regulatory Compliance**

Shyft's full Board takes an active role in overseeing legal and regulatory risks related to Shyft's business. The Board receives regular updates from Shyft's Chief Legal and Compliance Officer on legal and regulatory developments affecting the Company, including updates on legislative developments, government investigations, litigation, and other legal proceedings.

#### Shareholder Engagement

We are committed to ongoing constructive, and meaningful engagement with our shareholders. During 2022, members of our executive management team attended investor conferences, hosted non-deal roadshows where they met with existing and potential shareholders, and engaged with analysts and investors at leading industry tradeshows and at a ride and drive event that focused on our electrification initiatives. Presentations from these meetings and conferences are posted on the Investors page of our website.

These various engagements allow us to receive feedback concerning our operational, financial, and strategic results, as well as ESG matters important to shareholders.

In addition, we host a quarterly earnings call during which our executive management team responds to analyst questions regarding both historical results and forward-looking information. Transcripts of our quarterly earnings calls, including the question and answer sessions, are posted on our website. In addition to the required reports we file with the SEC, we make available on our website earnings analyst packages, investor presentations, and other reports with supplementary financial and operational information. In addition to having a dedicated Investor Relations function that receives and responds to shareholder outreach, we also provide a means for shareholders to communicate directly with our Board, as provided under "Communications with Directors."

#### **Board and Committee Structure and Meetings**

The Company's Board of Directors currently consists of 10 directors, divided into 3 classes approximately equal in number. The members of each class serve for staggered, 3-year terms. Any additional directorships resulting from an increase in the number of directors will be distributed among the 3 classes so that, as nearly as possible, each class will consist of one-third of the Company's directors. Directors actively participate in Board and committee meetings. Meeting materials are distributed in advance of each regular Board meeting so that directors can prepare for meeting discussions.

#### **Corporate Governance and Board Matters**



During 2022, the Board initially consisted of 9 directors until Mr. Carl Esposito joined the Board on March 14, 2022, at which time the Board expanded to 10 directors. On May 18, 2022, Mr. Harbour retired from the Board at the conclusion of his then current term after serving on the Board for 13 years, at which time the Board was reduced to 9 directors. On March 21, 2023 Pamela L. Kermisch joined the Board, which was once again expanded to 10 directors. Ms. Kermisch was recommended as a director by a third-party search firm.

The Board met 6 times during 2022. Each member of the Board who served during 2022 attended or participated in 75% or more of the aggregate of (i) the total number of meetings of the Board held during 2022, and (ii) the total number of meetings held by each committee of the Board on which the member served during 2022.

Shyft expects all of its directors to attend the Annual Meeting. All directors then serving on the Board attended the 2022 annual meeting of shareholders.

The Board has three standing committees: Audit, Compensation, and Governance. Each standing committee has a charter adopted by the Board. Each committee chair gives a committee report to the full Board at each regular Board meeting. The Board annually elects each committee's members and chair. Each committee has authority to retain, approve fees for, and terminate advisors as it deems necessary to assist in the fulfillment of its responsibilities.

#### **Annual Board and Committee Self-Evaluations**

The Board conducts an annual self-evaluation to assess whether the Board, its committees, and each member of the Board are working effectively, and to provide an opportunity to reflect upon and improve processes and effectiveness.

The Governance Committee designs and establishes the overall evaluation framework, and Messrs. Sharman and Mascarenas, the Board Chair and Governance Committee Chair, respectively, lead the feedback session. Topics covered in the evaluation process include the effectiveness and performance of the Board and its committees; Board and committee composition and refreshment; timing, agenda, and content of Board and committee meetings; Board dynamics and function; peer contributions; and executive succession planning. A summary identifying any themes or issues that have emerged is presented to the Board on an anonymous basis.

#### **Director Independence**

Our Corporate Governance Principles require that the Board annually determines whether our directors are independent. Nasdaq's rules require that the Board affirmatively determine that a director does not have a relationship that would interfere with the exercise of a director's independent judgment. Based on the evaluations performed and recommendations made by the Governance Committee, the Board determined that each of our directors other than our CEO is independent and Mr. Harbour, who retired from the Board in 2022, was independent.

#### **Transactions With Related Parties**

The Board has adopted written policies and procedures with respect to related party transactions, as defined in rules issued by the SEC. Any proposed related party transaction must be reviewed and approved by the full Board. There were no such transactions that required review or approval by the Board in 2022. During 2022, Shyft conducted business in the ordinary course with C.H. Robinson Worldwide, Inc., a global provider of multimodal transportation services and third-party logistics, where Ms. Freeman, a member of the Shyft Board, serves as the Chief Human Resources and ESG Officer.



Any shareholder or other interested party may communicate with our directors, individually or as a group, by contacting our Corporate Secretary or our Board Chair. The contact information is maintained through the Investors page of our website at *www.theshyftgroup.com*. Inquiries may also be addressed as follows:

The Shyft Group, Inc. Corporate Headquarters 41280 Bridge Street Novi, Michigan 48375 Attn: Chair of the Board The Shyft Group, Inc. Corporate Headquarters 41280 Bridge Street Novi, Michigan 48375 Attn: Corporate Secretary

Communications will be forwarded to the relevant director(s) except for solicitations or other matters not related to the Company.

#### **Code of Conduct**

Shyft conducts business ethically, honestly, and in compliance with laws. Shyft's Code of Conduct details the principles that guide Shyft's business practices – honesty, respect, confidentiality, and compliance. The Code of Conduct applies to all employees, including Shyft's CEO and CFO, as well as our Board of Directors. We expect our suppliers, contractors, consultants, and other business partners to follow the principles set forth in the Code of Conduct when providing goods and services to Shyft or acting on its behalf. The Code is available at <a href="https://theshyftgroup.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/ShyftGroupCodeofConduct\_2022.pdf">https://theshyftgroup.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/ShyftGroupCodeofConduct\_2022.pdf</a>.

Shyft's Chief Legal and Compliance Officer is responsible for managing oversight of the Code of Conduct. Employees are required to complete training on the Code upon joining Shyft and annually thereafter.

#### How to Obtain Copies of Our Governance-Related Documents

The following documents are available through the Corporate Responsibility page of our website at www.theshyftgroup.com:

- Corporate Governance Principles;
- Shyft Code of Conduct; and
- Charters of the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee, and the Governance Committee.

If you prefer to receive printed copies of these documents, please send a written request to our Corporate Secretary at The Shyft Group, Inc., 41280 Bridge Street, Novi, Michigan 48375.

#### Prohibition on Employee, Officer, and Director Hedging

As part of the Company's Insider Trading Policy, we prohibit directors, officers, and other employees from (1) engaging in short sales of any Shyft securities, and (2) engaging in hedging or similar transactions involving any Shyft securities, including option contracts, puts, calls, straddles, collars, hedges, swaps, forward contracts, exchange funds, or any transactions that hedge or offset, or are designed to hedge or offset, any decrease in market value of any Shyft securities. These restrictions also apply to each employee and director's family members and others living in their households and entities that are directed by or subject to the employee's or director's influence or control.

The Company's anti-pledging policy prohibits our directors and executives, including NEOs, from purchasing Shyft securities on margin, holding Shyft securities in a margin account, or pledging Shyft securities as collateral for a loan.





# Environmental, Social, and Governance Matters

We value diversity, respect human rights and the rule of law, and recognize environmental management among our highest priorities at Shyft. The Shyft Board provides guidance, insight, and oversight as to the strategy, initiatives, and management's performance in achieving ESG goals. The charters of our Board committees address the importance of these issues. The Compensation Committee Charter details the committee's role in the oversight of the Company's DEI initiatives and commitment to human capital management. The Governance Committee Charter reflects the committee's responsibility for oversight of the Company's ESG strategies and performance. In October 2022, Shyft issued its inaugural sustainability report titled **Energized to Make a Difference** (*https://theshyftgroup.com/sustainability-report/*) (the "2022 Sustainability Report") highlighting the Company's ongoing commitment and achievements with respect to sustainability, equality, and philanthropy.

The 2022 Sustainability Report presents a materiality-based approach to confirming our key ESG tenets, as detailed below, incorporates investor focused disclosure developed by the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) to align future reporting with industry best practices, and demonstrates the linkage between our SASB data and the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by United Nations member states. Moreover, the 2022 Sustainability Report depicts Shyft's integration of its commitment to ESG across all aspects of the business to create a more sustainable and inclusive future.

O CO HEALTH & SAFETY	<ul> <li>Strongly committed to the health and safety of our employees, and strive to continuously reduce the incidence and severity of job-related injuries.</li> <li>Integrate safe technologies, training programs, risk management practices, actionable escalation policies, and continuous improvement in our operations to minimize risk to our employees.</li> <li>Position environmental, health, and safety ("EHS") leadership at the segment and corporate levels to drive EHS best practices.</li> </ul>
CC DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION	<ul> <li>Inclusion is the way we treat and perceive all differences. We are focused on creating an inclusive and high-performance culture where all forms of diversity are seen as real value for Shyft.</li> <li>With 40% of our Board comprised of women and underrepresented communities, the critical importance of diversity to Shyft is amplified to all Shyft stakeholders, including our employees and investors.</li> <li>Through our Code of Conduct, Human Rights Statement, and membership in the United Nations Global Compact, we clearly communicate to our employees, supplier, customer and other stakeholders our commitment to human rights in the communities where we operate.</li> <li>We reinforce and celebrate the value of an inclusive and high-performance culture through company wide recognition of diversity, including on International Women's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Pride Month, Hispanic Heritage Month and Veterans Day.</li> <li>Through partnership with industry leaders in fostering diversity and the engagement of our leadership, we have a 5-year DEI roadmap, to foster an even more inclusive culture and diverse environment within all areas of the Company.</li> </ul>

Environmenta	I, Social	, and G	Sovernance	Matters
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GOVERNANCE & ETHICS	<ul> <li>Annual review of our Corporate Governance Principles by the Board of Directors.</li> <li>9 of 10 Shyft Board members are independent directors, 40% of the Shyft Board is diverse with respect to gender or race, and 66% of the leadership positions on the Board's committees are held by women and underrepresented communities.</li> <li>Code of Conduct for our directors, officers and employees that is reviewed each year for appropriate updates, and employees, officers, and directors annually certify their understanding of, and compliance with, its requirements.</li> <li>Robust training program for employees on the Code of Conduct and other core topics, including cyber security.</li> <li>Maintain an actively managed, anonymous ethics hotline.</li> </ul>
<b>PROTECTING THE</b> ENVIRONMENT	<ul> <li>Comply with all applicable environmental laws governing the use, storage, discharge, and disposal of hazardous or toxic material.</li> <li>Help to drive the transformation of transportation to create a more environmentally sustainable future with the announcement of our newest go-to-market brand, Blue Arc<sup>TM</sup> EV Solutions, featuring our portfolio of commercial grade all-electric delivery and vocational vehicles.</li> <li>Improve the operation of our facilities through the efficient use of energy, the sustainable use of renewable resources, and a commitment to waste reduction, recycling, reducing water usage and carbon emissions, and implementing responsible waste disposal practices.</li> </ul>
PHILANTHROPY	<ul> <li>Invest in the local communities where we live and work through non-profit partnerships.</li> <li>Direct donations include support to The Heat and Warmth Fund in Michigan and a decade of support to the Eaton Community Health Collaborative, serving the community where Shyft got its start and continues to operate.</li> </ul>
SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT	<ul> <li>Maintain a supplier code of conduct that sets expectations for our supply chain partners regarding health and safety, environmental protection, nondiscrimination, working hours and compensation, and improper payments.</li> <li>Seek to partner with suppliers that share our core values: Honesty and Integrity, Accountability, Trust and Performance Excellence.</li> </ul>

16

Shyft Group // 2023 Proxy Statement

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#### PROPOSAL ONE

### **Election of Directors**

The Board is divided into three classes, each class consisting of approximately one-third of the Company's directors. The following directors' terms will expire at the 2023 Annual Meeting:

**MICHAEL DINKINS** 

ANGELA FREEMAN

PAMELA KERMISCH

MARK ROURKE

Each of these directors has consented to stand for re-election to serve until the 2026 Annual Meeting of Shareholders. If any of them should become unavailable to stand for re-election at the 2023 Annual Meeting, the Board may designate a substitute nominee. In that case, the proxy holders named as proxies in the accompanying proxy card will vote for the Board's substitute nominee.

Additional information regarding the directors and director nominees of the Company is set forth below.

#### **Director Background, Experience and Qualifications**

The following includes a brief overview of the experience, qualifications, attributes, and skills that led to the conclusion that the directors and nominees should serve on the Board at this time. The Governance Committee considers the experience, mix of skills, and other qualities of the existing Board to ensure appropriate Board composition. The Governance Committee believes that directors must have demonstrated excellence in their chosen field, high ethical standards and integrity, and sound business judgment. In addition, it seeks to ensure the Board includes members with diverse backgrounds, skills and experience, including appropriate financial and other expertise relevant to the Company's business.

As more fully reflected below, the Board believes that the directors and nominees have an appropriate balance of knowledge, experience, attributes, skills and expertise as a whole to ensure the Board appropriately fulfills its oversight responsibilities and acts in the best interests of shareholders. The Board believes that each director satisfies its criteria for demonstrating excellence in his or her chosen field, high ethical standards and integrity, and sound business judgment. Further, each director or nominee brings a strong background and set of skills to the Board, giving the Board competence and experience in a wide variety of areas.

#### **Vote Required**

Under Michigan law and our bylaws, directors are elected by a plurality. This means the nominees who receive the most votes will be elected to the open director positions. However, we have adopted a majority vote standard in our Corporate Governance Principles that will require, in uncontested elections, any nominee for director who receives a greater number of votes "withheld" for their election than votes "for" such election to promptly tender his or her offer of resignation to the Chair of the Board for consideration by the Governance Committee.

Shyft Group // 2023 Proxy Statement

### VOTE

The Board unanimously recommends a vote "<u>FOR</u>" the election of the director nominees named in Proposal 1 to three-year terms expiring at the 2026 Annual Meeting.



#### **Snapshot of Board of Directors**

The following matrix highlights the mix of skills, qualities, attributes, and experiences or our directors, including the nominees (Dinkins, Freeman, Kermisch, and Rourke), that among other factors, led the Board and the Governance Committee to recommend the nominees for election to the Board. The matrix is intended to depict notable areas of focus for each director, and not having a mark does not mean that a particular director does not possess that qualification or skill. The demographic information presented below is based on voluntary self-identification by each director. Additional biographical information on each director begins on page 19.

Skills a Qualific		Sharman	Adams	Clevinger	Dinkins	Esposito	Freeman	Kermisch	Mascarenas	Pizzuto	Rourke
副	Manufacturing and Operations	٠	٠	٠		٠	٠	٠	٠	٠	٠
<b>.</b>	Sales and Marketing	٠	٠	٠	•	٠	٠	٠	٠		٠
රි	Leadership	٠	٠	٠	٠	٠	٠	٠	٠	٠	٠
(§) (1)	General Finance Acumen	٠	٠	•	٠	٠	•	•	٠	٠	٠
타	Expertise with One or More of Shyft's End Markets	٠	٠	٠		٠	٠		٠	٠	٠
Ø	Mergers & Acquisitions	٠	٠		٠	٠	٠	٠	٠	٠	٠
$\bigcirc$	Consumer Oriented Product Development	٠	٠	٠	٠	٠		•	٠	٠	•
о Сф	Human Capital Talent Development	٠	٠	٠	٠	٠	٠	٠	٠	٠	٠
Identit	Identity										
Gender Expression		Male	Male	Male	Male	Male	Female	Female	Male	Female	Male
LGBTQ+		No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Race/E	thnicity	White	White	White	Black	White	White	White	White	White	White

18



#### **JAMES A. SHARMAN**

Age | 64 Director Since | January 2016 Committees | Audit; Governance Term Ending | 2025 Mr. Sharman has served as Chair of the Board of Directors since 2017. Beginning in 2023, Mr. Sharman became a senior advisor to Norwest Equity Partners, a middle market investment firm. Mr. Sharman was President of GoHealth, a leading provider of technology and service solutions for the health care and insurance industries, from 2020 until 2022 and previously served as its Chief Operating Officer beginning in 2018. From 2014 until he joined GoHealth in 2018, Mr. Sharman served as Chief Operating Officer of Coyote Logistics, a freight broker and logistics services provider and a subsidiary of United Parcel Service. From 2006 through 2014, Mr. Sharman served as Managing Partner of Truecast Capital, LLC, an investment firm. His work history includes President and Chief Executive Officer of World Kitchen, Inc., a manufacturer of kitchen products, and Chief Executive Officer of Rubicon Technology, Inc., a manufacturer of synthetic-crystal components. He was Senior Vice President of Global Supply Chain for CNH Industrial, an agricultural and construction equipment supplier, as well as Vice President and General Manager, Latin America, for the Case Corporation, a machinery and equipment manufacturer. He served as the Commanding Officer of an engineering company in the United States Army and was an assistant professor at the United States Military Academy, West Point. Mr. Sharman is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point and Duke's Fugua School of Business.

*Mr.* Sharman brings extensive knowledge and expertise in executive leadership and operational and management issues relevant to manufacturing environments. He has subject matter expertise in corporate governance, program and project management, customer relationship management, supply chain strategy, and risk management.



#### DARYL M. ADAMS

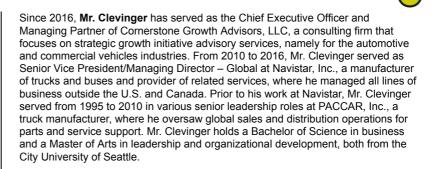
Age | 61 Director Since | December 2014 Committees | None Term Ending | 2024 **Mr. Adams** joined the Company as Chief Operating Officer in July 2014 and was appointed to the Board of Directors in December 2014, at which time he was also named President and Chief Executive Officer, effective in February 2015. Prior to joining Shyft, Mr. Adams served for seven years as Chief Executive Officer of Midway Products Group, a privately held Tier 1 automotive supplier in stampings and assemblies. Prior to that, he held a succession of management positions over a 17-year career with Lear Corporation, a global automotive technology leader in seating and e-systems, including senior leadership and international roles in Lear's North American and European operations. Mr. Adams holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Michigan State University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Management and Manufacturing from Lawrence Technological University. He is the immediate past board chair of the Lansing Economic Area Partners and is a board member of the Detroit Safety Foundation. Mr. Adams is an active member of Business Leaders for Michigan and various other state leadership and manufacturing associations.

*Mr.* Adams is a proven leader with demonstrated success in creating and implementing Shyft's business strategy. His subject matter expertise includes business portfolio development and management, investor relations, acquisitions and divestitures, and restructuring and realigning operational functions.



#### THOMAS R. CLEVINGER

Age | 70 Director Since | April 2018 Committees | Compensation Term Ending | 2024



*Mr.* Clevinger brings to the Board significant expertise in global commercial vehicle sales and support, with an emphasis in aftermarket parts and service sales and distribution. He has subject matter expertise in supply chain optimization, customer relationship management, and strategic planning.



#### **MICHAEL DINKINS**

Age | 69 Director Since | December 2020

> Other Public Boards | Crane

NXT and Community Health Systems

Prior Public Boards | Integer, LandAmerica, and Access Worldwide

Committees | Audit (Chair); Governance

Term Ending | 2023

Mr. Dinkins is currently President and Chief Executive Officer of Dinkins Financial, a consulting firm that assists small businesses in raising capital. Prior to founding Dinkins Financial in 2017, Mr. Dinkins served in various leadership roles, including as Chief Financial Officer and board member at Integer Holdings Corporation, a medical device manufacturer, from 2012 to 2017. In addition, Mr. Dinkins' prior experience includes serving as Chief Financial Officer at each of USI Insurance Services, an insurance and risk management provider, Hilb, Rogal & Hobbs Co., an insurance risk and management provider, and NCR, a provider of financial services equipment and software. Mr. Dinkins career began at General Electric where he served for 17 years in multiple financial roles. Mr. Dinkins is National Association of Corporate Directors (NACD) Directorship Certified®. He is a past member of the board of directors of three publicly traded companies and the National Council on Compensation and Insurance. Mr. Dinkins received a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance from Michigan State University and graduated with honors from General Electric's Financial Management Program where he also served as an instructor. He also obtained certified public accountant and certified management accountant certificates.

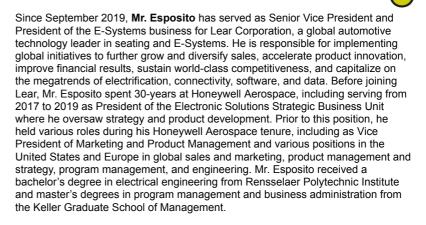
Mr. Dinkins has extensive experience in executive leadership, financial reporting, accounting, and Sarbanes-Oxley compliance. His experience serving as a financial executive with multiple companies provides him with subject matter expertise in acquisitions and divestitures, risk management, asset allocation, and oversight of operational functions.





#### **CARL A. ESPOSITO**

Age | 55 Director Since | March 2022 Committees | Audit Term Ending | 2025



*Mr.* Esposito brings to the Board significant expertise in innovation related to electrification and connectivity in the transportation space, global business operations, engineering, and program management. He has subject matter expertise in product innovation, transportation electrification, and executive management and strategy.



#### ANGELA K. FREEMAN

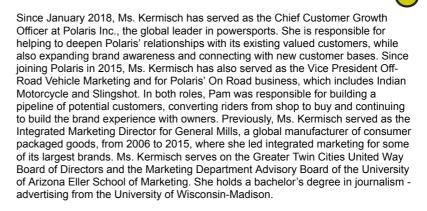
Age | 55 Director Since | August 2019 Committees | Compensation (Chair); Governance Term Ending | 2023 **Ms. Freeman** serves as the Chief Human Resources and ESG Officer at C.H. Robinson Worldwide, Inc., one of the world's largest third-party logistics providers. At C.H. Robinson, Ms. Freeman leads the company's global talent, sustainability, DEI, and corporate responsibility strategies. She has been with the company for 25 years and prior to her current role led Investor Relations, Marketing, and Public Affairs. In addition, she serves as Chairperson of the Board of the C.H. Robinson Foundation, the company's philanthropic affiliate. Ms. Freeman also serves on the Board of the University of North Dakota Alumni Association & Foundation and on the Gartner Global CHRO Leadership Board. Ms. Freeman holds a Master of Science degree in comparative politics from the London School of Economics, in addition to a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and a Bachelor of Science degree in secondary education from the University of North Dakota.

Ms. Freeman brings extensive public company experience in human resources, including executive compensation, human capital management and DEI, ESG, investor relations and communications, stakeholder management and government affairs. She has subject matter expertise in strategy creation and deployment, change management, digital transformation and scaling organizations, executive succession, and mergers and acquisitions.



#### PAMELA L. KERMISCH

Age | 48 Director Since | March 2023 Committees | None Term Ending | 2023



Ms. Kermisch brings extensive experience in business transformation, brand strategy and positioning, and dealer/retail marketing. She has subject matter expertise in business and commercial strategy, insights and analytics, digital transformation, and customer experience.



#### PAUL A. MASCARENAS

Age | 61 Director Since | June 2018 Other Public Boards | United States Steel Corporation, and ON Semiconductor Corporation

Prior Public Boards | Borg Warner

Committees | Governance (Chair); Compensation

Term Ending | 2024

Mr. Mascarenas served as President of the International Federation of Automotive Engineering Societies (FISITA) from 2014 to 2016, and as a director from 2012 to 2018. Previously, Mr. Mascarenas worked for 32 years at Ford Motor Company, holding various product development and engineering positions, and most recently serving as Chief Technical Officer and Vice President of Research & Advanced Engineering, leading Ford's worldwide research organization. Mr. Mascarenas is a Fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, and a Fellow of the Society of Automotive Engineers. He served as General Chairperson for the 2010 SAE World Congress and Convergence; and as President of SAE International for the 2019 term. Mr. Mascarenas is currently a Venture Partner with Fontinalis Partners, a venture capital fund focused on mobility technology. In 2015, he was awarded an Order of the British Empire (OBE) by her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, for his services to the automotive industry. Mr. Mascarenas received a degree in mechanical engineering from University of London, King's College in England and in 2013 received an honorary doctorate degree from Chongqing University in China

*Mr.* Mascarenas' professional experience, including as the technology leader of a global public company and other public company board assignments, enables him to contribute his expertise in technology and innovation, industrial manufacturing, public company governance, and executive compensation matters.



**TERRI A. PIZZUTO** 

Age | 64 Director Since | January 2021 Committees | Audit Term Ending | 2025 **Ms. Pizzuto** served as a financial officer for Hub Group, Inc., a multi-billion-dollar public company offering comprehensive transportation and logistics management solutions, for 18 years, including the last 13 years as Chief Financial Officer prior to her retirement in June 2020. Ms. Pizzuto retains the title of Chief Financial Officer Emeritus at the Hub Group. Before joining the Hub Group, Ms. Pizzuto was an audit professional at Arthur Andersen LLP for 22 years, including the last 6 years as an audit partner, where she served a wide variety of SEC registrants and other clients in logistics, manufacturing, high tech, and other industries. Ms. Pizzuto serves on the board of directors of IPS Corporation, a privately-held manufacturer, CRST, Inc., a privately held freight company, and Mastery Logistics Systems, a privately held technology company in the supply chain logistics space. Ms. Pizzuto earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Illinois and is a certified public accountant.

Ms. Pizzuto is a qualified financial expert with over 40 years of experience in financial and strategy leadership roles. Her areas of expertise include SEC regulatory compliance, global finance and accounting, investor relations, technology transformations, acquisitions and divestitures, and asset management



#### MARK B. ROURKE

Age | 58 Director Since | January 2021 Other Public Boards | Schneider National Inc. Committees | Compensation Term Ending | 2023 Since 2019, **Mr. Rourke** has served as President, Chief Executive Officer and director of Schneider National Inc., a provider of transportation and logistics services, Since starting his career with Schneider National in 1987, he held a series of leadership positions of increasing responsibility, including roles as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, which he held prior to his current role. He serves on the board of directors of the Trucking Alliance, an industry group focused on advancing safety reforms. Mr. Rourke holds a bachelor's degree in marketing from the University of Akron and has attended programs on corporate governance and strategic leadership at Harvard University.

*Mr.* Rourke brings extensive experience in executive leadership, the trucking industry, and operational and management issues. He has subject matter expertise in the development and implementation of strategic and operational plans, operational excellence, and management.



# Report of the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors

The Audit Committee represents and assists the Board in fulfilling its responsibilities for general oversight of the integrity of the Company's financial statements, the Company's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, the independent registered public accounting firm's qualifications and independence, the performance of the Company's internal audit function, the performance of the Company's independent registered public accounting firm, and risk assessment and risk management. The Audit Committee manages the Company's relationship with the independent registered public accounting firm, which reports directly to the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee has the authority to obtain advice and assistance from outside legal, accounting and other advisors as it deems necessary to carry out its duties and receives appropriate funding from the Company, as determined by the Audit Committee, for such advice and assistance.

