

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

FORM S-3  
REGISTRATION STATEMENT  
UNDER  
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

**Sphere 3D Corp.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Ontario, Canada**

(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

**98-1220792**

(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification Number)

**895 Don Mills Road, Bldg. 2, Suite 900  
Toronto, Ontario, M3C 1W3, Canada  
(647) 952-5049**

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

**CCS Global Solutions, Inc.  
500 Seventh Avenue, Office 12B101  
New York, NY 10018  
(917) 566-7046**

(647) 952-5049 (Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

*Copies to:*

**M. Ali Panjwani, Esq.  
Pryor Cashman LLP  
7 Times Square  
New York, New York 10036  
(212) 326-0846**

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: **From time to time after the effective date of this registration statement.**

If only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

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

Large accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Smaller reporting company

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 7(a)(2)(B) of the Securities Act

† The term "new or revised financial accounting standard" refers to any update issued by the Financial Accounting Standards Board to its Accounting Standards Codification after April 5, 2012.

**The registrant hereby amends this registration statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this registration statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until the registration statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.**

**The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. These securities may not be sold until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell nor does it seek an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.**

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED FEBRUARY 9, 2023

Prospectus

## **Sphere 3D Corp.**

**Common Shares  
Preferred Shares  
Debt Securities  
Warrants  
Units**

We may offer and sell from time to time common shares, preferred shares, debt securities, warrants and units of Sphere 3D Corp. in any combination from time to time in one or more offerings, at prices and on terms described in one or more supplements to this prospectus. The securities offered by this prospectus will have an aggregate offering price of up to \$100,000,000. The preferred shares, debt securities, warrants and units may be convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for our common shares or other securities. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer.

Each time we sell the securities, we will provide a supplement to this prospectus that contains specific information about the offering and the terms of the securities. The supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should carefully read this prospectus and any prospectus supplement before you invest in any of our securities.

We may sell the securities independently or together with any other securities registered hereunder through one or more underwriters, dealers and agents, or directly to purchasers, or through a combination of these methods, on a continuous or delayed basis. See "Plan of Distribution." If any underwriters, dealers or agents are involved in the sale of any of the securities, their names, and any applicable purchase price, fee, commission or discount arrangements between or among them, will be set forth, or will be calculable from the information set forth, in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Our principal executive offices are located at 895 Don Mills Road, Building 2, Suite 900, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M3C 1W3. Our telephone number is +1 (647) 952-5049 and our Internet website address is [www.sphere3d.com](http://www.sphere3d.com). Our common shares are listed on the Nasdaq Capital Market under the symbol "ANY."

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As of February 7, 2023, the aggregate market value of our outstanding common shares held by non-affiliates, or public float, was approximately \$30.7 million, based on 72,181,018 outstanding common shares, of which approximately 662,845 common shares were held by affiliates, and a price of \$0.4299 per share, which was the price at which our common shares were last sold on the Nasdaq Capital Market on such date. We have not offered any securities pursuant to General Instruction I.B.5 of Form F-3 or General Instruction I.B.6 of Form S-3 during the prior 12-calendar-month period that ends on and includes the date of this prospectus. Pursuant to General Instruction I.B.6 of Form S-3, in no event will we sell securities registered on this registration statement in a public primary offering with a value exceeding more than one-third of our public float in any 12-month period so long as our public float remains below \$75 million (the “Baby Shelf Limitation”).

**Investing in our securities involves risks. See the “Risk Factors” section on page 12 of this prospectus, and those contained in the applicable prospectus supplement, any related free writing prospectus and the documents we incorporate by reference in this prospectus to read about factors you should consider before investing in our securities.**

**This prospectus may not be used to offer or sell any securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.**

**Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of the disclosures in this prospectus, including any prospectus supplement and documents incorporated by reference. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.**

The date of this prospectus is \_\_\_\_\_, 2023

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## ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

You should read this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with the additional information described under the heading “Where You Can Find More Information About Us” and “Incorporation of Documents by Reference.”

In this prospectus, unless otherwise indicated or unless the context otherwise requires,

- “shares” or “common shares” refer to our common shares, no par value per share;
- “\$” and “dollars” refer to the legal currency of the United States; and
- “we,” “us,” “our company,” “our group” and “our” refer to Sphere 3D Corp. and its subsidiaries.

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) using a “shelf” registration process permitted under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”). By using a shelf registration statement, we may sell our shares, debt securities, warrants and units or any combination of any of the foregoing having an aggregate initial offering price of up to \$100,000,000 from time to time in one or more offerings on a continuous or delayed basis. This prospectus only provides you with a summary description of these securities. Each time we sell the securities, we will provide a supplement to this prospectus that contains specific information about the securities being offered and the specific terms of that offering. The supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, you should rely on the prospectus supplement. Before purchasing any of the securities, you should carefully read both this prospectus and any supplement, together with the additional information described under the heading “Where You Can Find More Information About Us” and “Incorporation of Documents by Reference.”

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and in any prospectus supplement. We have not authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We will not make an offer to sell the securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus and the applicable supplement to this prospectus is accurate as of the date on its respective cover, and that any information incorporated by reference is accurate only as of the date of the document incorporated by reference, unless we indicate otherwise. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

## WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT US

We are subject to periodic reporting and other informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”). Accordingly, we are required to file reports, including annual reports on Form 10-K, and other information with the SEC. The SEC maintains a web site at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov) that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding registrants that make electronic filings with the SEC using its EDGAR system, and all information filed with the SEC can be obtained over the internet at this website. We also maintain a website at [www.sphere3d.com](http://www.sphere3d.com), but information contained on, or linked from, our website is not incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement. You should not regard any information on our website as a part of this prospectus or any prospectus supplement.

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the SEC and does not contain all the information in the registration statement. You will find additional information about us in the registration statement. Any statement made in this prospectus concerning a contract or other document of ours is not necessarily complete, and you should read the documents that are filed as exhibits to the registration statement or otherwise filed with the SEC for a more complete understanding of the document or matter. Each such statement is qualified in all respects by reference to the document to which it refers. You may inspect a copy of the registration statement through the SEC’s website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

## INCORPORATION OF DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to “incorporate by reference” the information we file with them. This means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. Each document incorporated by reference is current only as of the date of such document, and the incorporation by reference of such documents shall not create any implication that there has been no change in our affairs since the date thereof or that the information contained therein is current as of any time subsequent to its date. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus and should be read with the same care. When we update the information contained in documents that have been incorporated by reference by making future filings with the SEC, the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus is considered to be automatically updated and superseded. In other words, in the case of a conflict or inconsistency between information contained in this prospectus and information incorporated by reference into this prospectus, you should rely on the information contained in the document that was filed later.

We incorporate by reference into the prospectus the documents listed below:

- our Annual Report on [Form 20-F](#) for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2021 filed with the SEC on March 31, 2022 (the “2021 Annual Report”);
- our Reports of Foreign Private Issuer on Form 6-K dated [April 8, 2022](#); [May 6, 2022](#); [May 16, 2022](#); [May 31, 2022](#); [June 24, 2022](#); [August 1, 2022](#); [August 15, 2022](#); [October 21, 2022](#); [November 14, 2022](#); [November 15, 2022](#); [November 18, 2022](#) and [December 21, 2022](#);
- our Current Reports on Form 8-K dated [January 13, 2023](#) and [January 24, 2023](#); and
- with respect to each offering of the securities under this prospectus, all of our subsequent annual reports on Form 10-K and any report on Form 8-K that indicates that it is being incorporated by reference that we file or furnish with the SEC on or after the date on which the registration statement is first filed with the SEC and until the termination or completion of the offering by means of this prospectus.

Our 2021 Annual Report contains a description of our business and audited consolidated financial statements with a report by our independent auditors. The consolidated financial statements are prepared and presented in accordance with U.S. GAAP.

Unless expressly incorporated by reference, nothing in this prospectus shall be deemed to incorporate by reference information furnished to, but not filed with, the SEC. Copies of all documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus, other than exhibits to those documents unless such exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference in this prospectus, will be provided at no cost to each person, including any beneficial owner, who receives a copy of this prospectus on the written or oral request of that person made to:

Sphere 3D Corp.  
895 Don Mills Road, Bldg. 2, Suite 900  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M3C 1W3  
Attn: Patricia Trompeter, Chief Executive Officer  
(647) 952-5049

You should rely only on the information that we incorporate by reference or provide in this prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. We are not making any offer of these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of those documents, or as otherwise set forth therein.

## SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and any prospectus supplement, and the information incorporated by reference herein, contain forward-looking statements that reflect our current expectations and views of future events. Known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors, including those listed under “Risk Factors,” may cause our actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from those expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. These statements are made under the “safe harbor” provisions of the U.S. Private Securities Litigations Reform Act of 1995.

You can identify some of these forward-looking statements by words or phrases such as “may,” “will,” “expect,” “anticipate,” “aim,” “estimate,” “intend,” “plan,” “believe,” “is/are likely to,” “potential,” “continue” or other similar expressions. We have based these forward-looking statements largely on our current expectations and projections about future events that we believe may affect our financial condition, results of operations, business strategy and financial needs. These forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, statements relating to:

- our mission and strategies;
- our future business development, financial condition and results of operations;
- our expectations regarding demand for and market acceptance of our products and services;
- our expectations regarding our relationships with borrowers and institutional partners;
- competition in our industry;
- our ability to obtain financing in the future;
- relevant government policies and regulations relating to our industry and the industry of any companies that we may acquire; and
- the impact of COVID-19.

These forward-looking statements involve various risks and uncertainties. Although we believe that our expectations expressed in these forward-looking statements are reasonable, our expectations may later be found to be incorrect. Our actual results could be materially different from our expectations. You should thoroughly read this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and the documents that we refer to with the understanding that our actual future results may be materially different from and worse than what we expect. In addition, the rapidly changing nature of the online consumer finance industry results in significant uncertainties for any projections or estimates relating to the growth prospects or future condition of our market. Furthermore, if any one or more of the assumptions underlying the market data are later found to be incorrect, actual results may differ from the projections based on these assumptions. You should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. We qualify all of our forward-looking statements by these cautionary statements.

The forward-looking statements made in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement, or the information incorporated by reference herein, relate only to events or information as of the date on which the statements are made in such document. Except as required by law, we undertake no obligation to update or revise publicly any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, after the date on which the statements are made or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.



## OUR COMPANY

### Overview

Sphere 3D was incorporated under the *Business Corporations Act (Ontario)* on May 2, 2007 as T.B. Mining Ventures Inc. On March 24, 2015, we completed a short-form amalgamation with a wholly-owned subsidiary and changed our name to “Sphere 3D Corp.” Any reference to the “Company”, “Sphere 3D”, “we”, “our”, “us”, or similar terms refers to Sphere 3D Corp. and its subsidiaries. In December 2014, we completed the acquisition of Overland Storage, Inc. (“Overland”) to grow our business in the containerization and virtualization technologies along with data management products that enabled workload-optimized solutions. In November 2018, we sold our Overland business. In January 2022, we commenced operations of our digital mining operation and are dedicated to becoming a leading carbon-neutral Bitcoin mining company. We are establishing an enterprise-scale mining operation through procurement of next-generation mining equipment and partnering with experienced service providers.

We are a “smaller reporting company” as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act since the market value of our shares held by non-affiliates is less than \$700 million and our annual revenue was less than \$100 million during the most recently completed fiscal year. We may continue to be a smaller reporting company after this offering if either (i) the market value of our shares held by non-affiliates is less than \$250 million or (ii) our annual revenue was less than \$100 million during the most recently completed fiscal year and the market value of our shares held by non-affiliates is less than \$700 million. As a “smaller reporting company,” we have elected to take advantage of certain of the scaled disclosure available for smaller reporting companies in this prospectus as well as our filings under the Exchange Act, including that we may choose to present only the two most recent fiscal years of audited financial statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K and have reduced disclosure obligations regarding executive compensation, and, if we are a smaller reporting company with less than \$100 million in annual revenue, we would not be required to obtain an attestation report on internal control over financial reporting issued by our independent registered public accounting firm.

#### *Digital assets and blockchain*

Bitcoin is a digital asset issued by and transmitted through an open source protocol maintained by a peer-to-peer network of decentralized user nodes. This network hosts a public transaction ledger blockchain where the digital assets and their corresponding transactions are recorded. The digital assets are stored in individual wallets with public addresses and a private key that controls access. The blockchain is updated without a single owner or operator of the network. New digital assets are generated and mined rewarding users after transactions are verified in the blockchain. Digital assets and their corresponding markets emulate foreign exchange markets of fiat currencies, such as the U.S. dollar, where they can be exchanged to said fiat currencies trading exchanges. In addition to these exchanges, additional trading markets for digital assets exist, such as derivative markets.

Since the nature of digital assets is such that it exists solely in electronic form, they are exposed to risks similar to that of any data held solely in electronic form such as power failure, data corruption, cyber security attacks, protocol breaches, and user error, among others. Similar to data centers, these risks put the digital assets subject to the aforementioned threats which might not necessarily affect a physical fiat currency. In addition, blockchain relies on open source developers to maintain the digital asset protocols. Blockchain, as such, may be subject to design changes, governance disputes such as “forked” protocols, and other risks associated with open source software.

Digital currencies serve multiple purposes - a medium of exchange, store of value or unit of account. Examples of digital currencies include: bitcoin, bitcoin cash, Ethereum, and Litecoin. Digital currencies are decentralized currencies that facilitate instant transfers. Transactions occur on an open source platform using peer-to-peer direct technology with no single owner. Blockchain is a public transaction ledger where transactions occur, are recorded and tracked, however not owned nor managed by one single entity. Blockchain, accessible and open to all, contains records of all existing and historical transactions. All accounts on the blockchain have a unique public key and is secured with a private key that is only known to the individual. The combination of private and public keys results in a secure digital “fingerprint” which results in a strong control of ownership.

We believe cryptocurrencies have many advantages over traditional, physical fiat currencies, including immediate settlement, fraud deterrent as they are unable to be duplicated or counterfeited, lower fees, mass accessibility, decentralized nature, identity theft prevention, physical loss prevention, limited counterparty risk, no intermediary facilitation, no arduous exchange rate implications and a strong confirmation transaction process.

#### *Service and product*

In addition to digital mining, we deliver data management and desktop and application virtualization solutions through hybrid cloud, cloud and on premise implementations by its reseller network. We achieve this through a combination of containerized applications, virtual desktops, virtual storage and physical hyper-converged platforms. Our products allow organizations to deploy a combination of public, private or hybrid cloud strategies while backing them up with the latest storage solutions. Our brands include HVE ConneXions (“HVE”) and Unified ConneXions (“UCX”).

#### *Agreement with Hertford Advisors Ltd.*

On July 31, 2021, we entered into an agreement (the “Hertford Agreement”) with Hertford Advisors Ltd. (“Hertford”), a privately-held company that provides turnkey bitcoin mining solutions, to provide a six-month exclusive right to assume all of Hertford’s rights to purchase agreements (the “Bitcoin Agreements”) for the purchase of up to 60,000 new bitcoin mining machines (“miners”).

As a result of the Hertford Agreement, we have successfully assumed and executed a Bitcoin Agreement directly with the manufacturer for the purchase of up to 60,000 miners, with deliveries to commence in November 2021 and to continue over the course of the next ten months. This contract was renegotiated on November 7, 2022 due to market conditions. As a result, we applied outstanding deposits to secure machines at contractual prices and ended further obligations to purchase exahash at above-market prices pursuant to this contract, avoiding significant penalties. Subsequently, shares issued to Hertford for receipt of this contract were cancelled as a result of a smaller amount of machines being purchased. We expect to have 1.7 exahash when fully deployed.

On November 7, 2022, we entered into an agreement with Hertford modifying the number of outstanding Series H Preferred Shares held by Hertford (the “Modified Hertford Agreement”). Pursuant to the Modified Hertford Agreement, we cancelled 36,000 Series H Preferred Shares, representing 37.5% of the outstanding Series H Preferred Shares payable to Hertford under the Hertford Agreement, without payment of any cash consideration. Each Series H Preferred Share is convertible into 1,000 common shares. Hertford will retain 60,000 Series H Preferred Shares, which are non-voting and do not accrue dividends. At our 2022 Annual General Meeting, we received shareholder approval to convert the remaining 60,000 Series H Preferred Shares, subject to the terms and conditions contained in our Articles of Incorporation. The Modified Hertford Agreement also provides for certain resale restrictions applicable to the common shares that are issuable upon the conversion of the remaining Series H Preferred Shares during the two-year period ending on December 31, 2024, which are different from the restrictions contained in the Hertford Agreement.

### *Investment in Special Purpose Acquisition Company*

In April 2021, we sponsored a special purpose acquisition company (“SPAC”), Minority Equality Opportunities Acquisition Inc. (“MEOA”), through our wholly owned subsidiary, Minority Equality Opportunities Acquisition Sponsor, LLC (“SPAC Sponsor”). MEOA’s purpose is to focus initially on transactions with companies that are minority owned businesses. In April 2021, SPAC Sponsor paid \$25,000 of deferred offering costs on behalf of MEOA in exchange for 2,875,000 shares of MEOA’s Class B common stock (the “Founder Shares”). On August 30, 2021, MEOA consummated its initial public offering (the “IPO”) and issued units which were comprised of one share of Class A common stock and one redeemable warrant. Also in August 2021, and simultaneously with the consummation of the IPO, SPAC Sponsor participated in the private sale of an aggregate of 5,395,000 Warrants (the “Private Placement Warrants”) at a purchase price of \$1.00 per Private Placement Warrant. The SPAC Sponsor paid \$5.4 million to MEOA, which included \$1.0 million from an investor participating in MEOA Sponsor. The Private Placement Warrants are not transferable, assignable or saleable until 30 days after MEOA completes a business combination. On October 18, 2021, the securities comprising the units began trading separately, with the Class A common stock and warrants are listed on the NASDAQ Capital Market under the symbols “MEOA” and “MEOAW,” respectively.

MEOA has 12 months from the closing of its IPO (or 21 months from the closing of its IPO if MEOA extends the period of time to consummate the initial Business Combination) (the “Combination Period”) to complete the initial Business Combination. If MEOA anticipates that it may not be able to consummate the initial Business Combination within 12 months, MEOA may extend the period of time to consummate a Business Combination by up to three additional three-month periods (up to a maximum of 21 months from the closing of the IPO). In order to extend the time available for MEOA to consummate its initial Business Combination, the SPAC Sponsor or its affiliates or designees must deposit into the trust account, for each additional three-month period, \$1,265,000, on or prior to the date of the deadline with respect to such three-month extension period. The SPAC Sponsor and its affiliates or designees are not obligated to fund the trust account to extend the time for MEOA to complete its initial Business Combination. If MEOA is unable to complete the initial Business Combination within the Combination Period, MEOA will: (i) cease all operations except for the purpose of winding up; (ii) as promptly as reasonably possible, but not more than ten business days thereafter, redeem the public shares, at a per-share price, payable in cash, equal to the aggregate amount then on deposit into a trust account including interest earned on the funds held in the Trust Account and not previously released to MEOA to pay its franchise and income taxes (less up to \$100,000 of interest to pay dissolution expenses), divided by the number of then outstanding public shares, which redemption will completely extinguish public stockholders’ rights as stockholders (including the right to receive further liquidating distributions, if any), subject to applicable law; and (iii) as promptly as reasonably possible following such redemption, subject to the approval of MEOA’s remaining stockholders and the board of directors, dissolve and liquidate, subject in each case to MEOA’s obligations under Delaware law to provide for claims of creditors and the requirements of other applicable law. There will be no redemption rights or liquidating distributions with respect to the warrants, which will expire worthless if MEOA fails to complete the initial Business Combination within the Combination Period.