The Company's management is primarily responsible for the Company's internal control and financial reporting process. The Company's independent registered public accounting firm, Deloitte & Touche LLP ("Deloitte"), is responsible for performing an independent audit of the Company's consolidated financial statements and issuing opinions on the conformity of those audited financial statements with United States generally accepted accounting principles and the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. The Audit Committee monitors the Company's financial reporting process and reports to the Board on its findings.

In this context, the Audit Committee hereby reports as follows:

1

The Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022 with the Company's management;

2 The Audit Committee has discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm the matters required to be discussed by the applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board ("PCAOB") and the SEC; and

The Audit Committee has received the written disclosures and the letter from the independent registered public accounting firm required by applicable requirements of the PCAOB regarding the independent registered public accounting firm's communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence, and has discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm the independent regi

Based on the review and discussions referred to in paragraphs 1 through 3 above, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board, and the Board has approved, that the audited financial statements be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022, for filing with the SEC.

The undersigned members of the Audit Committee have submitted this Report to the Board.

The Audit Committee Michael Dinkins, Chair Carl Esposito Terri Pizzuto James Sharman

# Ratification of the Appointment of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board proposes and recommends that the shareholders ratify the Audit Committee's appointment of the firm of Deloitte as independent auditors for Shyft for 2023. Deloitte has been Shyft's independent auditor since June 28, 2021, when the Board appointed Deloitte to succeed BDO USA, LLP ("BDO"). BDO had served as the Company's independent auditor since 2007. Although ratification of this appointment is not required by law, the Board believes it is desirable as a matter of corporate governance. If the shareholders do not ratify the appointment of Deloitte, the Audit Committee will reconsider the appointment of Deloitte as Shyft's independent auditor. We expect that representatives of Deloitte will attend the Annual Meeting, where they will have an opportunity to make a statement if they wish to do so and to respond to appropriate guestions.

Unless otherwise directed by the shareholder, proxies that are properly executed and returned or submitted electronically will be voted for approval of the appointment of Deloitte to audit our consolidated financial statements for 2023.

#### Annual Evaluation and Selection of Auditors

The Audit Committee is responsible to select, in its sole discretion, the firm of independent auditors to audit Shyft's financial statements for each fiscal year. The Audit Committee is also directly responsible for the appointment, compensation, retention, and oversight of the work of the independent auditors, including resolution of any disagreements that arise between management and the auditor regarding financial reporting or other audit, review or attest services for the Company. The independent auditors report directly to the Audit Committee.

The Audit Committee annually reviews and evaluates the performance of the Company's independent auditors. In evaluating the independent auditors, the Audit Committee considers, among other things, the quality of the independent auditor's service, the sufficiency of its resources, its independence and objectivity, and the length of time the firm has been engaged as Shyft's independent auditors.

Shyft Group // 2023 Proxy Statement

### VOTE

The Board recommends voting "<u>FOR</u>" the ratification of the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm



#### Fees Paid to Independent Auditor

Set forth below is a summary of the fees paid by Shyft for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, to its independent auditor for such year and such firm's affiliates:

	2022		2021	
	Deloitte	BDO	Deloitte	BDO
Audit fees <sup>(1)</sup>	\$850,000	\$200,000	\$875,000	\$239,000
Audit-related fees	_	_	_	_
Tax fees <sup>(2)</sup>	214,000	32,000	36,000	283,000
All other fees	_	_	_	
Total	\$1,064,000	\$232,000	\$911,000	\$522,000

 Audit services consisted of: (i) audit of Shyft's annual financial statements; (ii) review of Shyft's quarterly financial statements; (iii) Sarbanes-Oxley Act, Section 404 attestation matters; and (iv) statutory and regulatory audits, comfort letters, consents, and other services related to SEC matters.

2. Fees paid for tax compliance services. Except for the amounts disclosed above, there were no tax fees billed by Deloitte or BDO during 2022 or 2021, as the Company retained another firm to provide tax advice. The Audit Committee has determined that the rendering of all non-audit services by Deloitte and BDO in 2022 and 2021 is compatible with maintaining auditor independence.

We have been advised by Deloitte and BDO, respectively, that neither the firm, nor any member of the firm, has any financial interest, direct or indirect, in any capacity in the Company or its subsidiaries.

#### **Pre-Approval Policy and Procedures**

SEC rules prohibit independent auditors of public companies from providing certain non-audit services and require that other nonaudit services be approved by the Audit Committee. The Company's policy implementing this requirement:

- specifies certain types of services that our independent auditors are prohibited from performing;
- requires that management prepare a budget for non-prohibited services at the beginning of each fiscal year and present the budget to the Audit Committee for its approval; and
- requires that any expenditure outside of the budget also be approved by the Audit Committee in advance.

#### VOTE REQUIRED

The proposal to ratify the appointment of Deloitte as The Shyft Group's independent registered public accounting firm for the current fiscal year will be approved if a majority of the shares voted at the meeting are voted in favor of the proposal. (See "Additional Information," page <u>74</u>).



#### **PROPOSAL THREE**

# Approval, on an Advisory Basis, of the Compensation of Named Executive Officers

Based on the recommendation of shareholders at the Company's 2017 annual meeting of shareholders, and the Board's consideration of that recommendation, the Company has determined that it will hold a non-binding advisory vote to approve the compensation paid by the Company to its named executive officers ("Say on Pay") every year. We intend to hold the next Say on Pay vote at the 2024 annual meeting of shareholders, subject to the outcome of the vote for Proposal No. 4 below. In accordance with the requirements of Section 14A of the Exchange Act and the related SEC rules, we are asking shareholders to express their opinion on the compensation of the NEOs, as disclosed pursuant to the SEC's Compensation Discussion and Analysis, executive compensation tables, and narrative disclosures that accompany the executive pay tables. This vote is non-binding and advisory only; however, the Board will give due consideration to the opinion of the Company's shareholders as expressed by their vote.

We believe the compensation of our named executive officers should be:

- closely linked to the performance of the Company as a whole, the executive's business segment (as applicable), and the individual executive;
- aligned with the Company's annual operating plan and long-term strategic plan and objectives;
- attractive in the markets where we compete for executive talent; and
- structured to reward actions in accordance with the Company's values and standards and to discourage the taking of inappropriate risks, and thereby to uphold Shyft's high standards of business ethics and corporate governance.

87% of the votes cast on the advisory Say on Pay proposal at the 2022 Annual Meeting voted in favor of the compensation of our executive officers.

The Compensation Discussion and Analysis beginning on page <u>39</u> explains in detail the elements of the Company's executive compensation program with respect to our NEOs, and the steps taken by the Company to ensure that the program, as implemented in 2022, was aligned with these core principles. Balancing annual and long-term compensation elements, the program directly links incentive compensation for executives with increases in shareholder value, principally by means of annual cash bonuses based on achievement of performance goals set by the Compensation Committee at the beginning of the year, performance-based restricted share units that vest in accordance with the Company's TSR Peer Group, the Company's cumulative GAAP net income over a three-year period, and time-based restricted share units that vest over a three-year period. The Company believes this system, as put into practice under the supervision of the Compensation Committee, is instrumental in enabling the Company to achieve superior financial performance and investor returns.

Shyft Group // 2023 Proxy Statement



The Board recommends voting "<u>FOR</u>" the approval, on an advisory basis, of the compensation of our named executive officers

#### **Proposal Three**



The Board strongly endorses the Company's actions in this regard and recommends that shareholders vote to approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of the named executive officers as disclosed in this proxy statement, according to the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, that the compensation of the named executive officers, as disclosed in the proxy statement for the 2023 Annual Meeting of Shareholders is approved by the shareholders on an advisory basis.

Unless otherwise directed by the shareholders, proxies that are properly executed and returned will be voted for the resolution. Abstentions and broker non-votes will not count as votes for or against the proposal and will not be included in calculating the number of votes in favor of the proposal.

#### **VOTE REQUIRED**

The proposal to approve the compensation of our named executive officers, as described in this proxy statement, is an advisory vote only, and will be approved if a majority of the shares voted at the meeting are voted in favor of the proposal. The Company will disclose the results of this vote, but is not required to take action based upon the outcome of this vote. However, the Compensation Committee of the Board intends to consider the outcome of the vote when considering future executive compensation arrangements. (See "Additional Information," beginning on page <u>74</u>.)



#### **PROPOSAL FOUR**

# Recommendation, on an Advisory Basis, of the Frequency of Advisory Votes on the Compensation of Named Executive Officers

As described in Proposal No. 3 above, our shareholders have the opportunity to cast an advisory vote to approve the compensation of our NEOs. In accordance with the requirements of Section 14A of the Exchange Act and the related rules of the SEC, this Proposal No. 4 affords shareholders the opportunity to cast an advisory vote recommending how often we should include a Say on Pay proposal in our proxy materials for future annual shareholder meetings or any special shareholder meeting for which we must include executive compensation information in the proxy statement for that meeting. Under this Proposal No. 4, shareholders may vote to recommend having the Say on Pay vote every year, every two years, or every three years, or may abstain from voting.

### VOTE

The Board recommends every "1 YEAR" as the frequency of advisory votes on the compensation of named executive officers.

Our shareholders voted on a similar proposal in 2017 with the majority voting to hold the Say on Pay vote every year. Our Board and Compensation Committee continue to believe that Say on Pay votes should be conducted each year so that our shareholders may express their views on our executive compensation program and the Compensation Committee can consider such views in its compensation planning for the fiscal year following the Say on Pay vote.

Shareholders may cast their advisory vote to recommend conducting advisory votes on named executive officer compensation every "1 Year," "2 Years," or "3 Years," or "Abstain."

The Board recommends that shareholders recommend future advisory votes on NEO compensation occur every "1 Year."

As an advisory vote, this proposal is not binding on Shyft, the Board, or the Compensation Committee. However, the Compensation Committee and the Board value the opinions expressed by shareholders and will consider the outcome of the vote when making a decision regarding the frequency of conducting a Say on Pay vote.

It is expected that the next Say on Pay frequency vote will occur at the 2029 annual meeting of shareholders.

#### **VOTE REQUIRED**

We will consider the frequency for holding an advisory vote on NEO compensation that receives the highest number of votes cast to be the frequency recommended by shareholders.

# Approval of the Amendment and Restatement of the Shyft Stock Incentive Plan of 2016

In 2016, the Board of Directors adopted, and our shareholders approved, the Spartan Motors, Inc. Stock Incentive Plan, which later became known as the Shyft Group, Inc. Stock Incentive Plan of 2016 (the "2016 Plan"). The 2016 Plan provided for an available pool of 2,800,000 shares of Shyft common stock for the grant of a variety of equity-based awards, such as stock options (including incentive stock options as provided for under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code")), stock appreciation rights, restricted stock, performance shares, and other stock-based awards. In 2020, the Board of Directors adopted, and our shareholders approved, an amendment and restatement of the 2016 Plan to increase the total pool of shares of Shyft common stock under the 2016 Plan by 1,200,000, for a total of 4,000,000 shares.



The Board recommends voting "<u>FOR</u>" the approval of the amendment and restatement of the Shyft Stock Incentive Plan of 2016

On March 20, 2023, upon recommendation by the Compensation Committee, the Board of Directors approved and adopted a further amendment and restatement of the 2016 Plan, subject to the approval of the Shyft shareholders at the Annual Meeting, in the form attached as Appendix B to this proxy statement. In general, we refer to the 2016 Plan as proposed to be amended and restated here in 2023 as the "Amended Plan," and the 2016 Plan prior to the amendment and restatement proposed here in 2023 as the "Existing Plan." Further, we are dropping the reference to 2016 from the name of the Existing Plan in order to modernize it for 2023 and beyond.

Shareholders previously approved the Existing Plan; you are being asked to approve the Amended Plan, which continues to afford the Compensation Committee the ability to design compensatory awards that are responsive to the Company's needs by permitting a variety of awards designed to advance the interests and long-term success of the Company to be granted to Shyft non-employee directors and officers and other employees of Shyft and its subsidiaries, plus certain consultants to the Company and its subsidiaries.

The Board of Directors recommends that you vote to approve the Amended Plan. In general, shareholder approval of the Amended Plan would make available for awards under the Amended Plan an additional 1,000,000 shares of Shyft common stock, no par value ("Common Stock"), above and beyond those authorized for the Existing Plan, with such total share pool subject to adjustment as described in the Amended Plan, including under the Amended Plan's share counting rules. The Amended Plan will be the revised continuation of the Existing Plan, and shares remaining available for awards under the Existing Plan on the date of the Annual Meeting will continue to be available for awards under the Amended Plan, in addition to the newly authorized Common Stock. If the Amended Plan is approved by shareholders, it will be effective as of the day of the Annual Meeting. If the Amended Plan is not approved by our shareholders, no awards will be made under the Amended Plan, and the Existing Plan will remain in effect in accordance with its terms.

The following proposal summarizes information about the Existing Plan and the Amended Plan, plus reasons why we believe you should approve the Amended Plan, in addition to the material terms and conditions of the Amended Plan and other information required to be included in this proposal. The full text of the Amended Plan being submitted for approval by the shareholders is included as Appendix B to this proxy statement.



## Why We Believe You Should Vote For the Amended Plan

Our future success continues to depend in part on our ability to attract, motivate and retain high quality employees and directors; the ability to provide equity-based and incentive-based awards under the Amended Plan is critical to achieving this success. We would be at a severe competitive disadvantage if we could not use stock-based awards to recruit and compensate our employees and directors. The use of Common Stock as part of our compensation program is also important because equity-based awards continue to be an essential component of our compensation program for selected employees, as such awards help link compensation with long-term shareholder value creation and reward participants based on service and/or performance.

As of March 31, 2023, 555,724 shares of Common Stock remained available for awards under the Existing Plan. If the Amended Plan is not approved, we may be compelled to significantly increase the cash component of our employee and director compensation, which approach may not necessarily align employee and director compensation interests with the investment interests of our shareholders. Replacing equity awards with cash also would increase cash compensation expense and use cash that could be better utilized for other purposes.

The following includes aggregated information regarding our view of the overhang and dilution associated with the Existing Plan, and the potential dilution associated with the Amended Plan (Shyft made its annual award grants to employees on March 31, 2023, and those awards are included in the data below). This information is as of March 31, 2023, and as of that date there were approximately 34,875,382 shares of Common Stock outstanding:

- Shares of Common Stock subject to outstanding awards (consisting solely of RSUs and PSUs based on maximum potential performance): 1,113,376 shares (approximately 3.3% of our outstanding Common Stock);
- Total number of shares of Common Stock remaining available in the share pool under the Existing Plan for new awards: 555,724 (1.6% of our outstanding Common Stock);
- In summary, the total number of shares of Common Stock subject to outstanding awards plus the total number of shares of Common Stock remaining available under the Existing Plan for new awards, or 1,689,838, represents a current overhang percentage of approximately 4.8% (in other words, the potential dilution of our shareholders represented by the Existing Plan); and
- 1,000,000 new shares (approximately 2.9% of our outstanding Common Stock, which percentage reflects simple dilution), subject to adjustment, including under the share counting rules of the Amended Plan, are requested under the Amended Plan; so
- The total number of shares of Common Stock subject to outstanding awards, plus the total number of shares of Common Stock remaining available for future awards, plus the proposed new shares of Common Stock available for future awards under the Amended Plan, represent a total overhang of 2,689,838 shares (7.7%) under the Amended Plan.

Based on the closing price on the Nasdaq Stock Market for our Common Stock on March 4, 2023 of \$27.11 per share, the aggregate market value of the new 1,000,000 shares of Common Stock requested under the Amended Plan was \$27,110,000. In fiscal years 2020, 2021, and 2022, we granted awards (consisting of RSUs and PSUs at maximum) under the Existing Plan regarding 798,178 shares, 364,783 shares, and 488,545 shares, respectively. Based on our basic weighted average shares of Common Stock outstanding for those three fiscal years of 35,479,000, 35,333,000 and 35,073,000, respectively, for the three-fiscal-year period 2020-2022, our average burn rate, not taking into account forfeitures, on this basis was 1.6%. Our individual years' burn rates on this basis were 2.2% for fiscal 2020, 1.0% for fiscal 2021 and 1.4% for fiscal 2022.

In determining the number of shares to request for approval under the Amended Plan, our management team worked with Mercer and the Compensation Committee to evaluate a number of factors, including our recent and expected share usage and criteria expected to be utilized by institutional proxy advisory firms in evaluating our proposal for the Amended Plan. If the Amended Plan is approved, we intend to utilize the shares authorized under the Amended Plan to continue our practice of incentivizing key individuals through equity grants. We currently anticipate that the shares requested in connection with the approval of the Amended Plan will last for about four years, including based on our historic grant rates, new hiring and the approximate current share price, but could last for a different period of time if actual practice does not match recent rates or our share price changes



materially. As noted below, our Compensation Committee retains full discretion under the Amended Plan to determine the number and amount of awards to be granted under the Amended Plan, subject to the terms of the Amended Plan. Future benefits that may be received by participants under the Amended Plan are not determinable at this time.

## Material Changes in the Amended Plan from the Existing Plan

The Amended Plan: (1) adds consultants as participants and fully-vested stock as an equity vehicle under the Amended Plan; (2) increases the number of shares of Common Stock available for awards by 1,000,000 shares; (3) correspondingly increases the limit on shares that may be issued or transferred upon the exercise of incentive stock options granted under the Amended Plan, during its duration (as described below), by the same 1,000,000 shares; (4) clarifies the share counting provisions, stock option exercise price payment provisions, continued/accelerated vesting provisions and equitable anti-dilution adjustment provisions to operate as described below; (5) prohibits current dividends or dividend equivalents on unearned or unvested awards; (6) allows for share withholding for tax withholding purposes up to maximum permissible amounts, rather than capping such amounts at statutory minimum amounts; (7) provides a limit on the amount of compensation a non-employee director may be awarded each year for such service under the Amended Plan; (8) permits grants under the Nasdaq exception to the shareholder approval requirements for certain mergers and acquisitions activities as described below; and (9) extends the term of the Amended Plan until the tenth anniversary of the date of shareholder approval of the Amended Plan. The Amended Plan also makes certain other conforming, clarifying or non-substantive changes to the terms of the Existing Plan to implement the Amended Plan.

## Summary of the Other Material Terms of the Amended Plan

#### Administration

The Amended Plan will be administered by the Compensation Committee (or its successor), which will determine, subject to the terms of the Amended Plan, the persons receiving awards, the nature and amount of awards granted to each person (subject to the limits specified in the Amended Plan), the time of each grant, the terms and duration of each grant, and all other determinations necessary or advisable for administration of the Amended Plan. The Compensation Committee may amend the terms of awards granted under the Amended Plan from time to time in any manner, subject to the limitations specified in the Amended Plan. Awards may be granted under the Amended Plan to participants for no cash consideration or for such minimum consideration as determined by the Compensation Committee. The Plan is not qualified under Section 401(a) of the Code and is not subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). The Amended Plan is drafted to comply with or be exempt from Section 409A of the Code, which imposes specific rules on the timing and payment of deferred compensation. Pursuant to the provisions of the Amended Plan, no awards may be granted under the Amended Plan, no awards may be granted under the Amended Plan after its expiration in May 17, 2033.

#### **Eligible Participants**

Persons eligible to receive awards pursuant to the Amended Plan include Shyft directors, officers and other employees of Shyft and its subsidiaries, and certain consultants of Shyft and its subsidiaries, as described in the Amended Plan. Eligible participants must be selected for awards by the Compensation Committee (or its proper delegate) to be participants in the Amended Plan. There are currently approximately 9 Shyft non-employee directors and 150 officers and other employees of Shyft and its subsidiaries that could be eligible to be selected for awards under the Amended Plan. There are currently approximately less than 10 consultants for Shyft and its subsidiaries that could be eligible to be selected for awards under the Amended Plan. There are currently approximately less than 10 consultants for Shyft and its subsidiaries that could be eligible to be selected for awards under the Amended Plan. There are directors, officers, or employees in the future and could participate in the Amended Plan. The basis for participation in the Amended Plan by eligible persons is the selection of such persons for participation by the Compensation Committee (or its proper delegate) in its discretion.



#### Types of Awards and Certain Terms

The awards described in this section may be granted under the Amended Plan. A "stock option" is a contractual right to purchase a number of shares at a price determined at the date the stock option is granted. The exercise price included in both incentive stock options and nonqualified stock options (unless substitute, replacement or assumed awards as described below) must equal at least 100% of the fair market value of the stock at the date of the grant (and the exercise price may be paid in cash, previously-held shares, share withholding, cash equivalents or other consideration approved by the Compensation Committee, all as further described in the Amended Plan. A "stock appreciation right" is an award of the right to receive stock or cash of an equivalent value in an amount equal to the difference between the price specified in the stock appreciation right and the prevailing market price of our common stock at the time of exercise. Stock appreciation rights may be granted in tandem with stock options. The exercise price included for stock appreciation rights (unless substitute, replacement or assumed awards as described below) must equal at least 100% of the fair market value of the stock at the date of the grant. "Restricted Stock" and "Restricted Stock Units" (or RSUs) are awards of Common Stock (or the right to receive Common Stock or cash) granted to a participant for no or nominal consideration. Title to the shares passes to the participant at the time of the grant of restricted stock but not RSUs; however, the ability to sell or otherwise dispose of the shares or RSUs is subject to restrictions and conditions determined by the Compensation Committee. "Performance Share Units" (or PSUs) are an award of the right to receive stock or cash of an equivalent value generally after the end of the specified performance period upon the attainment of specified performance goals. "Stock awards" are awards of fully-vested stock, provided that such awards satisfy an exception to the minimum vesting provisions under the Amended Plan.

Please see the Amended Plan for more information about specific requirements for and limitations on the awards that can be granted under the Amended Plan, including those relating to clawback requirements and transferability restrictions. Further, the Amended Plan provides default provisions regarding the treatment of awards in the event of certain terminations of employment or service, which default provisions may be changed by the Compensation Committee or in an applicable award agreement.

#### Minimum Vesting: Share Counting Provisions

Awards under the Amended Plan are subject generally to one-year minimum time-based vesting or one-year minimum performance period requirements, but these requirements do not apply to awards granted in payment of or exchange for earned compensation, upon a change in control of Shyft as described in the Amended Plan, for terminations of service (including due to death, disability, termination without cause or termination due to good reason, or awards covering up to 5% of the shares available under the Amended Plan share pool (all as further described in the Amended Plan). These minimum vesting provisions do not prohibit awards from (or the Compensation Committee from taking discretionary action regarding the) continued vesting or earlier vesting awards, including based on retirement, death, disability or termination of employment or service.

Subject to adjustment as described in the Amended Plan and the Amended Plan share counting rules, 5,000,000 shares (consisting of 2,800,000 shares approved in 2016, 1,200,000 shares approved in 2020, and 1,000,000 shares to be approved in 2023), plus shares subject to awards under the Existing Plan or Amended Plan (or a prior plan) that become available under the Amended Plan as a result of forfeiture, cancellation, expiration, exchange, termination, cash settlement or less-than-maximum earning of such awards, plus shares subject to full-value awards that are surrendered to us for taxes (for 10 years following shareholder approval), will be available for awards under the Amended Plan. Generally, shares will count against the Amended Plan on a one-for-one basis.

The following shares will not be added (or added back, as applicable) to the available share pool under the Amended Plan: (1) shares withheld by us, tendered or otherwise used in payment of the exercise price of a stock option; (2) shares withheld by us, tendered or otherwise used to satisfy tax withholding for stock options and stock appreciation rights, (3) shares subject to share-settled stock appreciation rights that are not actually issued upon the exercise thereof, and (4) shares reacquired by us on the open market or otherwise using cash proceeds from the exercise of stock options. Further, shares received where a participant elects to give up the right to receive other compensation based on fair market value will not count against the aggregate number of shares available under the Amended Plan.



No participant will be granted, during any one calendar year, awards with respect to more than 500,000 shares, subject to adjustment as provided in the Amended Plan. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the Amended Plan, in no event will any non-employee director be granted compensation in any one calendar year for non-employee director service if the compensation has an aggregate maximum value (measured at the date of grant based on the grant date fair value for financial reporting purposes), in excess of \$750,000. Incentive stock options may be granted only to participants who meet the definition of "employees" under Section 3401(c) of the Code, and the aggregate number of shares actually issued or transferred upon the exercise of incentive stock options will not exceed 5,000,000.

#### **Change in Control**

Upon the occurrence of a "change in control" of Shyft (as defined in the plan), if the Company or the Company's successor does not continue or assume the obligations under the Amended Plan or replace outstanding awards with awards having substantially the same intrinsic value, all outstanding stock options and stock appreciation rights would become immediately exercisable in full and would remain exercisable in accordance with their terms. All other outstanding awards under the Amended Plan would immediately become fully vested, exercisable, and nonforfeitable. Where awards are continued, assumed or replaced in the change in control, then unvested or unexercised awards will be subject to default treatment under Section 9.3 of the Amended Plan for qualifying terminations of employment or service as described in the Amended Plan (generally, all outstanding stock options and stock appreciation rights would become immediately exercisable in accordance with their terms, and all other outstanding awards under the Amended Plan would immediately become fully vested).

## Adjustments; Deferred Dividends or Dividend Equivalents; Prohibition on Dividends or Dividend Equivalents on Stock Options or Stock Appreciation Rights

Awards under the Amended Plan will be subject to mandatory, equitable, anti-dilution adjustments by the Compensation Committee as described in the Amended Plan, including to all terms and conditions of such awards, for certain corporate events or transactions including a stock dividend, extraordinary cash dividend, stock split, share combination, recapitalization or other general distribution of Common Stock or other securities to holders of Common Stock, or other change in the capital structure of the Company. Also, in the event of these corporate events or transactions, underwater stock options and stock appreciation rights may be cancelled without payment under certain circumstances as described in the Amended Plan. Dividends or dividend equivalents on restricted stock or RSU award will be deferred until and paid contingent upon the vesting or earning of such awards. Stock options and stock appreciation rights may not provide for any dividends or dividend equivalents.

#### Amendment and Termination of the Amended Plan

The Board of Directors may terminate the Amended Plan at any time and may from time to time amend the Amended Plan as it considers proper and in the best interests of Shyft, provided that no amendment may materially and adversely impair any outstanding award without the consent of the participant, except according to the terms of the Amended Plan or the award. In addition, subject to the adjustment provisions of the Amended Plan, no such amendment may be made without the approval of shareholders of Shyft if it would (1) reduce the exercise price of outstanding stock options or the base price of outstanding stock appreciation rights, (2) increase the individual annual maximum award limit, or (3) otherwise amend the Amended Plan in any manner requiring shareholder approval by law or under Nasdag listing requirements or rules.

### Allowances for Conversion Awards and Assumed Plans

Awards granted under the Amended Plan in substitution for or conversion of, or in connection with an assumption of, stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock, RSUs, or stock awards held by awardees of an entity engaging in a corporate acquisition or merger transaction with us or any of our subsidiaries will not count against (or be added to) the aggregate share limit

#### **Proposal Five**



or other Amended Plan limits described above. Additionally, shares available under certain plans that we or our subsidiaries may assume in connection with corporate transactions from another entity may be available for certain awards under the Amended Plan, under circumstances further described in the Amended Plan, but will not count against the aggregate share limit or other Amended Plan limits described above.

#### Material Federal Income Tax Consequences

The following is a brief summary of certain of the Federal income tax consequences of certain transactions under the Amended Plan based on Federal income tax laws in effect. This summary, which is presented for the information of shareholders considering how to vote on this proposal and not for Amended Plan participants, is not intended to be complete and does not describe Federal taxes other than income taxes (such as Medicare and Social Security taxes), or state, local or foreign tax consequences.

*Restricted Stock.* The recipient of restricted stock generally will be subject to tax at ordinary income rates on the fair market value of the restricted stock (reduced by any amount paid by the recipient for such restricted stock) at such time as the restricted stock is no longer subject to forfeiture or restrictions on transfer for purposes of Section 83 of the Code ("Restrictions"). However, a recipient who so elects under Section 83(b) of the Code within 30 days of the date of transfer of the shares will have taxable ordinary income on the date of transfer of the shares equal to the excess of the fair market value of such shares (determined without regard to the Restrictions) over the purchase price, if any, of such restricted stock. If a Section 83(b) election has not been made, any dividends received with respect to restricted stock that is subject to the Restrictions generally will be treated as compensation that is taxable as ordinary income to the recipient.

Performance Awards. No income generally will be recognized upon the grant of performance awards. Upon payment in respect of the earn-out of performance awards, the recipient generally will be required to include as taxable ordinary income in the year of receipt an amount equal to the amount of cash received and the fair market value of any unrestricted Common Stock received.

#### Nonqualified Stock Options. In general:

- no income will be recognized by an optionee at the time a nonqualified stock option is granted;
- at the time of exercise of a nonqualified stock option, ordinary income will be recognized by the optionee in an amount equal to the difference between the option price paid for the shares and the fair market value of the shares, if unrestricted, on the date of exercise; and
- at the time of sale of shares acquired pursuant to the exercise of a nonqualified stock option, appreciation (or depreciation) in value of the shares after the date of exercise will be treated as either short-term or long-term capital gain (or loss) depending on how long the shares have been held.

Incentive Stock Options. No income generally will be recognized by an optionee upon the grant or exercise an incentive stock option. If Common Stock is issued to the optionee pursuant to the exercise of an incentive stock option, and if no disqualifying disposition of such shares is made by such optionee within two years after the date of grant or within one year after the transfer of such shares to the optionee, then upon sale of such shares, any amount realized in excess of the option price will be taxed to the optionee as a long-term capital gain and any loss sustained will be a long-term capital loss.

If Common Stock acquired upon the exercise of an incentive stock option is disposed of prior to the expiration of either holding period described above, the optionee generally will recognize ordinary income in the year of disposition in an amount equal to the excess (if any) of the fair market value of such shares at the time of exercise (or, if less, the amount realized on the disposition of such shares if a sale or exchange) over the exercise price paid for such shares. Any further gain (or loss) realized by the participant generally will be taxed as short-term or long-term capital gain (or loss) depending on the holding period.

Stock Appreciation Rights. No income will be recognized by a participant in connection with the grant of stock appreciation rights. When the stock appreciation rights are exercised, the participant normally will be required to include as taxable ordinary income in the year of exercise an amount equal to the amount of cash received and the fair market value of any unrestricted Common Stock received on the exercise.



*RSUs.* No income generally will be recognized upon the award of RSUs. The recipient of an RSU award generally will be subject to tax at ordinary income rates on the fair market value of unrestricted Common Stock on the date that such shares are transferred to the participant under the award (reduced by any amount paid by the participant for such RSUs), and the capital gains/loss holding period for such shares will also commence on such date.

Tax Consequences to the Company and its Subsidiaries. To the extent that a participant recognizes ordinary income in the circumstances described above, the Company or the subsidiary for which the participant performs services will be entitled to a corresponding deduction, provided that, among other things, the income meets the test of reasonableness, is an ordinary and necessary business expense, is not an "excess parachute payment" within the meaning of Section 280G of the Code and is not disallowed by the \$1 million limitation on certain executive compensation under Section 162(m) of the Code.

## **Registration of Shares**

The shares currently authorized for issuance under the Existing Plan have been registered pursuant to the Securities Act of 1933. If the shareholders approve the proposal, the Company intends to also register the additional shares pursuant to the Securities Act of 1933 before any such additional shares are granted or issued pursuant to the Amended Plan.

## **New Plan Benefits**

It is not possible to determine the specific amounts and types of awards that may be awarded in the future under the Amended Plan because the grant and actual settlement of awards under the Amended Plan are subject to the discretion of the plan administrator.



## **Awards Granted to Certain Persons**

The table below shows the number of awards granted under the Existing Plan to the persons and groups indicated below since its inception through March 31, 2023.

## THE SHYFT GROUP, INC. STOCK INCENTIVE PLAN (Amended and Restated Effective May 17, 2023)

Name and Position	Number of Shares of Restricted Stock and Common Stock Subject to RSUs Granted	Number of Shares of Common Stock Subject to PSUs Granted (At Maximum)
Named Executive Officers:		
Daryl Adams, President and Chief Executive Officer	552,636	696,880
Jonathan Douyard, Chief Financial Officer	65,253	135,434
Stephen Guillaume, Former President, Specialty Vehicles	93,697	77,064
Colin Hindman, Chief Human Resources Officer	42,942	42,386
Joshua Sherbin, Chief Legal and Compliance Officer	30,605	39,618
All current executive officers, as a group	822,964	1,107,670
All current non-employee directors as a group	187,057	
Each nominee for election as a director*	39,161	
Each associate of any of the foregoing	N/A	N/A
Each other person who received at least 5% of all awards	N/A	N/A
All employees, including all current officers who are not executive officers, as a group	627,678	249,482

\* Awards to each nominee for election as a director: Mr. Dinkins: 9,296, Ms. Freeman: 20,104, Ms. Kermisch 808, and Mr. Rourke: 8,953.

## **Equity Compensation Plan Information**

The following table provides information about our equity compensation plans regarding the number of securities to be issued under these plans upon the exercise of outstanding options, the weighted-average exercise prices of options outstanding under these plans, and the number of securities available for future issuance as of December 31, 2022.

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) <sup>(4)</sup>
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders <sup>(1)</sup>	681,872	N/A <sup>(3)</sup>	1,150,734
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders <sup>(2)</sup>	_	N/A	53,471
Total	681,872	N/A	1,204,205

(1) Consists of The Shyft Group, Inc. Stock Incentive Plan of 2016 (the "2016 Plan"). See Note 14 – Stock Based Compensation to the Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2022 for more information regarding this plan.



- (2) Consists of The Shyft Group, Inc. Directors' Stock Purchase Plan. This plan provides that non-employee directors of the Company may elect to receive at least 25% and up to 100% of their "director's fees" in the form of the Company's common stock. The term "director's fees" means the amount of income payable to a non-employee director for his or her service as a director of the Company, including payments for attendance at meetings of the Company's Board of Directors or meetings of committees of the Board, and any retainer fee paid to such persons as members of the Board. A non-employee director who elects to receive Company common stock in lieu of some or all of his or her director's fees will, on or shortly after each "applicable date," receive a number of shares of common stock (rounded down to the nearest whole share) determined by dividing (1) the dollar amount of the director's fees payable to him or her on the applicable date that he or she has elected to receive in common stock by (2) the market value of common stock on the applicable date. The term "applicable date" means any date on which a director's fee is payable to the participant. 2,779 shares have been issued under this plan.
- (3) The number of shares reflected in column (a) in the table above represents shares issuable pursuant to outstanding PSUs and RSUs, for which there is no exercise price.
- (4) Each of the plans reflected in the above table contains customary anti-dilution provisions that are applicable in the event of a stock split or certain other changes in the Company's capitalization. In addition, the 2016 Plan provides that if a stock option is canceled, surrendered, modified, expires or is terminated during the term of the plan but before the exercise of the option, the shares subject to the option will be available for other awards under the plan. The numbers of shares reflected in column (c) in the table above with respect to the 2016 Plan represent new shares that may be granted by the Company, and not shares issuable upon the exercise of an existing option, warrant or right.

#### **Required Vote**

The affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of Common Stock voted at the Annual Meeting, by person or by proxy, is required to approve the Amended Plan. In counting votes on this proposal, abstentions and broker non-votes will be counted as not voted and therefore will not affect the outcome of the election.

Your Board of Directors recommends that you vote FOR the approval of the Amended Plan.



# **Compensation Discussion and Analysis**

## Introduction

This Compensation Discussion and Analysis ("CD&A") describes and analyzes the executive compensation program in place at the Company for our NEOs in 2022.

Your understanding of our NEO compensation program is important to the Company. The goal of this CD&A is to explain:

- our compensation philosophy and objectives for our NEOs in 2022;
- the respective roles of our Human Resources and Compensation Committee (the "Committee"), the Committee's external executive compensation consultant, and management in the 2022 executive compensation process;
- the key components of our 2022 executive compensation program and the successes and achievements our program is designed to reward;
- how the decisions we made in the 2022 executive compensation process align with our executive compensation philosophy and objectives; and
- how our NEOs' 2022 compensation aligned with both our financial and operational performance and our shareholders' long-term investment interests.

## 2022 Highlights

2022 was a challenging year due to hard-hitting disruptions from supply chain standstills, labor challenges and inflationary pressures. While this impacted year-over-year growth and our ability to generate cash, it also provided an effective proving ground for our business model and strategies. The Shyft team persevered and ended the year on a high note — delivering record revenues exceeding \$1 billion by year end marking our third most profitable year.

As a testament to our overall financial strength, innovation, combination of industry-leading brands and robust product portfolio, we were also able to increase our strategic investment in electrification as we prepare to start the production of Class 3, 4, and 5 commercial-grade all-electric delivery vehicles in the second half of 2023.

During 2022, we achieved the following:

#### Ended a Difficult Year on a High Note

- The team generated a record \$1 billion of sales in the year, up 4% over last year, led by growth across our specialty vehicle portfolio
- Achieved net income of \$37 million and Adjusted EBITDA of \$71 million, the third highest Adjusted EBITDA in company history amidst significant R&D investments in EV
- Maintained strong net leverage ratio at 1x despite strategic investments and working capital increases
- Returned capital to shareholders by doubling the dividend and repurchasing 607 thousand shares of stock (\$26.8 million)

\* Mr. Guillaume resigned on March 15, 2023

Shyft Group // 2023 Proxy Statement

## OUR 2022 NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Daryl Adams President and Chief Executive Officer

Jonathan Douyard Chief Financial Officer

**Stephen Guillaume\*** Former, President, Specialty Vehicles

Colin Hindman Chief Human Resources Officer

Joshua Sherbin Chief Legal and Compliance Officer



#### Accelerated our EV Initiative

- Ramped R&D investment to \$27 million for Blue Arc EV Solutions, delivering key program milestones and positioning the vehicle for production in the second half of 2023
- Secured a 2,000-unit preorder for all-electric Class 3, 4 and 5 delivery vehicles
- Proved a commercial EV range of up to 200 miles through successful EPA certification, setting a new industry benchmark
- Announced the selection of Charlotte, Michigan for the initial production site for Blue Arc EV, which includes a planned capital investment of \$12 million for EV production and \$4 million for other campus enhancements to support future growth
- Through the achievement of these milestones and forecasted market improvements, we upgraded our 2025 EV revenue target to \$550 million with potential to double Shyft's revenue in coming years

#### Achieved Strong Organic Growth

- Secured robust backlog of about \$830 million with strong year over year growth in service bodies

#### Strategically Expanded our Product Portfolio

- Launched the Blue Arc EV Solutions go-to-market for our commercial-grade all electric delivery vehicle, chassis, and charging solution called the Power Cube™
- Ramped Isuzu F-series Class 7 production, delivering more than 3400+ units (more than 4 times the 2021 volume)
- Progressed service body strategy including introduction of Royal XP Body for harsher environments
- Launched two new Velocity delivery vehicles (R2 and M3)
- Grew FVS aftermarket parts sales by more than 36% as we look for new ways to support customer fleets

#### Advanced our ESG Commitment

 Issued our inaugural Sustainability Report encapsulating Shyft's commitment to developing clean technology for the last mile delivery market and other industry sectors as well as our overall approach to responsible and socially conscious business practices

## Summary of Key Compensation Decisions and Outcomes for 2022

The Board believes its NEO compensation approach and practices contribute to the Company's success in enhancing shareholder value and driving long-term growth and profitability. Previously, the Board utilized a Leadership Team Compensation plan, which provided a framework to guide compensation decisions. In 2022, the Board discontinued the use of the Leadership Team Compensation plan to better align decisions on an annual basis with performance and to provide greater flexibility for the Committee. The other key compensation decisions the Committee made for 2022 are summarized below and discussed in greater detail in the remainder of this CD&A.

#### **Base Salary Adjustments**

The Committee approved base salary increases for all NEOs in 2022 to maintain alignment with market median per our compensation philosophy and to recognize individual performance. However, in response to the significant external challenges we faced in the first half of 2022, the base salary adjustments were not implemented until August 1, 2022.

#### Annual Incentive Compensation Program

For fiscal year 2022, the annual incentive compensation program ("AIC") for Messrs. Adams, Douyard, Hindman and Sherbin was based on the following performance metrics and weightings: Company Adjusted EBITDA 65%; Company free cash flow 15%; and individual management business objectives ("MBOs") 20%.

- Based on performance of the Company and on each of their respective MBOs, the 2022 AIC payout as a percent of target for Mr. Adams was 20%, for Mr. Douyard was 35%, for Mr. Hindman was 35%, and for Mr. Sherbin was 35%.

For fiscal year 2022, the AIC for Mr. Guillaume was based on the following performance measures and weightings: Company Adjusted EBITDA 25%; Company free cash flow 15%; segment Adjusted EBITDA 40%; and MBOs 20%.

- Based on the performance of the Company, our Specialty Vehicles segment and Mr. Guillaume's MBO performance, his 2022 AIC payout as a percent of target was 107%.

#### Long-Term Incentive Compensation Program

In 2022, the Committee granted performance based restricted stock units ("PSUs") and time-based restricted share units ("RSUs") to the NEOs. For each NEO, the total long-term incentive compensation ("LTIC") target award value was allocated 70% to target PSUs and 30% to RSUs. All awards earned will be settled in shares. The RSUs generally vest in three equal installments on the first three anniversaries of the grant date of the award. The PSUs in general are subject to a performance period of 36 months and cliff vesting at the end of the performance period following Committee approval. These PSU awards are subject to Total Shareholder Return ("TSR") and cumulative GAAP net income performance measures, as further described below.

In addition to the 2022 annual LTIC award, the Committee approved an additional equity award for each NEO other than the CEO. These grants were in recognition of such NEOs' performance and leadership during the supply chain and labor challenges of the first half of 2022 and are intended to enhance retention. The RSUs were granted on August 4, 2022 and in general will cliff vest after three years. They are further described below and are reflected in the Grants of Plan-Based Awards table.

#### Philosophy and Objectives of Executive Compensation Program

The Company's executive compensation philosophy is to provide competitive compensation that incentivizes and rewards the achievement of strong performance. The Company's executive compensation policies are designed to achieve the following five primary objectives:

- attract and retain qualified management;
- align the interests of management with those of shareholders to drive continuing increases in shareholder value;
- align management's compensation with the achievement of the Company's annual and long-term performance goals;
- reward excellent corporate performance; and
- recognize individual and team achievements.

Shyft Group // 2023 Proxy Statement

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## **Compensation Best Practices**

The Committee is firmly committed to implementing an executive compensation program that aligns management and shareholder interests, encourages executives to drive sustainable shareholder value creation, mitigates risk, attracts top talent, and helps retain key people. A summary of what we do and do not do in that regard follows:

WH4	AT WE DO	WI	HAT WE DON'T DO
<b>~</b>	<b>Pay for Performance</b> We tie pay to performance. The majority of NEO pay is not guaranteed, but is generally conditioned upon the achievement of predetermined financial goals related to corporate performance.	х	No Excise Tax Gross-Ups Upon Change-of-Control We do not provide for excise tax gross-ups on change-of- control payments.
~	Mitigate Undue Risk Our compensation practices are designed to discourage excessive risk-taking as related to performance and payout under our compensation programs.	x	No Repricing Underwater Stock Options or Stock Appreciation Rights Without Shareholder Approval We do not permit underwater stock options or
<b>v</b>	Reasonable Executive Severance and Change-of-Control Benefits Our post-employment and change-of-control severance benefits are designed to be consistent with competitive market practice.		stock appreciation rights to be repriced without shareholder approval.
~	<b>Stock Ownership Guidelines</b> Our guidelines for stock ownership align executives' interests with those of our shareholders. Each NEO complies with the guidelines applicable to the NEO.	х	No Hedging Transactions, Short Sales or Pledging Our policies prohibit all employees, including NEOs, and directors from engaging in hedging or short sales with respect to the Company's stock and executives from pledging Company stock.
<b>~</b>	<b>Regular Review of Share Utilization</b> We evaluate share utilization by reviewing the dilutive impact of equity compensation on our shareholders and the aggregate shares awarded annually as a percentage of total outstanding shares.	Х	No Excessive Perquisites for Executives We provide only limited perquisites.
~	<b>Clawback Policy</b> We have a policy to recoup incentive compensation awards (1) if made to an executive as the result of a material financial restatement attributable to the executive's misconduct or (2) in the case of certain misconduct.	X	No Guaranty on Incentive Payouts No guaranteed minimum payout of annual or long-term performance awards.
~	<b>Review Tally Sheets</b> The Committee reviews tally sheets for our NEOs to ensure they have a clear understanding of the impact of various decisions, including possible payments under various termination scenarios prior to making annual executive compensation decisions.		
~	<b>Double Trigger Change-of-Control Severance Benefits</b> Our Executive Severance Plan provides for payment of cash severance and accelerated vesting of equity awards after a change-of-control only if an executive experiences a qualifying termination of employment within a limited period following the change-of-control.		
~	<b>Independent Compensation Consulting Firm</b> The Committee benefits from its utilization of an independent compensation consulting firm which provides no other services to the Company.		
42			Shyft Group // 2023 Proxy Statement

## **Primary Elements of Compensation**

Component	Pay Element	2022 Metrics & Weighting	Objectives
Base Salary	Cash	<ul> <li>Generally benchmark based on peer group median</li> </ul>	- Attract and retain qualified executives
Annual Incentive Compensation (AIC)	Cash	Annual cash incentive bonuses are capped at 200% of target and are based on achieving the following performance metrics:	- Drive profitability, growth, and progress against strategy
. ,		Corporate Officers: Metrics for 2022 were weighted as follows:	<ul> <li>Individual MBO goals motivate executives to deliver on certain goals and objectives specific to their areas of responsibility</li> </ul>
		- Company Adjusted EBITDA: 65%	
		- Company Free Cash Flow: 15%	
		- MBO Goals: 20%	
		Segment Presidents: Metrics for 2022 were weighted as follows:	
		- Company Adjusted EBITDA: 25%	
		- Company Free Cash Flow: 15%	
		- Segment Adjusted EBITDA: 40%	
		- MBO Goals: 20%	
	·		·
Long-Term Incentive	Performance Share Units	70% LTIC weighting of PSUs (at target)	- Focus executives on shareholder value creation
Compensation (LTIC)	(PSU)	<ul> <li>PSUs are capped at 200% of target and are based on achieving the following performance metrics:</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Relative TSR closely aligns our executive level measurement system with the experience of shareholders</li> </ul>
		- Three-year TSR relative to the TSR Peer Group: 60%	<ul> <li>Net income is a key indicator of profitability and company performance</li> </ul>
		- Three-year cumulative GAAP net income: 40%	
	Restricted Stock Units	30% LTIC weighting of RSUs	<ul> <li>Retention, ownership, and full alignment with shareholder interests</li> </ul>
	(RSU)	- Awards generally vest ratably over three years	

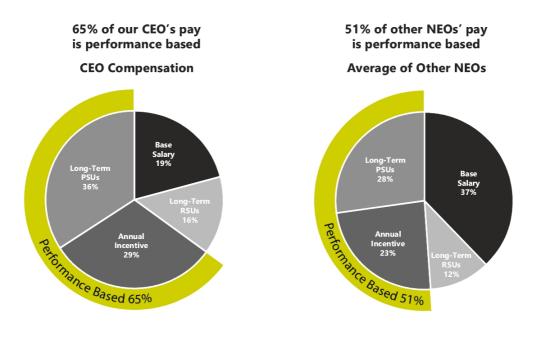
The following are the primary elements of our NEO compensation program and the objectives for including them.





## **Compensation Framework**

The mix of target total direct compensation (base salary, target annual incentive awards, and target long-term incentive awards) for 2022 was structured to deliver the approximate proportions set forth below of total compensation to our Chief Executive Officer and the other NEOs (on average) if target levels of performance are achieved. The Committee believes the percentage of an executive's total compensation that is "at risk" should increase as the executive's responsibilities and ability to influence profits increase. For this reason, the percentage of an executive officer's potential compensation that is based on bonuses and equity awards is larger relative to other employees.



## Say on Pay Vote and Shareholder Engagement

The Say on Pay vote to approve named executive compensation was conducted at our annual meeting of shareholders in 2022, based on the disclosure of our executive compensation in the proxy statement for that meeting. Of the shares of common stock represented at that meeting in person or by proxy that participated in the advisory vote, over 87% voted to approve the resolution. Our Board considered the results of this vote to be supportive of the Company's compensation policies and programs and did not make any changes to such policies and programs as a result of such vote.

The Company takes meaningful measures to engage with its shareholders, including through attendance at multiple investor conferences throughout the year and regular phone calls, in-person meetings, and other communications, including periodic investor/analyst day events. The Company works to be responsive to all shareholder inquiries raised to the Company in an effort to fully engage with shareholders and respond to shareholder concerns.

## Independent Executive Compensation Advisor

The Committee has selected and retained Mercer US LLC ("Mercer"), an independent executive compensation consulting firm, to: provide competitive market data and advice related to the NEO's compensation level and incentive design; review and evaluate management-developed recommendations on compensation levels, incentive mix, and incentive design for the non-CEO NEOs and

#### **Compensation Discussion and Analysis**

certain other executives; develop the selection criteria and recommend comparative companies for executive compensation and performance comparisons; provide information on executive compensation trends and their implications to Shyft; and provide competitive market data and advice on non-employee director compensation.

The Committee evaluates the independence of Mercer to ensure it maintains objectivity and independence when rendering advice to the Committee. Neither Mercer nor any of its affiliates provided any additional services to the Company during 2022 (beyond those described above). Mercer reports directly to the Committee and is independent of management. The Committee has determined that the services Mercer provides do not create or present any conflicts of interest.

## Benchmarking

The Committee periodically engages independent third-party consultants to provide data and analysis regarding the compensation of executives at our peer group companies and at companies with whom we compete for talent. The Committee uses this data to design and implement competitive compensation programs.

With the assistance of its third-party consultant, Mercer, the Committee has established a group of peer companies that are:

- in similar industries in which the Company competes for executive talent and capital, including auto parts and equipment, automobile manufacturers, construction machinery and heavy trucks, electronic manufacturing services, and industrial machinery; and
- of similar size (as primarily measured by annual revenue), within a range of approximately one-third to three times the Company's revenue (the peer companies have median revenue close to that of the Company's).

The company's 2022 peer group used for this purpose consisted of.					
Alamo Group, Inc.	Enerpac Tool Group Corporation	Miller Industries, Inc.			
Altra Industrial Motion Corporation	ESCO Technologies, Inc.	REV Group, Inc.			
Astec Industries, Inc.	Federal Signal Corporation	Standard Motor Products			
Blue Bird Corporation	LCI Industries, Inc.	Standex International Corporation			
Columbus McKinnon Corporation	Lindsay Corporation	The Manitowoc Company, Inc.			
Commercial Vehicle Group, Inc.	Lydall Corporation	Wabash National Corporation			
Douglas Dynamics, Inc.					

Compared to the 2021 peer group, the Committee eliminated Shiloh Industries, Inc. from the 2022 peer group due to it being acquired and added Standex International Corporation.

In late 2021, the Committee engaged Mercer to update the benchmarking analysis that reviewed total direct compensation (consisting of base salary, target bonus, and the value of long-term incentive grants) of the NEOs at the median of the peer group, with the intention that the total direct compensation of these executives would be set at amounts that are in the market median range. In performing this review, Mercer conducted benchmarking analysis of the NEOs' compensation, including base salaries, short- and long-term incentives, and severance practices, using information from proxy disclosures and published surveys.

The Committee considered the peer group data when making compensation decisions in 2022. The Committee generally uses the median of the peer group as an initial reference point for evaluating base salary, annual incentive and long-term incentive targets. The actual base salary and incentive targets for an individual NEO may be set higher or lower than median based on the Committee's assessment of individual NEO performance, experience, and potential. The NEO compensation levels generally reflect the Committee's views on general business conditions, each NEO's tenure in the applicable role, and the importance of placing higher value on performance-based compensation.

## **Base Salary**

Base salary is a fundamental component of the Company's compensation program, and overall competitive salary levels are necessary to attract and retain well-qualified executives. The Committee determines recommended compensation for executive officers by evaluating the responsibilities of the position, experience of the individual, Company performance, performance of the individual, competitive marketplace for similar management talent, and other relevant factors. The Committee does not give specific weight to any particular factor in this analysis.

The Committee made recommendations for 2022 base salaries consistent with the competitive benchmarking analysis conducted by Mercer. Base salary adjustments have typically been effective in April, but in 2022 we delayed the implementation of merit increases for all salaried employees, including our NEOs, in response to the supply chain and related external challenges faced by the business most especially during the first half of 2022. The base salary adjustments shown below were implemented in August 2022.

Named Executive Officer	Base Salary - April 2021	Base Salary - August 2022	% Change from Prior Year
Daryl Adams	\$800,000	\$845,000	5.6%
Jonathan Douyard	\$437,800	\$459,700	5.0%
Stephen Guillaume	\$346,100	\$370,300	7.0%
Colin Hindman	\$340,200	\$360,600	6.0%
Joshua Sherbin	\$400,000	\$414,000	3.5%

These base salary adjustments are intended to provide greater alignment of executive total compensation levels with the Company's stated compensation philosophy of targeting the market median.

## **Annual Incentive Compensation Awards**

The AIC provides an opportunity for our NEOs to earn a bonus based upon achievement against key metrics that reflect the top priorities for business performance. The metrics and associated weights used in the AIC are reviewed annually to ensure alignment with business priorities and are approved by the Committee.

Each participant's AIC bonus is determined as follows:



The target bonus percentage is a percentage of the participant's base salary. The Committee establishes the target bonus percentage for each NEO and for 2022 they were approved as follows: 150% of base salary for our CEO, 70% of base salary for our CFO, and 60% of base salary for each of our other NEOs. These levels were not increased from 2021 levels.

The AIC bonus achievement multiplier is a multiple of the target bonus percentage. For example, achievement of bonus metrics at exactly the target amounts would result in a bonus multiplier of 1.0X. The threshold (minimum) bonus multiplier is 0.5X and the maximum bonus multiplier is 2.0X. At the end of each year, based on management's recommendations, the Committee evaluates performance against the pre-established metrics to determine the bonus achievement multiplier.