SPAC Sponsor, along with MEOA’s initial stockholders, MEOA’s executive officers and directors have entered into a letter agreement with MEOA, pursuant to which we have agreed to (i) waive our redemption rights with respect to our founder shares and public shares in connection with the completion of the initial Business Combination; (ii) waive our redemption rights with respect to our founder shares and public shares in connection with a stockholder vote to approve an amendment to the certificate of incorporation: (A) to modify the substance or timing of MEOA’s obligation to redeem 100% of the public shares if MEOA does not complete the initial Business Combination within the Combination Period; or (B) with respect to any other material provision relating to stockholders’ rights or pre-initial Business Combination activity; and (iii) waive our rights to liquidating distributions from the trust account with respect to our founder shares if MEOA fails to complete the initial Business Combination within the Combination Period.

In August 2022, MEOA extended the Combination Period by executing the first three-month extension period. The SPAC Sponsor advanced the required fee of \$1,265,000 to MEOA for the extension in the form of a note receivable held by the SPAC Sponsor. On August 30, 2022, MEOA entered into a business combination agreement with MEOA Merger Sub, Inc., a Delaware corporation and wholly owned subsidiary of MEOA (“Merger Sub”), and Digerati Technologies, Inc., a Nevada corporation (“Digerati”), pursuant to which, subject to the satisfaction or waiver of certain conditions set forth therein, Merger Sub will merge with and into Digerati (the “Digerati Merger”), with Digerati surviving the Digerati Merger as a wholly owned subsidiary of MEOA, and with Digerati’s equity holders receiving shares of MEOA common stock.

On November 29, 2022, MEOA held a special meeting of stockholders (the “Meeting”). At the Meeting, MEOA’s stockholders approved an amendment (the “Extension Amendment”) to MEOA’s amended and restated certificate of incorporation to extend the date by which MEOA must consummate its initial business combination from November 20, 2022 up to six (6) one-month extensions to May 30, 2023, or such earlier date as determined by MEOA’s board of directors (the “Extension”). On November 29, 2022, and in connection with the Extension, MEOA and Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company (the “Trustee”) also entered into an Amendment No. 1 (the “IMTA Amendment”) of that certain Investment Management Trust Agreement dated as of August 25, 2021 by and between MEOA and the Trustee (the “Trust Agreement”).

In connection with the Meeting, stockholders holding 11,691,103 shares of MEOA’s Class A common stock issued in MEOA’s initial public offering exercised their right to redeem such shares for a pro rata portion of the funds in MEOA’s trust account. As a result, approximately \$120.8 million (approximately \$10.33 per share) was removed from MEOA’s trust account to pay such holders.

As a result of the Extension and the IMTA Amendment, an additional \$83,333.33 must be deposited into the trust account maintained by the Trustee under the Trust Agreement (such account, the “Trust Account”) for each month extended, for an aggregate deposit for the full six (6) month extension period of \$500,000. A deposit in the amount of \$83,333.33 was made into the Trust Account on November 30, 2022 to extend the period by which the Company must consummate its initial business combination for an additional one month from November 30, 2022.

The funds for the November 30, 2022 deposit were provided by Digerati pursuant to an agreement dated November 9, 2022 between MEOA and Digerati whereby, among other things, Digerati agreed to provide up to \$500,000 to be deposited into the Trust Account to extend the business combination period up to six times (for a total extension of six months). MEOA and Digerati are parties to that certain Business Combination Agreement dated as of August 30, 2022 by and between MEOA, Digerati and MEOA Merger Sub, Inc. (the “BCA”). Digerati had previously agreed in the BCA to provide the funds necessary in order for MEOA to extend the business combination period for an additional three months from November 30, 2022, which would have required that an additional \$1,265,000 be deposited into the Trust Account on or prior to November 30, 2022.

#### *Terminated Merger Agreement*

On June 3, 2021, we entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger (the “Merger Agreement”) with Gryphon Digital Mining, Inc. (“Gryphon”), a privately held company in the cryptocurrency space dedicated to helping bring digital assets onto the clean energy grid. Gryphon’s Bitcoin mining operation has a zero-carbon footprint and their long-term strategy is to be the first vertically integrated crypto miner with a wholly owned, one hundred percent renewable energy supply.

On February 15, 2022, and also subsequently on March 7, 2022, primarily as a result of comments we received from the SEC relating to an amendment to the registration statement on Form F-4 we filed with the SEC on January 5, 2022 in connection with our proposed merger with Gryphon, we retained two independent investment banks to review the terms of the proposed Gryphon merger transaction. The nature of the review was to provide an independent analysis as to whether the consideration to be paid by us in the proposed merger was fair to our stockholders from a financial point of view and to assess the inputs to the financial models that were used to test such fairness. The independent investment banks could not support the consideration being paid by us to Gryphon, which was one of the factors resulting in the mutual agreement to terminate the Merger Agreement.

On April 4, 2022, the Merger Agreement was terminated. The Merger Agreement, among other matters, provided that, upon termination of the Merger Agreement, we would forgive all amounts outstanding under the outstanding Promissory Note and Security Agreement as amended with Gryphon (the “Gryphon Note”), and release to Gryphon 850,000 common shares previously deposited into an escrow account for the benefit of Gryphon. As a result of the termination of the Merger Agreement in the second quarter of 2022, we forgave the Gryphon Note which had a balance of \$13.1 million and released the 850,000 common shares, with a fair value of \$1.2 million, held in escrow to Gryphon. We will continue our relationship with Gryphon through the Gryphon Master Services Agreement entered into in 2021.

#### *Nasdaq Listing*

On July 25, 2022, we received a letter from the Nasdaq Listing Qualifications department of The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC (“Nasdaq”) notifying us that we were not in compliance with the requirement of Nasdaq Marketplace Rule 5550(a)(2) for continued inclusion on the Nasdaq Capital Market as a result of the closing bid price for our common shares being below \$1.00 for 30 consecutive business days. On January 24, 2023, the Company received notification from Nasdaq indicating that the Company will have an additional 180-day grace period, or until July 24, 2023, to regain compliance with the Listing Rule’s \$1.00 minimum bid requirement. The notification indicated that the Company did not regain compliance during the initial 180-day grace period provided under the Listing Rule. In accordance with Nasdaq Marketplace Rule 5810(c)(3)(A), the Company is eligible for the additional grace period because it meets the continued listing requirement for market value of publicly held shares and all other applicable requirements for initial listing on the Nasdaq Capital Market with the exception of the bid price requirement, and the Company’s written notice to Nasdaq of its intention to cure the deficiency by effecting a reverse stock split, if necessary. If the Company does not regain compliance by July 24, 2023, or if the Company fails to satisfy another Nasdaq requirement for continued listing, Nasdaq staff could provide notice that the Company’s common shares will become subject to delisting. In such event, Nasdaq rules permit the Company to appeal any delisting determination to a Nasdaq Hearings Panel. Accordingly, there can be no guarantee that the Company will be able to maintain its Nasdaq listing. This notification has no effect on the listing of our common shares at this time. We intend to actively monitor the closing bid price for our common shares and will consider available options to resolve the deficiency and regain compliance with the Listing Rule.

#### **Recent Key Events**

- On January 5, 2023, pursuant to the Modified Hertford Agreement, the Company converted 1,800 Series H Preferred Shares and issued 1,800,000 common shares of the Company. On February 1, 2023, the Company converted 1,746 Series H Preferred Shares and issued 1,746,000 common shares of the Company.
- On October 31, 2022, we filed an arbitration request against Core Scientific, Inc. regarding the digital mining hosting sub-license agreement assigned to us on October 5, 2021. We have requested that certain advanced deposits paid be refunded back to us as a result of the modification to our machine purchase agreement with FuFu Technology Limited (now Ethereum Tech Pte. Ltd.) (the “BitFuFu Agreement”).
- On October 31, 2022, we issued 1,500,000 common shares for fully vested RSUs contractually due to a former executive of our company.
- On October 29, 2022, we entered into a settlement and release agreement with Majestic Dragon Financial Services Ltd. (“Majestic Dragon”) and as a result, we are no longer obligated to make the two 100 Bitcoin payments stated in the Majestic Dragon Advisory Agreement between us and Majestic Dragon, dated July 31, 2021. We expect to reverse the \$2.1 million Bitcoin liability in the fourth quarter of 2022.
- On October 19, 2022, we entered into an amendment to the BitFuFu Agreement to reduce the purchase order from 60,000 to 17,327 machines, provide for an updated delivery schedule and to confirm that no further payments or penalties are owing by us.

## **Service and Product**

### **Service**

Customer service and support are key elements of our strategy and critical components of our commitment in making enterprise-class support and services available to companies of all sizes. Our technical support staff is trained to assist our customers with deployment and compatibility for any combination of virtual desktop infrastructures, hardware platforms, operating systems and backup, data interchange and storage management software. Our application engineers are trained to assist with more complex customer issues. We maintain global toll-free service and support phone lines. Additionally, we also provide self-service and support through our website support portal and email.

Our service offerings provide for on-site service and installation options, round-the-clock phone access to solution experts, and proof of concept and architectural design offerings.

### **Product**

Our product offerings consist of the following disk systems: HVE Converged and Hyper-converged Infrastructure. In addition to our product offerings, we provide on-site service and installation options, round-the-clock phone access to solution experts, and proof of concept and architectural design offerings. We are able to provide comprehensive technical assistance on a global scale.

#### **HVE Converged and Hyper-converged Infrastructure**

In 2017, we acquired HVE, a technology provider of next generation converged and hyper-converged infrastructure dedicated to creating Manageable, Scalable, Reproducible, and Predictable (“MSRP”) solutions based on virtualization technologies running on high-performance, next generation platforms. HVE solutions are engineered, purpose-built converged and hyper-converged virtual workspace and server solutions that support a distributed architecture, scalable with predictable performances, and come bundled with continuous active monitoring. HVE product can include support for our Desktop Cloud Orchestrator™ (“DCO”) based on customer requirements.

The HVE-STACK high density server provides the computer and storage appliance for the data center and is ideal for high performance computing, cloud computing and virtual desktop infrastructure (“VDI”). The modular design and swappable components include hard drives and power supplies intended to improve the efficiency of data center deployment.

The HVE-VELOCITY High Availability Dual Enclosure storage area network (“SAN”) provides data reliability and integrity for optimal data storage, protection and recovery. It also provides a unified network attached storage (“NAS”) and SAN solution with thin provisioning, compression and deduplication. The HVE-VELOCITY platform is designed to eliminate single points of failure. The 12GSAS SSD design allows for faster access to data. It is optimized for mission-critical, enterprise-level storage applications.

The HVE 3DGFX is a VDI solution that offers hardware and software technologies to provide an appliance that can handle from eight to up to 128 high demand users in a single 2U appliance. The HVE 3DGFX was designed and engineered as a purpose-built solution based upon the MSRP engineering approach.

The HVE STAGE Server Virtualization Platform is a high-performance purpose-built server that has been optimized for server virtualization. These performance optimized servers are also compact space savers utilizing 1U of rack space. Each STAGE can be pre-configured for converged, hyper-converged or attached storage, and comes with ESXi so an infrastructure is ready for virtualization. HVE offers both the stand-alone SAN attached servers or a true server converged/hyper-converged solution with 1-24TB Local SSD.

The HVE VAULT backup and compute appliance is designed to handle requirements for backup and replication storage. The HVE-VAULT, with the integrated compute option, can also perform disaster recovery compute requirements with specific mission critical workloads. The HVE-VAULT can be configured as an iSCSI SAN or NAS storage device using HVE storage management software. This appliance utilizes a software defined datacenter (SDD) approach with solutions that work for Tier 2 all flash array front-end storage or rapid backup/recovery business continuity solutions integrated with software technologies like Veeam and Nakivo.

**Organizational Structure**

The following sets forth our wholly-owned subsidiaries at February 7, 2023:

Name of subsidiary	Jurisdiction of Incorporation or Organization
Sphere 3D Inc.	Ontario, Canada
HVE Inc.	Delaware, United States
101250 Investments Ltd.	Turks & Caicos Islands
Sphere 3D Mining Corp.	Delaware, United States
Minority Equality Opportunities Acquisition Sponsor, LLC	Delaware, United States

## RISK FACTORS

Investing in our securities involves risk. You should carefully consider the risk factors and uncertainties described under the heading “Item 3. Key Information—D. Risk Factors” in our most recently filed annual report on Form 20-F, which is incorporated into this prospectus by reference, as updated by our subsequent filings under the Exchange Act, and in any applicable prospectus supplement and in the other documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus, before investing in any of the securities that may be offered or sold pursuant to this prospectus. These risks and uncertainties and other risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently believe are immaterial, could materially affect our business, results of operations or financial condition and cause the value of our securities to decline.

### Risks Related to our Business

**Cryptocurrency mining activities are energy-intensive, which may restrict the geographic locations of mining machines and have a negative environmental impact. Government regulators may potentially restrict the ability of electricity suppliers to provide electricity to mining operations, such as ours.**

Mining cryptocurrency requires massive amounts of electrical power, and electricity costs are expected to account for a significant portion of our overall costs. The availability and cost of electricity will restrict the geographic locations of our mining activities. Any shortage of electricity supply or increase in electricity costs in any location where we plan to operate may negatively impact the viability and the expected economic return for cryptocurrency mining activities in that location.

Further, our business model can only be successful and our mining operations can only be profitable if the costs, including electrical power costs, associated with cryptocurrency mining are lower than the price of the cryptocurrency itself. As a result, any equipment we deploy can only be successful if we can obtain access to sufficient electrical power on a cost-effective basis through hosting arrangements with mining data centers. Our deployment of new mining equipment requires us to find sites where that is the case. Even if our electrical power costs do not increase, significant fluctuations in, and any prolonged periods of, low cryptocurrency prices may also cause our electrical supply to no longer be cost-effective.

Furthermore, as cryptocurrency mining becomes more widespread, government scrutiny related to restrictions on cryptocurrency mining facilities and their energy consumption may significantly increase. The considerable consumption of electricity by mining operators may also have a negative environmental impact, including contribution to climate change, which could set the public opinion against allowing the use of electricity for cryptocurrency mining activities. This, in turn, could lead to governmental measures restricting or prohibiting the use of electricity for cryptocurrency mining activities. Any such development in the jurisdictions where we plan to operate could increase our compliance burdens and have a material adverse effect on our business, prospects, financial condition, and operating results.

**We rely on hosting arrangements to conduct our business, and the availability of such hosting arrangements is uncertain and competitive and may be affected by changes in regulation in one or more countries.**

If we are unable to successfully enter into definitive hosting agreements with mining data centers on favorable terms or those counterparties fail to perform their obligations under such agreements, we may be forced to look for alternative mining data centers to host its mining equipment.



In May 2021, China's State Council issued a statement signaling its intent to restrict cryptocurrency mining and trading activities, resulting in provincial governments taking proactive measurements to prohibit cryptocurrency mining. On September 24, 2021, China's central bank and its National Development and Reform Commission issued a nation-wide ban on cryptocurrency mining and declaring all financial transactions involving cryptocurrencies illegal. As a result, mining data centers previously operating in China have been forced to shut down and owners of crypto mining equipment located in China have been attempting to relocate the equipment to mining data centers in other jurisdictions, with a particular focus on locations within the United States. Combined with the increase in the price of many cryptocurrencies in 2021, the influx of crypto miners from China has created conditions of great demand for mining data centers and limited supply. Due to these conditions, there is no assurance that we will be able to procure alternative hosting agreements on acceptable terms in a timely manner or at all.

Significant competition for suitable mining data centers is expected to continue, and other government regulators, including local permitting officials, may potentially restrict the ability of potential mining data centers to begin or continue operations in certain locations. They can also restrict the ability of electricity suppliers to provide electricity to mining operations in times of electricity shortage, or may otherwise potentially restrict or prohibit the provision of electricity to mining operations.

**We may be affected by price fluctuations in the wholesale and retail power markets.**

Market prices for power, generation capacity and ancillary services, are unpredictable. Depending upon the effectiveness of any price risk management activity undertaken by us, including but not limited to attempts to secure hosting services contracts at fixed fees, an increase in market prices for power, generation capacity, and ancillary services may adversely affect our business, prospects, financial condition, and operating results. Long- and short-term power prices may fluctuate substantially due to a variety of factors outside of our control, including, but not limited to:

- increases and decreases in generation capacity;
- changes in power transmission or fuel transportation capacity constraints or inefficiencies;
- volatile weather conditions, particularly unusually hot or mild summers or unusually cold or warm winters;
- technological shifts resulting in changes in the demand for power or in patterns of power usage, including the potential development of demand-side management tools, expansion and technological advancements in power storage capability and the development of new fuels or new technologies for the production or storage of power;
- federal and state power, market and environmental regulation and legislation; and
- changes in capacity prices and capacity markets.

If we are unable to secure power supply at prices or on terms acceptable to it, it would have a material adverse effect on our business, prospects, financial condition, and operating results.

**As cryptocurrencies may be determined to be investment securities, we may inadvertently violate the Investment Company Act of 1940 and incur large losses as a result and potentially be required to register as an investment company or terminate operations and we may incur third-party liabilities.**

We believe that we are not engaged in the business of investing, reinvesting, or trading in securities, and we do not hold ourselves out as being engaged in those activities. However, under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "Investment Company Act"), a company may be deemed an investment company under section 3(a)(1)(C) thereof if the value of its investment securities is more than 40% of its total assets (exclusive of government securities and cash items) on an unconsolidated basis.

As a result of our investments and our mining activities, including investments in which we do not have a controlling interest, the investment securities we hold could exceed 40% of our total assets, exclusive of cash items and, accordingly, we could determine that we have become an inadvertent investment company. The cryptocurrency that we own, acquire or mine may be deemed an investment security by the SEC, although we do not believe any of the cryptocurrency we own, acquire or mine are securities. An inadvertent investment company can avoid being classified as an investment company if it can rely on one of the exclusions under the Investment Company Act. One such exclusion, Rule 3a-2 under the Investment Company Act, allows an inadvertent investment company a grace period of one year from the earlier of (a) the date on which an issuer owns securities and/or cash having a value exceeding 50% of the issuer's total assets on either a consolidated or unconsolidated basis and (b) the date on which an issuer owns or proposes to acquire investment securities having a value exceeding 40% of the value of such issuer's total assets (exclusive of government securities and cash items) on an unconsolidated basis. As of the date of this proxy statement/prospectus, we do not believe we are an inadvertent investment company. We may take actions to cause the investment securities held by us to be less than 40% of our total assets, which may include acquiring assets with our cash and cryptocurrency on hand or liquidating our investment securities or cryptocurrency or seeking a no-action letter from the SEC if we are unable to acquire sufficient assets or liquidate sufficient investment securities in a timely manner.

As the Rule 3a-2 exception is available to a company no more than once every three years, and assuming no other exclusion were available to us, we would have to keep within the 40% limit for at least three years after we cease being an inadvertent investment company. This may limit our ability to make certain investments or enter into joint ventures that could otherwise have a positive impact on our earnings. In any event, we do not intend to become an investment company engaged in the business of investing and trading securities.

Classification as an investment company under the Investment Company Act requires registration with the SEC. If an investment company fails to register, it would have to stop doing almost all business, and its contracts would become voidable. Registration is time consuming and restrictive and would require a restructuring of our operations, and we would be very constrained in the kind of business we could do as a registered investment company. Further, we would become subject to substantial regulation concerning management, operations, transactions with affiliated persons and portfolio composition, and would need to file reports under the Investment Company Act regime. The cost of such compliance would result in us incurring substantial additional expenses, and the failure to register if required would have a materially adverse impact to conduct our operations.