The AIC award opportunities as a percent of base salary for our NEOs for 2022 were as follows:

Named Executive Officer	Threshold	Target	Maximum
Daryl Adams	75%	150%	300%
Jonathan Douyard	35%	70%	140%
Stephen Guillaume	30%	60%	120%
Colin Hindman	30%	60%	120%
Joshua Sherbin	30%	60%	120%

The Committee retains the right to make adjustments in the AIC awards or grant discretionary bonuses as it deems appropriate. The Committee did not grant any discretionary cash bonuses in 2022.

At the discretion of the Committee, any AIC bonus may be paid in the form of the Company's common stock. All AIC bonuses for 2022 were paid in cash.

#### 2022 Annual Incentive Compensation

For 2022, the tables below show the performance metrics and targets established for our NEOs to earn an AIC bonus. The Committee selected Company Adjusted EBITDA as the key metric for all of our NEOs because it is viewed as the primary indicator of the performance and strength of our business on a long-term basis. For similar reasons, the Adjusted EBITDA of a segment is used as a metric for the leader of that segment (for 2022, Mr. Guillaume). Free cash flow is used as a metric for our NEOs because of its relationship to the Company's profitability. For each executive, the AIC bonus is also based, in part, on MBOs, which are specific individual management business objectives established for that executive's near-term performance.

#### Shyft Group // 2023 Proxy Statement

47



## Incentive Plan Metrics: Messrs. Adams, Douyard, Hindman and Sherbin

	Performance Crit	teria for Payout	s at (\$ in 000s):				
Metric	Minimum (50% payout)	Target (100% payout)	Maximum (200% payout)	Actual Performance	Actual Payout %	Weight	Weighted % Payout
Company Adjusted EBITDA <sup>(1)</sup>	\$96,080	\$120,100	\$144,120	\$ 70,793	0%	65%	0%
Company Free Cash Flow <sup>(1)</sup>	\$44,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 66,000	\$(39,407)	0%	15%	0%
				Financia	I Objective	es Factor	0%
<i>For Mr. Adams:</i> MBO Goals Achievement <sup>(2)</sup>	0%	100%	200%	100%	100%	20%	20%
				Total Financial	and MBO I	Multiplier	20%
For Messrs. Douyard, Hindman and Sherbin: MBO Goals Achievement <sup>(3)</sup>	0%	100%	200%	175%	175%	20%	35%
				Total Financial	and MBO I	Multiplier	35%

- (1) See GAAP reconciliation in Appendix A, including for an explanation of how Company Adjusted EBITDA is derived from our GAAP financial statements. Appendix A also reflects certain additional adjustments that were made to the Adjusted EBITDA reported by the Company in its Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on February 23, 2023 (the "2022 Form 10-K"), for purposes of calculating the NEOs annual cash incentive compensation for 2022.
- (2) Daryl Adams-100%: Mr. Adams was recognized for his leadership during a year of dynamic external challenges. In 2022, he led the organization to record revenues exceeding \$1 billion for the first time, and positioned the Company for future growth, including through the introduction of its electrification portfolio. Under Mr. Adams' leadership, the Shyft Group advanced the development of the Blue Arc brand, enhanced leadership depth across the business, and spearheaded publication of the Company's inaugural Sustainability Report detailing Environmental Social and Governance commitment and accomplishments.
- (3) Jon Douyard-175%: Mr. Douyard was recognized for his accomplishments of strengthening our internal control environment, driving implementation of new internal systems and processes, including implementation of our new ERP system, and enhancing and diversifying our investor relationships.

Colin Hindman-175%: Mr. Hindman was recognized for his partnership with the business to drive year over year improvements in our EHS programs, his leadership in advancing our HR technology capabilities to improve overall efficiency and effectiveness, and steering the continued development of our DE&I initiatives and strategy.

Josh Sherbin-175%: Mr. Sherbin was recognized for leading the cross-functional team responsible for issuance of Shyft's inaugural Sustainability Report, upgrading the Company's commercial and contracting processes, enhancing the compliance program, and partnering with the business to support our EV initiatives.

## Incentive Plan Metrics: Mr. Guillaume

	Performance Crit	eria for Payout	s at (\$ in 000s):				
Metric	Minimum (50% payout)	Target (100% payout)	Maximum (200% payout)	Actual Performance	Actual Payout %	Weight	Weighted %
Company Adjusted EBITDA <sup>(1)</sup>	\$96,080	\$120,100	\$144,120	\$ 70,793	0%	25%	0%
Company Free Cash Flow	\$44,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 66,000	\$(39,407)	0%	15%	0%
Segment Adjusted EBITDA <sup>(1)</sup>	\$36,720	\$ 45,900	\$ 55,080	\$ 54,413	193%	40%	77%
				Financi	al Objective	es Factor	77%
<i>For Mr. Guillaume:</i> MBO Goals Achievement <sup>(2)</sup>	0%	100%	200%	150%	150%	20%	30%
				Total Financial	and MBO	Multiplier	107%

(1) See GAAP reconciliation in Appendix A, including for an explanation of how Company Adjusted EBITDA is derived from our GAAP financial statements. Appendix A also reflects certain additional adjustments that were made to the Adjusted EBITDA reported by the Company in the 2022 Form 10-K, for purposes of calculating the NEOs annual cash incentive compensation for 2022.

(2) The Committee recognized Mr. Guillaume's contributions in 2022, including leading the Specialty Vehicle segment's strong financial performance and margin enhancement, successful product launches, implementation of operational efficiencies, and overall improvements in the safety of employees in the Specialty Vehicles business.

## Long-Term Equity Incentive Awards

The Company's equity compensation plans are designed to encourage long-term investment in the Company by participating executives and employees, more closely align executive and shareholder interests, and reward executive officers and other employees for building shareholder value. The Committee believes stock ownership by management and other employees is beneficial to all Company stakeholders. See the minimum stock ownership requirements for executive officers under "Risk Mitigation - Director and Executive Stock Ownership Requirements" below.

The Company currently has the ability to grant equity-based compensation to its NEOs pursuant to the 2016 Stock Plan. The Committee administers all aspects of the 2016 Stock Plan, which is proposed to be amended and restated at the 2023 Annual Meeting, as further described in this proxy statement.

Long-term equity incentives for 2022 for the NEOs consist of (1) the grant of RSUs with time-based vesting, and (2) the grant of PSUs, which are generally subject to the achievement of certain performance metrics over a cumulative three-year period. The Committee believes using a combination of PSUs and RSUs further enhances alignment of executive compensation with shareholder value creation and achievement of key business objectives while focusing participants on long term performance and strategic decision making. It is also intended to enhance executive retention. As such, 30% of an NEO's target LTIC award is comprised of RSUs and the other 70% is awarded in target PSUs. The greater proportion allocated to PSUs reflects the Committee's emphasis on performance-based rather than time-based equity compensation. These awards are described in more detail below.

Each NEO's target LTIC award for a particular year is based on a percentage of the executive's annual base salary. Considering our compensation philosophy and based on the benchmarking analysis completed in late 2021, the Committee established the 2022 LTIC target awards as follows: 265% for our CEO (up from 235%); 150% for our CFO (up from 125%); 85% for both the President, Specialty Vehicles and the Chief Human Resources Officer (each up from 75%); and, 100% for our Chief Legal and Compliance Officer. These decisions are consistent with and were motivated by our compensation philosophy described above to align executive pay with the market median.

Shyft Group // 2023 Proxy Statement

49





#### **Restricted Share Units (RSUs)**

30% of the value of each executive's 2022 LTIC award was granted in the form of RSUs. The award is generally made on the last business day of March, with the number of RSUs granted based on the average of the closing stock price over the preceding 30 calendar days. The RSUs vest ratably over a three-year period, subject to any exceptions set forth in the applicable award agreement.

#### Performance Share Units (PSUs)

70% of the value of each executive's 2022 LTIC award was granted in the form of PSUs. This portion of the annual LTIC award is designed to reward the NEOs based upon achievement of cumulative financial performance over a three-year period (with cliff vesting at the end of such three-year performance period) starting with the performance year in which the annual LTIC award is granted. For grants made in 2022, two cumulative performance metrics apply:

- 60% of the value of the PSUs is based on the Company's TSR over the three-year performance period relative to our TSR Peer Group; and
- 40% of the value of the PSUs is based on the Company's cumulative GAAP net income over the three-year performance
  period. For this purpose, net income is calculated in accordance with GAAP, subject to such adjustments as may be
  approved by the Committee.

The 2022 performance targets and associated payouts as a percent of target for the TSR and cumulative GAAP net income performance metrics are as follows:

### Total Shareholder Return (60%)<sup>(1),(2)</sup>

#### Cumulative GAAP Net Income (40%)<sup>(3)</sup>

Percentile Rank Compared to TSR Peer Group	Payout as a Percent of Target	Cumulative GAAP Net Income	Payout as a Percent of Target
Less than 25 <sup>th</sup> percentile	0%	Less than \$144,100,000	0%
25 <sup>th</sup> percentile (Threshold)	50%	\$144,100,000 (Threshold)	50%
50 <sup>th</sup> percentile (Target)	100%	\$205,800,000 (Target)	100%
75 <sup>th</sup> percentile (Maximum)	200%	\$246,900,000+ (Maximum)	200%

(1) With respect to both the Company's stock and the stock of each company in our TSR Peer Group, TSR performance will be calculated (a) using a 20-trading day average of the stock price ending on the first day and last day of the performance period, and (b) assuming all dividends declared during the performance period are reinvested at the closing price on the applicable ex-dividend date. Achievement between the stated percentages will be interpolated on a straight-line mathematical basis.

(2) The TSR Peer Group is comprised of the following companies:

AGCO CORP	FREIGHTCAR AMERICA INC	PACCAR INC
ALAMO GROUP INC	GATX CORP	RITCHIE BROS AUCTIONEERS
ALLISON TRANSMISSION HOLDING	GENCOR INDUSTRIES INC	SYPRIS SOLUTIONS INC
ART'S-WAY MANUFACTURING CO	GREENBRIER COMPANIES INC	TATA MOTORS LTD-SPON ADR
ASTEC INDUSTRIES INC	H&E EQUIPMENT SERVICES INC	TENNANT CO
CATERPILLAR INC	HYSTER-YALE MATERIALS	TEREX CORP
CHINA YUCHAI INTL LTD	KOMATSU LTD -SPONS ADR	TORO CO
CNH INDUSTRIAL NV	KUBOTA CORP-SPONS ADR	TRINITY INDUSTRIES INC
COLUMBUS MCKINNON CORP	LINDSAY CORP	TWIN DISC INC
COMMERCIAL VEHICLE GROUP INC	MANITEX INTERNATIONAL INC	UNITED RENTALS INC
CONRAD INDUSTRIES INC	MANITOWOC COMPANY INC	WABASH NATIONAL CORP
CUMMINS INC	MERITOR INC	WABTEC CORP
DEERE & CO	MILLER INDUSTRIES INC/TENN	WESTPORT FUEL SYSTEMS INC
DOUGLAS DYNAMICS INC	NAVISTAR INTERNATIONAL CORP	
FEDERAL SIGNAL CORP	OSHKOSH CORP	

(3) Achievement between the stated dollar amounts will be interpolated on a straight-line mathematical basis.



At the end of the three-year performance period, shares of the Company's common stock will be issued, if determined to have been earned, in settlement of the PSUs. The aggregate number of shares earned may be from 0% to 200% of the number of target PSUs granted.

## 2022 Long-Term Equity Incentive Compensation

For 2022, our NEOs were granted the following annual LTIC awards:

Named Executive Officer	Target LTIC Award for 2022	Number of RSUs Granted (30% of Target LTIC Award)	Number of Target PSUs Granted (70% of Target LTIC Award)
Daryl Adams	\$2,239,250 (265% of base salary)	16,937	39,520
Jonathan Douyard	\$689,550 (150% of base salary)	5,216	12,170
Stephen Guillaume	\$314,755 (85% of base salary)	2,381	5,555
Colin Hindman	\$306,510 (85% of base salary)	2,318	5,410
Joshua Sherbin	\$414,000 (100% of base salary)	3,131	7,307

These RSUs and target PSUs were granted on March 31, 2022 and were calculated using the average stock price of the Company's common stock over the preceding 30 calendar days, which price was \$39.66 per share. The RSUs granted in 2022 will in general vest ratably over a three-year period. The target PSUs granted in 2022 will be earned (or forfeited) in general based on the Company's performance over the three-year period from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2024, based on the metrics described above.

In addition to the 2022 annual LTIC award described above, the Committee approved an additional equity award for each NEO other than the CEO. These grants were in recognition of such NEOs' performance and leadership during the supply chain and labor challenges, particularly during the first half of 2022, and are intended to enhance retention. The RSUs were granted on August 4, 2022 and in general will cliff vest after three years. They are reflected in the Grants of Plan-Based Awards table and are detailed below.

Named Executive Officer	Target Value	Number of RSUs Granted
Jonathan Douyard	\$325,000	14,835
Stephen Guillaume	\$250,000	11,412
Colin Hindman	\$250,000	11,412
Joshua Sherbin	\$250,000	11,412

Results of 2020 Grant of PSUs for 2020 - 2022 Performance Period

The following information describes the performance goals for the target PSU awards granted in 2020 (the "2020 PSU Award"), the results relative to such performance goals, and the shares awarded pursuant to the 2020 PSU Award.

The 2020 PSU Awards granted to the participating NEOs in 2020 consisted of 60% that could be earned in general based on the achievement of the Company's TSR percentile rank relative to the TSR Peer Group, and 40% that could be earned based on

### **Compensation Discussion and Analysis**



cumulative GAAP net income performance, in each case based on the performance period January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022. Overall achievement could vary from 0% of the target award to 200% of the target award (assuming maximum performance), with no portion of the award earned with respect to a metric if performance fell below the threshold level for that metric.

The TSR and cumulative GAAP net income performance levels, achieved results, and resulting percentage of target award achieved for the 2020 PSU Awards are summarized below. If performance was above the threshold level for either metric but between two performance levels shown in the applicable table, the payout percentage was determined based on straight-line mathematical interpolation.

**Total Shareholder Return (60%)** 

#### Cumulative GAAP Net Income (40%)

Percentile Rank Compared to Index	Payout as a Percent of Target	Cumulative GAAP Net Income	Payout as a Percent of Target
Less than 25 <sup>th</sup> percentile	0%	Less than \$99,400,000	0%
25 <sup>th</sup> percentile (Threshold)	50%	\$99,400,000 (Threshold)	50%
50 <sup>th</sup> percentile (Target)	100%	\$124,300,000 (Target)	100%
75 <sup>th</sup> percentile (Maximum)	200%	\$149,200,000+ (Maximum)	200%

Over the three-year performance period, achievement under the 2020 PSU Awards was as follows:

Metrics	Results Achieved	Attainment	Weighting	% of Target Achieved
TSR <sup>(1)</sup>	TSR = 37%, 56 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	124%	60%	74%
Cumulative GAAP net income <sup>(2)</sup>	Achieved \$172 million	200%	40%	80%
			Total Payout	154%

(1) The TSR Peer Group was comprised of the following companies:

AGCO CORP	FREIGHTCAR AMERICA INC	PACCAR INC
ALAMO GROUP INC	GATX CORP	RITCHIE BROS AUCTIONEERS
ALLISON TRANSMISSION HOLDING	GENCOR INDUSTRIES INC	SYPRIS SOLUTIONS INC
ART'S-WAY MANUFACTURING CO	GREENBRIER COMPANIES INC	TATA MOTORS LTD-SPON ADR
ASTEC INDUSTRIES INC	H&E EQUIPMENT SERVICES INC	TENNANT CO
CATERPILLAR INC	HYSTER-YALE MATERIALS	TEREX CORP
CHINA YUCHAI INTL LTD	KOMATSU LTD -SPONS ADR	TORO CO
CNH INDUSTRIAL NV	KUBOTA CORP-SPONS ADR	TRINITY INDUSTRIES INC
COLUMBUS MCKINNON CORP	LINDSAY CORP	TWIN DISC INC
COMMERCIAL VEHICLE GROUP INC	MANITEX INTERNATIONAL INC	UNITED RENTALS INC
CONRAD INDUSTRIES INC	MANITOWOC COMPANY INC	WABASH NATIONAL CORP
CUMMINS INC	MERITOR INC	WABTEC CORP
DEERE & CO	MILLER INDUSTRIES INC/TENN	WESTPORT FUEL SYSTEMS INC
DOUGLAS DYNAMICS INC	NAVISTAR INTERNATIONAL CORP	
FEDERAL SIGNAL CORP	OSHKOSH CORP	

(2) Cumulative GAAP net income was adjusted with approval by the Committee to exclude the impact of the loss from discontinued operations, loss on write-off of construction in process, and investment in EV R&D development costs that were not planned when the net income target was established. Shares earned by the executives as a result of the achievement mentioned above for the 2020 PSU Awards are as follows:

Named Executive Officer	Target PSU Awards at 100% Attainment	Shares Awarded as a Result of 154.4% Attainment
Daryl Adams	94,280	145,569
Jonathan Douyard	24,230	37,412
Stephen Guillaume	13,409	20,704
Colin Hindman	N/A <sup>(1)</sup>	_
Joshua Sherbin	N/A <sup>(1)</sup>	_

(1) Messrs. Hindman and Sherbin were not employed at the time of this grant in 2020.

### Human Resources and Compensation Committee Processes and Procedures

The Committee develops and recommends to the Board of Directors the Company's executive compensation policies. The Committee also administers the Company's executive compensation program and recommends for approval to the Board the compensation to be paid to the CEO and other executive officers. The Committee is made up of independent directors, none of whom is a current or former employee of the Company.

The Company's Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO) serves as a coordinator at Committee meetings but does not participate in any decisions regarding executive or Board compensation. The Company's CEO, CFO, and Chief Legal and Compliance Officer (CLO) participate only to assist in the process of determining the compensation for executives other than themselves and to provide information to the Committee regarding Company performance, operations, strategies, and other information requested by the Committee. Other than the CEO, CFO, CLO and CHRO, none of the Company's executive officers participate in any discussions of the Committee.

The Committee's written charter provides that the Committee will review and make recommendations regarding the compensation of executive officers. The Committee's policy is to conduct benchmarking of executive officers' salaries at least once every two years. Executive compensation decisions must be approved by a majority of the independent members of the Board.

## **Personal Benefits and Perquisites**

We believe that compensation in the form of perquisites and personal benefits does not provide transparency for shareholders or serve our compensation philosophy. Therefore, the Company offers limited perquisites in the form of executive physicals, additional life and disability insurance, occasional spousal travel reimbursement, and reimbursement of the CEO's club membership dues. The limited perquisites and personal benefits we provide are disclosed in the Summary Compensation Table below and detailed in footnote 4 to that table.

## **Retirement and Other Benefits**

We do not provide a defined benefit pension plan to our NEOs, although we do provide a defined contribution plan (401(k) plan). In addition, we provide a Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan (SERP) as part of a compensation package to attract and retain executives. The SERP is a non-qualified defined contribution plan that allows our executives to defer compensation and provides for certain matching contributions by the Company in addition to those provided under the Company's qualified retirement plans. The Company offers this additional program for the potential to enhance total executive pay so that it remains competitive in the market. The SERP is described in more detail under "Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation" below.



## **Risk Mitigation**

We believe our compensation policies and programs are designed in a manner such that they do not create incentives or risks that are reasonably likely to result in a material adverse effect on the Company. These policies and programs are designed to balance our executive compensation among appropriate short- and longer-term incentives and create the appropriate mix of fixed compensation as well as compensation that is contingent on the achievement of objectives, we believe will enhance shareholder value. In addition, we have several policies and practices in place designed to mitigate risks associated with our executive compensation practices, including:

#### **Director and Executive Stock Ownership Requirements**

Our Board members and executives are required to attain ownership of our common stock, within five years of being named to their position, at least equal to the following minimums:

Directors and Executives	Common Stock
Non-employee directors:	5 times annual cash Board retainer
CEO:	5 times annual base salary
All other named executive officers:	3 times annual base salary

Shares owned directly by Board members or executives, shares owned through a 401(k) plan or IRA, unvested restricted shares or RSUs that are subject to time-based vesting, shares previously owned by executives but placed in irrevocable trusts for family members or in revocable trusts, and shares determined to have actually been earned and issuable pursuant to PSUs awarded to the director or executive are counted toward these ownership requirements. Unexercised options, unexercised stock appreciation rights, and shares underlying PSUs (except to the limited extent described in the preceding sentence) are not counted toward the ownership requirements. As of December 31, 2022, all of the NEOs and directors were in compliance with the stock ownership guidelines applicable to them.

#### **Anti-Hedging Policy**

The Company's anti-hedging policy prohibits employees, including NEOs, and directors from engaging in any transaction that is designed to hedge or offset any decrease in the market value of our stock, including transactions in puts, calls, prepaid variable forward contracts, equity swaps, collars and exchange funds. This policy includes stock held directly or indirectly by a director or executive officer, as well as any stock granted to a director or executive officer by the Company as part of the compensation of a director or executive officer. The policy also prohibits our employees, including our NEOs, and directors from engaging in short sales related to the common stock. Under the policy, directors and executive officers are prohibited from pledging shares of the Company's stock.

#### **Pricing of Equity Awards**

The price historically used to determine the number of RSUs granted to our executives is generally an average of the closing share price for the 30 calendar days prior to the grant date. We do not "backdate" any equity-based awards. The Board is committed to maintaining the integrity of our compensation philosophy and programs. As part of this commitment, the Company believes that the disclosure of material nonpublic information should never be manipulated for the purpose of enriching compensation awards. We do not time the release of public information to affect the value of share-based awards, and we do not time the grant of share-based awards to take advantage of the disclosure of information.



#### **Clawback Provision**

The Committee has implemented a recoupment (or clawback) policy subjecting incentive compensation and equity compensation grants to executive officers to potential recoupment. The Board has the authority to trigger recoupment in the event of (1) a material financial restatement or manipulation of a financial measure on which compensation is based and where the employee's intentional misconduct contributed to the restatement or manipulation and, but for such misconduct, a lesser amount of compensation would have been paid, or (2) certain misconduct by the executive. The Committee will reevaluate and revise the Company's recoupment policy to comply with the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, as reflected in the SEC and Nasdaq rules implementing the recoupment requirements.

Shyft Group // 2023 Proxy Statement

55



## **2022 Summary Compensation Table**

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary <sup>(1)</sup> (\$)	Stock Awards <sup>(2)</sup> (\$)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation <sup>(3)</sup> (\$)	All Other Compensation <sup>(4)</sup> (\$)	Total (\$)
	2022	\$818,173	\$2,211,760	\$ 253,500	\$134,270	\$3,417,703
Daryl Adams President & Chief Executive	2021	782,500	2,554,773	1,776,000	34,654	5,147,927
Officer	2020	710,500	1,978,913	1,764,000	42,354	4,495,767
	2022	\$446,645	\$1,068,158	\$ 112,627	\$ 23,697	\$1,651,127
Jonathan Douyard	2021	434,354	730,236	453,561	16,019	1,634,170
Chief Financial Officer	2020	322,673	753,377	408,000	423,184	1,907,234
	2022	\$355,872	\$ 608,639	\$ 238,399	\$ 38,306	\$1,241,216
Stephen Guillaume	2021	343,547	403,539	261,652	16,830	1,025,569
President, Specialty Vehicles	2020	317,450	281,452	241,920	28,764	869,586
Colin Hindman Chief Human Resources Officer	2022	\$348,438	\$ 600,493	\$ 75,726	\$ 24,216	\$1,048,873
<b>Joshua Sherbin</b> Chief Legal and Compliance Officer	2022	\$405,653	\$ 706,658	\$ 86,940	\$ 41,366	\$1,240,617

(1) 2022 salary amounts reflect the total base wages paid to each NEO during the year.

(2) Amounts shown in this column for 2022 represent the aggregate grant date fair value of stock awards noted in the Grants of Plan-Based Awards table below. The fair values were determined in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718, "Stock Compensation." For information regarding valuation assumptions for the 2022 awards, see *Note 14 – Stock Based Compensation* to the Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2022. Assuming the highest level of performance is achieved for the PSUs granted in 2022, the grant date fair values of all stock awards granted in 2022 would be \$3,811,925 for Mr. Adams, \$1,173,876 for Mr. Douyard, \$535,822 for Mr. Guillaume, \$521,805 for Mr. Hindman, and \$704,778 for Mr. Sherbin.

(3) Amounts shown in this column represent the annual cash incentive bonuses paid to our NEOs under our AIC Plan, as described above.

(4) The amounts reported in this column consist of the following:

Executive Officer	Dividends Paid on Restricted Stock	401(k) Match	Executive Life Ins	Executive LTD	Executive Physical	Other <sup>(1)</sup>	Total
Daryl Adams	\$88,929	\$2,949	\$17,980	\$10,586	\$1,650	\$12,176	\$134,270
Jonathan Douyard	\$ 2,778	\$9,150	\$ 9,639	\$ —	\$1,650	\$ 480	\$ 23,697
Stephen Guillaume	\$11,741	\$4,042	\$11,638	\$ 8,865	\$1,650	\$ 370	\$ 38,306
Colin Hindman	\$ 1,233	\$6,135	\$ 9,727	\$ 5,321	\$1,800	\$ —	\$ 24,216
Joshua Sherbin	\$ 535	\$8,227	\$19,590	\$ 9,970	\$1,650	\$ 1,394	\$ 41,366

(1) For Mr. Adams, these costs include \$12,061 for a club membership and \$115 for spousal travel. For Messrs. Douyard, Guillaume and Sherbin, these amounts are for spousal travel.



## **Grants of Plan-Based Awards During 2022**

The following table provides information concerning each grant of a plan-based award made to the NEOs in the last completed fiscal year.

		Estimated Possible Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards <sup>(1)</sup>			Estimated Future Payouts Equity Incentive Plan Awards <sup>(2)</sup>			All Other Stock Awards: Number of Shares of	Grant Date Fair Value of Stock	
Name	Award / Grant Type	Grant Date	Threshold (\$)	Target (\$)	Maximum (\$)	Threshold (#)	Target (#)	Maximum (#)	Stock or Units (#) <sup>(3)</sup>	and Option Awards (\$) <sup>(4)</sup>
	AIC		\$633,750	\$1,267,500	\$2,535,000					
Daryl Adams	PSUs	3/31/2022				19,760	39,520	79,040		\$1,600,165
	RSUs	3/31/2022							16,937	611,595
	AIC		160,895	321,790	643,580					
Jonathan Douyard	PSUs	3/31/2022				6,085	12,170	24,340		492,763
Jonathan Douyaru	RSUs	3/31/2022							5,216	188,350
	RSUs	8/4/2022							14,835	387,045
	AIC		111,090	222,180	444,360					
Stephen Guillaume	PSUs	3/31/2022				2,778	5,555	11,110		224,922
Stephen Guillaume	RSUs	3/31/2022							2,381	85,978
	RSUs	8/4/2022							11,412	297,739
	AIC		108,180	216,360	432,720					
Colin Hindman	PSUs	3/31/2022				2,705	5,410	10,820		219,051
	RSUs	3/31/2022							2,318	83,703
	RSUs	8/4/2022							11,412	297,739
	AIC		124,200	248,400	496,800					
Joshua Sherbin	PSUs	3/31/2022				3,654	7,307	14,614		295,859
	RSUs	3/31/2022							3,131	113,060
	RSUs	8/4/2022							11,412	297,739

(1) The amounts reported in these three columns relate to the annual cash incentive awards granted to the executives in March 2022. These awards were payable based on various objectives to be achieved during 2022, as discussed under "Compensation Discussion and Analysis – Annual Cash Incentive Awards" above. In March 2023, the actual amounts payable to the executives pursuant to these awards were determined and paid as reflected in the "Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation" column of the Summary Compensation Table above.

(2) The amounts reported in these three columns reflect the grant of PSUs in 2022. The PSUs represent shares of the Company's common stock and are issuable to executives following the three-year performance period of 2022 - 2024 based on the Company's TSR relative to the TSR Peer Group and cumulative GAAP net income over such performance period, as discussed under "Compensation Discussion and Analysis – Long-Term Equity Incentive Awards" above. Each threshold amount assumes a performance multiple of 0.5X; each target amount assumes a performance multiple of 1.0X; and each maximum amount represents the maximum number of shares issuable pursuant to the PSUs granted, which for 2022 was a multiple of 2.0X.



- (3) These are the RSUs granted to each executive in 2022, as discussed under "Compensation Discussion and Analysis Long-Term Equity Incentive Awards" above.
- (4) Amounts reported in this column represent the aggregate grant date fair value of the equity-based awards (PSUs and RSUs) and were computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718.

The Company provided the compensation set forth in the Summary Compensation Table and the Grants of Plan Based Awards table pursuant to the philosophy, procedures, and practices as described in the "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" section above.

## **Outstanding Equity Awards at December 31, 2022**

The following table provides information concerning outstanding equity awards as of December 31, 2022.

## Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End

	Stock Awards								
Named Executive Officer	Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (#) <sup>(1)</sup>	Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (\$) <sup>(2)</sup>	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (#) <sup>(3)</sup>	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market or Payout Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (\$) <sup>(3)</sup>					
Daryl Adams	44,743	\$1,112,311	63,719	\$1,584,054					
Jonathan Douyard	34,108	847,925	19,014	472,688					
Stephen Guillaume	18,610	462,645	8,867	220,421					
Colin Hindman	29,326	729,044	8,680	215,785					
Joshua Sherbin	21,679	538,940	5,115	127,159					

(1) This column reports the total number of shares underlying outstanding RSUs that have not vested as of December 31, 2022. Vesting dates for these outstanding awards are as follows:

	Vesting Dates RSUs									
Named Executive Officer	3/30/2023	3/31/2023	6/1/2023	6/30/2023	7/15/2023	3/30/2024	3/31/2024	6/1/2024	3/31/2025	8/4/2025
Daryl Adams	20,637	5,646				7,169	5,645		5,646	
Jonathan Douyard	12,092	1,739				1,965	1,738		1,739	14,835
Stephen Guillaume	3,366	794				1,451	793		794	11,412
Colin Hindman	10,681	773		3,333	700	882	772		773	11,412
Joshua Sherbin		1,044	3,568				1,043	3,568	1,044	11,412

(2) The market value of unvested RSUs is determined by multiplying the closing market price of the Company's common stock as of December 30, 2022 (\$24.86) by the number of unvested shares.

(3) This column reports the number of shares underlying unearned PSUs.

In calculating the number of PSUs and their value, we compared the Company's performance through 2022 under each outstanding PSU grant against the threshold, target, and maximum performance levels for the grant and report in this column the applicable potential or forecasted payout amount. If the performance is between levels, we reported the potential payout at the next highest level.

## Summary Compensation Table

	Ves	Vesting Dates PSUs	
Named Executive Officer	12/31/2023 (a)	12/31/2024 (b)	
Daryl Adams	36,055	27,664	
Jonathan Douyard	10,495	8,519	
Stephen Guillaume	4,978	3,889	
Colin Hindman	4,893	3,787	
Joshua Sherbin	_	5,115	

(a) For the shares that vest on 12/31/2023, the PSUs subject to the cumulative GAAP net income and TSR performance metrics are forecast and shown at target.

(b) For the shares that vest on 12/31/2024, the PSUs subject to the cumulative net GAAP income are forecast and shown at target and the PSUs subject to the TSR performance metric are forecast and shown at threshold.

## **Option Exercised and Stock Vested in 2022**

The following table provides information concerning the vesting of stock awards during 2022 for each of the NEOs.

	Stock Awards	
Named Executive Officer	Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting (#)	Value Realized on Vesting (\$) <sup>(1)</sup>
Daryl Adams	201,208	\$6,633,934
Jonathan Douyard	49,505	1,645,253
Stephen Guillaume	28,925	956,923
Colin Hindman	4,915	109,956
Joshua Sherbin	3,568	81,350

(1) The amounts in this column are determined by multiplying the number of shares vested by the market value on the vesting date (or, if the vesting date is not a trading day, the trading day immediately preceding the vesting date).

## **Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation**

The Company maintains a Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan (the "SERP"), a non-qualified defined contribution plan administered by the Committee, that allows eligible participants to defer compensation and incentive amounts and provides for discretionary matching and profit-sharing type contributions by the Company. The SERP is operated much like the Company's 401(k) plan, but participation is limited to a select group of employees determined by the Board of Directors. The SERP is a funded plan, however, the participants are merely general creditors of the Company. The SERP's assets are subject to the claims of other creditors of the Company in some circumstances. In 2022, none of the NEOs participated in the SERP.

The SERP allows participants to defer up to 25% of their base salary and up to 50% of their cash bonuses each year. At the beginning of each plan year, the Committee may elect to match all or a specified portion of each participant's contribution for that year. The Committee will generally provide that each participant will receive a matching contribution equal to the matching contribution that the participant would have received under the Company's 401(k) plan but for limitations imposed by federal tax law. In addition, the Committee may, in its discretion, make an additional matching contribution and/or a profit-sharing type contribution to the SERP each year.



### **Severance Benefits**

We maintain an Executive Severance Plan ("Severance Plan") for the primary purpose of providing certain severance benefits to a select group of our key management employees designated by our Committee. All of our NEOs participate in the Severance Plan.

Under the Severance Plan, a participant who is terminated by the Company without cause (as defined in the Severance Plan) is entitled to receive the following severance benefits:

- Base salary continuation (at the rate in effect immediately prior to qualifying termination or, if greater, the rate in effect at any time within 180 days prior to the qualifying termination) for a period of 18 months following termination for our CEO and a period of 12 months for the other NEOs.
- If the threshold is satisfied for annual incentive cash bonus eligibility under the AIC Plan for the fiscal year in which the qualifying termination occurs, the severance benefit will include a pro rata portion of the target incentive bonus for that year (based on the number of complete calendar months that have elapsed in that year prior to the qualifying termination). Any such pro rata bonus will be calculated and paid following completion of the performance year in question.
- If the executive enrolls in COBRA, then during the applicable salary continuation period (up to 18 months for our CEO and up to 12 months for the other NEOs), the Company will pay a portion of the executive's COBRA premiums equal to the portion of such premiums (if any) the Company would have paid with respect to the executive had employment with the Company continued, or until such time that the executive becomes eligible for health care benefits from another employer, whichever is sooner.
- All outstanding unvested shares of restricted stock and RSUs will be fully vested as of the date of termination. PSUs that are outstanding at the date of termination will generally be settled (in other words, shares of common stock issued to the executive) at the time the PSU would have otherwise been settled in accordance with its terms, following completion of the relevant performance period and subject to the achievement of the performance conditions for such PSUs, but with the executive receiving only a pro rata portion of the shares the executive would have otherwise received (based on the number of complete calendar months that have elapsed in the performance period prior to the qualifying termination).
- The executive will be entitled to receive reasonable outplacement services following a qualifying termination for 12 months.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the employment of an NEO is terminated by the Company without cause (as determined by the Committee) or by the executive for "good reason" following a "change in control" of the Company, as each of those terms is defined in our 2016 Stock Plan, then the severance benefit payable to our CEO is equal to three times his annual salary plus three times his target annual cash incentive award (without proration), and the severance benefit payable to our other NEOs is equal to two times the respective NEO's annual salary plus two times the target annual cash incentive award (without proration). All outstanding unvested restricted stock and RSUs will be fully vested as of the date of termination. PSUs that are outstanding at the date of termination will generally be settled (in other words, shares of common stock issued to the executive) at the time the PSU would have otherwise been settled in accordance with its terms and at the target number of shares. In addition, if the executive enrolls in COBRA, then for a period of 36 months for our CEO and 24 months for the other NEOs, the Company will pay a portion of the executive's COBRA premiums equal to the portion of such premiums (if any) the Company would have paid with respect to the executive had employment with the Company continued, or until such time that the executive becomes eligible for health care benefits from another employer, whichever is sooner.

An executive's receipt of these severance benefits is conditioned on the participant executing a release of claims in favor of the Company and complying with certain non-competition, non-solicitation, confidentiality, and other provisions in favor of the Company for the applicable salary continuation period.

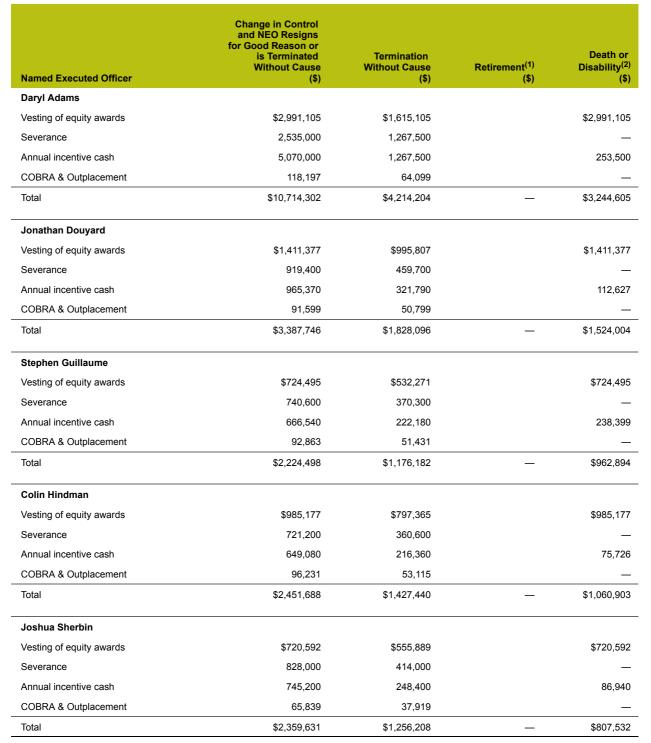
This summary of the Severance Plan is subject in its entirety to the actual provisions of the plan.



## Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change-in-Control

The following table summarizes the payments and benefits payable to the Company's NEOs upon termination of employment in connection with each of the triggering events set forth in the table below, assuming, in each situation, that the triggering event took place on December 30, 2022. The closing market price of The Company's common stock was \$24.86 on December 30, 2022. The summary provided below is subject to the actual provisions of each applicable plan. Upon voluntary resignation, no payments are due to any NEO from the table below.

## **Triggering Events, Payments and Benefits**



(1) In the event of a "qualified retirement" during the performance year (defined as the NEO retiring after reaching at least age 62 and at least 5 years of continuous service with the Company), our AIC Plan provides for a prorated payment of the annual cash incentive bonus actually earned for a performance year and our equity award agreements generally provide that unvested equity awards are not forfeited. However, none of our NEOs had reached age 62 as of December 31, 2022 and so would not meet the requirements for a qualified retirement.

(2) In the event of an NEO's termination due to death or disability, per the terms of the 2016 Stock Plan, the NEO would be entitled to receive accelerated vesting of all outstanding unvested shares of restricted stock and RSUs and all unvested PSUs at target, and a pro rata portion of the target incentive bonus for that year (based on the number of complete calendar months that have elapsed in that year prior to the qualifying termination). Any such pro rata bonus will be calculated and paid following completion of the performance year in question.



## **CEO Pay Ratio**

As required by SEC rules, we are providing the following information to explain the relationship between the annual total compensation of Mr. Adams, who served as the President and CEO in 2022, and the annual total compensation of the median employee of the Company, excluding our CEO.

The Company's philosophy is to pay our employees competitively and equitably with similar positions in the applicable labor markets by providing a combination of competitive base pay, incentives, and other benefits. We benchmark our compensation levels by position and adjust compensation to align with the applicable labor market. By doing so, we believe it allows us to maintain a high quality and stable workforce.

For 2022, as permitted, we used the employee who was identified in 2021 as our median paid employee as that individual is still employed and there has been no change in our employee population or employee compensation arrangements that we reasonably believe would result in a significant change to our pay ratio disclosure.

To identify, and determine the annual total compensation of, the median employee, we used the following methodology:

- The Company selected December 31, 2021 as the determination date for identifying the median employee for purposes of this pay ratio disclosure.
- We examined the annual compensation paid to each of our employees (including full-time and part-time employees, but excluding contract employees employed through a third party) that were employed as of December 31, 2021. This consisted of a total of approximately 3,250 employees (excluding Mr. Adams), all located within the United States.
- The annual compensation used for this analysis includes each element of compensation listed in the Summary Compensation Table above, as well as employer contributions toward benefits such as health insurance that are available on an equal basis to all employees (which are not required to be included in the Summary Compensation Table).
- We annualized the total compensation for any employee who was not employed for all of 2021. We did not make any other adjustments to any employee's compensation or exclude any employees for this analysis.
- We then ranked all of our employees (except for Mr. Adams) in terms of total compensation from highest to lowest and identified the employee that ranked as the median.

To determine the annual total compensation of the median employee and of Mr. Adams, we included each element of compensation listed in the Summary Compensation Table above, along with benefits such as health insurance that are available on an equal basis to all employees (which are not required to be included in the Summary Compensation Table).

Following this methodology, the components of our pay ratio disclosure for 2022 were reasonably estimated, in a manner consistent with SEC rules, as follows:

- The annual total compensation of the median employee was \$56,247.
- The annual total compensation of our CEO, Mr. Adams, was \$3,437,004.
- The ratio of our CEO's compensation to the compensation of the median employee was 61:1.



## **Compensation of Directors**

Compensation for the Board of Directors is established by the full Board based on input from external compensation experts. Decisions regarding the Company's non-employee director compensation program are informed by market practice data gathered from the same peer group companies utilized for executive compensation benchmarking. The following table provides the compensation paid to the directors for the Company's last completed fiscal year.

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$)	Stock Awards <sup>(1)</sup> (\$)	Total (\$)
James Sharman, Chair	\$117,500	\$140,000	\$257,500
Daryl Adams <sup>(2)</sup>	_	_	_
Thomas Clevinger	67,500	110,000	177,500
Michael Dinkins	86,250	110,000	196,250
Carl Esposito <sup>(3)</sup>	52,500	128,000	180,500
Angela Freeman	81,250	110,000	191,250
Ronald Harbour <sup>(4)</sup>	41,833	_	41,833
Paul Mascarenas <sup>(5)</sup>	81,250	110,000	191,250
Terri Pizzuto	67,500	110,000	177,500
Mark Rourke	67,500	110,000	177,500

(1) Amounts shown in this column represent the aggregate grant date fair value of the stock awards granted during 2022. As of December 31, 2022, each independent director had outstanding the following aggregate number of unvested stock awards:

Name	Outstanding Stock Awards: Number of Shares
James Sharman, Chair	6,129
Thomas Clevinger	4,816
Michael Dinkins	4,816
Carl Esposito	5,287
Angela Freeman	4,816
Ronald Harbour	_
Paul Mascarenas	4,816
Terri Pizzuto	4,816
Mark Rourke	4,816

(2) Mr. Adams received no additional compensation for his service as a director. All compensation paid to Mr. Adams as president and CEO is reported in the Summary Compensation Table above.

(3) As Mr. Esposito elected to receive 25% of his cash retainer in stock under the terms of the Directors' Stock Purchase Plan (discussed below), he received \$8,750 of fees earned in the form of stock.

(4) Mr. Harbour resigned from the Board on May 18, 2022.

(5) As Mr. Mascarenas elected to receive 33% of his cash retainer in stock under the terms of the Directors' Stock Purchase Plan (discussed below), he received \$26,813 of fees earned in the form of stock.



#### **Cash-Based Compensation**

In 2022, each non-employee director other than the Chair of the Board received an annual retainer of \$70,000. The Chair of the Board received an annual retainer of \$120,000. Each of the chairs of the Compensation Committee and the Governance Committee received an additional annual retainer of \$15,000 while the chair of the Audit Committee received an additional annual retainer of \$20,000.

#### **Equity-Based Compensation**

Non-employee directors serving on the Board on the date of the annual meeting (other than any directors retiring from the Board on that date) are awarded RSUs with a value of \$110,000, except that the Board Chair receives RSUs with a value of \$140,000. The number of RSUs granted is calculated using the stock price on the trading day immediately preceding the grant date. All RSUs generally vest in full on the one-year anniversary of the grant date. These RSUs are considered granted for future service of the directors (in other words, in advance). As a result, non-employee directors who join the Board after the annual meeting receive a prorated grant of RSUs based on the number of weeks served prior to the next annual meeting.

#### **Directors' Stock Purchase Plan**

Directors are also eligible to participate in the Company's Directors' Stock Purchase Plan. This plan provides that non-employee directors may elect to receive at least 25% and up to 100% of their "director's fees" in the form of the Company's common stock. "Director's fees" means the amount of income payable to a non-employee director for their service as a director of the Company, including payments for any retainer fee paid to such persons as members of the Board or any committee. A non-employee director who elects to receive common stock in lieu of some or all of their director's fees will, on or shortly after each "applicable date," receive a number of shares of common stock (rounded down to the nearest whole share) determined by dividing (1) the dollar amount of the director's fees payable to the director on the applicable date by (2) the market value of common stock on the applicable date. The term "applicable date" means any date on which a director's fee is payable to the participant. In 2022, a total of 1,526 shares of our common stock were issued to directors pursuant to this plan.



# **Compensation Committee Report**

The Human Resources and Compensation Committee has reviewed and discussed with management the information provided under the heading "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" above. Based on this review and discussion, the Human Resources and Compensation Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in Shyft's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022 and in this proxy statement.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Freeman, Chair Thomas Clevinger Paul Mascarenas Mark Rourke

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# **Pay Versus Performance**

The following information has been prepared in accordance with the SEC's pay versus performance ("PvP") disclosure requirements under Item 402(v) of Regulation S-K for fiscal years 2022, 2021 and 2020.

Our Compensation Committee has implemented an executive compensation program that is intended to link a substantial portion of our NEOs' total compensation to the achievement of various short- and long-term financial and operational metrics, and to be aligned with shareholder value. The Committee does not consider the Compensation Actually Paid ("CAP") metric as a basis for making compensation decisions. Refer to the CD&A beginning on page <u>39</u> for details on how we align pay with performance, and how the Committee approaches designing our executive compensation program.

# **Pay Versus Performance Table**

Year (a)	Summary Compensation Table Total for CEO (b)	Compensation Actually Paid to CEO (c)	Average Summary Compensation Table Total for non-CEO NEOs (d)	Average Compensation Actually Paid to non-CEOs NEOs (e)	Total Shareholder Return (f)	Peer Group Total Shareholder Return (g)	Net Income (000s) (h)	Adjusted EBITDA (000s) (i)
2022	\$3,417,703	\$(7,264,177)	\$1,295,458	\$(151,088)	\$137.50	\$177.95	\$36,558	\$70,793
2021	5,147,927	17,936,324	1,423,191	3,782,664	271.74	151.52	70,155	108,066
2020	4,495,767	11,205,332	1,274,709	2,655,111	156.97	128.80	33,166	76,346

Column (b). Contains the Total Compensation from the Summary Compensation Table ("SCT") for each of the respective years for Daryl Adams, who served as our CEO for each of the years shown in the table.

Column (c). "Compensation Actually Paid to CEO" for each of the respective years reflects the Total Compensation in column (b) adjusted per the table below in accordance with the SEC rules for calculating Compensation Actually Paid. The amounts in column (c) do not represent the actual amount of compensation earned by or paid to Mr. Adams during the applicable years. For the actual amounts earned by our CEO and for information about the decisions made by our Compensation Committee, please review the respective CD&As in the proxy statements applicable to each year in the table above.

Compensation Actually Paid to CEO	2022	2021	2020
SCT Total Compensation (\$)	3,417,703	5,147,927	4,495,767
Less: Stock and Option Award Values Reported in SCT for the Covered Year (\$)	(2,211,760)	(2,554,773)	(1,978,913)
Plus: Fair Value for Stock and Option Awards Granted in the Covered Year (\$)	1,053,484	4,349,758	6,021,187
Change in Fair Value of Outstanding Unvested Stock and Option Awards from Prior Years (\$)	(3,172,834)	5,666,217	3,547,420
Change in Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards from Prior Years that Vested in the Covered Year (\$)	(6,350,770)	5,327,195	(880,130)
Less: Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards Forfeited during the Covered Year (\$)	_	_	_
Less: Aggregate Change in Actuarial Present Value of Accumulated Benefit Under Pension Plans (\$)	_	_	_
Plus: Aggregate Service Cost and Prior Service Cost for Pension Plans (\$)	_	_	_
Compensation Actually Paid (\$)	(7,264,177)	17,936,324	11,205,332

#### **Pay Versus Performance**



Column (d). Contains the average Total Compensation of the NEOs other than the CEO from the Summary Compensation Table in the proxy statement for each of the respective years shown in the table. The following non-CEO NEOs are included in the average figures shown above for each of the respective years:

2022: Jonathan Douyard, Stephen Guillaume, Colin Hindman, Joshua Sherbin 2021: Jonathan Douyard, Stephen Guillaume, Todd Heavin, Chad Heminover

2020: Jonathan Douyard, Stephen Guillaume, Todd Heavin, Chad Heminover, Frederick Sohm

Column (e). "Average Compensation Actually Paid to non-CEO NEOs" for each of the respective years reflects the Total Compensation in column (d) adjusted per the table below in accordance with the SEC rules for calculating Compensation Actually Paid. The amounts in column (e) do not represent the actual average amount of compensation earned by or paid to our non-CEO NEOs during the applicable years. For the actual amounts earned by our non-CEO NEOs and for information about the decisions made by our Compensation Committee, please review the respective CD&As in the proxy statements applicable to each year in the table above.

Average Compensation Actually Paid to Non-CEO NEOs	2022	2021	2020
SCT Total Compensation (\$)	1,295,458	1,423,191	1,274,709
Less: Stock and Option Award Values Reported in SCT for the Covered Year (\$)	(670,736)	(663,829)	(526,733)
Plus: Fair Value for Stock and Option Awards Granted in the Covered Year (\$)	507,847	1,086,806	1,630,064
Change in Fair Value of Outstanding Unvested Stock and Option Awards from Prior Years (\$)	(605,195)	1,550,824	354,922
Change in Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards from Prior Years that Vested in the Covered Year (\$)	(678,462)	385,671	(77,851)
Less: Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards Forfeited during the Covered Year (\$)	_	_	_
Less: Aggregate Change in Actuarial Present Value of Accumulated Benefit Under Pension Plans (\$)	_	_	_
Plus: Aggregate Service Cost and Prior Service Cost for Pension Plans (\$)	_	_	_
Compensation Actually Paid (\$)	(151,088)	3,782,664	2,655,111

Columns (f) and (g). The TSR figures assume an initial investment of \$100 on December 31, 2019 and show the resulting cumulative total shareholder return for the applicable periods in the table (assuming reinvestment of any dividends), for The Shyft Group in column (f) and for the Peer Group in column (g). The Peer Group is comprised of the Dow Jones Commercial Trucks and Vehicles Total Stock Market Index.

Column (h) Reflects the Company's Net Income for each of the respective years as disclosed in the company's Consolidated Income Statements included in the Company's Annual Reports on Form 10-K for each of the years ended December 31, 2022, 2021 and 2020.

Column (i) The Company-selected measure is Shyft Adjusted EBITDA, which is a non-GAAP financial measure defined as income from continuing operations before interest, income taxes, depreciation, and amortization, as adjusted to eliminate the impact of restructuring charges, acquisition related expenses and adjustments, non-cash stock-based compensation expenses, and other gains and losses not reflective of our ongoing operations.

We selected Adjusted EBITDA as our most important performance measure used to link NEO Compensation Actually Paid for 2022 (as described above) and company performance in 2022 because it is viewed as the primary indicator of the performance and strength of our business. As described in the CD&A section of this proxy, this is the metric with the greatest weight in our Annual Incentive Compensation plan.

# Pay Versus Performance

Listed below are the metrics we believe are the most important financial performance measures we used to link Compensation Actually Paid for 2022 (as described above) to company performance for 2022.

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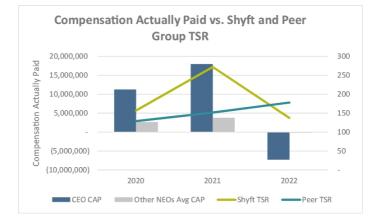
Finar	ncial Performance Measures			
Adjus	sted EBITDA	Net Income	Adjusted EPS	
Free	Cash Flow	Operating Income		
Shyft G	iroup // 2023 Proxy Statement			69

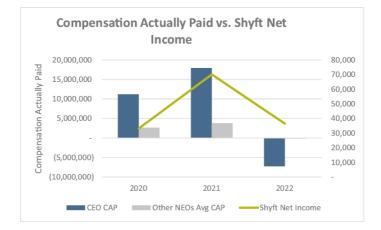
### **Pay Versus Performance**

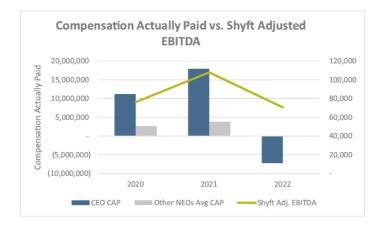


#### Relationship between Pay and Performance

The graphs below show the relationship between Compensation Actually Paid ("CAP"), as described above, for our CEO and non-CEO NEOs to (1) the Company's TSR and that of the Peer Group, (2) the Company's Net Income, and (3) the Company's Adjusted EBITDA, in each case for 2022, 2021 and 2020.









# **Ownership of Securities**

The following table sets forth information with respect to the beneficial ownership of the common stock as of the Record Date by:

- Each person known by us to beneficially own more than 5% of the Common Stock;
- Each of the Company's directors and director nominees;
- Each of the NEOs; and
- All of the Company's directors and executive officers as a group.

The percentages of common stock beneficially owned are reported on the basis of regulations of the SEC governing the determination of beneficial ownership of securities. Under the rules of the SEC, a person is deemed to be a beneficial owner of a security if that person has or shares (1) voting power, which includes the power to vote or to direct the voting of the security, (2) investment power, which includes the power to dispose of or to direct the disposition of the security, or (3) rights to acquire common stock that are currently exercisable or convertible, or will become exercisable or convertible within 60 days of the Record Date. Except as indicated in the footnotes to this table, each beneficial owner named in the table below has sole voting and sole investment power with respect to all shares beneficially owned. As of the Record Date, the Company had 34,875,382 shares outstanding.