**If regulatory changes or interpretations of our activities require its registration as a money services business under the regulations promulgated by The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network under the authority of the U.S. Bank Secrecy Act, we may be required to register and comply with such regulations. If regulatory changes or interpretations of our activities require the licensing or other registration of us as a money transmitter (or equivalent designation) under state law in any state in which we operate, we may be required to seek licensure or otherwise register and comply with such state law. In the event of any such requirement, to the extent we decide to continue, the required registrations, licensure and regulatory compliance steps may result in extraordinary, non-recurring expenses to us. We may also decide to cease its operations. Any termination of certain operations in response to the changed regulatory circumstances may be at a time that is disadvantageous to investors.**

To the extent that our activities cause us to be deemed a money service business under the regulations promulgated by the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network of the U.S. Treasury Department ("FinCEN") under the authority of the U.S. Bank Secrecy Act, we may be required to comply with FinCEN regulations, including those that would mandate us to implement anti-money laundering programs, make certain reports to FinCEN and maintain certain records.

To the extent that our activities cause us to be deemed a money transmitter or equivalent designation under state law in any state in which we operate, we may be required to seek a license or otherwise register with a state regulator and comply with state regulations that may include the implementation of anti-money laundering programs, maintenance of certain records and other operational requirements. Currently, the New York Department of Financial Services has finalized its "BitLicense" framework for businesses that conduct "virtual currency business activity." We will continue to monitor for developments in New York legislation, guidance and regulations.

Such additional federal or state regulatory obligations may cause us to incur extraordinary expenses, possibly affecting our business in a material and adverse manner. Furthermore, we and our service providers may not be capable of complying with certain federal or state regulatory obligations applicable to money service businesses and money transmitters. If we are deemed to be subject to and determine not to comply with such additional regulatory and registration requirements, we may act to dissolve and liquidate us. Any such action may adversely affect an investment in us.

**There is no one unifying principle governing the regulatory status of cryptocurrency nor whether cryptocurrency is a security in each context in which it is viewed. Regulatory changes or actions in one or more countries may alter the nature of an investment in us or restrict the use of digital assets, such as cryptocurrencies, in a manner that adversely affects our business, prospects or operations.**

As cryptocurrencies have grown in both popularity and market size, governments around the world have reacted differently, with certain governments deeming cryptocurrencies illegal, and others allowing their use and trade without restriction. In some jurisdictions, such as in the U.S., digital assets, like cryptocurrencies, are subject to extensive, and in some cases overlapping, unclear and evolving regulatory requirements.

Cryptocurrencies have been the source of much regulatory consternation, resulting in differing definitional outcomes without a single unifying statement. Cryptocurrency is viewed differently by different regulatory and standards setting organizations globally as well as in the United States on the federal and state levels. For example, the Financial Action Task Force (“FATF”) and the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) consider a cryptocurrency as currency or an asset or property. Further, the IRS applies general tax principles that apply to property transactions to transactions involving virtual currency.

If regulatory changes or interpretations require the regulation of cryptocurrency under the securities laws of the United States or elsewhere, including the Securities Act of 1933, the Exchange Act and the 1940 Act or similar laws of other jurisdictions and interpretations by the SEC, the CFTC, the IRS, Department of Treasury or other agencies or authorities, we may be required to register and comply with such regulations, including at a state or local level. To the extent that we decide to continue operations, the required registrations and regulatory compliance steps may result in extraordinary expense or burdens to us. We may also decide to cease certain operations and change our business model. Any disruption of our operations in response to the changed regulatory circumstances may be at a time that is disadvantageous to us.

Current and future legislation and SEC rule making and other regulatory developments, including interpretations released by a regulatory authority, may impact the manner in which cryptocurrencies are viewed or treated for classification and clearing purposes. In particular, cryptocurrencies may not be excluded from the definition of “security” by SEC rule making or interpretation requiring registration of all transactions unless another exemption is available, including transacting in cryptocurrency among owners and require registration of trading platforms as “exchanges”.

We cannot be certain as to how future regulatory developments will impact the treatment of cryptocurrencies under the law. If we fail to comply with such additional regulatory and registration requirements, we may seek to cease certain of our operations or be subjected to fines, penalties and other governmental action. Such circumstances could have a material adverse effect on our ability to continue as a going concern or to pursue its business model at all, which could have a material adverse effect on its business, prospects or operations and potentially the value of any cryptocurrencies we plan to hold or expect to acquire for our own account.

**Our business is dependent on a small number of digital asset mining equipment suppliers.**

Our business is dependent upon digital asset mining equipment suppliers providing an adequate supply of new generation digital asset mining machines at economical prices to customers intending to purchase our hosting and other solutions. The growth in our business is directly related to increased demand for hosting services and cryptocurrency which is dependent in large part on the availability of new generation mining machines offered for sale at a price conducive to profitable digital asset mining, as well as the trading price of cryptocurrency. The market price and availability of new mining machines fluctuates with the price of cryptocurrencies and can be volatile. In addition, as more companies seek to enter the mining industry, the demand for machines may outpace supply and create mining machine equipment shortages. There are no assurances that cryptocurrency mining equipment suppliers will be able to keep pace with any surge in demand for mining equipment. Further, manufacturing mining machine purchase contracts are not favorable to purchasers and we may have little or no recourse in the event a mining machine manufacturer defaults on its mining machine delivery commitments. If we and our customers are not able to obtain a sufficient number of digital asset mining machines at favorable prices, our growth expectations, liquidity, financial condition and results of operations will be negatively impacted.

**Changes in tariffs or import restrictions could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.**

Equipment necessary for digital asset mining is almost entirely manufactured outside of the United States. There is currently significant uncertainty about the future relationship between the United States and various other countries, including China, the European Union, Canada, and Mexico, with respect to trade policies, treaties, tariffs and customs duties, and taxes. For example, since 2019, the U.S. government has implemented significant changes to U.S. trade policy with respect to China. These tariffs have subjected certain digital asset mining equipment manufactured overseas to additional import duties of up to 25%. The amount of the additional tariffs and the number of products subject to them has changed numerous times based on action by the U.S. government. These tariffs have increased costs of digital asset mining equipment, and new or additional tariffs or other restrictions on the import of equipment necessary for digital asset mining could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

**Mining machines rely on components and raw materials that may be subject to price fluctuations or shortages, including ASIC chips that have been subject to an ongoing significant shortage.**

In order to build and sustain our self-mining operations we will depend on third parties to provide us with ASIC chips and other critical components for our mining equipment, which may be subject to price fluctuations or shortages. For example, the ASIC chip is the key component of a mining machine as it determines the efficiency of the device. The production of ASIC chips typically requires highly sophisticated silicon wafers, which currently only a small number of fabrication facilities, or wafer foundries, in the world are capable of producing. We believe that the current microchip shortage that the entire industry is experiencing leads to price fluctuations and disruption in the supply of key miner components. Specifically, the ASIC chips have recently been subject to a significant price increases and shortages.

There is also a risk that a manufacturer or seller of ASIC chips or other necessary mining equipment may adjust the prices according cryptocurrency prices or otherwise, so the cost of new machines could become unpredictable and extremely high. As a result, at times, we may be forced to obtain mining machines and other hardware at premium prices, to the extent they are even available. Such events could have a material adverse effect on our business, prospects, financial condition, and operating results.

**The further development and acceptance of digital asset networks and other digital assets, which represent a new and rapidly changing industry, are subject to a variety of factors that are difficult to evaluate. The slowing or stopping of the development or acceptance of digital asset systems may adversely affect an investment in us.**

The use of cryptocurrencies to, among other things, buy and sell goods and services and complete transactions, is part of a new and rapidly evolving industry that employs cryptocurrency assets, based upon a computer-generated mathematical and/or cryptographic protocol. Large-scale acceptance of cryptocurrency as a means of payment has not, and may never, occur. The growth of this industry is subject to a high degree of uncertainty, and the slowing or stopping of the development or acceptance of developing protocols may occur unpredictably. The factors include, but are not limited to:

- continued worldwide growth in the adoption and use of cryptocurrencies as a medium to exchange;
- governmental and quasi-governmental regulation of cryptocurrencies and their use, or restrictions on or regulation of access to and operation of cryptocurrency systems;
- changes in consumer demographics and public tastes and preferences;
- the maintenance and development of the open-source software protocol of the network;
- the increased consolidation of contributors to the blockchain through mining pools;

- the availability and popularity of other forms or methods of buying and selling goods and services, including new means of using fiat currencies;
- the use of the networks supporting cryptocurrencies for developing smart contracts and distributed applications;
- general economic conditions and the regulatory environment relating to cryptocurrencies; and
- negative consumer sentiment and perception of cryptocurrencies.

The outcome of these factors could have negative effects on our ability to continue as a going concern or to pursue our business strategy at all, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, prospects or operations as well as potentially negative effect on the value of any cryptocurrency that we mine or otherwise acquire or hold for our own account, which would harm investors.

**Banks and financial institutions may not provide banking services, or may cut off services, to businesses that engage in cryptocurrency-related activities or that accept cryptocurrency as payment, including financial institutions of investors in our common shares.**

A number of companies that engage in cryptocurrency-related activities have been unable to find banks or financial institutions that are willing to provide them with bank accounts and other services. Similarly, a number of companies and individuals or businesses associated with cryptocurrencies may have had and may continue to have their existing bank accounts closed or services discontinued with financial institutions in response to government action, particularly in China, where regulatory response to cryptocurrencies has been to exclude their use for ordinary consumer transactions within China. We also may be unable to obtain or maintain these services for our business. The difficulty that many businesses that provide cryptocurrency-related activities have and may continue to have in finding banks and financial institutions willing to provide them services may be decreasing the usefulness of cryptocurrency as a payment system and harming public perception of cryptocurrency, and could decrease their usefulness and harm their public perception in the future.

**We face risks of Internet disruptions, which could have an adverse effect on the price of cryptocurrencies.**

A disruption of the Internet may affect the use of cryptocurrencies. Generally, cryptocurrency and our business of mining cryptocurrency is dependent upon the Internet. A significant disruption in Internet connectivity could disrupt a currency's network operations until the disruption is resolved and have an adverse effect on the price of cryptocurrencies and our ability to mine cryptocurrencies.

**The impact of geopolitical and economic events on the supply and demand for cryptocurrency is uncertain.**

Geopolitical crises may motivate large-scale purchases of cryptocurrencies, which could increase the price of cryptocurrencies rapidly. This may increase the likelihood of a subsequent price decrease as crisis-driven purchasing behavior dissipates, adversely affecting the value of our inventory following such downward adjustment. Such risks are similar to the risks of purchasing commodities in uncertain times, such as the risk of purchasing, holding or selling gold. Alternatively, as an emerging asset class with limited acceptance as a payment system or commodity, global crises and general economic downturns may discourage investment in cryptocurrency as investors focus their investment on less volatile asset classes as a means of hedging their investment risk.

As an alternative to fiat currencies that are backed by central governments, cryptocurrency, which is relatively new, is subject to supply and demand forces. How such supply and demand will be impacted by geopolitical events is largely uncertain but could be harmful to us. Political or economic crises may motivate large-scale acquisitions or sales of cryptocurrency either globally or locally. Such events could have a material adverse effect on our ability to continue as a going concern or to pursue our new strategy at all, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, prospects or operations and potentially the value of any cryptocurrency that we mine or otherwise acquire or hold for our own account.

**We may not be able to compete with other companies, some of whom have greater resources and experience.**

We may not be able to compete successfully against present or future competitors. We do not have the resources to compete with larger providers of similar services at this time. The cryptocurrency industry has attracted various high-profile and well-established operators, some of which have substantially greater liquidity and financial resources than we do. With the limited resources we have available, we may experience great difficulties in expanding and improving our network of computers to remain competitive. Competition from existing and future competitors, particularly those that have access to competitively-priced energy, could result in our inability to secure acquisitions and partnerships that we may need to expand our business in the future. This competition from other entities with greater resources, experience and reputations may result in our failure to maintain or expand our business, as we may never be able to successfully execute our business plan. If we are unable to expand and remain competitive, our business could be negatively affected.

**The mining data centers at which we maintain our mining equipment may experience damages, including damages that are not covered by insurance.**

The mining data centers at which we maintain our mining equipment are, and any future mining data centers at which we maintain our mining equipment will be, subject to a variety of risks relating to physical condition and operation, including:

- the presence of construction or repair defects or other structural or building damage;
- any non-compliance with or liabilities under applicable environmental, health or safety regulations or requirements or building permit requirements;
- any damage resulting from natural disasters, such as hurricanes, earthquakes, fires, floods and windstorms; and
- claims by employees and others for injuries sustained at our properties.

For example, the mining data centers at which we maintain our mining equipment could be rendered inoperable, temporarily or permanently, as a result of a fire or other natural disaster or by a terrorist or other attack on the facilities where our mining equipment is located. The security and other measures we take to protect against these risks may not be sufficient. Any property insurance we obtain in the future may not be adequate to cover any losses we suffer as a result of any of these events. In the event of an uninsured loss, including a loss in excess of insured limits, at any of the mining data centers at which we maintain our mining equipment, such mining data centers may not be adequately repaired in a timely manner or at all and we may lose some or all of the future revenues anticipated to be derived from our equipment located at such mining data centers.

**Acceptance and/or widespread use of cryptocurrency is uncertain.**

Currently, there is a relatively limited use of any cryptocurrency in the retail and commercial marketplace. Banks and other established financial institutions may refuse to process funds for cryptocurrency transactions, process wire transfers to or from cryptocurrency exchanges, cryptocurrency-related companies or service providers, or maintain accounts for persons or entities transacting in cryptocurrency. Conversely, a significant portion of cryptocurrency demand is generated by investors seeking a long-term store of value or speculators seeking to profit from the short- or long-term holding of the asset. Price volatility undermines cryptocurrency's role as a medium of exchange, as retailers are much less likely to accept it as a form of payment.

The relative lack of acceptance of cryptocurrency in the retail and commercial marketplace, or a reduction of such use, limits the ability of end users to use them to pay for goods and services. Such lack of acceptance or decline in acceptances could have a material adverse effect on our ability to continue as a going concern or to pursue our strategy at all, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, prospects or operations and potentially the value of cryptocurrency we mine or otherwise acquire or hold for our own account.

**The decentralized nature of cryptocurrency systems may lead to slow or inadequate responses to crises, which may negatively affect our business.**

The decentralized nature of the governance of cryptocurrency systems may lead to ineffective decision making that slows development or prevents a network from overcoming emergent obstacles. Governance of many cryptocurrency systems is by voluntary consensus and open competition with no clear leadership structure or authority. To the extent lack of clarity in corporate governance of the blockchain leads to ineffective decision making that slows development and growth of cryptocurrency network protocols, our business may be adversely affected.

**It may be illegal now, or in the future, to acquire, own, hold, sell or use cryptocurrencies, participate in blockchains or utilize similar cryptocurrency assets in one or more countries, the ruling of which would adversely affect us.**

As cryptocurrency has grown in both popularity and market size, governments around the world have reacted differently to cryptocurrency; certain governments have deemed them illegal, and others have allowed their use and trade without restriction, while in some jurisdictions, such as in the U.S., subject to extensive, and in some cases overlapping, unclear and evolving regulatory requirements. Until recently, little or no regulatory attention has been directed toward cryptocurrency by U.S. federal and state governments, foreign governments and self-regulatory agencies. As cryptocurrency has grown in popularity and in market size, the Federal Reserve Board, U.S. Congress and certain U.S. agencies have begun to examine cryptocurrency in more detail.

One or more countries such as China and Russia, which have taken harsh regulatory action in the past, may take regulatory actions in the future that could severely restrict the right to acquire, own, hold, sell or use these cryptocurrency assets or to exchange for fiat currency. In many nations, particularly in China and Russia, it is illegal to accept payment in cryptocurrencies for consumer transactions and banking institutions are barred from accepting deposits of cryptocurrency. Such restrictions may adversely affect us as the large-scale use of cryptocurrency as a means of exchange is presently confined to certain regions globally. Such circumstances could have a material adverse effect on our ability to continue as a going concern or to pursue our strategy at all, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, prospects or operations and potentially the value of any cryptocurrency that we mine or otherwise acquire or hold for our own account, and harm investors.

**There is a lack of liquid markets, and possible manipulation of blockchain/cryptocurrency-based assets.**

Cryptocurrencies that are represented and trade on a ledger-based platform may not necessarily benefit from viable trading markets. Stock exchanges have listing requirements and vet issuers, requiring them to be subjected to rigorous listing standards and rules, and monitor investors transacting on such platform for fraud and other improprieties. These conditions may not necessarily be replicated on a distributed ledger platform, depending on the platform's controls and other policies. The less scrutiny that issuers of cryptocurrency assets or users that transact on distributed ledger platforms are subject to, the higher the potential risk for fraud or the manipulation of the ledger due to a control event. These factors may decrease liquidity or volume or may otherwise increase volatility of investment securities or other assets trading on a ledger-based system, which may adversely affect us. Such circumstances could have a material adverse effect on our ability to continue as a going concern or to pursue our strategy at all, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, prospects or operations and potentially the value of any cryptocurrency that we mine or otherwise acquire or hold for our own account, and harm investors.

**Our operations, investment strategies and profitability may be adversely affected by competition from other methods of investing in cryptocurrency.**

We compete with other users and/or companies that are mining cryptocurrency and other potential financial vehicles, including securities backed by or linked to cryptocurrency through entities similar to us. Market and financial conditions, and other conditions beyond our control, may make it more attractive to invest in other financial vehicles, or to invest in cryptocurrency directly. The emergence of other financial vehicles and exchange-traded funds have been scrutinized by regulators and such scrutiny and the negative impressions or conclusions resulting from such scrutiny could be applicable to us and impact our ability to successfully pursue our strategy or operate at all, or to establish or maintain a public market for our securities. Such circumstances could have a material adverse effect on our ability to continue as a going concern or to pursue our strategy at all, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, prospects or operations and potentially the value of any cryptocurrency that we mine or otherwise acquire or hold for our own account, and harm investors.

**The development and acceptance of competing blockchain platforms or technologies may cause consumers to use alternative distributed ledgers or other alternatives.**

The development and acceptance of competing blockchain platforms or technologies may cause consumers to use alternative distributed ledgers or an alternative to distributed ledgers altogether. Our business utilizes presently existent digital ledgers and blockchains and we could face difficulty adapting to new digital ledgers, blockchains, or alternatives thereto. This may adversely affect us and our exposure to various blockchain technologies and prevent us from realizing the anticipated profits from our investments. Such circumstances could have a material adverse effect on our ability to continue as a going concern or to pursue our strategy at all, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, prospects or operations and potentially the value of any cryptocurrency that we mine or otherwise acquire or hold for our own account, and harm investors.

***The future development and growth of crypto is subject to a variety of factors that are difficult to predict and evaluate. If digital assets do not grow as we expect, our business, operating results, and financial condition could be adversely affected.***

Digital assets built on blockchain technology were only introduced in 2008 and remain in the early stages of development. In addition, different digital assets are designed for different purposes. Bitcoin, for instance, was designed to serve as a peer-to-peer electronic cash system, while Ethereum was designed to be a smart contract and decentralized application platform. Many other crypto networks, ranging from cloud computing to tokenized securities networks, have only recently been established. The further growth and development of any crypto assets and their underlying networks and other cryptographic and algorithmic protocols governing the creation, transfer, and usage of crypto assets represent a new and evolving paradigm that is subject to a variety of factors that are difficult to evaluate, including:

- many crypto networks have limited operating histories, have not been validated in production, and are still in the process of developing and making significant decisions that will affect the design, supply, issuance, functionality, and governance of their respective crypto assets and underlying blockchain networks, any of which could adversely affect their respective crypto assets;
- many crypto networks are in the process of implementing software upgrades and other changes to their protocols, which could introduce bugs, security risks, or adversely affect the respective crypto networks;
- several large networks, including Bitcoin and Ethereum, are developing new features to address fundamental speed, scalability, and energy usage issues. If these issues are not successfully addressed, or are unable to receive widespread adoption, it could adversely affect the underlying digital assets;
- security issues, bugs, and software errors have been identified with many digital assets and their underlying blockchain networks, some of which have been exploited by malicious actors. There are also inherent security weaknesses in some digital assets, such as when creators of certain crypto networks use procedures that could allow hackers to counterfeit tokens. Any weaknesses identified with a digital asset could adversely affect its price, security, liquidity, and adoption. If a malicious actor or botnet (a volunteer or hacked collection of computers controlled by networked software coordinating the actions of the computers) obtains a majority of the compute or staking power on a crypto network, as has happened in the past, it may be able to manipulate transactions, which could cause financial losses to holders, damage the network's reputation and security, and adversely affect its value;
- the development of new technologies for mining, such as improved application-specific integrated circuits (commonly referred to as ASICs), or changes in industry patterns, such as the consolidation of mining power in a small number of large mining farms, could reduce the security of blockchain networks, lead to increased liquid supply of digital assets, and reduce a digital asset's price and attractiveness;
- if rewards and transaction fees for miners or validators on any particular crypto network are not sufficiently high to attract and retain miners, a crypto network's security and speed may be adversely affected, increasing the likelihood of a malicious attack;
- many digital assets have concentrated ownership or an "admin key," allowing a small group of holders to have significant unilateral control and influence over key decisions related to their crypto networks, such as governance decisions and protocol changes, as well as the market price of such digital assets;



- the governance of many decentralized blockchain networks is by voluntary consensus and open competition, and many developers are not directly compensated for their contributions. As a result, there may be a lack of consensus or clarity on the governance of any particular crypto network, a lack of incentives for developers to maintain or develop the network, and other unforeseen issues, any of which could result in unexpected or undesirable errors, bugs, or changes, or stymie such network's utility and ability to respond to challenges and grow; and
- many crypto networks are in the early stages of developing partnerships and collaborations, all of which may not succeed and adversely affect the usability and adoption of the respective crypto assets.

Various other technical issues have also been uncovered from time to time that resulted in disabled functionalities, exposure of certain users' personal information, theft of users' assets, and other negative consequences, and which required resolution with the attention and efforts of their global miner, user, and development communities. If any such risks or other risks materialize, and in particular if they are not resolved, the development and growth of crypto may be significantly affected and, as a result, our business, operating results, and financial condition could be adversely affected.

**Cryptocurrency may be subject to loss, theft or restriction on access.**

There is a risk that some or all of any cryptocurrency that we own could be lost or stolen. Cryptocurrencies are stored in electronic cryptocurrency sites commonly referred to as "wallets" by holders of cryptocurrencies which may be accessed to exchange a holder's cryptocurrency assets. Access to our cryptocurrency assets could also be restricted by cybercrime (such as a denial of service attack) against a service at which we maintain a hosted hot wallet. A "hot wallet" refers to any cryptocurrency wallet that is connected to the Internet. Generally, hot wallets are easier to set up and access than wallets in cold storage, but they are also more susceptible to hackers and other technical vulnerabilities. "Cold storage" refers to any cryptocurrency wallet that is not connected to the Internet. Cold storage is generally more secure than hot storage, but is not ideal for quick or regular transactions and we may experience lag time in our ability to respond to market fluctuations in the price of our cryptocurrency assets. We expect to hold all of our cryptocurrency in a combination of insured institutional custody services and multisignature cold storage wallets, and maintain secure backups to reduce the risk of malfeasance, but the risk of loss of our cryptocurrency assets cannot be wholly eliminated. Any restrictions on access to our hot wallet accounts due to cybercrime or other reasons could limit our ability to convert cryptocurrency to cash, potentially resulting in liquidity issues.

Hackers or malicious actors may launch attacks to steal, compromise or secure cryptocurrency. As we increase in size, we may become a more appealing target of hackers, malware, cyber-attacks or other security threats. Any of these events may adversely affect our operations and, consequently, our investments and profitability. The loss or destruction of a private key required to access our digital wallets may be irreversible and we may be denied access for all time to our cryptocurrency holdings or the holdings of others held in those compromised wallets. Our loss of access to our private keys or a data loss relating to our digital wallets could adversely affect our investments and assets.

Cryptocurrencies are controllable only by the possessor of both the unique public and private keys relating to the local or online digital wallet in which they are held, which wallet's public key or address is reflected in the network's public blockchain. To the extent such private keys are lost, destroyed or otherwise compromised, we will be unable to access our cryptocurrency rewards and such private keys may not be capable of being restored by any network. Any loss of private keys relating to digital wallets used to store our cryptocurrency could have a material adverse effect on our ability to continue as a going concern or to pursue our new strategy at all, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, prospects or operations and potentially the value of any cryptocurrency that we mine or otherwise acquire or hold for our own account.

**Incorrect or fraudulent cryptocurrency transactions may be irreversible.**

Cryptocurrency transactions are irrevocable and stolen or incorrectly transferred cryptocurrencies may be irretrievable. As a result, any incorrectly executed or fraudulent cryptocurrency transactions could adversely affect our investments and assets. Cryptocurrency transactions are not, from an administrative perspective, reversible without the consent and active participation of the recipient of the cryptocurrencies from the transaction. Once a transaction has been verified and recorded in a block that is added to a blockchain, an incorrect transfer of a cryptocurrency or a theft thereof generally will not be reversible and we may not have sufficient recourse to recover our losses from any such transfer or theft. It is possible that, through computer or human error, or through theft or criminal action, our cryptocurrency rewards could be transferred in incorrect amounts or to unauthorized third parties, or to uncontrolled accounts. Further, at this time, there is no specifically enumerated U.S. or foreign governmental, regulatory, investigative or prosecutorial authority or mechanism through which to bring an action or complaint regarding missing or stolen cryptocurrency. In the event of a loss, we would be reliant on existing private investigative entities to investigate any such loss of our cryptocurrency assets. To the extent that we are unable to recover our losses from such action, error or theft, such events could have a material adverse effect on our ability to continue as a going concern or to pursue our new strategy at all, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, prospects or operations of and potentially the value of any cryptocurrency that we mine or otherwise acquire or hold for our own account.

**Our interactions with a blockchain may expose us to specially designated nationals or blocked persons or cause us to violate provisions of law that did not contemplate distributed ledger technology.**

The Office of Financial Assets Control of the U.S. Department of Treasury (“OFAC”) requires us to comply with its sanction program and not conduct business with persons named on its specially designated nationals list. However, because of the pseudonymous nature of blockchain transactions, we may inadvertently and without our knowledge engage in transactions with persons named on OFAC’s specially designated nationals list. Our policy prohibits any transactions with such specially designated national individuals, but we may not be adequately capable of determining the ultimate identity of the individual with whom we transact with respect to selling cryptocurrency assets. Moreover, federal law prohibits any U.S. person from knowingly or unknowingly possessing any visual depiction commonly known as child pornography. Recent media reports have suggested that persons have embedded such depictions on one or more blockchains. Because our business requires us to download and retain one or more blockchains to effectuate our ongoing business, it is possible that such digital ledgers contain prohibited depictions without our knowledge or consent. To the extent government enforcement authorities literally enforce these and other laws and regulations that are impacted by decentralized distributed ledger technology, we may be subject to investigation, administrative or court proceedings, and monetary fines and penalties, which could harm our reputation.

**Cryptocurrencies face significant obstacles that can lead to high fees or slow transaction settlement times.**

Cryptocurrencies face significant scaling obstacles that can lead to high fees or slow transaction settlement times, and attempts to increase the volume of transactions may not be effective. Scaling cryptocurrencies is essential to the widespread acceptance of cryptocurrencies as a means of payment, which widespread acceptance is necessary to the continued growth and development of our business. Many cryptocurrency networks face significant scaling challenges. For example, cryptocurrencies are limited with respect to how many transactions can occur per second. Participants in the cryptocurrency ecosystem debate potential approaches to increasing the average number of transactions per second that the network can handle and have implemented mechanisms or are researching ways to increase scale, such as increasing the allowable sizes of blocks, and therefore the number of transactions per block, and sharding (a horizontal partition of data in a database or search engine), which would not require every single transaction to be included in every single miner’s or validator’s block. However, there is no guarantee that any of the mechanisms in place or being explored for increasing the scale of settlement of cryptocurrency transactions will be effective, or how long they will take to become effective, which could adversely affect our business.

**The price of cryptocurrency may be affected by the sale of cryptocurrency by other vehicles investing in cryptocurrency or tracking cryptocurrency markets.**

The mathematical protocols under which many cryptocurrencies are mined permit the creation of a limited, predetermined amount of currency, while others have no limit established on total supply. To the extent that other vehicles investing in cryptocurrency or tracking cryptocurrency markets form and come to represent a significant proportion of the demand for a cryptocurrency, large redemptions of the securities of those vehicles and the subsequent sale of such cryptocurrency by such vehicles could negatively affect the price and value of the cryptocurrency inventory we hold. Such events could have a material adverse effect on our ability to continue as a going concern or to pursue our new strategy at all, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, prospects or operations and potentially the value of any cryptocurrency that we mine or otherwise acquire or hold for our own account.

**Since there has been limited precedent set for financial accounting or taxation of digital assets other than digital securities, it is unclear how we will be required to account for digital asset transactions and the taxation of our businesses.**

The Company accounts for digital assets as indefinite-lived intangible assets. The digital assets are recorded at cost less impairment. Fair value of the digital asset award received is determined using the market rates of the related digital asset at the transaction date. There is currently no specific definitive guidance under GAAP or alternative accounting framework for the accounting for digital assets recognized as revenue or held, and management has exercised significant judgment in determining the appropriate accounting treatment. In the event authoritative guidance is promulgated by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”), the Company may be required to change its policies, which could have an effect on the Company’s consolidated financial position and results from operations.

The Company accounts for revenue pursuant to ASU 2014-09, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* and all the related amendments (“Topic 606”). Under Topic 606, an entity is required to recognize revenue to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services, and contract consideration will be recognized on a “sell-in basis” or when control of the purchased goods or services transfer to the distributor. The Company is engaged with digital asset mining pool operators to provide computing power to the mining pools. In exchange for providing computing power, the Company is entitled to a fractional share of the fixed cryptocurrency award the mining pool operator receives for successfully adding a block to the blockchain, plus a fractional share of the transaction fees attached to that blockchain. The Company’s fractional share is based on the proportion of computing power the Company contributed to the mining pool operator to the total computing power contributed by all mining pool participants in solving the current algorithm. The Company satisfies its performance obligation at the point in time that the Company is awarded a unit of digital currency through its participation in the applicable network and network participants benefit from the Company’s verification service. The transaction price is the fair value of the digital asset mined, being the fair value per the prevailing market rate for that digital asset on the transaction date, and this is allocated to the number of digital assets mined. The transaction consideration the Company receives is noncash consideration, in the form of digital currency, which the Company measures at fair value on the date received which is not materially different than the fair value at contract inception or time the Company has earned the award from the mining pools. Fair value of the digital currency award received is determined using the spot price of the related digital currency on the date earned. The Company cannot determine, during the course of solving for a block, that a reversal of revenue is not probable and therefore revenue is recognized when the mining pool operator successfully places a block (by being the first to solve an algorithm) and the Company receives confirmation of the consideration it will receive.

There is currently no definitive guidance under GAAP or alternative accounting framework for the accounting for digital currencies recognized as revenue or held, and management has exercised significant judgment in determining the appropriate accounting treatment. In the event authoritative guidance is enacted by the FASB, the Company may be required to change its policies, which could have an effect on the Company’s consolidated financial position and results from operations.

**There are risks related to technological obsolescence, the vulnerability of the global supply chain to cryptocurrency hardware disruption, and difficulty in obtaining new hardware which may have a negative effect on our business.**

Our mining operations can only be successful and ultimately profitable if the costs of mining cryptocurrency, including hardware and electricity costs, associated with mining cryptocurrency are lower than the price of cryptocurrency. As our mining facility operates, our miners experience ordinary wear and tear, and may also face more significant malfunctions caused by a number of extraneous factors beyond our control. The physical degradation of our miners will require us to, over time, replace those miners which are no longer functional. Additionally, as the technology evolves, we may be required to acquire newer models of miners to remain competitive in the market.

Also, because we expect to depreciate all new miners, our reported operating results will be negatively affected. Further, the global supply chain for cryptocurrency miners is presently heavily dependent on China. Should disruptions to the China-based global supply chain for cryptocurrency hardware occur, we may not be able to obtain adequate replacement parts for existing miners or to obtain additional miners from the manufacturer on a timely basis. Such events could have a material adverse effect on our ability to pursue our new strategy, which could have a material adverse effect on our business.

**We may not adequately respond to price fluctuations and rapidly changing technology, which may negatively affect our business.**

Competitive conditions within the cryptocurrency industry require that we use sophisticated technology in the operation of our business. The industry for blockchain technology is characterized by rapid technological changes, new product introductions, enhancements and evolving industry standards. New technologies, techniques or products could emerge that might offer better performance than the software and other technologies we currently utilize, and we may have to manage transitions to these new technologies to remain competitive. We may not be successful, generally or relative to our competitors in the cryptocurrency industry, in timely implementing new technology into our systems, or doing so in a cost-effective manner. As a result, our business and operations may suffer.

**The reward for mining cryptocurrency in the future may decrease, and the value of cryptocurrency may not adjust to compensate us for the reduction in the rewards we receive from our mining efforts.**

There is no guarantee that price fluctuations of cryptocurrencies will compensate for the reduction in mining reward. If a corresponding and proportionate increase in the trading price of a cryptocurrency or a proportionate decrease in mining difficulty does not follow the decrease in rewards, the revenue we earn from our cryptocurrency mining operations could see a corresponding decrease, which would have a material adverse effect on our business and operations.

**The value of cryptocurrency may be subject to pricing risk and has historically been subject to wide swings.**

Cryptocurrency market prices, which have historically been volatile and are impacted by a variety of factors (including those discussed below), are determined primarily using data from various exchanges, over-the-counter markets and derivative platforms. Furthermore, such prices may be subject to factors such as those that impact commodities, more so than business activities, which could be subjected to additional influence from fraudulent or illegitimate actors, real or perceived scarcity, and political, economic, regulatory or other conditions. Pricing may be the result of, and may continue to result in, speculation regarding future appreciation in the value of cryptocurrencies, inflating and making its market prices more volatile or creating “bubble” type risks for cryptocurrencies.

***Our operating results have and will significantly fluctuate due to the highly volatile nature of digital assets.***

Our operating results are dependent on digital assets and the broader cryptoeconomy. Due to the highly volatile nature of the cryptoeconomy and the prices of digital assets, our operating results have, and will continue to, fluctuate significantly from quarter to quarter in accordance with market sentiments and movements in the broader cryptoeconomy. Our operating results will continue to fluctuate significantly as a result of a variety of factors, many of which are unpredictable and in certain instances are outside of our control, including:

- our dependence on offerings that are dependent on crypto asset trading activity, including trading volume and the prevailing trading prices for crypto assets, whose trading prices and volume can be highly volatile;
- adding crypto assets to, or removing from, our platform;

- market conditions of, and overall sentiment towards, the cryptoeconomy;
- system failure, outages, or interruptions, including with respect to our crypto platform and third-party crypto networks; our lack of control over decentralized or third-party blockchains and networks that may experience downtime, cyber-attacks, critical failures, errors, bugs, corrupted files, data losses, or other similar software failures, outages, breaches and losses;
- inaccessibility of our platform due to our or third-party actions;

As a result of these factors, it is difficult for us to forecast growth trends accurately and our business and future prospects are difficult to evaluate, particularly in the short term. In view of the rapidly evolving nature of our business and the cryptoeconomy, period-to-period comparisons of our operating results may not be meaningful, and you should not rely upon them as an indication of future performance. Quarterly and annual expenses reflected in our financial statements may be significantly different from historical or projected rates. Our operating results in one or more future quarters may fall below the expectations of securities analysts and investors. As a result, the trading price of our common stock may increase or decrease significantly.

**We may not be able to realize the benefits of forks. Forks in a digital asset network may occur in the future which may affect the value of cryptocurrency held by us.**

To the extent that a significant majority of users and miners on a cryptocurrency network install software that changes the cryptocurrency network or properties of a cryptocurrency, including the irreversibility of transactions and limitations on the mining of new cryptocurrency, the cryptocurrency network would be subject to new protocols and software. However, if less than a significant majority of users and miners on the cryptocurrency network consent to the proposed modification, and the modification is not compatible with the software prior to its modification, the consequence would be what is known as a “fork” of the network, with one prong running the pre-modified software and the other running the modified software. The effect of such a fork would be the existence of two versions of the cryptocurrency running in parallel, yet lacking interchangeability and necessitating exchange-type transactions to convert currencies between the two forks. A fork in a cryptocurrency could adversely affect our business.

We may not be able to realize the economic benefit of a fork, either immediately or ever, which could adversely affect our business. If we hold a cryptocurrency at the time of a hard fork into two cryptocurrencies, industry standards would dictate that we would be expected to hold an equivalent amount of the old and new assets following the fork. However, we may not be able, or it may not be practical, to secure or realize the economic benefit of the new asset for various reasons. Additionally, laws, regulations or other factors may prevent us from benefiting from the new asset.

**There is a possibility of cryptocurrency mining algorithms transitioning to proof of stake validation and other mining related risks, which could make us less competitive and ultimately adversely affect our business.**

Proof of stake is an alternative method in validating cryptocurrency transactions. Should the algorithm shift from a proof of work validation method to a proof of stake method, mining would require less energy and may render any company that maintains advantages in the current climate (for example, from lower priced electricity, processing, real estate, or hosting) less competitive. We, as a result of our efforts to optimize and improve the efficiency of our cryptocurrency mining operations, may be exposed to the risk in the future of losing the benefit of our capital investments and the competitive advantage we hope to gain from this as a result, and may be negatively impacted if a switch to proof of stake validation were to occur. Such events could have a material adverse effect on our ability to continue as a going concern or to pursue our new strategy at all, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, prospects or operations.

**If a malicious actor or botnet obtains control in excess of 50% of the processing power active on any cryptocurrency network, it is possible that such actor or botnet could manipulate the blockchain in a manner that adversely affects an investment in us.**

If a malicious actor or botnet (a volunteer or hacked collection of computers controlled by networked software coordinating the actions of the computers) obtains a majority of the processing power dedicated to mining on any digital asset network it may be able to alter the blockchain by constructing alternate blocks if it is able to solve for such blocks faster than the remainder of the miners on the blockchain can add valid blocks. In such alternate blocks, the malicious actor or botnet could control, exclude or modify the ordering of transactions, though it could not generate new digital assets or transactions using such control. Using alternate blocks, the malicious actor could “double-spend” its own digital assets (i.e., spend the same digital assets in more than one transaction) and prevent the confirmation of other users’ transactions for so long as it maintains control. To the extent that such malicious actor or botnet does not yield its majority control of the processing power or the digital asset community does not reject the fraudulent blocks as malicious, reversing any changes made to the blockchain may not be possible. Such changes could adversely affect an investment in us.

The approach towards and possible crossing of the 50% threshold indicate a greater risk that a single mining pool could exert authority over the validation of digital asset transactions. To the extent that the digital assets ecosystems do not act to ensure greater decentralization of digital asset mining processing power, the feasibility of a malicious actor obtaining in excess of 50% of the processing power on any digital asset network (e.g., through control of a large mining pool or through hacking such a mining pool) will increase, which may adversely impact an investment in us.