	Shares Beneficially Owned				
Name and Beneficial Owner	Number	Percentage			
BlackRock, Inc. <sup>(1)</sup> 55 East 52 <sup>nd</sup> Street, New York, NY 10055	2,398,778	6.88%			
Alliance Bernstein <sup>(2)</sup> 1345 Avenue of the Americas, NY 10105	2,062,338	5.91%			
abrdn plc <sup>(3)</sup> 1 George Street, Edinburgh, United Kingdom, EH2 2LL	1,989,521	5.70%			
The Rayburn Group <sup>(4)</sup> 1526 Ute Blvd., Suite 209, Room 6, Park City, Utah 84068	1,930,000	5.53%			
Daryl Adams	495,934	1.42%			
Thomas Clevinger	36,957	*			
Michael Dinkins	4,480	*			
Jonathan Douyard	56,983	*			
Carl Esposito	471	*			
Angela Freeman	15,228	*			
Stephen Guillaume	67,952	*			
Colin Hindman	20,403	*			
Pamela L. Kermisch	_	*			
Paul Mascarenas	45,887	*			
Terri Pizzuto	4,137	*			
Mark Rourke	4,137	*			
James Sharman	107,258	*			
Joshua Sherbin	4,612	*			
Other executive officers (2 person)	60,615	*			
All directors and executive officers as a group (16 persons)	925,054	2.65%			

Less than 1%.

1. Information contained in the columns above and this footnote is based on a report on Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on February 1. 2023 by BlackRock, Inc ("BlackRock"). BlackRock had sole voting power with respect to 2,398,778 shares of common stock and sole dispositive power with respect to 2,062,338 shares of common stock.

 Information contained in the columns above and this footnote is based on a report on Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on February 14, 2023 by Alliance Bernstein LP ("Alliance Bernstein"). Alliance Bernstein had sole voting power with respect to 1,830,056 shares of common stock and sole dispositive power with respect to 2,062,338 shares of common stock.



- 3. Information contained in the columns above and this footnote is based on a report on Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on February 9, 2023 by abrdn plc ("abrdn"). abrdn had shared voting power with respect to 1,864,053 shares of common stock and shared dispositive power with respect to 1,989,521 shares of common stock.
- Information contained in the columns above and this footnote is based on a report on Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on December 4, 2015 by The Rayburn Group ("Rayburn"). Rayburn had sole voting power and sole dispositive power with respect to 1,930,000 shares of common stock. Rayburn also disclosed an additional 70,000 shares of common stock (in addition to the those disclosed in the column above) owned by Alexander C. McAree, the portfolio manager for Rayburn.



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

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act ("Section 16") requires our directors, each "officer" within the meaning of Rule 16a-1(f) promulgated under the Exchange Act ("Section 16 Officers") and persons who beneficially own more than 10% of a registered class of our equity securities to file with the SEC initial reports of beneficial ownership and reports of changes in beneficial ownership of any of our equity securities. To our knowledge, based solely on a review of reports on Forms 3, 4 and 5 and amendments thereto filed electronically with the SEC and written representations from certain reporting persons that no other reports were required, we believe all of our directors and Section 16 Officers made all filings required under Section 16 during 2022 on a timely basis, except that, due to an administrative error, on September 7, 2022, one Form 4 report for Mr. Sherbin reporting 1,556 shares withheld to satisfy tax withholding obligations incident upon the June 1, 2022 vesting of a portion of previously granted restricted stock units, was filed late.



# **Additional Information**

# What is the purpose of the Annual Meeting?

During the Annual Meeting, holders of the Company's Common Stock will act upon the matters outlined in the accompanying notice of Annual Meeting, including: to elect four directors to serve until the annual meeting in 2026; to ratify the appointment of Deloitte as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2023; to approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of named executive officers; to recommend, on an advisory basis, the frequency of advisory votes on named executive officer compensation, to approve the amendment and restatement of the Shyft Stock Incentive Plan of 2016, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting. In addition, management will report on the performance of the Company and will respond to appropriate questions submitted by shareholders before the start of the Annual Meeting.

# How will the Company conduct the Annual Meeting?

As permitted by Michigan law and our bylaws, we will conduct the Annual Meeting via webcast. In preparation for the virtual Annual Meeting (i) we will implement reasonable measures to verify that each person deemed present and permitted to vote at the meeting is a shareholder or proxy holder, (ii) we will implement reasonable measures to provide shareholders and proxy holders a reasonable opportunity to participate in the meeting and to vote on matters submitted to shareholders, including an opportunity to read or hear the proceedings of the meeting substantially concurrently with such proceedings, and (iii) we will maintain a record of any votes or other action taken by shareholders or proxy holders at the meeting. During the Q&A session of the meeting, we will answer appropriate questions submitted before the start of the Annual Meeting related to the business of the Annual Meeting, as time permits.

# How do I attend and participate during the virtual Annual Meeting?

Our completely virtual Annual Meeting will be conducted on the internet via live webcast. You will be able to participate in the Annual Meeting online during the meeting by visiting *www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/SHYF2023*. You also will be able to vote your shares electronically at the Annual Meeting.

All shareholders of record as of March 20, 2023 (the "Record Date"), or their duly appointed proxies, may participate in the Annual Meeting. To participate in the Annual Meeting, you will need the 16-digit control number included on your Notice, on your proxy card or on the instructions that accompanied your proxy materials. The Annual Meeting webcast will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m., Eastern Time, on May 17, 2023. We encourage you to access the meeting prior to the start time. Online access will begin at 9:45 a.m., Eastern Time, on May 17, 2023.

# How do I submit questions before the virtual Annual Meeting?

Shareholders may submit questions before the Annual Meeting. If you wish to submit a question, you may do so by logging into the virtual meeting platform at *www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/SHYF2023*, typing your question into the "Ask a Question" field, and clicking "Submit." Please submit any questions before the start time of the meeting.

We reserve the right to edit profanity or other inappropriate language and to exclude questions irrelevant to the business of the Corporation or to the business of the Annual Meeting relating to or that may take into account material, nonpublic information, or



relating to pending or threatened litigation, derogatory in nature or related to a personal grievance. Also, if we receive substantially similar questions, then we may group such questions together and provide a single response to avoid repetition. Questions regarding topics that are not pertinent to meeting matters or company business will not be answered.

Appropriate questions related to the business of the Annual Meeting will be answered during the Annual Meeting, subject to time constraints. Any such questions that cannot be answered during the Annual Meeting due to time constraints will be posted and answered at *www.theshyftgroup.com* as soon as practical after the Annual Meeting.

# What if I have technical difficulties during the virtual Annual Meeting?

Technical support, including related technical support phone numbers, will be available on the virtual meeting platform at *www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/SHYF2023* beginning at 9:45 a.m., Eastern Time, on May 17, 2023 through the conclusion of the Annual Meeting.

## Why didn't I receive a paper copy of this proxy statement?

We have chosen to distribute our proxy materials by sending our shareholders a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials that explains how to access our proxy materials and vote online. Many other companies have transitioned to this more contemporary way of distributing annual meeting materials, often called "electronic proxy" or "Notice and Access."

This "Notice and Access" process expedites our shareholders' receipt of these materials, lowers the costs of proxy solicitation, and reduces the environmental impact of our annual meeting.

#### What if I would like to receive a paper copy of this proxy statement?

If you received a notice and would like us to send you a printed copy of our proxy materials, please follow the instructions included in your notice to request a copy.

## Voting

Each share of Shyft's common stock has one vote on each matter. Only "shareholders of record" as of the close of business on the Record Date are entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. As of the Record Date, there were 34,875,382 shares of Shyft's common stock issued and outstanding, held by 251 shareholders of record. In addition to shareholders of record of Shyft's common stock, "beneficial owners of shares held in street name" as of the Record Date can vote using the methods described below.

## **Shareholders of Record**

If your shares are registered directly in your name with Shyft's transfer agent, American Stock & Transfer Co., you are the shareholder of record with respect to those shares.

# Quorum

For business to be conducted at the Annual Meeting, a quorum must be present. The presence at the Annual Meeting, in person or by proxy, of the holders of a majority of the shares of common stock issued and outstanding and entitled to vote on the Record Date will constitute a quorum for all purposes. As of the Record Date, 34,875,382 shares of common stock were issued and outstanding and entitled to vote. Broker non-votes and proxies marked with abstentions or instructions to withhold votes will be counted as present in determining whether there is a quorum.



## **Beneficial Owners of Shares Held in Street Name**

If your shares are held in an account at a bank, broker, or other organization, then you are the "beneficial owner of shares held in street name." As a beneficial owner, you have the right to instruct the person or organization holding your shares how to vote your shares. Most individual shareholders are beneficial owners of shares held in street name.

# **Voting Procedures**

There are four ways to vote:

- **Online Prior to the Annual Meeting.** You may vote by proxy by vising proxyvote.com and entering the control number found in your Notice of Internet Availability. The availability of online voting may depend on the voting procedures of the organization that holds your shares.
- Online During the Annual Meeting. You may vote online during the Annual Meeting by visiting www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/SHYF2023, entering the control number found in your Notice of Internet Availability, and following the on-screen instructions. The availability of online voting may depend on the voting procedures of the organization that holds your shares. The meeting webcast will begin promptly at 9:45 A.M. Eastern Time. Online access to the webcast will open approximately 15 minutes prior to the start of the Annual Meeting to allow time for you to log in and test your system. If you experience technical difficulties during the check-in process or during the meeting please call 1-844-986-0822 (toll free) or 1-303-562-9302 (international) for assistance.
- Phone. If you request printed copies of the proxy materials by mail, you will receive a proxy card or voting instruction form, and you may vote by proxy by calling the toll-free number found on the card or form. The availability of phone voting may depend on the voting procedures of the organization that holds your shares.
- **Mail.** If you request printed copies of the proxy materials by mail, you will receive a proxy card or voting instruction form, and you may vote by proxy by filling out the card or form and returning it in the envelope provided.

All shares represented by valid proxies received prior to 9:59 P.M. Eastern Time on May 16, 2023 will be voted and, where a shareholder specifies by means of the proxy a choice with respect to any matter to be acted upon, the shares will be voted in accordance with the shareholder's instructions. Even if you plan on attending the Annual Meeting, we encourage you to vote your shares in advance online, by phone, or by mail to ensure that your vote will be represented at the Annual Meeting.

# Changing your vote

You may revoke your proxy and change your vote at any time before the taking of the vote at the Annual Meeting.

- **Online Prior to the Annual Meeting.** You may change your vote using the online voting method described above, in which case only your latest internet proxy submitted prior to the Annual Meeting will be counted.
- Online During the Annual Meeting. You may change your vote by attending the Annual Meeting by visiting
  www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/SHYF2023, entering the control number found in your Notice of Internet Availability,
  and following the instructions to vote, in which case only your latest internet proxy submitted will be counted.
- **Phone.** You may change your vote using the phone voting method described above, in which case only your latest proxy submitted prior to the Annual Meeting will be counted.
- **Mail.** You may revoke your proxy and change your vote by signing and returning a new proxy card or voting instruction form dated as of a later date, in which case only your latest proxy card or voting instruction form received



#### **Uninstructed Shares**

Shareholders of Record If you are a shareholder of record and you:

- Indicate when voting online or by phone that you wish to vote as recommended by the Board; or
- Sign and return a proxy card without giving specific voting instructions, then your shares will be voted in the manner recommended by the Board on all matters presented in this Proxy Statement as the proxy holder may determine in its best judgement with respect to any other matters properly presented for a vote at the Annual Meeting.

**Beneficial Owners of Shares Held in Street Name** If you are a beneficial owner of shares held in street name and do not provide the organization that holds your shares with specific voting instructions, then the organization may generally vote your shares in their discretion on "routine" matters, but cannot vote on "non-routine" matters.

## **Routine and Non-Routine Proposals**

The following proposal is considered a routine matter:

- The ratification of the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP as Shyft's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2023 (Proposal No. 2).

A broker or other nominee may generally vote in their discretion on routine matters, and therefore no broker non-votes are expected in connection with Proposal No. 2.

The following proposals are considered non-routine matters:

- Election of directors (Proposal No. 1);
- Approval, on an advisory basis, of the compensation of named executive officers (Proposal No. 3);
- Recommendation, on an advisory basis, of the frequency of advisory votes on named executive officer compensation (Proposal No. 4); and
- Approval of the amendment and restatement of the Shyft Stock Incentive Plan of 2016 (Proposal No. 5)

If the organization that holds your shares does not receive instructions from you on how to vote your shares on a non-routine matter, that organization will inform the inspector of election that it does not have the authority to vote on the matter with respect to your shares. This is generally referred to as a "broker non-vote." Therefore, broker non-votes may exist in connection with Proposal No. 1 and Proposals No. 3 through No. 5.

## Vote Required to Approve a Proposal

With respect to the election of directors (Proposal No. 1), under Michigan law and our bylaws, directors are elected by a plurality. This means the nominees who receive the most votes will be elected to the open director positions. However, we have adopted a majority vote standard that is applicable in uncontested director elections. An "uncontested election of directors" means an election of directors in which the number of candidates for election does not exceed the number of directors. In an uncontested election, the directors to be elected will be determined by a plurality standard, but our majority vote standard will further require that the number of votes cast "for" director must exceed the number of votes "withheld" from that director or the director must submit their offer of resignation for consideration by the Board.

Approval of Proposals No. 2, No. 3 and No. 5 requires, in each case, the affirmative vote of (i) a majority of the shares present or represented by proxy and voting at the Annual Meeting, and (ii) a majority of the shares required to constitute a quorum. In the case of Proposal No. 4, we will consider the frequency for holding an advisory vote on named executive officer compensation that receives the highest number of votes cast to be the frequency recommended by shareholders.



#### **Broker Non-Votes and Abstentions**

Broker non-votes and abstentions are counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present. Only "FOR" and "AGAINST" votes are counted for purposes of determining the votes received in connection with each proposal (or in the case of Proposal No. 4, votes for every "1 YEAR," "2 YEARS," or "3 YEARS"). Broker non-votes and abstentions will have no effect on determining whether the affirmative vote constitutes a majority of the shares present or represented by proxy and voting at the Annual Meeting (or in the case of Proposal No. 4, votes for every "1 YEAR," "2 YEARS").

#### What are the Board's recommendations?

The Board recommends a vote:

<u>Proposal 1</u>— FOR the election of the nominees for directors named in this proxy statements.

<u>Proposal 2</u> — *FOR* the ratification of the appointment of Deloitte as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2023.

Proposal 3 — FOR the approval, on an advisory basis, of the compensation of the named executive officers.

<u>Proposal 4</u> — FOR EVERY 1 YEAR as the frequency of advisory votes on the compensation of the named executive officers.

Proposal 5 — FOR the approval of the amendment and restatement of the Shyft Stock Incentive Plan of 2016.

### What will happen if other matters are raised at the meeting?

If any other matter is properly submitted to the shareholders at the Annual Meeting, its adoption will generally require the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of common stock outstanding on the Record Date that is present or represented at the Annual Meeting. The Board does not propose to conduct any business at the Annual Meeting other than as stated above.

#### How do I find out the voting results?

Preliminary voting results will be announced at the Annual Meeting and final voting results will be published by the Company in a Current Report on Form 8-K.

#### How may I obtain an additional copy of the proxy materials?

If you share an address with another shareholder, you may receive only one set of proxy materials unless you have provided contrary instructions. If you wish to receive a separate set of proxy materials now or in the future, please request the additional copy by contacting The Shyft Group, Inc, Attention: Investor Relations, 41280 Bridge Street, Novi, Michigan 48375, Telephone 517-543-6400, or by email to shyftlegal@theshyftgroup.com. Additionally, if you have been receiving multiple sets of proxy materials and wish to receive only one set of proxy materials, please contact the Company's Investor Relations department in the manner provided above.

#### What does it mean if I receive more than one proxy card or voting instruction card?

If you receive more than one proxy card or voting instruction card, it means that you have multiple accounts with banks, trustees, brokers, other nominees and/or the Company's transfer agent. Please sign and deliver each proxy card and voting instruction card that you receive to ensure that all of your shares will be voted. We recommend that you contact your nominee and/or the Company's transfer agent, as appropriate, to consolidate as many accounts as possible under the same name and address.



#### Who pays for the solicitation of proxies?

The accompanying proxy is being solicited by the Company's Board. The Company will bear the cost of soliciting the proxies. Officers and other management employees of the Company will receive no additional compensation for the solicitation of proxies and may use mail, e-mail, personal interview and/or telephone.

#### How can I access the Company's proxy materials and Annual Report on Form 10-K?

The Financial Information subsection under "Investors" on the Company's website, *www.theshyftgroup.com*, provides access, free of charge, to SEC reports as soon as reasonably practicable after the Company electronically files such reports with, or furnishes such reports to, the SEC, including proxy materials, Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and amendments to these reports. The Company has posted printable and searchable 2021 proxy materials to the Company's website at *www.theshyftgroup.com*. A copy of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2022, as filed with the SEC, will be sent to any shareholder, without charge, upon written request sent to the Company's executive offices at The Shyft Group, Inc., Attention: Investor Relations, 41280 Bridge Street, Novi, Michigan 48375 or by email to shyftlegal@theshyftgroup.com.

The references to the website addresses of the Company and SEC in this proxy statement are not intended to function as a hyperlink and, except as specified herein, the information contained on such websites is not part of this proxy statement.

#### Is a registered list of shareholders available?

The names of shareholders of record entitled to vote electronically at the Annual Meeting will be available to shareholders entitled to vote at the meeting on May 17, 2023 at the Company's headquarters and during the meeting, at *www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/SHYF2023*.

# How and when may I submit a shareholder proposal or director nomination for the 2024 Annual Meeting?

For a shareholder proposal to be considered for inclusion in the Company's proxy statement for the 2024 Annual Meeting, the Corporate Secretary must receive the written proposal at the Company's principal executive offices no later than December 8, 2023. Such proposals also must comply with SEC regulations under Rule 14a-8 regarding the inclusion of shareholder proposals in company-sponsored proxy materials and the Company's bylaws. Proposals should be addressed to The Shyft Group, Inc. Chief Legal Officer, 41280 Bridge Street, Novi Michigan 48375.

For any shareholder proposal outside the processes of Rule 14a-8, including a proposal to nominate a director, a shareholder must provide notice setting forth (a) a brief description of the matter the shareholder desires to present for shareholder action, (b) the name and record address of the shareholder proposing the matter for shareholder action (c) the number of shares of the Company's stock that are beneficially owned by the shareholder;, (d) any material interest of the shareholder in the matter proposed for shareholder action, and (e) any additional information that is required to be provided by the shareholder pursuant to Regulation 14A under the Exchange Act and the Company's bylaws. The Corporate Secretary must receive written notice of any such shareholder proposal at the Company's principal executive offices no later than December 8, 2023.

A shareholder who intends to solicit proxies in support of director nominees other than the Company's nominees must satisfy the foregoing requirements under our bylaws, including providing a representation regarding whether such shareholder intends to solicit proxies in support of nominees other than the Company's nominees in accordance with Rule 14a-19 promulgated under the Exchange Act, and, in the event that such shareholder so intends, such notice shall also include a statement that such shareholder intends to solicit the holders of shares representing at least 67% of the voting power of the Company's shares entitled to vote on the election of directors in support of such director nominees other than the Company's nominees.



# Appendix A Non-GAAP Reconciliations

This proxy statement contains adjusted EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization) and free cash flow, which are non-GAAP financial measures that were used in determining annual incentive compensation for our named executives. Adjusted EBITDA is calculated by excluding items that we believe to be infrequent or not indicative of our underlying operating performance, as well as certain non-cash expenses. For the periods covered by this proxy statement, such items include restructuring and other related charges, acquisition related expenses and adjustments, and non-cash stock-based compensation expenses. Free cash flow is calculated as operating cash flow less capital expenditures.

The following table reconciles Income from continuing operations to Adjusted EBITDA for 2022.

	2022
Income from continuing operations	\$36,558
Add:	
Interest expense	2,833
Income tax expense	7,368
Depreciation & Amortization expense	14,774
EBITDA	61,533
Restructuring and other related charges	757
Acquisition related expenses and adjustments	884
Non-cash stock-based compensation expense	7,619
Adjusted EBITDA for annual cash incentive compensation	\$70,793



Operating Activities	
Net income	\$ 36,558
Depreciation & amortization	14,774
Non-cash stock based compensation expense	7,619
Loss on disposal of assets	826
Deferred income taxes	(5,510)
Change in working capital	(73,110)
Net cash used in operating activities	(18,843) (A)
Capital expenditures	(20,564) (B)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	148
Proceeds from long-term debt	145,000
Payments on long-term debt	(89,000)
Payments of dividends	(7,148)
Purchase and retirement of common stock	(26,789)
Exercise and vesting of stock incentive awards	(8,414)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	\$ (25,610)
Free cash flow (A-B)	\$ (39,407)

Shyft Group // 2023 Proxy Statement

81

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# Appendix B THE SHYFT GROUP, INC. STOCK INCENTIVE PLAN

(Amended and Restated Effective May 17, 2023)

# **SECTION 1**

# Establishment of Plan; Purpose of Plan

**1.1 Establishment of Plan.** The Company hereby operates THE SHYFT GROUP, INC. STOCK INCENTIVE PLAN (originally entitled the Stock Incentive Plan of 2016, as amended and restated effective May 20, 2020 and October 29, 2020, and as further amended and restated in the form of this document effective May 17, 2023, the "Plan") for its directors and officers and other employees of the Company, its divisions and its Subsidiaries, and certain consultants to the Company and its Subsidiaries. The Plan permits the grant and award of Stock Options, Stock Appreciation Rights, Restricted Stock, Restricted Stock Units and Stock Awards.

**1.2 Purpose of Plan.** The purpose of the Plan is to provide Company directors and officers and other employees of the Company, its divisions and its Subsidiaries, and certain consultants to the Company and its Subsidiaries with an increased incentive to contribute to the long-term performance and growth of the Company and its Subsidiaries, to join the interests of such directors, officers, other employees and consultants with the interests of the Company's shareholders through the opportunity for increased stock ownership and to attract and retain such directors, officers, other employees and consultants. The Plan is further intended to provide flexibility to the Company in structuring long-term incentive compensation to best promote the foregoing objectives.

**1.3 Replacement of Prior Plans.** This Plan is intended to replace each of the Prior Plans (defined below), each of which shall be automatically terminated, replaced, and superseded by this Plan on the effective date of this Plan. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any awards granted pursuant to any Prior Plan shall remain in effect pursuant to their respective terms.

# **SECTION 2**

## Definitions

The following words have the following meanings unless a different meaning plainly is required by the context:

**2.1** "Agreement" means the written or electronic agreement, or other written or electronic evidence, containing the terms and conditions applicable to each Award granted under the Plan. An Agreement is subject to the terms and conditions of the Plan.

2.2 "Act" means the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

**2.3 "Board**" means the Board of Directors of the Company.

**2.4 "Change in Control**," unless otherwise defined in an Incentive Award, means: (a) the failure of the Continuing Directors at any time to constitute at least a majority of the members of the Board; (b) the acquisition by any Person other than an Excluded Holder of beneficial ownership (within the meaning of Rule 13d-3 issued under the Act) of 35% or more of the outstanding Common Stock or the combined voting power of the Company's outstanding securities entitled to



vote generally in the election of directors; (c) the consummation by the Company of a reorganization, merger or consolidation, unless with or into a Permitted Successor; or (d) the consummation by the Company of the sale or disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of the Company, other than to a Permitted Successor.

2.5 "Code" means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

**2.6** "Committee" means the Human Resources and Compensation Committee of the Board or such other committee as the Board may designate from time to time. The Committee shall consist of at least 2 members of the Board and all of its members shall be Non-Employee Directors.

2.7 "Common Stock" means the Common Stock, \$.01 par value, of the Company.

**2.8** "Company" means The Shyft Group, Inc., a Michigan corporation formerly known as Spartan Motors, Inc., and its successors and assigns.

**2.9** "Competition" means, unless otherwise defined in an Incentive Award, participation, directly or indirectly, in the ownership, management, financing or control of any business that is the same as or similar to the present or future businesses of the Company or any Subsidiary. Such participation may be by way of employment, consulting services, directorship or officership. Ownership of less than 3% of the shares of any corporation whose shares are traded publicly on any national or regional stock exchange or over the counter shall not be deemed Competition.

**2.10 "Continuing Directors**" mean the individuals constituting the Board as of the date this Plan was adopted and any subsequent directors whose election or nomination for election by the Company's shareholders was approved by a vote of three-quarters (3/4) of the individuals who are then Continuing Directors, but specifically excluding any individual whose initial assumption of office occurs as a result of either an actual or threatened solicitation subject to Rule 14a-12(c) of Regulation 14A issued under the Act or other actual or threatened solicitation of proxies or consents by or on behalf of a Person other than the Board.

**2.11 "Disability"** means unless otherwise defined in an Incentive Award: (a) a Participant is unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months; or (b) a Participant is, by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or can be expected to result of not less than 12 months; or (b) a Participant is, by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or can be expected to result of not less than 12 months, receiving income replacement benefits for a period of not less than three months under an accident and health plan covering employees of the Company.

**2.12 "Employee Benefit Plan**" means any plan or program established by the Company or a Subsidiary for the compensation or benefit of employees of the Company or any of its Subsidiaries.

**2.13 "Excluded Holder**" means (a) any Person who at the time this Plan was adopted was the beneficial owner of 10% or more of the outstanding Common Stock; or (b) the Company, a Subsidiary or any Employee Benefit Plan of the Company or a Subsidiary or any trust holding Common Stock or other securities pursuant to the terms of an Employee Benefit Plan.

2.14 "Full Value Award" means an Incentive Award other than an Option or Stock Appreciation Right.

2.15 "Good Reason" means, unless otherwise defined in an Incentive Award, for purposes of the Plan, any material diminution of the Participant's position, authority, duties or responsibilities (including the assignment of duties materially inconsistent with the Participant's position or a material increase in the time Participant is required by the Company or its successor to travel), any reduction in salary or in the Participant's aggregate bonus and incentive opportunities, any material reduction in the aggregate value of the Participant's employee benefits (including retirement, welfare and fringe benefits), or relocation to a principal work site that is more than 40 miles from the Participant's principal work site immediately prior to a Change in Control.

**2.16** "Incentive Award" means the award or grant of a Stock Option, Stock Appreciation Right, Restricted Stock, Restricted Stock Unit or a Stock Award to a Participant pursuant to the Plan.



**2.17 "Market Value**" shall equal the closing price of Common Stock reported on Nasdaq on the date of grant, exercise or vesting, as applicable, or if Nasdaq is closed on that date, the last preceding date on which Nasdaq was open for trading and on which shares of Common Stock were traded. If the Common Stock is not listed on Nasdaq, the Market Value shall be determined by any means deemed fair and reasonable by the Committee, which determination shall be final and binding on all parties.

**2.18** "Mature Shares" means shares of Common Stock that a Participant has owned for at least six months and that meet any other holding requirements established by the Committee for the shares to be used for attestation.