**Cryptocurrencies, including those maintained by or for us, may be exposed to cybersecurity threats and hacks.**

As with any computer code generally, flaws in cryptocurrency codes may be exposed by malicious actors. Several errors and defects have been found previously, including those that disabled some functionality for users and exposed users’ information. Exploitation of flaws in the source code that allow malicious actors to take or create money have previously occurred. Despite our efforts and processes to prevent breaches, our devices, as well as our miners, computer systems and those of third parties that we use in our operations, are vulnerable to cybersecurity risks, including cyberattacks such as viruses and worms, phishing attacks, denial-of-service attacks, physical or electronic break-ins, employee theft or misuse, and similar disruptions from unauthorized tampering with our miners and computer systems or those of third parties that we use in our operations. Such events could have a material adverse effect our business, prospects or operations and potentially the value of any Bitcoin that we mine or otherwise acquire or hold for our own account.

**We may be subject to securities litigation, which is expensive and could divert management attention.**

Our share price may be volatile and, in the past, companies that have experienced volatility in the market price of their shares have been subject to securities class action litigation. We may be the target of this type of litigation in the future. Litigation of this type could result in substantial costs and diversion of management’s attention and resources, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects. Any adverse determination in litigation could also subject us to significant liabilities.

**If the trading price of our common shares fails to comply with the continued listing requirements of the NASDAQ Capital Market, we would face possible delisting, which would result in a limited public market for our common shares and make obtaining future debt or equity financing more difficult for us.**

Companies listed on NASDAQ are subject to delisting for, among other things, failure to maintain a minimum closing bid price of \$1.00 per share for 30 consecutive business days. On July 25, 2022, we received a letter from NASDAQ indicating that for the previous 30 consecutive business days, the closing bid price of our common shares fell below the minimum \$1.00 per share requirement pursuant to NASDAQ Listing Rule 5550(a)(2) and 5810(c)(3)(A) (the “Nasdaq Listing Rules”).

While the notification had no immediate effect on the listing of our common shares on Nasdaq, in accordance with the Nasdaq Listing Rules, we had 180 calendar days from the date of notification, or until January 25, 2023, to regain compliance with the minimum bid price requirement, during which time our common shares continued to trade on the Nasdaq Capital Market.

On January 24, 2023, the Company received notification from Nasdaq indicating that the Company will have an additional 180-day grace period, or until July 24, 2023, to regain compliance with the Listing Rule’s \$1.00 minimum bid requirement. The notification indicated that the Company did not regain compliance during the initial 180-day grace period provided under the Listing Rule. In accordance with Nasdaq Marketplace Rule 5810(c)(3)(A), the Company is eligible for the additional grace period because it meets the continued listing requirement for market value of publicly held shares and all other applicable requirements for initial listing on the Nasdaq Capital Market with the exception of the bid price requirement, and the Company’s written notice to Nasdaq of its intention to cure the deficiency by effecting a reverse stock split, if necessary.

If the Company does not regain compliance by July 24, 2023, or if the Company fails to satisfy another Nasdaq requirement for continued listing, Nasdaq staff could provide notice that the Company’s common shares will become subject to delisting. In such event, Nasdaq rules permit the Company to appeal any delisting determination to a Nasdaq Hearings Panel. Accordingly, there can be no guarantee that the Company will be able to maintain its Nasdaq listing.

We cannot guarantee that the price of our common shares will comply with the Nasdaq Listing Rules for continued listing on the Nasdaq Capital Market in the future. If we cannot comply with the Nasdaq Listing Rules, our common shares would be subject to delisting and would likely trade on the over-the-counter market. If our common shares were to trade on the over-the-counter market, selling our common shares could be more difficult because smaller quantities of shares would likely be bought and sold, transactions could be delayed, and security analysts’ coverage of us may be reduced. In addition, broker-dealers have certain regulatory burdens imposed upon them, which may discourage broker-dealers from effecting transactions in our common shares, further limiting the liquidity of our common shares. As a result, the market price of our common shares may be depressed, and you may find it more difficult to sell our common shares. Such delisting from the NASDAQ Capital Market and continued or further declines in our share price could also greatly impair our ability to raise additional necessary capital through equity or debt financing.

**Our sponsorship of and investments in a special purpose acquisition company (“SPAC”) may expose us and our funds to increased risks and liabilities.**

We sponsor, or facilitate the acquisition of a company by, SPACs. A SPAC is a special purpose vehicle formed for the purpose of raising capital to eventually acquire or merge with an existing business, which results in the existing business becoming the operating business of a public company in an alternative to the traditional initial public offering process. There are a number of risks associated with sponsoring SPACs, including:

- because a SPAC is raised without a specifically identified acquisition target, it may never, or only after an extended period of time, be able to find and execute a suitable business combination, during which period the sponsor capital invested in or committed to the SPAC will not be available for other uses;
- our investments in a SPAC as its sponsor may be entirely lost if the SPAC does not execute a business combination during the finite permitted time period;
- SPACs incur substantial fees, costs and expenses related to their initial public offerings, being public companies and pursuing business combinations (in some cases, regardless of whether, or when, the SPAC ultimately consummates a transaction);
- the use of SPACs as an investment tool has recently become more widespread, and there remains substantial uncertainty regarding the viability of SPAC investing on a large scale, the supply of desirable transactions relative to the pace at which SPACs are currently being formed, potential litigation risks associated with transactions executed by SPACs and whether regulatory, tax or other authorities will implement additional or adverse policies relating to, or initiate enforcement actions targeting, SPACs and SPAC investing; and
- we expect regulatory scrutiny of and enforcement activities directed toward SPACs and other blank check companies to increase. Any losses relating to these developments could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, financial condition and cash flow, as well as our reputation.

**If the SPAC that we sponsor does not complete its initial business combination, our entire investment may be lost (other than with respect to public shares we may acquire in the SPAC).**

As part of our sponsorship of a SPAC, we purchased certain private placement warrants and founder shares of such SPAC at the closing of the SPAC’s initial public offering. The private placement warrants and the founder shares, and any additional securities we purchase in the SPAC, will be worthless if the SPAC does not complete an initial business combination. The personal and financial interests of our officers and directors may influence their motivation in identifying and selecting a target business combination, completing an initial business combination and influencing the operation of the business following the initial business combination. In addition, we have made working capital and extension loans directly to the SPAC, which are unlikely to be repaid if the SPAC does not complete an initial business combination. See “Recent Developments— Investment in Special Purpose Acquisition Company” for more information on the SPAC.



**We may be unable to successfully integrate any future acquisitions, which could adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects.**

The operation and management of recent acquisitions, or any future acquisitions that we may pursue may adversely affect our existing income and operations or we may not be able to effectively manage any growth resulting from any such transactions. Our success may depend, in part, on the extent to which we are able to integrate companies into a cohesive, efficient enterprise. This integration process may entail significant costs and delays. Our failure to successfully integrate the operations of any company that we may acquire in the future could adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects. To the extent that any acquisition results in additional goodwill, it will reduce our tangible net worth, which might adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects, as well as our credit capacity.

**The extent to which the COVID-19 virus outbreak and measures taken in response thereto impact our business, results of operations and financial condition will depend on future developments, which are highly uncertain and cannot be predicted.**

Global health concerns relating to the coronavirus outbreak have been weighing on the macroeconomic environment, and the outbreak has significantly increased economic uncertainty. Risks related to consumers and businesses lowering or changing spending, which impact domestic and international spend. The outbreak has resulted in authorities implementing numerous measures to try to contain the virus, such as travel bans and restrictions, quarantines, shelter in place orders, and business shutdowns. These measures have not only negatively impacted consumer spending and business spending habits, they have also adversely impacted and may further impact our workforce and operations and the operations of our customers, suppliers and business partners. These measures may remain in place for a significant period of time and they are likely to continue to adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition.

The extent to which the coronavirus outbreak (or any other similar outbreak in the future) impacts our business, results of operations and financial condition will depend on future developments, which are highly uncertain and cannot be predicted, including, but not limited to, the duration and spread of the outbreak, its severity, the actions to contain the virus or treat its impact, and how quickly and to what extent normal economic and operating conditions can resume.

**Our cash and other sources of liquidity may not be sufficient to fund our operations beyond the next twelve months. We may not be successful in raising additional capital necessary to meet expected increases in working capital needs. If we raise additional funding through sales of equity or equity-based securities, your shares will be diluted. If we need additional funding for operations and we are unable to raise it, we may be forced to liquidate assets and/or curtail or cease operations or seek bankruptcy protection or be subject to an involuntary bankruptcy petition.**

Management has projected that cash on hand will not be sufficient to allow the Company to continue operations beyond the next 12 months if we are unable to raise additional funding for operations. In October 2022, we completed discussions with BitFuFu to modify our BitFuFu machine purchase agreement and finalized the timing and volume of remaining deliveries with respect to our purchase order. No further payments on the contract are required by us. We expect our working capital needs to increase in the future as we continue to expand and enhance our operations. Our ability to raise additional funds for working capital through equity or debt financings or other sources may depend on the financial success of our then current business and successful implementation of our key strategic initiatives, financial, economic and market conditions and other factors, some of which are beyond our control. No assurance can be given that we will be successful in raising the required capital at a reasonable cost and at the required times, or at all. Further equity financings may have a dilutive effect on shareholders and any debt financing, if available, may require restrictions to be placed on our future financing and operating activities. We require additional capital and if we are unsuccessful in raising that capital, we may be required to cancel our existing purchase obligations under our current mining purchase agreements, or we may not be able to continue our business operations in the cryptocurrency mining industry or we may be unable to advance our growth initiatives, either of which could adversely impact our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Significant changes from the Company's current forecasts, including but not limited to: (i) shortfalls from projected sales levels; (ii) unexpected increases in product costs; (iii) increases in operating costs; (iv) changes in the historical timing of collecting accounts receivable; (v) fluctuations in the value of cryptocurrency; and (vi) inability to maintain compliance with the requirements of the NASDAQ Capital Market and/or inability to maintain listing with the NASDAQ Capital Market could have a material adverse impact on the Company's ability to access the level of funding necessary to continue its operations at current levels. If any of these events occurs or the Company is unable to generate sufficient cash from operations or financing sources, the Company may be forced to liquidate assets where possible and/or curtail, suspend or cease planned programs or operations generally or seek bankruptcy protection or be subject to an involuntary bankruptcy petition, any of, which would have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, results of operations, financial position and liquidity.

Given the Company's existing purchase obligations, if such agreements are not cancelled by the Company, management has projected that cash on hand will not be sufficient to allow the Company to meet its outstanding purchase obligations beyond the next 12 months if the Company is unable to raise additional debt or equity funding for operations. Management is in discussions with one of our hosting providers to renegotiate current agreements. On a short-term basis, the Company plans to raise debt or equity funding to meet its payment obligations under its current contracts and for additional working capital. These factors, among others, raise substantial doubt that the Company will be able to continue as a going concern. The accompanying consolidated financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, which contemplates the realization of assets and the satisfaction of liabilities in the normal course of business and do not include any adjustments that might result from the outcome of this uncertainty.

**A cybersecurity breach into our products could adversely affect our ability to conduct our business, harm our reputation, expose us to significant liability or otherwise damage our financial results.**

We have in the past, and expect in the future to be, subject to attempted cybersecurity attacks. A cybersecurity breach could negatively affect our reputation as a trusted provider of storage, and data protection products by adversely impacting the market's perception of the security of our products and services. Many of our customers and partners store sensitive data on our products, and a cybersecurity breach related to our products could harm our reputation and potentially expose us to significant liability.

We also maintain sensitive data related to our employees, partners and customers, including intellectual property, proprietary business information and personally identifiable information on our own systems. We employ sophisticated security measures; however, we may face threats across our infrastructure including unauthorized access, security breaches and other system disruptions.

It is critical to our business that our employees', partners' and customers' sensitive information remains secure, and that our customers perceive that this information is secure. A cybersecurity breach could result in unauthorized access to, loss of, or unauthorized disclosure of such information. A cybersecurity breach could expose us to litigation, indemnity obligations, government investigations and other possible liabilities. Additionally, a cyber-attack, whether actual or perceived, could result in negative publicity which could harm our reputation and reduce our customers' confidence in the effectiveness of our solutions, which could materially and adversely affect our business and results of operations. A breach of our security systems could also expose us to increased costs including remediation costs, disruption of operations or increased cybersecurity protection costs that may have a material adverse effect on our business. Although we maintain technology errors and omissions liability insurance, our insurance may not cover potential claims of these types or may not be adequate to indemnify us for liability that may be imposed. Any imposition of liability or litigation costs that are not covered by insurance or that are in excess of our insurance coverage could harm our business.

**We have a history of net losses. We may not achieve or maintain profitability.**

We have limited non-recurring revenues derived from operations. We have a history of net losses, and we expect to continue to incur net losses and we may not achieve or maintain profitability. We expect to see continued losses during 2023 and as a result of these and other factors, we may not be able to achieve, sustain or increase profitability in the near future.

We are subject to many risks common to early-stage enterprises, including under-capitalization, cash shortages, limitations with respect to personnel, financial, and other resources, technology, and market acceptance issues. There is no assurance that we will be successful in achieving a return on shareholders' investment and the likelihood of success must be considered considering our stage of operations.

**Our plans for growth will place significant demands upon our resources. If we are unsuccessful in achieving our plan for growth, our business could be harmed.**

We are actively pursuing a plan to market our products domestically and internationally. The plan will place significant demands upon managerial, financial, and human resources. Our ability to manage future growth will depend in large part upon several factors, including our ability to:

- rapidly build or leverage, as applicable, a network of channel partners to create an expanding presence in the evolving marketplace for our products and services;
- rapidly build or leverage, as applicable, a sales team to keep end-users and channel partners informed regarding the technical features, issues and key selling points of our products and services;
- rapidly attract and retain qualified technical personnel in order to continue to develop reliable and flexible products and provide services that respond to evolving customer needs;
- rapidly develop support capacity for end-users as sales increase, so that we can provide post-sales support without diverting resources from product development efforts;
- rapidly expand our internal management and financial controls significantly, so that we can maintain control over our operations and provide support to other functional areas as the number of personnel and size increases;
- rapidly find suitable hosting partners;
- obtain necessary mining machines in a timely manner and without significant delays;
- install machines without delays by our hosting providers; and
- keep hosting costs stable, without significant increases.

Our inability to achieve any of these objectives could harm our business, financial condition and results of operations.

**Our market is competitive and dynamic. New competing products and services could be introduced at any time that could result in reduced profit margins and loss of market share.**

The technology industry is very dynamic, with new technology and services being introduced by a range of players, from larger established companies to start-ups, on a frequent basis. Our competitors may announce new products, services, or enhancements that better meet the needs of end-users or changing industry standards. Further, new competitors or alliances among competitors could emerge. Increased competition may cause price reductions, reduced gross margins and loss of market share, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

**Our success depends on our ability to anticipate technological changes and develop new and enhanced products.**

The markets for our products are characterized by rapidly changing technology, evolving industry standards and increasingly sophisticated customer requirements. The introduction of products embodying new technology and the emergence of new industry standards can negatively impact the marketability of our existing products and can exert price pressures on existing products. It is critical to our success that we are able to anticipate and react quickly to changes in technology or in industry standards and to successfully develop, introduce, manufacture and achieve market acceptance of new, enhanced and competitive products on a timely basis and cost-effective basis. We invest resources towards continued innovation; however, there can be no assurance that we will successfully develop new products or enhance and improve our existing products, that new products and enhanced and improved existing products will achieve market acceptance or that the introduction of new products or enhanced existing products by others will not negatively impact us. Our inability to develop products that are competitive in technology and price and that meet end-user needs could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

Development schedules for technology products are inherently uncertain. We may not meet our product development schedules, and development costs could exceed budgeted amounts. Our business, results of operations, financial position and liquidity may be materially and adversely affected if the products or product enhancements that we develop are delayed or not delivered due to developmental problems, quality issues or component shortage problems, or if our products or product enhancements do not achieve market acceptance or are unreliable. We or our competitors will continue to introduce products embodying new technologies, such as new sequential or random-access mass storage devices. In addition, new industry standards may emerge. Such events could render our existing products obsolete or not marketable, which would have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, financial position and liquidity.

**The failure to attract, hire, retain and motivate key personnel could have a significant adverse impact on our operations.**

Our success depends on the retention and maintenance of key personnel, including members of senior management and our technical, sales and marketing teams. Achieving this objective may be difficult due to many factors, including competition for such highly skilled personnel; fluctuations in global economic and industry conditions; changes in our management or leadership; competitors' hiring practices; and the effectiveness of our compensation programs. The loss of any of these key persons could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

Our success is also dependent on our continuing ability to identify, hire, train, motivate and retain highly qualified management, technical, sales, marketing and finance personnel. Any such new hire may require a significant transition period prior to making a meaningful contribution. Competition for qualified employees is particularly intense in the technology industry, and we have in the past experienced difficulty recruiting qualified employees. Our failure to attract and to retain the necessary qualified personnel could seriously harm our operating results and financial condition.

Competition for such personnel can be intense, and no assurance can be provided that we will be able to attract or retain highly qualified technical and managerial personnel in the future, which may have a material adverse effect on our future growth and profitability. We do not have key person insurance.

**Our financial results may fluctuate substantially for many reasons, and past results should not be relied on as indications of future performance.**

Our revenues and operating results may fluctuate from quarter to quarter and from year to year due to a combination of factors, including, but not limited to:

- varying size, timing and contractual terms of orders for our products, which may delay the recognition of revenue;
- competitive conditions in the industry, including strategic initiatives by us or our competitors, new products or services, product or service announcements and changes in pricing policy by us or our competitors;
- market acceptance of our products and services;
- our ability to maintain existing relationships and to create new relationships with channel partners;
- the discretionary nature of purchase and budget cycles of our customers and end-users;
- the length and variability of the sales cycles for our products;
- general weakening of the economy resulting in a decrease in the overall demand for our products and services or otherwise affecting the capital investment levels of businesses with respect to our products or services;
- timing of product development and new product initiatives;
- changes in customer mix;
- increases in the cost of, or limitations on, the availability of materials;
- fluctuations in average selling prices;
- changes in product mix; and
- increases in costs and expenses associated with the introduction of new products.

Further, the markets that we serve are volatile and subject to market shifts that we may be unable to anticipate. A slowdown in the demand for workstations, mid-range computer systems, networks and servers could have a significant adverse effect on the demand for our products in any given period. In the past, we have experienced delays in the receipt of purchase orders and, on occasion, anticipated purchase orders have been rescheduled or have not materialized due to changes in customer requirements. Our customers may cancel or delay purchase orders for a variety of reasons, including, but not limited to, the rescheduling of new product introductions, changes in our customers' inventory practices or forecasted demand, general economic conditions affecting our customers' markets, changes in our pricing or the pricing of our competitors, new product announcements by us or others, quality or reliability problems related to our products, or selection of competitive products as alternate sources of supply.

Thus, there can be no assurance that we will be able to reach profitability on a quarterly or annual basis. We believe that our revenue and operating results will continue to fluctuate, and that period-to-period comparisons are not necessarily indications of future performance. Our revenue and operating results may fail to meet the expectations of public market analysts or investors, which could have a material adverse effect on the price of our common shares. In addition, portions of our expenses are fixed and difficult to reduce if our revenues do not meet our expectations. These fixed expenses magnify the adverse effect of any revenue shortfall.

Our plans for implementing our business strategy and achieving profitability are based upon the experience, judgment and assumptions of our key management personnel, and available information concerning the communications and technology industries. If management's assumptions prove to be incorrect, it could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

**We are subject to laws, regulations and similar requirements, changes to which may adversely affect our business and operations.**

We are subject to laws, regulations and similar requirements that affect our business and operations, including, but not limited to, the areas of commerce, intellectual property, income and other taxes, labor, environmental, health and safety, and our compliance in these areas may be costly. While we have implemented policies and procedures to comply with laws and regulations, there can be no assurance that our employees, contractors, suppliers or agents will not violate such laws and regulations or our policies. Any such violation or alleged violation could materially and adversely affect our business. Any changes or potential changes to laws, regulations or similar requirements, or our ability to respond to these changes, may significantly increase our costs to maintain compliance or result in our decision to limit our business or products, which could materially harm our business, results of operations and future prospects.

**We have made a number of acquisitions in the past and we may make acquisitions in the future. Our ability to identify complementary assets, products or businesses for acquisition and successfully integrate them could affect our business, financial condition and operating results.**

In the future, we may continue to pursue acquisitions of assets, products or businesses that we believe are complementary to our existing business and/or to enhance our market position or expand our product portfolio. There is a risk that we will not be able to identify suitable acquisition candidates available for sale at reasonable prices, complete any acquisition, or successfully integrate any acquired product or business into our operations. We are likely to face competition for acquisition candidates from other parties including those that have substantially greater available resources. Acquisitions may involve a number of other risks, including:

- diversion of management's attention;
- disruption to our ongoing business;
- failure to retain key acquired personnel;
- difficulties in integrating acquired operations, technologies, products or personnel;
- unanticipated expenses, events or circumstances;
- assumption of disclosed and undisclosed liabilities; and
- inappropriate valuation of the acquired in-process research and development, or the entire acquired business.

If we do not successfully address these risks or any other problems encountered in connection with an acquisition, the acquisition could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition. Problems with an acquired business could have a material adverse effect on our performance or our business as a whole. In addition, if we proceed with an acquisition, our available cash may be used to complete the transaction, diminishing our liquidity and capital resources, or shares may be issued which could cause significant dilution to existing shareholders.

**We have implemented cost reduction efforts; however, these efforts may need to be modified, and if we need to implement additional cost reduction efforts it could materially harm our business.**

We have implemented certain cost reduction efforts. There can be no assurance that these cost reduction efforts will be successful. As a result, we may need to implement further cost reduction efforts across our operations, such as further reductions in the cost of our workforce and/or suspending or curtailing planned programs, either of which could materially harm our business, results of operations and future prospects.

## Risks Related to Our Public Company Status and Our Common Shares

**Sales of common shares issuable upon exercise of outstanding warrants, the conversion of outstanding preferred shares, or the effectiveness of our registration statement may cause the market price of our common shares to decline. Currently outstanding preferred shares could adversely affect the rights of the holders of common shares.**

On October 1, 2021, we filed articles of amendment to create a series of preferred shares, being, an unlimited number of Series H Preferred Shares and to provide for the rights, privileges, restrictions and conditions attaching thereto. Pursuant to the articles of amendment governing the rights and preferences of outstanding shares of Series H Preferred Shares, each holder of the Series H Preferred Shares, may, subject to prior shareholder approval, convert all or any part of the Series H Preferred Shares provided that after such conversion the common shares issuable, together with all the common shares held by the shareholder in the aggregate would not exceed 9.99% of the total number of our outstanding common shares. Each Series H Preferred Share has a stated value of \$1,000 and is convertible into our common shares at a conversion rate equal to one Series H Preferred Share for 1,000 of our common shares. The Series H Preferred Shares are non-voting and do not accrue dividends. On November 7, 2022, we entered into the Modified Hertford Agreement. Pursuant to the Modified Hertford Agreement, we cancelled 36,000 Series H Preferred Shares, representing 37.5% of the outstanding Series H Preferred Shares, without payment of any cash consideration. See “Our Company—Recent Developments—Agreement with Hertford Advisors Ltd.”

As of December 31, 2021, we had in the aggregate 96,000 Preferred Shares outstanding. The conversion of the outstanding Preferred Shares will result in substantial dilution to our common shareholders. Pursuant to our articles of amalgamation, our Board of Directors has the authority to fix and determine the voting rights, rights of redemption and other rights and preferences of preferred stock.

Additionally, as of December 31, 2021 we had warrants outstanding for the purchase of up to 19,558,539 common shares having a weighted-average exercise price of \$8.21 per share. The sale of our common shares upon exercise of our outstanding warrants, the conversion of the Preferred Shares into common shares, or the sale of a significant amount of the common shares issued or issuable upon exercise of the warrants in the open market, or the perception that these sales may occur, could cause the market price of our common shares to decline or become highly volatile.

### **The market price of our common shares is volatile.**

The market price for common shares may be volatile and subject to wide fluctuations in response to numerous factors, many of which are beyond our control, including the following:

- price and volume fluctuations in the overall stock market from time to time;
- volatility in the market prices and trading volumes of bitcoin mining stocks;
- changes in operating performance and stock market valuations of other bitcoin mining companies generally, or those in our industry in particular;
- future capital raising activities;
- sales of common shares by holders thereof or by us;
- failure of securities analysts to maintain coverage of us, changes in financial estimates by securities analysts who follow us, or our failure to meet these estimates or the expectations of investors;
- the financial projections we may provide to the public, any changes in those projections or our failure to meet those projections;
- market acceptance of our products and technologies;
- announcements by us or our competitors of new products or services;
- the public’s reaction to our press releases, other public announcements and filings with the SEC and the applicable Canadian securities regulatory authorities;
- rumors and market speculation involving us or other companies in our industry;

- actual or anticipated changes in our operating results or fluctuations in our operating results;
- actual or anticipated developments in our business, our competitors' businesses or the competitive landscape generally;
- litigation involving us, our industry or both, or investigations by regulators into our operations or those of our competitors;
- developments or disputes concerning our intellectual property or other proprietary rights;
- announced or completed acquisitions of businesses or technologies by us or our competitors;
- new laws or regulations or new interpretations of existing laws or regulations applicable to us and our business;
- changes in accounting standards, policies, guidelines, interpretations or principles;
- any significant change in our executive officers and other key personnel or Board of Directors;
- general economic conditions and slow or negative growth of our markets;
- release of transfer restrictions on certain outstanding common shares; and
- news reports relating to trends, concerns or competitive developments, regulatory changes and other related issues in our industry or target markets.

Financial markets may experience price and volume fluctuations that affect the market prices of equity securities of companies and that are unrelated to the operating performance, underlying asset values or prospects of such companies. Accordingly, the market price of the common shares may decline even if our operating results, underlying asset values or prospects have not changed. As well, certain institutional investors may base their investment decisions on consideration of our governance and social practices and performance against such institutions' respective investment guidelines and criteria, and failure to meet such criteria may result in a limited or no investment in our common shares by those institutions, which could adversely affect the trading price of our common shares. There can be no assurance that fluctuations in price and volume will not occur due to these and other factors.

In the past, plaintiffs have often initiated securities class action litigation against a company following periods of volatility in the market price of its securities. We may in the future be a target of similar litigation. Securities litigation could result in substantial costs and liabilities and could divert management's attention from day-to-day operations and consume resources, such as cash. In addition, the resolution of those matters may require us to issue additional common shares, which could potentially result in dilution to our existing shareholders. Expenses incurred in connection with these matters (which include fees of lawyers and other professional advisors and potential obligations to indemnify officers and directors who may be parties to such actions) could adversely affect our cash position.

**We must comply with the financial reporting requirements of a public company, as well as other requirements associated with being listed on NASDAQ.**

We are subject to reporting and other obligations under applicable Canadian securities laws, SEC rules and the rules of the NASDAQ Capital Market. These reporting and other obligations, including National Instrument 52-102 - Continuous Disclosure Obligations and National Instrument 52-109 - Certification of Disclosure in Issuers' Annual and Interim Filings, place significant demands on our management, administrative, operational and accounting resources. Moreover, any failure to maintain effective internal controls could cause us to fail to meet our reporting obligations or result in material misstatements in our consolidated financial statements. If we cannot provide reliable financial reports or prevent fraud, our reputation and operating results could be materially harmed, which could also cause investors to lose confidence in our reported financial information, which could result in a lower trading price of our common shares.



Management does not expect that our disclosure controls and procedures and internal controls over financial reporting will prevent all errors and all fraud. A control system, no matter how well designed and implemented, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that its objectives will be met. Further, the design of a control system must reflect the fact that there are resource constraints, and the benefits of controls must be considered relative to their costs. Due to the inherent limitations in all control systems, no evaluation of controls can provide absolute assurance that all control issues within a company are detected. The inherent limitations include the realities that judgments in decision-making can be faulty, and that breakdowns can occur because of simple errors or mistakes. Controls can also be circumvented by individual acts of some persons, by collusion of two or more people or by management override of the controls. Due to the inherent limitations in a cost-effective control system, misstatements due to error, or fraud may occur and not be detected.

**We may be treated as a Passive Foreign Investment Company.**

There is also an ongoing risk that we may be treated as a Passive Foreign Investment Company (“PFIC”), for U.S. federal income tax purposes. A non-U.S. corporation generally will be considered to be a PFIC for any taxable year in which 75% or more of its gross income is passive income, or 50% or more of the average value of its assets are considered “passive assets” (generally, assets that generate passive income). This determination is highly factual, and will depend upon, among other things, our market valuation and future financial performance. Based on current business plans and financial expectations, we expect that we will not be a PFIC for our tax years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, and based on current business plans and financial expectations, we expect that we will not be a PFIC for our current tax year ending December 31, 2022 or for the foreseeable future. If we were to be classified as a PFIC for any future taxable year, holders of our common shares who are U.S. taxpayers would be subject to adverse U.S. federal income tax consequences.

**Certain of our directors, officers and management could be in a position of conflict of interest.**

Certain of our directors, officers and members of management may also serve as directors and/or officers of other companies. We may contract with such directors, officers, members of management and such other companies or with affiliated parties or other companies in which such directors, officers or members of management own or control. These persons may obtain compensation and other benefits in transactions relating to us. Consequently, there exists the possibility for such directors, officers and members of management to be in a position of conflict.

**Future sales of common shares by directors, officers and other shareholders could adversely affect the prevailing market price for common shares.**

Subject to compliance with applicable securities laws, officers, directors and other shareholders and their respective affiliates may sell some or all of their common shares in the future. No prediction can be made as to the effect, if any, such future sales will have on the market price of the common shares prevailing from time to time. However, the future sale of a substantial number of common shares by our officers, directors and other shareholders and their respective affiliates, or the perception that such sales could occur, could adversely affect prevailing market prices for the common shares.

**We may issue an unlimited number of common shares. Future sales of common shares will dilute your shares.**

Our articles permit the issuance of an unlimited number of common shares as well as preferred shares issuable in series, which may be convertible into common shares, and shareholders will have no preemptive rights in connection with such further issuances. Our directors have the discretion to determine the price and the terms of issue of further issuances of common shares in accordance with applicable laws.

## ABOUT THIS OFFERING

We may from time to time, offer and sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus up to a total dollar amount of \$100,000,000 in one or more offerings. We will keep the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part effective until such time as all of the securities covered by this prospectus have been disposed of pursuant to and in accordance with this registration statement.

## USE OF PROCEEDS

We intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the securities registered as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

## CAPITALIZATION

Our capitalization will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement or in a report on Form 6-K subsequently furnished to the SEC and specifically incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

## DILUTION

If required, we will set forth in a prospectus supplement the following information regarding any material dilution of the equity interests of investors purchasing securities in an offering under this prospectus:

- the net tangible book value per share of our equity securities before and after the offering;
- the amount of the increase in such net tangible book value per share attributable to the cash payments made by purchasers in the offering; and
- the amount of the immediate dilution from the public offering price which will be absorbed by such purchasers.

## ENFORCEABILITY OF CIVIL LIABILITIES

We are a corporation organized pursuant to articles of amalgamation under the *Business Corporations Act (Ontario)* (the "OBCA") dated August 1, 2018. Some of our assets are located outside of the United States and some of our directors and officers, as well as some of the experts named in this prospectus, are residents of Canada. As a result, it may be difficult for U.S. investors to:

- effect service within the United States upon us or those directors, officers and experts who are not residents of the United States; or
- realize in the United States upon judgments of courts of the United States predicated upon the civil liability provisions of the United States federal securities laws.

## TAXATION

Material income tax consequences relating to the purchase, ownership and disposition of any of the securities offered by this prospectus will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to the offering of those securities.

## DESCRIPTION OF SHARE CAPITAL

We may issue, offer and sell from time to time, in one or more offerings, the following securities:

- common shares;
- preferred shares;
- debt securities;
- warrants to purchase common shares, preferred shares or debt securities; and
- units.

The following is a description of the terms and provisions of our shares, preferred shares, debt securities, warrants to purchase common shares, preferred shares or debt securities and units, which we may offer and sell using this prospectus. These summaries are not meant to be a complete description of each security. We will set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement a description of the preferred shares, warrants, and, in certain cases, the common shares that may be offered under this prospectus. The terms of the offering of securities, the initial offering price and the net proceeds to us, as applicable, will be contained in the prospectus supplement and other offering material relating to such offering. The supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. This prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement will contain the material terms and conditions for each security. You should carefully read this prospectus and any prospectus supplement before you invest in any of our securities.

### General

The following is a description of the material terms of our share capital of as set forth in our articles of amalgamation and bylaws, as amended to date, and certain related sections of the OBCA. For more detailed information, please see our articles of amalgamation and bylaws and amendments thereto, which are filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

Our authorized capital consists of unlimited common shares, no par value, unlimited series A preferred shares, no par value, unlimited series B preferred shares, no par value, unlimited series C preferred shares, no par value, unlimited series D preferred shares, no par value, unlimited series E preferred shares, no par value, unlimited series F preferred shares, no par value, unlimited series G preferred shares, no par value and unlimited series H preferred shares, no par value. As of February 7, 2023, there were issued and outstanding 72,181,018 common shares and 56,454 series H preferred shares. There are no series A, series B, series C, series D, series E, series F or series G preferred shares outstanding, all of which were converted to common shares, with the exception of series F preferred shares which were never issued or outstanding. Pursuant to our articles of amalgamation, our board of directors has the authority to fix and determine the voting rights, rights of redemption and other rights and preferences of each series of preferred shares. The series H preferred shares outstanding do not have voting rights.

The following summary does not purport to be complete and is subject to, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to, the applicable provisions of the OBCA and our articles of amalgamation and by-laws. We encourage you to review our:

- Articles of Amendment dated October 1, 2021;
- Articles of Amendment dated July 13, 2021;
- Articles of Amendment dated January 4, 2021;
- Articles of Amendment dated September 29, 2020;
- Articles of Amendment dated May 6, 2020;
- Articles of Amendment dated November 6, 2019;
- Articles of Amendment dated July 12, 2019;
- Articles of Amendment dated November 13, 2018;
- Articles of Amendment dated November 5, 2018;
- Articles of Amendment dated September 28, 2018;
- Articles of Amendment dated July 11, 2017;
- Articles of Amalgamation dated March 24, 2015;
- By-law No. 1, as amended; and
- By-law No. 2.

### ***Common Shares***

*Voting, Dividend and Other Rights.* Each outstanding common share entitles the holder to one vote on all matters presented to the shareholders for a vote. Holders of common shares have no cumulative voting, pre-emptive, subscription or conversion rights. The board of directors determines if and when distributions may be paid out of legally available funds to the holders. The declaration of any cash dividends in the future will depend on the board of directors' determination as to whether, in light of earnings, financial position, cash requirements and other relevant factors existing at the time, it appears advisable to do so. We do not anticipate paying cash dividends on the common shares in the foreseeable future.

*Rights Upon Liquidation.* Upon liquidation, subject to the right of any holders of preferred shares to receive preferential distributions, each outstanding common share may participate pro rata in the assets remaining after payment of, or adequate provision for, all known debts and liabilities.

*Majority Voting.* In accordance with our by-laws, two holders representing not less than thirty-three and one-third percent (33.3%) of the outstanding common shares constitute a quorum at any meeting of the shareholders. A majority of the votes cast at a meeting of shareholders elects directors. The common shares do not have cumulative voting rights. Therefore, the holders of a majority of the outstanding common shares can elect all of the directors. In general, a majority of the votes cast at a meeting of shareholders must authorize shareholder actions other than the election of directors.

### ***Preferred Shares***

Under our articles of amalgamation, our board of directors can issue an unlimited amount of preferred shares from time to time in one or more series. Our board of directors is authorized to fix by resolution as to any series the designation and number of shares of the series, the voting rights, the dividend rights, the redemption price, the amount payable upon liquidation or dissolution, the conversion rights, and any other designations, preferences or special rights or restrictions as may be permitted by law. Unless the nature of a particular transaction and the rules of law applicable thereto require such approval, our board of directors has the authority to issue these shares of preferred shares without shareholder approval.

*Series H Preferred Shares.* The holders of Series H Preferred Shares have the following rights, restrictions and privileges in respect of their preferred shares:

- The Series H Preferred Shares are convertible into 1,000 common shares for every Series H Preferred Share. Each holder may convert such holders Series H Preferred Shares provided that after such conversion the common shares issuable, together with all the common shares held by the shareholder in the aggregate, would not exceed 9.99% of the total number of outstanding common shares.
- The holders of Series H Preferred Shares are not entitled to receive dividends and are not entitled to voting rights.
- The holders of Series H Preferred Shares cannot convert if, after giving pro forma effect to such conversion, such holder, will beneficially own in excess of 9.99% of our common shares outstanding immediately after giving effect to such conversion.
- The holders of Series H Preferred Shares are subject to certain “Leak-out” provisions, such that (i) as to 4,500,000 of our common shares held by Hertford, (a) beginning with the six-month anniversary of July 31, 2021 until the 18-month anniversary of July 31, 2021, during any particular quarter, a holder of Series H Preferred Shares may sell up to 10% of our securities beneficially owned by such holder and (b) beginning with the 18-month anniversary of July 31, 2021 until the 24-month anniversary of July 31, 2021, during any particular quarter, a holder of Series H Preferred Shares may sell up to 30% of our securities beneficially owned by such holder, (ii) commencing on the first day of the month following our 2022 Annual Meeting and terminating on December 31, 2023 (the “First Year”), holders of Series H Preferred Shares are only permitted to (a) convert Series H Preferred Shares in an aggregate amount up to or equal to 3% of the aggregate number of Series H Preferred Shares outstanding on the first day of each such month and (b) sell the resulting number (and no greater number) of such converted common shares within such month. However, if, during the First Year, the closing price for our common shares is greater than \$2 per share for at least 15 consecutive trading days on NASDAQ (the “NASDAQ Milestone”) then, in only the immediately succeeding calendar month to the calendar month in which a NASDAQ Milestone has occurred, holders of Series H Preferred Shares shall only be permitted to (I) convert Series H Preferred shares in an aggregate amount up to or equal to 5% of the aggregate number of Series H Preferred Shares outstanding as of the first day of such month and (II) sell the resulting number (and no greater number) of such converted common shares within such month and (iii) commencing on January 1, 2024 and in each month thereafter until December 31, 2024 (the “Second Year”), holders of Series H Preferred Shares shall only be permitted to (a) convert Series H Preferred Shares in an aggregate amount equal to 10% of the aggregate number of Series H Preferred Shares outstanding on the first day of such month and (b) sell the resulting number (and no greater number) of converted common shares within such month.
- Subject to certain limited exceptions, until the date that is 45 days following the conclusion of our 2023 Annual Meeting (the “Standstill Period”), holders of series H preferred shares agreed that they will appear in person or by proxy at each annual or special meeting of shareholders (including any adjournments or postponements thereof and any meetings which may be called in lieu thereof), whether such meeting is held at a physical location or virtually by means of remote communications, and will vote (or execute a consent or proxy with respect to) all Voting Securities beneficially owned by it in accordance with our board of directors’ recommendations with respect to (a) each election of directors, any removal of directors and any replacement of directors, and (b) any other proposal to be submitted to the shareholders by either us or any of our shareholders.