**2.19 "Nasdaq**" means The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC, or if the Common Stock is not listed for trading on the on the Nasdaq Stock Market LLC on the date in question, then such other United States-based stock exchange or quotation system on which the Common Stock may be traded or quoted on the date in question.

**2.20 "Non-Employee Directors"** shall mean individuals who qualify as such within the meaning of Rule 16b-3 under the Exchange Act (or any successor definition thereto).

**2.21** "**Participant**" means a Company director or officer, or other employee of the Company, its divisions or its Subsidiaries, or a consultant to the Company and its Subsidiaries who the Committee determines is eligible to participate in the Plan and who is designated to be granted an Incentive Award under the Plan. Consultants must satisfy the Form S-8 definition of an "employee" to qualify as a Participant in the Plan.

**2.22 "Performance-Based Compensation**" means an Award made prior to November 2, 2017 to a person who is, or is determined by the Committee to likely become, a "covered employee" (as defined in Section 162(m)(3) of the Code) and that is intended to constitute "performance-based compensation" within the meaning of Section 162(m) (4)(C) of the Code prior to its amendment by Section 13601 of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, PL 115-97. Awards made on or after November 2, 2017 will not be considered Performance-Based Compensation.

**2.23** "**Permitted Successor**" means a company that, immediately following the consummation of a transaction specified in clauses (c) and (d) of the definition of "Change in Control" above, satisfies each of the following criteria: (a) 50% or more of the outstanding common stock of the company and the combined voting power of the outstanding securities of the company entitled to vote generally in the election of directors (in each case determined immediately following the consummation of the applicable transaction) is beneficially owned, directly or indirectly, by all or substantially all of the Persons who were the beneficial owners of the outstanding Common Stock and outstanding Company securities entitled to vote generally in the election of directors (respectively) immediately prior to the applicable transaction; (b) no Person other than an Excluded Holder beneficially owns, directly or indirectly, 35% or more of the outstanding common stock of the company or the combined voting power of the company entitled to vote generally in the election of directors (for these purposes the term Excluded Holder shall include the company, any subsidiary of the company and any employee benefit plan of the company or any such subsidiary or any trust holding common stock or other securities of the company pursuant to the terms of any such employee benefit plan); and (c) at least a majority of the board of directors of the company is comprised of Continuing Directors.

**2.24** "**Person**" has the same meaning as set forth in Sections 13(d) and 14(d)(2) of the Act.

**2.25** "**Prior Plan**" means each of (a) the Spartan Motors, Inc. 2005 Stock Incentive Plan, (b) the Spartan Motors, Inc. 2007 Stock Incentive Plan, and (c) the Spartan Motors, Inc. 2012 Stock Incentive Plan.

**2.26** "**Restricted Period**" means the period of time during which Restricted Stock or Restricted Stock Units awarded under the Plan are subject to the risk of forfeiture, restrictions on transfer and other restrictions and/or conditions pursuant to Section 7. The Restricted Period may differ among Participants and may have different expiration dates with respect to shares of Common Stock covered by the same Incentive Award.

**2.27** "Restricted Stock" means Common Stock awarded to a Participant pursuant to Section 7 of the Plan.

**2.28** "**Restricted Stock Unit**" means the right, as described in Section 7, to receive an amount, payable in either cash or shares of Common Stock, equal to the value of a specified number of shares of Common Stock.

**2.29** "Stock Appreciation Right" or "SAR" means a right awarded to a Participant pursuant to Section 6 of the Plan, which shall entitle the Participant to receive cash, Common Stock, other property or a combination thereof, as



determined by the Committee, having a value on the date the SAR is exercised equal to the excess of (a) the Market Value of a share of Common Stock at the time of exercise over (b) the base price of the right, as established by the Committee on the date the award is granted (*provided* that such base price is not lower than the Market Value as of the date of grant).

**2.30** "Stock Option" means the right to purchase Common Stock at a stated price for a specified period of time. For purposes of the Plan, a Stock Option may be either an incentive stock option within the meaning of Section 422(b) of the Code or a nonqualified stock option.

**2.31** "Subsidiary" means any corporation or other entity of which 50% or more of the outstanding voting stock or voting ownership interest is directly or indirectly owned or controlled by the Company or by one or more Subsidiaries of the Company.

### **SECTION 3**

# Administration

**3.1 Power and Authority.** The Committee shall administer the Plan. The Committee may delegate record keeping, calculation, payment and other ministerial administrative functions to individuals designated by the Committee, who may be officers and/or employees of the Company or its Subsidiaries. Except as limited in this Plan or as may be necessary to ensure that this Plan provides performance-based compensation under Section 162(m) of the Code (with respect to Incentive Awards granted prior to November 2, 2017), the Committee shall have all of the express and implied powers and duties set forth in the bylaws of the Company and this Plan, shall have full power and authority to interpret the provisions of the Plan and Incentive Awards granted under the Plan and shall have full power and authority to supervise the administration of the Plan and Incentive Awards granted under the Plan and to make all other determinations, interpretations and selections made by the Committee regarding the Plan shall be final and conclusive. The Committee shall hold its meetings at such times and places as it considers advisable. Action may be taken by a written instrument signed by all of the members of the Committee and any action so taken shall be fully as effective as if it had been taken at a meeting duly called and held. The Committee shall make such rules and regulations for the conduct of its business as it considers advisable.

**3.2 Grants or Awards to Participants.** In accordance with and subject to the provisions of the Plan, the Committee shall have the authority to determine all provisions of Incentive Awards as the Committee may consider necessary or desirable and as are consistent with the terms of the Plan, including, without limitation, the following: (a) the persons who shall be selected as Participants; (b) the nature and, subject to the limitations set forth in the Plan, extent of the Incentive Awards to be made to each Participant (including the number of shares of Common Stock to be subject to each Incentive Award, any exercise or purchase price, the manner in which an Incentive Award will vest or become exercisable and the form of payment for the Incentive Award); (c) the time or times when Incentive Awards will be granted; (d) the duration of each Incentive Award; and (e) the restrictions and other conditions to which payment or vesting of Incentive Awards may be subject.

**3.3** Incentive Award Agreement. Each Incentive Award shall be evidenced by an Agreement containing such terms and conditions, consistent with the provisions of the Plan, as the Committee shall from time to time determine.

**3.4 Vesting and Term.** The Committee may determine, in its sole discretion, vesting conditions for Incentive Awards, subject to the following limitations:

(a) An Incentive Award that vests as the result of the passage of time and continued service by the Participant shall be subject to a vesting period of not less than one year from the date of the applicable grant; and

(b) An Incentive Award that is subject to the satisfaction of performance goals over a performance period shall be subject to a performance period of not less than one year.

The minimum vesting periods specified in clauses (a) and (b) above will not apply: (i) to Incentive Awards made in payment of or exchange for other earned compensation (including performance-based Incentive Awards); (ii) upon a Change in Control under the provisions set forth in Section 9; (iii) to termination of service, including due to death or



Disability or termination with or without cause or due to Good Reason; and (iv) to Incentive Awards involving an aggregate number of shares not in excess of 5% of the number of shares available for Incentive Awards under Section 4.1. For purposes of clarification, Incentive Awards may provide for (or the Committee may take discretionary action to provide for) continued vesting or the earlier vesting of such Incentive Awards, including in the event of the retirement, death, Disability or termination of employment or service of a Participant.

Amendments or Modifications of Awards. Subject to Section 11, the Committee shall have the authority to amend or modify the terms of any outstanding Incentive Award in any manner, provided that the amended or modified terms are not prohibited by the Plan as then in effect, including, without limitation, the authority to: (a) modify the number of shares or other terms and conditions of an Incentive Award, provided that any increase in the number of shares of an Incentive Award other than pursuant to Section 4.3 shall be considered to be a new grant with respect to such additional shares for purposes of Code Section 409A and such new grant shall be made at Market Value on the date of the grant; (b) extend the term of an Incentive Award to a date that is no later than the earlier of the latest date upon which the Incentive Award could have expired by its terms under any circumstances or the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the date of grant (for purposes of clarity, as permitted under Section 409A of the Code, if the term of a Stock Option is extended at a time when the Stock Option exercise price equals or exceeds the Market Value, it will not be an extension of the term of the Stock Option, but instead will be treated as a modification of the Stock Option and a new Stock Option will be treated as having been granted); (c) accelerate the exercisability or vesting or otherwise terminate, waive or modify any restrictions relating to an Incentive Award; (d) accept the surrender of any outstanding Incentive Award; and (e) to the extent not previously exercised or vested, authorize the grant of new Incentive Awards in substitution for surrendered Incentive Awards, provided, however, that such grant of new Incentive Awards shall be considered a new grant for purposes of Code Section 409A and such new grant shall be made at Market Value on the date of the grant; provided, that Incentive Awards issued under the Plan may not be repriced, replaced, regranted through cancellation or modified without shareholder approval if the effect of such repricing, replacement, regrant or modification would be to reduce the exercise price or base price of such Incentive Awards to the same Participants; further provided, that no amendment or modification will alter the Plan in such a way as to cause it to be governed by Code Section 409A.

**3.6** Indemnification of Committee Members. Neither any member nor former member of the Committee nor any individual to whom authority is or has been delegated shall be personally responsible or liable for any act or omission in connection with the performance of powers or duties or the exercise of discretion or judgment in the administration and implementation of the Plan. Each person who is or shall have been a member of the Committee shall be indemnified and held harmless by the Company from and against any cost, liability or expense imposed or incurred in connection with such person's or the Committee's taking or failing to take any action under the Plan. Each such person shall be justified in relying on information furnished in connection with the Plan's administration by any appropriate person or persons.

**3.7 Grants to Non-U.S. Participants.** In order to facilitate the making of any grant or combination of grants under this Plan, the Committee may provide for such special terms for awards to Participants who are non-U.S. nationals or who are employed by the Company or any Subsidiary outside of the United States of America or who provide services to the Company or any Subsidiary under an agreement with a non-U.S. nation or agency, as the Committee may consider necessary or appropriate to accommodate differences in local law, tax policy or custom. Moreover, the Committee may approve such supplements to or amendments, restatements or alternative versions of this Plan (including sub-plans) (to be considered part of this Plan) as it may consider necessary or appropriate for such purposes, without thereby affecting the terms of this Plan as in effect for any other purpose, and the secretary or other appropriate officer of the Company may certify any such document as having been approved and adopted in the same manner as this Plan. No such special terms, supplements, amendments or restatements, however, will include any provisions that are inconsistent with the terms of this Plan as then in effect unless this Plan could have been amended to eliminate such inconsistency without further approval by the Company's shareholders.

### **SECTION 4**

#### Shares Subject to the Plan

4.1 Number of Shares. Subject to adjustment as provided in Section 4.3 of the Plan and the share counting rules of the Plan, the total number of shares of Common Stock available for Incentive Awards under the Plan shall be 5,000,000 shares of Common Stock (consisting of 2,800,000 shares of Common Stock approved by Company stockholders in 2016, 1,200,000 shares of Common Stock approved by Company stockholders in 2020, and 1,000,000 shares of Common Stock to be approved by Company stockholders in 2023), plus (a) shares subject to Incentive Awards or awards granted under a Prior Plan to the extent that such awards are canceled, forfeited, surrendered, modified, exchanged for substitute Incentive Awards or unearned, or that expire or terminate prior to the exercise or vesting of such award in full, and (b) shares subject to Full Value Awards (or full value awards granted under a Prior Plan) that are surrendered to the Company in connection with the vesting of an Incentive Award, whether previously owned or otherwise subject to such award (but in each case only for up to 10 years following the date of the most recent stockholder approval of the Plan). Such shares shall be authorized and may be either unissued shares, shares issued and repurchased by the Company (including shares purchased on the open market), shares issued and otherwise reacquired by the Company and shares otherwise held by the Company. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the Plan, the following shares will not be added (or added back, as applicable) to the available share pool under the Plan: (w) shares withheld by the Company, tendered or otherwise used in payment of the exercise price of stock option; (x) shares withheld by the Company, tendered or otherwise used to satisfy a tax withholding obligation regarding stock options and stock appreciation rights; (y) shares subject to stock-settled stock appreciation rights that are not actually issued in connection with the settlement of such award when exercised; and (z) shares reacquired by the Company on the open market or otherwise using cash proceeds from the exercise of stock options. Shares received based on fair market value by a Participant in exchange for electing to give up the right to receive other compensation will not count against the available share pool under the Plan.

**4.2** Limitation Upon Incentive Awards; Non-Employee Director Compensation Limit. No Participant shall be granted, during any calendar year, Incentive Awards with respect to more than 500,000 shares of Common Stock, subject to adjustment as provided in Section 4.3 of the Plan, but only to the extent that such adjustment will not affect the status of any Incentive Award issued prior to November 2, 2017 as "performance-based compensation" under Section 162(m) of the Code. A purpose of this Section 4.2 is to ensure that the Plan may provide performance-based compensation under Section 162(m) of the Code prior to November 2, 2017, and this Section 4.2 shall be interpreted, administered and amended if necessary to achieve that purpose. However, the Company is not obligated to structure Incentive Awards to ensure that the awards qualify as "performance-based compensation" under Section 162(m) of the Code. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Plan, in no event will any non-employee director be granted compensation in any one calendar year for such non-employee director service if the compensation has an aggregate maximum value (measured at the date of grant as applicable, and calculating the value of any Incentive Awards based on the grant date fair value for financial reporting purposes), in excess of \$750,000.

#### 4.3 Adjustments.

(a) Stock Dividends and Distributions. If the number of shares of Common Stock outstanding changes by reason of a stock dividend, extraordinary cash dividend, stock split, share combination, recapitalization or other general distribution of Common Stock or other securities to holders of Common Stock, or other change in the capital structure of the Company, the Committee shall provide that the number and kind of securities subject to Incentive Awards, available for issuance under the Plan and subject to the limitations provided under the Plan, together with all other Incentive Award terms, shall be adjusted in an equitable manner. No fractional shares shall be issued pursuant to the Plan and any fractional shares resulting from such adjustments shall be eliminated from the respective Incentive Awards. Moreover, in the event of any transaction or event described in this Section 4.3, the Committee may provide in substitution for any or all outstanding Incentive Awards such alternative consideration (including cash), if any, as it, in good faith, may determine to be equitable in the circumstances and shall require in connection therewith the surrender of all awards so replaced in a manner that complies with Section 409A of the Code. In addition, for each Stock Option or Stock Appreciation Right with an



exercise price or base price greater than the consideration offered in connection with any such transaction or event described in this Section 4.3, the Committee may in its discretion elect to cancel such Stock Option or Stock Appreciation Right without any payment to the Person holding such award.

Other Actions Affecting Common Stock. If there occurs, other than as described in the (b) preceding subsection, any merger, spin-off, business combination, recapitalization, reclassification, subdivision or combination (or substantially similar corporate transaction) approved by the Board that would result in the Persons who were shareholders of the Company immediately prior to the effective time of any such transaction owning or holding, in lieu of or in addition to shares of Common Stock, other securities. money and/or property (or the right to receive other securities, money and/or property) immediately after the effective time of such transaction, then the outstanding Incentive Awards (including exercise prices and base prices) and reserves for or limitations regarding Incentive Awards under this Plan shall be adjusted in such manner as the Committee determines shall be appropriate under the circumstances. It is intended that in the event of any such transaction. Incentive Awards under this Plan shall entitle the holder of each Incentive Award to receive (upon exercise in the case of Stock Options and SARs), in lieu of or in addition to shares of Common Stock, any other securities, money and/or property receivable upon consummation of any such transaction by holders of Common Stock with respect to each share of Common Stock outstanding immediately prior to the effective time of such transaction; upon any such adjustment, holders of Incentive Awards under this Plan shall have only the right to receive in lieu of or in addition to shares of Common Stock such other securities, money and/or other property as provided by the adjustment. If the agreement, resolution or other document approved by the Board to effect any such transaction provides for the adjustment of Incentive Awards under the Plan in connection with such transaction, then the adjustment provisions contained in such agreement, resolution or other document shall be final and conclusive, so long as they are in compliance with Code Section 409A.

# **SECTION 5**

#### **Stock Options**

Grant. A Participant may be granted one or more Stock Options under the Plan. No Participant shall have 5.1 any rights as a shareholder with respect to any shares of stock subject to Stock Options granted hereunder until said shares have been issued. Stock Options shall be subject to such terms and conditions, consistent with the other provisions of the Plan, as may be determined by the Committee in its sole discretion. In addition, the Committee may vary, among Participants and among Stock Options granted to the same Participant, any and all of the terms and conditions of the Stock Options granted under the Plan. Subject to the limitations imposed by Section 4.2 of the Plan, the Committee shall have complete discretion in determining the number of Stock Options granted to each Participant. The Committee may designate whether or not a Stock Option is to be considered an incentive stock option as defined in Section 422(b) of the Code; provided, that the number of shares of Common Stock that may be designated as subject to incentive stock options for any given Participant shall be limited to that number of shares that become exercisable for the first time by the Participant during any calendar year (under all plans of the Company and its Subsidiaries) and have an aggregate Market Value less than or equal to \$100,000 (or such other amount as may be set forth in the Code) and all shares subject to an Incentive Award that have a Market Value in excess of such aggregate amount shall automatically be subject to Stock Options that are not incentive stock options. Stock Options granted to directors who are not employees of the Company or its Subsidiaries shall not be treated as incentive stock options under Section 422(b) of the Code. Incentive stock options may be granted only to Participants who meet the definition of "employees" under Section 3401(c) of the Code. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Plan, and subject to adjustment as provided in Section 4.3 of the Plan, the aggregate number of shares of Common Stock actually issued or transferred by the Company upon the exercise of incentive stock options will not exceed 5,000,000 shares of Common Stock. Stock Options may not provide for any dividends or dividend equivalents thereon.

**5.2 Stock Option Price.** The per share Stock Option exercise price shall be determined by the Committee, but shall be a price that is equal to or greater than 100% of the Market Value on the date of grant. The date of grant of a Stock Option shall be the date the Stock Option is authorized by the Committee or a future date specified by the Committee as the date for issuing the Stock Option.



**5.3** Medium and Time of Payment. The exercise price for each share purchased pursuant to a Stock Option granted under the Plan shall be payable (a) in cash, (b) if the Committee consents or provides in the applicable Stock Option agreement or grant, in Mature Shares, (c) or subject to any conditions or limitations established by the Committee, by the withholding of shares of Common Stock otherwise issuable upon exercise of the Stock Option pursuant to a "net exercise" arrangement, (d) other consideration substantially equivalent to cash, or (e) by other consideration as approved by the Committee. To the extent any such amendment would not cause a Stock Option to become subject to Code Section 409A, the time and terms of payment may be amended with the consent of a Participant before or after exercise of a Stock Option. The Committee may implement a program for the broker-assisted cashless exercise of Stock Options.

**5.4** Stock Options Granted to 10% Shareholders. No Stock Option granted to any Participant who at the time of such grant owns, together with stock attributed to such Participant under Section 424(d) of the Code, more than 10% of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock of the Company or any of its Subsidiaries may be designated as an incentive stock option, unless such Stock Option provides an exercise price equal to at least 110% of the Market Value on the date of grant and the exercise of the Stock Option after the expiration of five years from the date of grant of the Stock Option is prohibited by its terms.

**5.5** Limits on Exercisability. Except as set forth in Section 5.4, Stock Options shall be exercisable for such periods, not to exceed 10 years from the date of grant, as may be fixed by the Committee. At the time of exercise of a Stock Option, the holder of the Stock Option, if requested by the Committee, must represent to the Company that the shares are being acquired for investment and not with a view to the distribution thereof. The Committee may in its discretion require a Participant to continue the Participant's service with the Company and its Subsidiaries for a certain length of time prior to a Stock Option becoming exercisable and may eliminate such delayed vesting provisions.

#### 5.6 Restrictions on Transferability.

(a) General. Unless the Committee otherwise consents or permits (before or after the Stock Option grant) or unless the Stock Option agreement or grant provides otherwise, Stock Options granted under the Plan may not be sold, exchanged, transferred, pledged, assigned or otherwise alienated or hypothecated except by will or the laws of descent and distribution, and, as a condition to any transfer permitted by the Committee or the terms of the Stock Option agreement or grant, the transferee must execute a written agreement permitting the Company to withhold from the shares subject to the Stock Option a number of shares having a Market Value at least equal to the amount of any federal, state or local withholding or other taxes associated with or resulting from the exercise of the Stock Option. All provisions of a Stock Option that are determined with reference to the Participant, including without limitation those that refer to the Participant's employment with the Company or its Subsidiaries, shall continue to be determined with reference to the Participant after any transfer of a Stock Option. In no event will any Stock Option award granted under the Plan be transferred for value.

(b) Other Restrictions. The Committee may impose other restrictions on any shares of Common Stock acquired pursuant to the exercise of a Stock Option under the Plan as the Committee deems advisable, including, without limitation, holding periods or further transfer restrictions, forfeiture or "clawback" provisions, and restrictions under applicable federal or state securities laws.

**5.7** Termination of Employment, Directorship or Officer Status. Unless the Committee otherwise consents or permits (before or after the Stock Option grant) or unless the Stock Option agreement or grant provides otherwise:

(a) General. If a Participant ceases to be a director of the Company or ceases to be employed by or an officer of the Company or one of its Subsidiaries for any reason other than the Participant's death, Disability or termination for cause (which are addressed below in Sections 5.7(b), (c) and (d), respectively), the Participant may exercise his or her Stock Options in accordance with their terms for a period of three months after such termination of employment, directorship or officer status, but only to the extent the Participant was entitled to exercise the Stock Options on the date of termination unless the Committee otherwise consents or the terms of the Stock Option agreement provide otherwise, and not beyond the original terms of the Stock Options. For purposes of the Plan, the following shall not be considered a termination of employment, or, where applicable, directorship or officer status: (i) a transfer of an employee from the Company to any Subsidiary; (ii) a leave of absence, duly authorized in writing by the Company, for military service or for any other purpose approved by the Company if the period of such leave does not exceed 90 days; (iii) a leave of absence in excess of 90 days,



duly authorized in writing by the Company, *provided* that the employee's right to re-employment is guaranteed by statute, contract or written policy of the Company; (iv) a termination of employment with continued service as an officer or director; or (v) a termination of a directorship with continued service as an employee or officer. For purposes of the Plan, termination of employment shall be considered to occur on the date on which the employee is no longer obligated to perform services for the Company or any of its Subsidiaries and the employee's right to re-employment is not guaranteed by statute, contract or written policy of the Company, regardless of whether the employee continues to receive compensation from the Company or any of its Subsidiaries after such date.

(b) **Death.** If a Participant dies either while a director of the Company or an employee or officer of the Company or one of its Subsidiaries or after the termination of employment or directorship other than for cause (termination for cause is addressed below in Section 5.7(d)), all of the Stock Options issued to such Participant shall become exercisable upon the Participant's death in accordance with their terms by the personal representative of such Participant or other successor to the interest of the Participant.

(c) **Disability.** If a Participant ceases to be a director of the Company or ceases to be an employee or officer of the Company or one of its Subsidiaries due to the Participant's Disability, the Participant may exercise all of his or her Stock Options in accordance with their terms.

(d) **Termination for Cause.** Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Section 5.7, if a Participant is terminated for cause, the Participant shall have no further right to exercise any Stock Options previously granted. For purposes of the Plan, the Committee or officers designated by the Committee shall have absolute discretion to determine whether a termination is for cause.

(f) Additional Provisions in Stock Option Agreements. The Committee may, in its sole discretion, provide by resolution or by including provisions in any Stock Option agreement entered into with a Participant that the Participant shall have no further right to exercise any Stock Options after termination of employment or directorship if the Committee determines the Participant has entered into Competition with the Company.

#### **SECTION 6**

#### **Stock Appreciation Rights**

**6.1 Grant**. A Participant may be granted one or more Stock Appreciation Rights under the Plan and such SARs will be subject to such terms and conditions, consistent with the other provisions of the Plan, as will be determined by the Committee in its sole discretion. A SAR may relate to a particular Stock Option and may be granted simultaneously with or subsequent to the Stock Option to which it relates. Except to the extent otherwise modified in the grant, (a) SARs not related to a Stock Option shall be granted subject to the same terms and conditions applicable to Stock Options as set forth in Section 5, and (b) all SARs related to Stock Options granted under the Plan shall be granted subject to the same restrictions and conditions and shall have the same vesting, exercisability, forfeiture and termination provisions as the Stock Options to which they relate. SARs may be subject to additional restrictions and conditions. The per-share base price for exercise or settlement of SARs shall be determined by the Committee, but shall be a price that is equal to or greater than the Market Value of such shares on the date of the grant.

**6.2 Exercise; Payment**. To the extent granted in tandem with a Stock Option, SARs may be exercised only when a related Stock Option could be exercised and only when the Market Value of the stock subject to the Stock Option exceeds the exercise price of the Stock Option. Unless the Committee decides otherwise (in its sole discretion), SARs will only be paid in cash or in shares of Common Stock. Other than as adjusted pursuant to Section 4.3, the base price of SARs may not be reduced without shareholder approval (including canceling previously awarded SARs and regranting them with a lower base price).

#### **SECTION 7**

#### **Restricted Stock, Restricted Stock Units and Stock Awards**

7.1 Grant, Subject to the limitations set forth in Sections 4.1 and 4.2 of the Plan, Restricted Stock, Restricted Stock Units and Stock Awards may be granted to Participants under the Plan. Shares of Restricted Stock are shares of Common Stock the retention, vesting and/or transferability of which is subject, during specified periods of time, to such conditions (including continued employment or performance conditions) and terms as the Committee deems appropriate. Restricted Stock Units are Incentive Awards denominated in units of Common Stock under which the issuance of shares of Common Stock or cash is subject to such conditions (including continued employment or performance conditions) and terms as the Committee deems appropriate. Stock Awards are Incentive Awards of one or more fully vested shares of Common Stock that qualify for one of the exceptions to the minimum vesting provisions contained in Section 3.4 of the Plan. For purposes of determining the number of shares available under the Plan, each Restricted Stock Unit shall count as the number of shares of Common Stock subject to the Restricted Stock Unit. Unless determined otherwise by the Committee, each Restricted Stock Unit will be equal to one share of Common Stock and will entitle a Participant to either shares of Common Stock or an amount of cash determined with reference to the value of shares of Common Stock. To the extent determined by the Committee, Restricted Stock and Restricted Stock Units may be satisfied or settled in Common Stock, cash or a combination thereof. Restricted Stock, Restricted Stock Units and Stock Awards granted pursuant to the Plan need not be identical but shall be consistent with the terms of the Plan. Subject to the requirements of applicable law, the Committee shall determine the price, if any, at which awards of Restricted Stock, Restricted Stock Units or Stock Awards, or shares of Common Stock issuable under Restricted Stock Unit awards, shall be sold or awarded to a Participant, which may vary from time to time and among Participants.