## **Warrants**

As of February 7, 2023, we had the following warrants outstanding:

- Warrants to purchase 100,000 common shares until February 7, 2027 at an initial exercise price of \$4.00 per share, subject to adjustment in the event of stock splits, combinations or the like of common shares.
- Warrants to purchase 100,000 common shares until February 7, 2027 at an initial exercise price of \$5.00 per share, subject to adjustment in the event of stock splits, combinations or the like of common shares.
- Warrants to purchase 100,000 common shares until February 7, 2027 at an initial exercise price of \$6.00 per share, subject to adjustment in the event of stock splits, combinations or the like of common shares.
- Warrants to purchase 850,000 common shares until October 1, 2024 at an initial exercise price of \$6.00 per share, subject to adjustment in the event of stock splits, combinations or the like of common shares.
- Warrants to purchase 11,299,999 common shares until September 8, 2026 at an initial exercise price of \$9.50 per share, subject to adjustment in the event of stock splits, combinations or the like of common shares.
- Warrants to purchase 2,595,488 common shares until August 25, 2024 at an initial exercise price of \$6.50 per share, subject to adjustment in the event of stock splits, combinations or the like of common shares.
- Warrants to purchase 2,595,488 common shares until August 25, 2024 at an initial exercise price of \$7.50 per share, subject to adjustment in the event of stock splits, combinations or the like of common shares.
- Warrants to purchase 2,000,000 common shares until December 22, 2024 at an initial exercise price of \$4.00 per share, subject to adjustment in the event of stock splits, combinations or the like of common shares.
- Warrants to purchase 111,563 common shares until April 17, 2023 at an initial exercise price of \$5.60 per share, subject to adjustment in the event of stock splits, combinations or the like of common shares.
- Warrants to purchase 31,000 common shares until March 23, 2023 at an initial exercise price of \$0.60 per share, subject to adjustment in the event of stock splits, combinations or the like of common shares.

## **Limitation of Liability and Indemnification of Directors and Officers**

Under the OBCA, we may indemnify our current or former directors or officers or another individual who acts or acted at our request as a director or officer, or an individual acting in a similar capacity, of another entity which we are or were a shareholder or creditor of, against all costs, charges and expenses, including an amount paid to settle an action or satisfy a judgment, reasonably incurred by the individual in respect of any civil, criminal, administrative, investigative or other proceeding in which the individual is involved because of his or her association with us or another entity. The OBCA also provides that we may also advance moneys to a director, officer or other individual for costs, charges and expenses reasonably incurred in connection with such a proceeding; provided that such individual shall repay the moneys if the individual does not fulfill the conditions described below.

However, indemnification is prohibited under the OBCA unless the individual:

- acted honestly and in good faith with a view to our best interests, or the best interests of the other entity for which the individual acted as director or officer or in a similar capacity at our request; and
- in the case of a criminal or administrative action or proceeding that is enforced by a monetary penalty, the individual had reasonable grounds for believing that his or her conduct was lawful.

Our bylaws require us to indemnify each of our current or former directors and officers and each individual who acts or acted at our request as a director or officer of another entity which we are or were a shareholder or creditor of, as well as their respective heirs and successors, against all costs, charges and expenses, including an amount paid to settle an action or satisfy a judgment, reasonably incurred by them in respect of any civil, criminal or administrative action or proceeding to which they were made a party by reason of being or having been a director or officer, except as may be prohibited by the OBCA.

We have entered into indemnity agreements with our directors and executive officers that provide, among other things, that we will indemnify them to the fullest extent permitted by law from and against all liabilities, costs, charges and expenses incurred as a result of their actions in the exercise of their duties as a director or officer; provided that, we shall not indemnify such individuals if, among other things, they did not act honestly and in good faith with a view to our best interests and, in the case of a criminal or penal action, the individuals did not have reasonable grounds for believing that their conduct was lawful.

## **Material differences between Ontario Corporate Law and Delaware General Corporation Law**

Our corporate affairs are governed by our articles of amalgamation and bylaws and the provisions of the OBCA. The OBCA differs from the various state laws applicable to U.S. corporations and their stockholders. The following is a summary of the material differences between the OBCA and the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware ("DGCL"). This summary is qualified in its entirety by reference to the DGCL, the OBCA and our governing corporate instruments.

**Stockholder/Shareholder Approval of Business Combinations; Fundamental Changes**

Under the DGCL, certain fundamental changes such as amendments to the certificate of incorporation (subject to certain exceptions), a merger, consolidation, sale, lease, exchange or other disposition of all or substantially all of the property of a corporation, or a dissolution of the corporation, are generally required to be approved by the holders of a majority of the outstanding stock entitled to vote on the matter, unless the certificate of incorporation requires a higher percentage.

However, under the DGCL, mergers in which, among other requirements, less than 20% of a corporation's stock outstanding immediately prior to the effective date of the merger is issued generally do not require stockholder approval. In addition, mergers in which one corporation owns 90% or more of each class of stock of a second corporation may be completed without the vote of the second corporation's board of directors or stockholders. In certain situations, the approval of a business combination may require approval by a certain number of the holders of a class or series of shares. In addition, Section 251(h) of the DGCL provides that stockholders of a constituent corporation need not vote to approve a merger if: (1) the merger agreement permits or requires the merger to be effected under Section 251(h) and provides that the merger shall be effected as soon as practicable following the tender offer or exchange offer, (2) a corporation consummates a tender or exchange offer for any and all of the outstanding stock of such constituent corporation that would otherwise be entitled to vote to approve the merger, (3) following the consummation of the offer, the stock accepted for purchase or exchanges plus the stock owned by the consummating corporation equals at least the percentage of stock that would be required to adopt the agreement of merger under the DGCL, (4) the corporation consummating the offer merges with or into such constituent corporation, and (5) each outstanding share of each class or series of stock of the constituent corporation that was the subject of and not irrevocably accepted for purchase or exchange in the offer is to be converted in the merger into, or the right to receive, the same consideration to be paid for the shares of such class or series of stock of the constituent corporation irrevocably purchased or exchanged in such offer.

The DGCL does not contain a procedure comparable to a plan of arrangement under the OBCA.

Under the OBCA, certain extraordinary corporate actions including: amalgamations; arrangements; continuances; sales, leases or exchanges of all or substantially all of the property of a corporation; liquidations and dissolutions are required to be approved by special resolution.

A "special resolution" is a resolution (i) submitted to a special meeting of the shareholders of a corporation duly called for the purpose of considering the resolution and passed at the meeting by at least two-thirds of the votes cast, or (ii) consented to in writing by each shareholder of the corporation entitled to vote on the resolution.

In the case of an offering company, an "ordinary resolution" is a resolution that is submitted to a meeting of the shareholders of a corporation and passed, with or without amendment, at the meeting by at least a majority of the votes cast, in person or by proxy.

Under the OBCA, shareholders of a class or series of shares are entitled to vote separately as a class in the event of certain transactions that affect holders of the class or series of shares in a manner different from the shares of another class or series of the corporation, whether or not such shares otherwise carry the right to vote.

Under the OBCA, arrangements are permitted. An arrangement may include an amalgamation, a transfer of all or substantially all the property of the corporation, and a liquidation and dissolution of a corporation. In general, a plan of arrangement is approved by a corporation's board of directors and then is submitted to a court for approval. It is customary for a corporation in such circumstances to apply to a court initially for an interim order governing various procedural matters prior to calling any security holder meeting to consider the proposed arrangement. Arrangements must generally be approved by a special resolution of shareholders. The court may, in respect of an arrangement proposed with persons other than shareholders and creditors, require that those persons approve the arrangement in the manner and to the extent required by the court. The court determines, among other things, to whom notice shall be given and whether, and in what manner, approval of any person is to be obtained and also determines whether any shareholders may dissent from the proposed arrangement and receive payment of the fair value of their shares. Following compliance with the procedural steps contemplated in any such interim order (including as to obtaining security holder approval), the court would conduct a final hearing, which would, among other things, assess the fairness and reasonableness of the arrangement and approve or reject the proposed arrangement.



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**Special Vote Required for Combinations with Interested Stockholders/Shareholders**

Section 203 of the DGCL provides (in general) that, unless otherwise provided in the certificate of incorporation, a corporation may not engage in a business combination with an interested stockholder for a period of three years after the time of the transaction in which the person became an interested stockholder.

The prohibition on business combinations with interested stockholders does not apply in some cases, including if: (1) the board of directors of the corporation, prior to the time of the transaction in which the person became an interested stockholder, approves (a) the business combination or (b) the transaction in which the stockholder becomes an interested stockholder; (2) upon consummation of the transaction which resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder, the interested stockholder owned at least 85% of the voting stock of the corporation outstanding at the time the transaction commenced; or (3) the board of directors and the holders of at least two-thirds of the outstanding voting stock not owned by the interested stockholder approve, at an annual or special meeting of stockholders, the business combination on or after the time of the transaction in which the person became an interested stockholder.

For the purpose of Section 203, the DGCL, subject to specified exceptions, generally defines an interested stockholder to include any person who, together with that person's affiliates or associates, (1) owns 15% or more of the outstanding voting stock of the corporation (including any rights to acquire stock pursuant to an option, warrant, agreement, arrangement or understanding, or upon the exercise of conversion or exchange rights, and stock with respect to which the person has voting rights only), or (2) is an affiliate or associate of the corporation and owned 15% or more of the outstanding voting stock of the corporation, in each case, at any time within the previous three years.

While the OBCA does not contain specific anti-takeover provisions with respect to "business combinations", rules and policies of certain Canadian securities regulatory authorities, including Multilateral Instrument 61-101—Protection of Minority Security Holders in Special Transactions ("MI 61-101"), contain requirements in connection with, among other things, "related party transactions" and "business combinations", including, among other things, any transaction by which an issuer directly or indirectly engages in the following with a related party: acquires, sells, leases or transfers an asset, acquires the related party, acquires or issues treasury securities, amends the terms of a security if the security is owned by the related party or assumes or becomes subject to a liability or takes certain other actions with respect to debt.

The term "related party" includes, *inter alia*, directors, senior officers and holders of more than 10% of the voting rights attached to all outstanding voting securities of the issuer or holders of a sufficient number of any securities of the issuer to materially affect control of the issuer.

MI 61-101 requires, subject to certain exceptions, the preparation of a formal valuation relating to certain aspects of the transaction and more detailed disclosure in the proxy materials sent to security holders in connection with a related party transaction including related to the valuation. MI 61-101 also requires, subject to certain exceptions, that an issuer not engage in a related party transaction unless the shareholders of the issuer, other than shares held by the related parties, approve the transaction by a simple majority of the disinterested votes cast.

### Appraisal Rights; Rights to Dissent; Compulsory Acquisition

Under the DGCL, a stockholder of a corporation participating in certain major corporate transactions may, under varying circumstances, be entitled to appraisal rights pursuant to which the stockholder may receive cash in the amount of the fair market value of his or her shares in lieu of the consideration he or she would otherwise receive in the transaction.

For example, a stockholder is entitled to appraisal rights in the case of a merger or consolidation if the stockholder is required to accept in exchange for his or her shares anything other than: (1) shares of stock of the corporation surviving or resulting from the merger or consolidation, or depository receipts in respect thereof; (2) shares of any other corporation, or depository receipts in respect thereof, that on the effective date of the merger or consolidation will be either listed on a national securities exchange or held of record by more than 2,000 stockholders; (3) cash instead of fractional shares of the corporation or fractional depository receipts of the corporation; or (4) any combination of the shares of stock, depository receipts and cash instead of the fractional shares or fractional depository receipts.

Under the OBCA, each of the following matters listed will entitle shareholders to exercise rights of dissent and to be paid the fair value of their shares: (i) any amalgamation with another corporation (other than with certain affiliated corporations); (ii) an amendment to the corporation's articles to add, change or remove any provisions restricting the issue, transfer or ownership of a class or series of shares; (iii) an amendment to the corporation's articles to add, change or remove any restriction upon the business or businesses that the corporation may carry on or the powers that the corporation may exercise; (iv) a continuance under the laws of another jurisdiction; (v) a sale, lease or exchange of all or substantially all the property of the corporation other than in the ordinary course of business; and (vi) where a court order permits a shareholder to dissent in connection with an application to the court for an order approving an arrangement. However, a shareholder is not entitled to dissent if an amendment to the articles is effected by a court order approving a reorganization or by a court order made in connection with an action for an oppression remedy. The OBCA provides these dissent rights for both listed and unlisted shares.

Under the OBCA, a shareholder may, in addition to exercising dissent rights, seek an oppression remedy for any act or omission of a corporation which is oppressive or unfairly prejudicial to or that unfairly disregards a shareholder's interests. The OBCA's oppression remedy enables a court to make an order to rectify the matters complained of if the court is satisfied upon application by a complainant (as defined herein) that in respect of a corporation or any of its affiliates, (i) any act or omission of the corporation or any of its affiliates effects or threatens to effect a result; (ii) the business or affairs of the corporation or any of its affiliates are, have been or are threatened to be carried on or conducted in a manner; or (iii) the powers of the directors of the corporation or any of its affiliates are, have been or are threatened to be exercised in a manner, that is oppressive or unfairly prejudicial to or that unfairly disregards the interests of any securityholder, creditor, director or officer of the corporation. The oppression remedy provides the court with broad and flexible jurisdiction to make any order it thinks fit including but not limited to: amending the articles of a corporation, issuing or exchanging securities, setting aside transactions, and appointing or replacing directors.

For the purposes of the oppression remedy, a "complainant" includes current and former registered and beneficial owners of a security of the corporation or any of its affiliates, a director or an officer or former director or officer of the corporation or any of its affiliates, as well as any other person whom the court considers appropriate.

The OBCA provides a right of compulsory acquisition for an offeror that acquires 90% of a corporation's securities pursuant to a take-over bid or issuer bid, other than securities held at the date of the bid by or on behalf of the offeror. The OBCA also provides that where a person, its affiliates and associates acquire 90% or more of a class of equity securities of a corporation, then the holder of any securities of that class not counted for the purposes of calculating such percentage is entitled to require the corporation to acquire the holder's securities of that class in accordance with the procedure set out in the OBCA.

### Stockholder/Shareholder Consent to Action Without Meeting

Under the DGCL, unless otherwise provided in the certificate of incorporation, any action that can be taken at a meeting of the stockholders (except stockholder approval of a transaction with an interested stockholder, which may be given only by vote at a meeting of the stockholders) may be taken without a meeting if written consent to the action is signed by the holders of outstanding stock having not less than the minimum number of votes necessary to authorize or take the action at a meeting of the stockholders.

Under the OBCA, a written resolution signed by all the shareholders of a corporation who would have been entitled to vote on the resolution at a meeting is effective to approve the resolution.

### Special Meetings of Stockholders/Shareholders

Under the DGCL, a special meeting of stockholders may be called by the board of directors or by such persons authorized in the certificate of incorporation or the by-laws.

The OBCA provides that our shareholders may requisition a special meeting in accordance with the OBCA. The OBCA provides that the holders of not less than 5% of our issued shares that carry the right to vote at a meeting may requisition our directors to call a special meeting of shareholders for the purposes stated in the requisition. If the directors do not call such meeting within 21 days after receiving the requisition despite the technical requirements under the OBCA having been met, any shareholder who signed the requisition may call the special meeting.

### Distributions and Dividends; Repurchases and Redemptions

Under the DGCL, subject to any restrictions contained in the certificate of incorporation, a corporation may declare and pay dividends out of capital surplus or, if there is no surplus, out of net profits for the fiscal year in which the dividend is declared and/or the preceding fiscal year, as long as the amount of capital of the corporation following the declaration and payment of the dividend is not less than the aggregate amount of the capital represented by issued and outstanding shares having a preference upon the distribution of assets. Surplus is defined in the DGCL as the excess of the net assets over capital, as such capital may be adjusted by the board of directors.

Under the OBCA, a corporation may pay a dividend in money or other property unless there are reasonable grounds for believing that the corporation is or after the payment would be unable to pay its liabilities as they become due or the realizable value of its assets would thereby be less than the aggregate of its liabilities and its stated capital of all classes.

The OBCA provides that no special rights or restrictions attached to a series of any class of shares confer on the series a priority in respect of dividends or return of capital over any other series of shares of the same class. Any such restrictions are set forth in our articles.

A Delaware corporation may purchase or redeem shares of any class except when its capital is impaired or would be impaired by the purchase or redemption. A corporation may, however, purchase or redeem out of capital shares that are entitled upon any distribution of its assets to a preference over another class or series of its shares if the purchased or redeemed shares are to be retired and the capital reduced.

Under the OBCA, the purchase or other acquisition by a corporation of its shares is generally subject to solvency tests similar to those applicable to the payment of dividends (as set out above). We are permitted, under our articles, to acquire any of our shares, subject to the special rights and restrictions attached to such class or series of shares and the approval of our board of directors.

Under the OBCA, subject to solvency tests similar to those applicable to the payment of dividends (as set out above), a corporation may redeem, on the terms and in the manner provided in its articles, any of its shares that has a right of redemption attached to it.

### Vacancies on Board of Directors

Under the DGCL, a vacancy or a newly created directorship may be filled by a majority of the directors then in office, although less than a quorum, or by the sole remaining director, unless otherwise provided in the certificate of incorporation or by-laws. Directors chosen to fill vacancies generally hold office until the next election of directors. If, however, a corporation's directors are divided into classes, a director chosen to fill a vacancy holds office until the next election of the class for which such director was chosen.

Under the OBCA, vacancies that exist on the board of directors may generally be filled by the board of directors if the remaining directors constitute a quorum. In the absence of a quorum, the remaining directors shall call a meeting of shareholders to fill the vacancy.

Our articles of amalgamation set out a minimum number of directors of one (1) and maximum number of directors of ten (10). Under the OBCA, where a minimum and maximum number of directors of a corporation is provided for in its articles, the number of directors of the corporation and the number of directors to be elected at the annual meeting of the shareholders shall be such number as shall be determined from time to time by special resolution or, if the special resolution empowers the directors to determine the number, by resolution of the directors. Where such a resolution is passed (which resolution has been previously approved by a corporation), the directors may not, between meetings of shareholders, appoint an additional director if, after such appointment, the total number of directors would be greater than one and one-third times the number of directors required to have been elected at the last annual meeting of shareholders.

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**Constitution of Directors**

The DGCL does not have residency requirements, but a corporation may prescribe qualifications for directors under its certificate of incorporation or by-laws.

Under the OBCA and our articles of amalgamation, the board of directors must consist of at least three members so long as we remain an “offering corporation” for purposes of the OBCA, which includes a corporation whose securities are listed on a recognized stock exchange such as the Nasdaq. Under the OBCA, the shareholders of a corporation elect directors by ordinary resolution at each annual meeting of shareholders at which such an election is required. Under the OBCA, so long as we remain an offering corporation, at least one-third of our directors must not be officers or employees of our company or our affiliates.

**Removal of Directors; Terms of Directors**

Under the DGCL, except in the case of a corporation with a classified board of directors (unless the certificate of incorporation provides otherwise) or in the case of a corporation with cumulative voting, any director or the entire board of directors may be removed, with or without cause, by the holders of a majority of the shares entitled to vote at an election of directors.

Under the OBCA, shareholders of a corporation may, by resolution passed by a majority of the vote cast thereon at a meeting of shareholders, remove a director and may elect any qualified person to fill the resulting vacancy. If holders of a class or series of shares have the exclusive right to elect one or more directors, a director elected by them may only be removed by an ordinary resolution at a meeting of the shareholders of that class or series.

The OBCA provides that shareholders shall elect at each annual meeting of shareholders at which an election of directors is required, directors to hold office for a term expiring not later than the close of the third annual meeting of shareholders following the election. It is not necessary that all directors elected at a meeting of shareholders hold office for the same term. A director not elected for an expressly stated term ceases to hold office at the close of the first annual meeting of shareholders following his or her election.

**Inspection of Books and Records**

Under the DGCL, any holder of record of stock or a person who is the beneficial owner of shares of such stock held either in a voting trust or by a nominee on behalf of such person may, upon written demand, inspect the corporation’s books and records during business hours for a proper purpose and may make copies and extracts therefrom.