7.2 Termination of Employment, Directorship or Officer Status. Unless the Committee otherwise consents or permits (before or after the grant of Restricted Stock or Restricted Stock Units):

General. In the event of termination of employment, directorship or officer status during the Restricted Period for any reason other than death, Disability, termination for cause (which are addressed below in Sections 7.2(b), (c) and (d), respectively), or termination following a Change in Control (which is addressed in Section 9), each Restricted Stock and Restricted Stock Unit award still subject in full or in part to restrictions at the date of such termination shall automatically be forfeited and returned to the Company. For purposes of the Plan, the following shall not be considered a termination of employment, or, where applicable, directorship or officer status: (i) a transfer of an employee from the Company to any Subsidiary; (ii) a leave of absence, duly authorized in writing by the Company, for military service or for any other purpose approved by the Company if the period of such leave does not exceed 90 days; (iii) a leave of absence in excess of 90 days duly authorized in writing by the Company, provided that the employee's right to re-employment is guaranteed by statute, contract or written policy of the Company; (iv) a termination of employment with continued service as an officer or director; or (v) a termination of a directorship with continued service as an employee or officer. For purposes of the Plan, termination of employment shall be considered to occur on the date on which the employee is no longer obligated to perform services for the Company or any of its Subsidiaries and the employee's right to re-employment is not guaranteed by statute, contract or written policy of the Company, regardless of whether the employee continues to receive compensation from the Company or any of its Subsidiaries after such date.

(b) Death. If a Participant dies either while a director of the Company or an employee or officer of the Company or one of its Subsidiaries or after the termination of employment or directorship other than for cause (termination for cause is addressed below in Section 7.2(d)) but during the time when the Participant holds Restricted Stock or Restricted Stock Units still subject in full or in part to restrictions at the date of death, the Participant's Restricted Stock and Restricted Stock Units subject to a Restricted Period shall immediately become vested and the Participant's ownership (or that of his or her successor in interest) of such Restricted Stock and Restricted Stock Units shall not be affected by the Participant's death.



(c) Disability. If a Participant ceases to be a director of the Company or ceases to be an employee or officer of the Company or one of its Subsidiaries due to the Participant's Disability, the Participant's Restricted Stock and Restricted Stock Units subject to a Restricted Period shall immediately become vested and the Participant's ownership of such Restricted Stock and Restricted Stock Units shall not be affected by such Disability.

(d) Termination for Cause. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Section 7.2, if a Participant's employment or directorship is terminated for cause, the Participant shall have no further right to receive any Restricted Stock or Restricted Stock Units and all Restricted Stock and Restricted Stock Units still subject to restrictions at the date of such termination shall automatically be forfeited and returned to the Company. For purposes of the Plan, the Committee or officers designated by the Committee shall have absolute discretion to determine whether a termination is for cause.

#### 7.3 Restrictions on Transferability.

(a) General. Unless the Committee otherwise consents or permits or unless the terms of the Restricted Stock or Restricted Stock Units agreement or grant provide otherwise: (i) shares of Restricted Stock and interests in Restricted Stock Units shall not be sold, exchanged, transferred, pledged, assigned or otherwise alienated or hypothecated during the Restricted Period except by will or the laws of descent and distribution; and (ii) all rights with respect to Restricted Stock and Restricted Stock Units granted to a Participant under the Plan shall be exercisable during the Participant's lifetime only by such Participant, his or her guardian or legal representative. In no event will any such award granted under the Plan be transferred for value.

(b) Other Restrictions. The Committee may impose other restrictions on any shares of Common Stock subject to Restricted Stock and Restricted Stock Unit awards under the Plan as the Committee considers advisable, including, without limitation, holding periods or further transfer restrictions, forfeiture or "claw-back" provisions, and restrictions under applicable federal or state securities laws.

**7.4** Legending of Restricted Stock. In addition to any other legend that may be set forth on a Participant's share certificate, any certificates evidencing shares of Restricted Stock awarded pursuant to the Plan shall bear the following legend:

The shares represented by this certificate were issued subject to certain restrictions under the The Shyft Group, Inc. Stock Incentive Plan (the "Plan"). This certificate is held subject to the terms and conditions contained in a restricted stock agreement that includes a prohibition against the sale or transfer of the stock represented by this certificate except in compliance with that agreement and that provides for forfeiture upon certain events. Copies of the Plan and the restricted stock agreement are on file in the office of the Secretary of the Company.

The Committee may require that certificates representing shares of Restricted Stock be retained and held in escrow by a designated employee or agent of the Company or any Subsidiary until any restrictions applicable to shares of Restricted Stock so retained have been satisfied or lapsed.

7.5 Rights as a Shareholder. A Participant shall have all dividend, liquidation and other rights with respect to Restricted Stock held by such Participant as if the Participant held unrestricted Common Stock; *provided*, that the unvested portion of any award of Restricted Stock shall be subject to any restrictions on transferability or risks of forfeiture imposed pursuant to this Section 7 and the terms and conditions set forth in the Participant's restricted stock agreement, and any dividends or other distributions on such Restricted Stock will be deferred until, and paid contingent upon, the vesting or earning of such Restricted Stock. Unless the Committee otherwise, a Participant shall have all dividend and liquidation rights with respect to shares of Common Stock subject to awards of Restricted Stock Units held unrestricted Common Stock; provided, however, that any dividend equivalents or other distributions on such Restricted Stock Units will be deferred until, and paid contingent upon, the vesting or earning of such Restricted Stock Units will be deferred until, however, that any dividend equivalents or other distributions on such Restricted Stock Units will be deferred until, and paid contingent upon, the vesting or earning of such Restricted Stock Units will be deferred until, and paid contingent upon, the vesting or earning of such Restricted Stock Units will be deferred until, and paid contingent upon, the vesting or earning of such Restricted Stock Units.



**7.6** Voting Rights. Unless otherwise determined by the Committee, Participants holding shares of Restricted Stock granted hereunder may exercise full voting rights with respect to those shares during the Restricted Period. Participants shall have no voting rights with respect to shares of Common Stock underlying Restricted Stock Units unless and until such shares are reflected as issued and outstanding shares on the Company's stock ledger.

# **SECTION 8**

#### **Performance-Based Awards**

**8.1 Designation of Awards.** A Full Value Award granted to a Participant who is, or is likely to be, a "covered employee" for purposes of Code Section 162(m) as of the end of the tax year in which the Company would ordinarily claim a tax deduction in connection with such Incentive Award, must comply with the provisions of this Section 8 if such Incentive Award is intended by the Committee to constitute Performance-Based Compensation. Incentive Awards granted on or after November 2, 2017 will not be considered Performance-Based Compensation or subject to this Section 8.

Compliance with Code Section 162(m). If an Incentive Award is subject to this Section 8, then the 8.2 determination of the amount of shares to be granted or the lapsing of restrictions thereon and the distribution of cash, shares or other property pursuant thereto, as applicable, shall be subject to the achievement over the applicable performance period of one or more performance goals based on one or more of the performance measures specified in Section 8.3. The Committee will select the applicable performance measure(s) and specify the performance goal(s) based on those performance measures for any performance period, specify in terms of an objective formula or standard the method for calculating the grant to be made or the amount payable to a Participant if the performance goal(s) are satisfied, and certify the degree to which applicable performance goals have been satisfied and any grant to be made or amount payable in connection with an Incentive Award subject to this Section 8, all within the time periods prescribed by and consistent with the other requirements of Code Section 162(m). In specifying the performance goals applicable to any performance period, the Committee may provide that one or more objectively determinable adjustments shall be made to the performance measures on which the performance goals are based. which may include adjustments that would cause such measures to be considered "non-GAAP financial measures" within the meaning of Rule 101 under Regulation G promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Committee may also adjust performance measures for a performance period to the extent permitted by Code Section 162(m) in connection with an event described in Section 4.3 to prevent the dilution or enlargement of a Participant's rights with respect to Performance-Based Compensation. The Committee may adjust downward, but not upward, any grant to be made or any amount determined to be otherwise payable in connection with such an Incentive Award. The Committee may also provide that the achievement of specified performance goals in connection with an Incentive Award subject to this Section 8 may be waived upon the death or Disability of the Participant or under any other circumstance with respect to which the existence of such possible waiver will not cause the Incentive Award to fail to qualify as "performance-based compensation" under Code Section 162(m).

**8.3 Performance Measures.** For purposes of any Full Value Award considered Performance-Based Compensation subject to this Section 8, the performance measures to be utilized shall be limited to one or a combination of two or more of the following performance criteria: net sales; total revenue; gross margin rate; selling, general and administrative expense rate; earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization; operating income; earnings before interest and taxes; earnings before taxes; net earnings; earnings per share; total shareholder return; return on equity; return on sales; return on assets; return on invested capital; economic value added; cash conversion cycle; operating cash flow; free cash flow; working capital; debt leverage; and total net cash. Any performance goal based on one of the foregoing performance measures utilized may be expressed in absolute amounts, on a per share basis, as a growth rate or change from preceding periods, or as a comparison to the performance of specified companies or other external measures, and may relate to one or any combination of corporate, group, unit, division, Subsidiary or individual performance.

# **SECTION 9**

#### **Change in Control**

**9.1 Change in Control.** The following provisions shall apply to outstanding Incentive Awards in the event of a Change in Control.

**9.2** Acceleration of Vesting to Prevent Loss of Value. If the Company is the surviving entity and an outstanding Incentive Award is not adjusted or continued as necessary to preserve the intrinsic value of the Incentive Award, or if the Company's successor does not irrevocably assume or continue the Company's obligations under this Plan or replace the Incentive Awards with awards having substantially the same intrinsic value and having terms and conditions no less favorable to the Participant than those applicable to the Incentive Awards immediately prior to the Change in Control, then, immediately prior to the Change in Control and without any action by the Committee or the Board, each such outstanding Incentive Award granted under the Plan shall become immediately vested and, if applicable, exercisable in full.

#### 9.3 Acceleration of Vesting upon Certain Loss of Employment.

(a) Stock Options and Stock Appreciation Rights. In the event of a Change in Control in which the Participant's outstanding Stock Options or Stock Appreciation Rights granted under the Plan are continued, assumed or replaced as provided in Section 9.2, such Stock Options and Stock Appreciation Rights shall become immediately exercisable in full for a remaining term extending until the original expiration date of the applicable Stock Option or Stock Appreciation Right grant if, following the Change in Control, the Participant's employment (i) is terminated by the Company or a Subsidiary without cause, or (ii) is terminated by the Participant for Good Reason. For purposes of the Plan, the Committee or officers designated by the Committee shall have absolute discretion to determine whether a termination is for cause.

(b) Restricted Stock and Restricted Stock Units. In the event of a Change in Control in which the Participant's outstanding Restricted Stock and Restricted Stock Units granted under the Plan are continued, assumed or replaced as provided in Section 9.2, such Restricted Stock and Restricted Stock Units granted under the Plan will vest if, following the Change in Control, the Participant's employment (i) is terminated by the Company or a Subsidiary without cause, or (ii) is terminated by the Participant for Good Reason. For purposes of the Plan, the Committee or officers designated by the Committee shall have absolute discretion to determine whether a termination is for cause.

# **SECTION 10**

#### **General Provisions**

**10.1** No Rights to Awards. No Participant or other person shall have any claim to be granted any Incentive Award under the Plan and there is no obligation of uniformity of treatment of Participants or holders or beneficiaries of Incentive Awards under the Plan. The terms and conditions of Incentive Awards of the same type and the determination of the Committee to grant a waiver or modification of any Incentive Award and the terms and conditions thereof need not be the same with respect to each Participant or the same Participant.

**10.2 Withholding.** The Company or a Subsidiary shall be entitled to: (a) withhold and deduct from future wages of a Participant (or from other amounts that may be due and owing to a Participant from the Company or a Subsidiary), or make other arrangements for the collection of, all legally required amounts necessary to satisfy any and all federal, state, local and foreign withholding and employment-related tax requirements attributable to an Incentive Award, including, without limitation, regarding the grant, exercise or vesting of, or payment of dividends or dividend equivalents with respect to, an Incentive Award or a disqualifying disposition of Common Stock received upon exercise of an incentive stock option; or (b) require a Participant promptly to remit the amount of such withholding to the Company before taking any action with respect to an Incentive Award. Unless the Committee determines otherwise, withholding may be satisfied (but only to the extent required to satisfy the minimum amount required to be withheld by law or regulation, unless an additional amount can be withheld and not result in adverse accounting consequences, and such additional withholding



amount is authorized by the Committee) by withholding Common Stock to be received upon exercise or vesting of an Incentive Award or by delivery to the Company previously owned Common Stock. The Company may establish such rules and procedures concerning timing of any withholding election as it deems appropriate.

**10.3** Compliance with Laws; Listing and Registration of Shares. All Incentive Awards granted under the Plan (and all issuances of Common Stock or other securities under the Plan) shall be subject to all applicable laws, rules and regulations, and to the requirement that if at any time the Committee shall determine, in its discretion, that the listing, registration or qualification of the shares covered thereby upon any securities exchange or under any state or federal law, or the consent or approval of any governmental regulatory body, is necessary or desirable as a condition of, or in connection with, the grant of such Incentive Award or the issuance or purchase of shares thereunder, such Incentive Award may not be exercised in whole or in part, or the restrictions on such Incentive Award shall not lapse, unless and until such listing, registration, qualification, consent or approval shall have been effected or obtained free of any conditions not acceptable to the Committee.

**10.4** No Limit on Other Compensation Arrangements. Nothing contained in the Plan shall prevent the Company or any Subsidiary from adopting or continuing in effect other or additional compensation arrangements, including the grant of stock options and other stock-based awards, and such arrangements may be either generally applicable or applicable only in specific cases.

**10.5** No Right to Employment. The grant of an Incentive Award shall not be construed as giving a Participant the right to be retained in the employ or directorship of the Company or any Subsidiary. The Company or any Subsidiary may at any time dismiss a Participant from employment and a directorship may be terminated consistent with the Company's articles of incorporation and bylaws, free from any liability or any claim under the Plan, unless otherwise expressly provided in the Plan or in any written agreement with a Participant.

**10.6** No Liability of Company. The Company and any Subsidiary or affiliate which is in existence or hereafter comes into existence shall not be liable to a Participant or any other person as to: (a) the non-issuance or sale of Common Stock as to which the Company has been unable to obtain from any regulatory body having jurisdiction the authority deemed by the Company's counsel to be necessary to the lawful issuance and sale of any shares hereunder; (b) any tax consequence to any Participant or other person due to the receipt, exercise or settlement of any Incentive Award granted hereunder; and (c) any provision of law or legal restriction that prohibits or restricts the transfer of shares of Common Stock issued pursuant to any Incentive Award.

**10.7** Suspension of Rights under Incentive Awards. The Company, by written notice to a Participant, may suspend a Participant's and any transferee's rights under any Incentive Award for a period not to exceed 60 days while the termination for cause of that Participant's employment or directorship with the Company and its Subsidiaries is under consideration; *provided*, however, that if such suspension causes an extension of the term of the Incentive Award, such extension shall comply with Section 3.5(b) of the Plan.

**10.8** Governing Law. The validity, construction and effect of the Plan and any rules and regulations relating to the Plan shall be determined in accordance with the laws of the State of Michigan and applicable federal law.

**10.9** Severability. In the event any provision of the Plan shall be held illegal or invalid for any reason, the illegality or invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions of the Plan and the Plan shall be construed and enforced as if the illegal or invalid provision had not been included, unless such construction would cause the Plan to fail in its essential purposes.

**10.10** Incentive Awards in Substitution for Awards Granted by Another Company. Notwithstanding anything in this Plan to the contrary:

(a) Incentive Awards may be granted in substitution for or in conversion of, or in connection with an assumption of, stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock, restricted stock units or other stock or stock-based awards held by awardees of an entity engaging in a corporate acquisition or merger transaction with the Company or any Subsidiary. Any conversion, substitution or assumption will be effective as of the close of the merger or acquisition, and, to the extent applicable, will be conducted in a manner that complies with Section 409A of the Code. The Incentive Awards so granted may reflect the original terms of the awards being assumed or substituted or converted for and need not comply with other specific terms of this Plan, and may



account for shares of Common Stock substituted for the securities covered by the original awards and the number of shares subject to the original awards, as well as any exercise or purchase prices applicable to the original awards, adjusted to account for differences in stock prices in connection with the transaction.

(b) In the event that a company acquired by the Company or any Subsidiary or with which the Company or any Subsidiary merges has shares available under a pre-existing plan previously approved by shareholders and not adopted in contemplation of such acquisition or merger, the shares available for grant pursuant to the terms of such plan (as adjusted, to the extent appropriate, to reflect such acquisition or merger) may be used for Incentive Awards made after such acquisition or merger under the Plan; *provided*, however, that Incentive Awards using such available shares may not be made after the date awards or grants could have been made under the terms of the pre-existing plan absent the acquisition or merger, and may only be made to individuals who were not employees or directors of the Company or any Subsidiary prior to such acquisition or merger.

(c) Any shares of Common Stock that are issued or transferred by, or that are subject to any Incentive Awards that are granted by, or become obligations of, the Company under Section 10.10 of the Plan will not reduce the share pool available under the Plan or otherwise count against the limits contained in the Plan, plus no shares of Common Stock subject to an Incentive Award that is granted by, or becomes an obligation of, the Company under Section 10.10 of the Plan.

#### **10.11** Compliance with Section 409A of the Code.

(a) To the extent applicable, it is intended that the Plan and any grants made hereunder comply with the provisions of Section 409A of the Code, so that the income inclusion provisions of Section 409A(a)(1) of the Code do not apply to the Participants. The Plan and any grants made hereunder will be administered in a manner consistent with this intent. Any reference in this Plan to Section 409A of the Code will also include any regulations or any other formal guidance promulgated with respect to such section by the U.S. Department of the Treasury or the Internal Revenue Service.

(b) Neither a Participant nor any of a Participant's creditors or beneficiaries will have the right to subject any deferred compensation (within the meaning of Section 409A of the Code) payable under the Plan and grants hereunder to any anticipation, alienation, sale, transfer, assignment, pledge, encumbrance, attachment or garnishment. Except as permitted under Section 409A of the Code, any deferred compensation (within the meaning of Section 409A of the Code) payable to a Participant or for a Participant's benefit under this Plan and grants hereunder may not be reduced by, or offset against, any amount owed by a Participant to the Company or any of its Subsidiaries.

(c) If, at the time of a Participant's separation from service (within the meaning of Section 409A of the Code), (i) the Participant will be a specified employee (within the meaning of Section 409A of the Code and using the identification methodology selected by the Company from time to time) and (ii) the Company makes a good faith determination that an amount payable hereunder constitutes deferred compensation (within the meaning of Section 409A of the Code) the payment of which is required to be delayed pursuant to the six-month delay rule set forth in Section 409A of the Code in order to avoid taxes or penalties under Section 409A of the Code, then the Company will not pay such amount on the otherwise scheduled payment date but will instead pay it, without interest, on the fifth business day of the seventh month after such separation from service.

(d) Solely with respect to any award that constitutes nonqualified deferred compensation subject to Section 409A of the Code and that is payable on account of a Change in Control (including any installments or stream of payments that are accelerated on account of a Change in Control), a Change in Control shall occur only if such event also constitutes a "change in the ownership," "change in effective control," and/or a "change in the ownership of a substantial portion of assets" of the Company as those terms are defined under Treasury Regulation §1.409A-3(i)(5), but only to the extent necessary to establish a time and form of payment that complies with Section 409A of the Code, without altering the definition of Change in Control for any purpose in respect of such award.

(e) Notwithstanding any provision of this Plan and grants hereunder to the contrary, in light of the uncertainty with respect to the proper application of Section 409A of the Code, the Company reserves the right to make amendments to this Plan and grants hereunder as the Company deems necessary or desirable to avoid



the imposition of taxes or penalties under Section 409A of the Code. In any case, a Participant will be solely responsible and liable for the satisfaction of all taxes and penalties that may be imposed on a Participant or for a Participant's account in connection with this Plan and grants hereunder (including any taxes and penalties under Section 409A of the Code), and neither the Company nor any of its affiliates will have any obligation to indemnify or otherwise hold a Participant harmless from any or all of such taxes or penalties.

# **SECTION 11**

#### **Termination and Amendment**

**11.1 Termination; Amendment.** The Board may terminate the Plan at any time or may from time to time amend or alter the Plan or any aspect of it as it considers proper and in the best interests of the Company, *provided* that no such amendment may be made, without the approval of shareholders of the Company, that would: (i) reduce the exercise price at which Stock Options, or the base price at which Stock Appreciation Rights, may be granted below the prices provided for in Sections 5.2 and 6.1, respectively; (ii) reduce the exercise price of outstanding Stock Options or the base price of outstanding Stock Appreciation Rights; (iii) increase the individual maximum limits in Section 4.2; or (iv) otherwise amend the Plan in any manner requiring shareholder approval by law or under Nasdaq listing requirements or other applicable Nasdaq rules. The Committee may alter or amend an award agreement and/or Incentive Award previously granted under the Plan to the extent it determines that such action is appropriate. Subject to Section 4.3, in no event, however, may the exercise price of Stock Options or the base price of Stock Appreciation Rights be reduced below the Market Value on the date of the grant.

**11.2 Restriction.** Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Section 11.1, no such amendment or alteration to the Plan or to any previously granted award agreement or Incentive Award shall be made which would materially and adversely impair the rights of the holder of the Incentive Award, without such holder's consent, *provided* that no such consent shall be required if the Committee determines in its sole discretion and prior to the date of any Change in Control that such amendment or alteration either is required or advisable in order for the Company, the Plan or the Incentive Award to satisfy any law, regulation or stock exchange requirement or to meet the requirements of or avoid adverse financial accounting consequences under any accounting standard.

# **SECTION 12**

#### Effective Date and Duration of the Plan

The Stock Incentive Plan of 2016 was effective on May 25, 2016, and was amended and restated effective May 20, 2020, and was later amended and restated effective October 29, 2020. This amendment and restatement of the Stock Incentive Plan of 2016 shall take effect May 17, 2023, subject to approval by the Company's shareholders at the 2023 Annual Meeting of Shareholders or any adjournment thereof or at a Special Meeting of the Company's shareholders. Unless earlier terminated by the Board of Directors, no Incentive Award shall be granted under the Plan after May 17, 2033.





VOTE BY INTERNET Before The Meeting - Go to <u>www.proxyvote.com</u> or scan the QR Barcode above Use the Internet to transmit your voting instructions and for electronic delivery of information up until 11:59 PM. Eastern Time on May 16, 2023. Have your proxy card in hand when you access the web site and follow the instructions to obtain your records and to create an electronic voting instruction form.

# During The Meeting - Go to www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/SHYF2023

You may attend the Meeting via the Internet and vote during the Meeting. Have the information that is printed in the box marked by the arrow available and follow the instructions.

VOTE BY PHONE - 1-800-690-6903 Use any touch-tone telephone to transmit your voting instructions up until 11:59 P.M. Eastern Time on May 16, 2023. Have your proxy card in hand when you call and then follow the instructions.

VOTE BY MAIL Mark, sign and date your proxy card and return it in the postage-paid envelope we have provided or return it to Vote Processing, c/o Broadridge, 51 Mercedes Way, Edgewood, NY 11717.

TO VOTE, MARK BLOCKS BELOW IN BLUE OR BLACK INK AS FOLLOWS:

				V08117-P82978	KEEP THIS P		FOR YOU	JR RECORD
	OXY CA	RD IS VA		Y WHEN SIGNED AND DATED.	ETACH AND	RETUR	N THIS PC	RTION ON
HE SHYFT GROUP, INC. The Board of Directors recommends you vote FOR the following:	For All	Withhold All	For All Except	To withhold authority to vote for any individual nominee(s), mark "For All Except" and write the number(s) of the nominee(s) on the line below.			_	_
1. Election of Directors	Ο	Ο	O					
Nominees 01) Michael Dinkins 02) Angela K. Freeman 03) Pamela L. Kermisch 04) Mark B. Rourke				To vote against all nominees, mark "Withhold All" above. To vote against an individual nominee, mark "For All Except" and write the nominee's number on the line above.				
The Board of Directors recommends you vote FOR propo	osal 2.					For	Against	Abstain
<ol> <li>Ratification of the appointment of Deloitte &amp; Touche LI December 31, 2023.</li> </ol>	.P as the	Company	's indepen	dent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal y	vear ending	0	0	0
The Board of Directors recommends you vote FOR propo	osal 3.					For	Against	Abstain
3. Approval, on an advisory basis, of the compensation of	the Com	pany's Nar	ned Execut	ive Officers.		0	Ο	Ο
The Board of Directors recommends you vote for 1 YEAR	t on pro	posal 4.			1 Year	2 Year	s 3 Year	s Abstai
4. Recommendation, on an advisory basis, of the frequency	y of advis	sory votes	on the con	npensation of the Company's Named Executive Office	ers. 🚺	0	0	0
The Board of Directors recommends you vote FOR propo	osal 5.					For	Against	Abstain
5. Approval of the amendment and restatement of the Co	mpany's	Stock Ince	ntive Plan (	of 2016.		Ο	0	0
NOTE: The proxy, when properly executed, will be voter in accordance with the Board of Directors' recommendat								
Please sign exactly as your name(s) appear(s) hereon. When sig owners should each sign personally. All holders must sign. If a co	pring as a prporation	attorney, e 1 or partne	xecutor, ac rship, pleas	iministrator or other fiduciary, please give full title as e sign in full corporate or partnership name by authoriz	ed officer.			
Signature [PLEASE SIGN WITHIN BOX] Date				Signature (Joint Owners) D	)ate			

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS TO BE HELD ON MAY 17, 2023 AT 10:00 A.M. EASTERN TIME

The Notice & Proxy Statement and 2022 Annual Report of The Shyft Group, Inc. are also available at: www.proxyvote.com

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Annual Meeting: The Notice & Proxy Statement and 2022 Annual Report are available at <u>www.proxyvote.com</u>. Have the control number located on your proxy card available to access the materials on this website.

V081	118-P82978
FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS TO BE HELD ON MAY 17, 2023 AND ANY ADJOURNMENTS OR POSTPONEMENTS THEREOF	
THIS PROXY IS SOLICITED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SHYFT GROUP, INC.	
roperly executed proxies received by the day before the cut-off date or the meeting date will be voted in the manner directed, and i irection is made, will be voted in accordance with the Board of Directors' recommendations.	if no such
y casting your voting instructions on the reverse side of this proxy card, you hereby (1) acknowledge receipt of the proxy statement related to the above- ieeting, (2) appoint the individuals named in such proxy statement, and each of them, as proxies, with full power of substitution, to vote all he Shyft Group, Inc.'s common stock that you would be entitled to cast if personally present at such meeting and at any postponement or adjournme nd (3) revoke any proxies previously given.	l shares of
his proxy will be voted as specified by you. If no choice is specified, the proxy will be voted according to the Board of Directors' recommendations n the reverse side of this proxy, and according to the discretion of the proxy holders for any other matters that may properly come before the meet ostponement or adjournment thereof.	
lease date, sign and mail the proxy promptly in the self-addressed return envelope which requires no postage if mailed in the Unit /hen signing as an attorney, executor, administrator, trustee or guardian, please give your full title as such. If shares are held jointly, bot hould sign. Alternatively, you may vote by phone or the internet, as described in the instructions on the reverse side of the proxy.	