Under the OBCA, registered holders of shares, beneficial owners of shares and creditors of a corporation, their agents and legal representatives may examine the records of the corporation during the usual business hours of the corporation, and may take extracts from those records, free of charge, and, if the corporation is an offering corporation, any other person may do so upon payment of a reasonable fee.

### Amendment of Governing Documents

Under the DGCL, a certificate of incorporation may be amended if: (1) the board of directors adopts a resolution setting forth the proposed amendment, declaring its advisability and specifying whether the stockholders will vote on the amendment at a special meeting or annual meeting of stockholders; provided that, unless required by the certificate of incorporation, no meeting or vote is required to adopt an amendment for certain specified changes; and (2) the holders of a majority of shares of stock entitled to vote on the matter approve the amendment, unless the certificate of incorporation requires the vote of a greater number of shares.

The DGCL requires that certain amendments to a certificate of incorporation be approved by a particular class of stockholders. If an amendment requires a class vote, it must be approved by a majority of the outstanding stock of the class entitled to vote on the matter, unless a greater proportion is specified in the certificate of incorporation or other provisions of the DGCL.

Under the DGCL, a corporation's stockholders may amend its by-laws. The board of directors also may amend a corporation's by-laws if so authorized in the certificate of incorporation.

Under the OBCA, amendments to the articles of incorporation generally require the approval of not less than two-thirds of the votes cast by shareholders entitled to vote on the special resolution. In certain cases, holders of a class or series of shares are entitled to vote separately on the resolution.

Under the OBCA, the directors may, by resolution, make, amend or repeal any by-laws that regulate the business or affairs of a corporation. The by-law, amendment or repeal is generally effective immediately; however, the directors must submit the by-law, amendment or repeal to the shareholders at the next meeting of shareholders, and the shareholders may confirm, reject or amend the by-law, amendment or repeal.

### Indemnification of Directors and Officers

Under the DGCL, subject to specified limitations in the case of derivative suits brought by a corporation's stockholders in its name, a corporation may indemnify any person who is made a party to any action, suit or proceeding on account of being a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation (or who was serving at the request of the corporation in such capacity for another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise) against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgements, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with the action, suit or proceeding if: (1) the individual acted in good faith and in a manner reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation; and (2) in a criminal action or proceeding, the individual had no reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful. Without court approval, however, no indemnification may be made in respect of any derivative action in which an individual is adjudged liable to the corporation, except to the extent the Court of Chancery or the court in which such action or suit was brought determines, in its discretion, that such person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity.

If a director or officer successfully defends a third-party or derivative action, suit or proceeding, the DGCL requires that the corporation indemnify such director or officer for expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred in connection with his or her defense.

Under the DGCL, a corporation may advance expenses relating to the defense of any proceeding to directors and officers upon the receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the individual to repay such amount if it shall ultimately be determined that such person is not entitled to be indemnified.

Under the OBCA, a corporation may indemnify a director or officer of the corporation, a former director or officer of the corporation or another individual who acts or acted at the corporation's request as a director or officer, or an individual acting in a similar capacity, of another entity, against all costs, charges and expenses, including an amount paid to settle an action or satisfy a judgement, reasonably incurred by the individual in respect of any civil, criminal, administrative, investigative or other proceeding in which the individual is involved because of that association with the corporation or other entity, and the corporation may advance moneys to such indemnified persons.

The foregoing indemnification is prohibited under the OBCA unless the individual (i) acted honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the corporation or, as the case may be, to the best interests of any other entity for which the individual acted as a director or officer or in a similar capacity at the corporation's request and (ii) if the matter is a criminal or administrative action or proceeding that is enforced by a monetary penalty, the individual had reasonable grounds for believing that the individual's conduct was lawful.

In addition to any indemnity the corporation may elect to provide, the OBCA provides that an individual referred to above is entitled to an indemnity from the corporation against all costs, charges and expenses reasonably incurred by the individual in connection with the defense of any civil, criminal, administrative, investigative or other proceeding to which the individual is subject because of the individual's association with the corporation or other entity referred to above, if, in addition to fulfilling the conditions in (i) and (ii) above, the individual was not judged by a court or other competent authority to have committed any fault or omitted to do anything that the individual ought to have done.

The corporation may also, with the approval of a court, indemnify an individual referred to above or advance moneys to such individual in respect of an action by or on behalf of the corporation or other entity to obtain a judgement in its favor, to which the individual is made a party because of the individual's association with the corporation or other entity, if the individual fulfils the conditions in (i) above.

Our by-laws provide that we shall indemnify the foregoing persons on substantially the terms set forth above.

### **Limited Liability of Directors**

The DGCL permits the adoption of a provision in a corporation's certificate of incorporation limiting or eliminating the monetary liability of a director to a corporation or its stockholders by reason of a director's breach of the fiduciary duty of care. The DGCL does not permit any limitation of a director's liability for:

(1) breaching the duty of loyalty to the corporation or its stockholders; (2) acts or omissions not in good faith; (3) engaging in intentional misconduct or a known violation of law; (4) obtaining an improper personal benefit from the corporation; or (5) paying a dividend or approving a stock repurchase that was illegal under applicable law.

The OBCA does not permit the limitation of a director's liability as the DGCL does.

Under the OBCA, directors and officers owe a fiduciary duty to the corporation. Every director and officer of a corporation must act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the corporation and must also exercise the care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent person would exercise in comparable circumstances.

Directors will not be found liable for breach of their duties where they exercise the care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent person would have exercised in comparable circumstances. This includes good faith reliance on: financial statements and reports represented by an auditor or officer of the corporation to fairly present the financial position of the corporation; advice or reports from an officer or employee of the corporation where it is reasonable in the circumstances to rely on such information; and, reports from an engineer, lawyer, accountant, or other person whose profession lends credibility to a statement made by any such person.

### **Stockholder/Shareholder Lawsuits**

Under the DGCL, a stockholder may bring a derivative action on behalf of a corporation to enforce the corporation's rights if he or she was a stockholder at the time of the transaction which is the subject of the action. Additionally, under Delaware case law, a stockholder must have owned stock in the corporation continuously until and throughout the litigation to maintain a derivative action. Delaware law also requires that, before commencing a derivative action, a stockholder must make a demand on the directors of the corporation to assert the claim, unless such demand would be futile. A stockholder also may commence a class action suit on behalf of himself or herself and other similarly situated stockholders where the requirements for maintaining a class action have been met.

Under the OBCA, a "complainant", which includes a current or former shareholder (including a beneficial shareholder), director or officer of a corporation or its affiliates (or former director or officer of the corporation or its affiliates) and any other person who, in the discretion of the court, is an appropriate person, may make an application to court to bring an action in the name and on behalf of a corporation or any of its subsidiaries, or intervene in an action to which any such body corporate is a party, for the purpose of prosecuting, defending or discontinuing the action on behalf of the body corporate (a derivative action).

No derivative action may be brought unless notice of the application has been given to the directors of the corporation or its subsidiary not less than fourteen days before bringing the application and the court is satisfied that (i) the directors of the corporation or the subsidiary will not bring, diligently prosecute or defend or discontinue the action, (ii) the complainant is acting in good faith and (iii) it appears to be in the interests of the corporation or its subsidiary that the action be brought, prosecuted, defended or discontinued. A complainant is not required to provide the notice referred to above if all of the directors of the corporation or its subsidiary are defendants in the action.

In connection with a derivative action, the court may make any order it thinks fit, including an order requiring the corporation or its subsidiary to pay reasonable legal fees and any other costs reasonably incurred by the complainant in connection with the action.

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**Blank Check Preferred Stock/Shares**

Under the DGCL, a corporation's certificate of incorporation may authorize the board of directors to issue new classes of preferred shares with voting, conversion, dividend distribution and other rights to be determined by the board of directors at the time of issuance. Such authorization could prevent a takeover attempt and thereby preclude stockholders from realizing a potential premium over the market value of their shares.

In addition, Delaware law does not prohibit a corporation from adopting a shareholder rights plan, or "poison pill", which could prevent a takeover attempt and also preclude stockholders from realizing a potential premium over the market value of their shares.

Under our articles of amalgamation, preferred shares may be issued in one or more series. Accordingly, our board of directors is authorized, without shareholder approval, but subject to the provisions of the OBCA, to determine the maximum number of shares of each series, create an identifying name for each series and attach such special rights or restrictions, including dividend, liquidation and voting rights, as our board of directors may determine, and such special rights or restrictions, including dividend, liquidation and voting rights, may be superior to the common voting shares.

The issuance of preferred shares, or the issuance of rights to purchase preferred shares, could make it more difficult for a third-party to acquire a majority of our outstanding shares and thereby have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change of control of us or an unsolicited acquisition proposal or of making the removal of management more difficult. Additionally, the issuance of preferred shares may have the effect of decreasing the market price of our subordinate voting shares.

The OBCA does not prohibit a corporation from adopting a shareholder rights plan, or "poison pill", which could prevent a takeover attempt and also preclude shareholders from realizing a potential premium over the market value of their shares. However, unlike Delaware law, pursuant to applicable Canadian securities laws, Canadian securities regulators have frequently ceased traded shareholder rights plans in the face of a take-over bid.

**Advance Notification Requirements for Proposals of Stockholders/Shareholders**

Delaware corporations' by-laws typically provide that stockholders may introduce a proposal to be voted on at an annual or special meeting of the stockholders, including nominees for election to the board of directors, only if they provide notice of such proposal to the secretary of the corporation in advance of the meeting. In addition, advance notice by-laws frequently require stockholders to provide information about their board of directors nominees, such as a nominee's age, address, employment and beneficial ownership of shares of the corporation's capital stock. The stockholder may also be required to disclose, among other things, his or her own name, share ownership and any agreement, arrangement or understanding with respect to such nomination.

For other proposals, the proposing stockholder is often required by the by-laws to provide a description of the proposal and any other information relating to such stockholder or beneficial owner, if any, on whose behalf that proposal is being made, that would be required to be disclosed in a proxy statement or other filing required to be made in connection with solicitation of proxies for the proposal and pursuant to and in accordance with the *Exchange Act* and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.

Under the OBCA, the directors of a corporation are required to call an annual meeting of shareholders no later than fifteen months after holding the last preceding annual meeting. Under the OBCA, the directors of a corporation may call a special meeting at any time. In addition, the OBCA provides that holders of not less than five percent of the issued shares of a corporation that carry the right to vote at a meeting sought to be held may requisition the directors to call a meeting of shareholders.

In our by-laws, we have included certain advance notice provisions with respect to the election of its directors (the "Advance Notice Provisions"). Only persons who are nominated by shareholders in accordance with the Advance Notice Provisions will be eligible for election as directors at any annual meeting of shareholders, or at any special meeting of shareholders if one of the purposes for which the special meeting was called was the election of directors. Under the Advance Notice Provisions, a shareholder wishing to nominate a director would be required to provide us notice, in the prescribed form, within the prescribed time period.

## **Other Important Provisions in Articles of Amalgamation and Bylaws**

The following is a summary of certain important provisions of our articles of amalgamation and bylaws, as amended. Please note that this is only a summary, is not intended to be exhaustive and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the articles of amalgamation and bylaws. For further information, please refer to the full version of the articles of amalgamation and bylaws, copies of which are filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

### ***Objects and Purposes***

Our articles of amalgamation do not contain and are not required to contain a description of our objects and purposes. There is no restriction contained in our articles of amalgamation on the business that we may carry on.

### ***Directors***

#### **Interested Transactions**

The OBCA states that a director must disclose to us, in accordance with the provisions of the OBCA, the nature and extent of an interest that the director has in a material contract or material transaction, whether made or proposed, with us, if the director is a party to the contract or transaction, is a director or an officer or an individual acting in a similar capacity of a party to the contract or transaction, or has a material interest in a party to the contract or transaction.

A director who holds an interest in respect of any material contract or transaction into which we have entered or propose to enter is not entitled to vote on any directors' resolution to approve that contract or transaction, unless the contract or transaction:

- relates primarily to the director's remuneration as a director, officer, employee or agent of our company or an affiliate of our company;
- is for indemnity or insurance otherwise permitted under the OBCA; or
- is with an affiliate.

#### **Remuneration of Directors**

The OBCA provides that the remuneration of directors, if any, may be determined by the directors subject to our articles of amalgamation and bylaws. That remuneration may be in addition to any salary or other remuneration paid to any employees who are also directors.

#### **Age Limit Requirement**

Neither our articles of amalgamation nor the OBCA impose any mandatory age-related retirement or non-retirement requirement for directors.

### ***Action Necessary to Change the Rights of Holders of Shares***

Shareholders can authorize the amendment of our articles of amalgamation to create or vary the special rights or restrictions attached to any of the shares by passing a special resolution. However, a right or special right attached to any class or series of shares may not be prejudiced or interfered with unless the shareholders holding shares of that class or series to which the right or special right is attached consent by a separate special resolution. A special resolution means a resolution passed by: (1) a majority of not less than two-thirds of the votes cast by the applicable class or series of shareholders who vote in person or by proxy at a meeting or (2) a resolution consented to in writing by all of the shareholders entitled to vote.



## ***Shareholder Meetings***

We must hold an annual general meeting of shareholders at least once every year at a time and place determined by the board of directors, provided that the meeting must not be held later than 15 months after the preceding annual general meeting but no later than six months after the end of the preceding financial year. A meeting of shareholders may be held anywhere in Canada, as provided in our bylaws or, at a place outside Canada if our board of directors so determines.

Directors may, at any time, call a special meeting of shareholders. Shareholders holding not less than 5% of the issued voting shares may also cause directors to call a shareholders' meeting.

A notice to convene a meeting, specifying the date, time and location of the meeting, and, where a meeting is to consider special business, the general nature of the special business, must be sent to shareholders, to each director and the auditor not less than 21 days prior to the meeting, although, as a result of applicable securities laws, the time for notice is effectively longer. Under the OBCA, shareholders entitled to notice of a meeting may waive or reduce the period of notice for that meeting, provided applicable securities laws requirements are met. The accidental omission to send notice of any meeting of shareholders to, or the non-receipt of any notice by, any person entitled to notice does not invalidate any proceedings at that meeting.

As required by Nasdaq Listing Rules, a quorum for meetings is two persons present and holding, or represented by proxy, 33.3% of the issued shares entitled to be voted at the meeting. If a quorum is not present at the opening of the meeting, the shareholders may adjourn the meeting to a fixed time and place but may not transact any further business.

Holders of outstanding common shares are entitled to attend meetings of shareholders. Except as otherwise provided with respect to any particular series of preferred shares, and except as otherwise required by law, the holders of preferred shares are not entitled as a class to receive notice of, or to attend or vote at any meetings of shareholders. Directors, the secretary (if any), the auditor and any other persons invited by the chairman or directors or with the consent of those at the meeting are entitled to attend at any meeting of shareholders but will not be counted in the quorum or be entitled to vote at the meeting unless he or she is a shareholder or proxyholder entitled to vote at the meeting.

## ***Director Nominations***

Pursuant to a bylaw relating to the advance notice of nominations of directors, shareholders seeking to nominate candidates for election as directors other than pursuant to a proposal or requisition of shareholders made in accordance with the provisions of the OBCA must provide timely written notice to the corporate secretary. To be timely, a shareholder's notice must be received (i) in the case of an annual meeting of shareholders, not less than 30 days prior to the date of the annual meeting of shareholders; provided, however, that in the event that the annual meeting of shareholders is to be held on a date that is less than 50 days after the date on which the first public announcement of the date of the annual meeting was made, notice by the shareholder must be received not later than the close of business on the 10th day following the date of such public announcement; and (ii) in the case of a special meeting (which is not also an annual meeting) of shareholders called for any purpose which includes the election of directors to the board of directors, not later than the close of business on the 15th day following the day on which the first public announcement of the date of the special meeting was made. This bylaw also prescribes the proper written form for a shareholder's notice.

## ***Impediments to Change of Control***

Our articles of amalgamation do not contain any change of control limitations with respect to a merger, acquisition or corporate restructuring that involves our company.

## **Compulsory Acquisition**

The OBCA provides that if, within 120 days after the date of a take-over bid made to shareholders of a corporation, the bid is accepted by the holders of not less than 90% of the shares (other than the shares held by the offeror or an affiliate of the offeror) of any class of shares to which the bid relates, the offeror is entitled to acquire (on the same terms on which the offeror acquired shares under the take-over bid) the shares held by those holders of shares of that class who did not accept the take-over bid. If a shareholder who did not accept the take-over bid (a dissenting offeree) does not receive an offeror's notice, with respect to a compulsory acquisition (as described in the preceding sentence), that shareholder may require the offeror to acquire those shares on the same terms under which the offeror acquired (or will acquire) the shares owned by the shareholders who accepted the take-over bid.

## **Ownership and Exchange Controls**

### ***Competition Act***

Limitations on the ability to acquire and hold common shares may be imposed by the *Competition Act* (Canada). This legislation establishes a pre-merger notification regime for certain types of merger transactions that exceed certain statutory shareholding and financial thresholds. Mergers that are subject to notification cannot be closed until the required materials are filed and the applicable statutory waiting period has expired or been waived by the Commissioner of Competition (the "Commissioner"). Further, the *Competition Act* (Canada) permits the Commissioner to review any acquisition of control over or of a significant interest in our company, whether or not it is subject to mandatory notification. This legislation grants the Commissioner jurisdiction, for up to one year, to challenge this type of acquisition before the Canadian Competition Tribunal if it would, or would be likely to, substantially prevent or lessen competition in any market in Canada.

### ***Investment Canada Act***

The Investment Canada Act requires notification and, in certain cases, advance review and approval by the Government of Canada of an investment to establish a new Canadian business by a non-Canadian or of the acquisition by a non-Canadian of "control" of a "Canadian business", all as defined in the Investment Canada Act. Generally, the threshold for advance review and approval will be higher in monetary terms for a member of the World Trade Organization. The Investment Canada Act generally prohibits the implementation of such a reviewable transaction unless, after review, the relevant minister is satisfied that the investment is likely to be of net benefit to Canada.

The Investment Canada Act contains various rules to determine if there has been an acquisition of control. For example, for purposes of determining whether an investor has acquired control of a corporation by acquiring shares, the following general rules apply, subject to certain exceptions. The acquisition of a majority of the voting shares of a corporation is deemed to be acquisition of control of that corporation. The acquisition of less than a majority but one-third or more of the voting shares of a corporation is presumed to be an acquisition of control of that corporation unless it can be established that, on the acquisition, the corporation is not controlled in fact by the acquiror through the ownership of voting shares. The acquisition of less than one-third of the voting shares of a corporation is deemed not to be acquisition of control of that corporation.

In addition, under the Investment Canada Act, national security review on a discretionary basis may also be undertaken by the federal government in respect of a much broader range of investments by a non-Canadian to "acquire, in whole or in part, or to establish an entity carrying on all or any part of its operations in Canada, with the relevant test being whether such an investment by a non-Canadian could be "injurious to national security." The Minister of Industry has broad discretion to determine whether an investor is a non-Canadian and therefore may be subject to national security review. Review on national security grounds is at the discretion of the federal government and may occur on a pre- or post-closing basis.

Any of these provisions may discourage a potential acquirer from proposing or completing a transaction that may have otherwise presented a premium to our shareholders. We cannot predict whether investors will find us and our common shares less attractive because we are governed by foreign laws.

## **Transfer Agent and Registrar**

The registrar and transfer agent for our common shares is TSX Trust Company, located at 301 - 100 Adelaide Street West, Toronto, Ontario M5H 4H1.

### **DESCRIPTION OF COMMON SHARES**

We may issue our common shares either alone or underlying other securities convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for our common shares.

Holders of our common shares are entitled to certain rights and subject to certain conditions as set forth in our articles of amalgamation and bylaws, as amended. See “Description of Share Capital — Common Shares.”

### **DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED SHARES**

#### **Preferred Shares**

*Authority of Board of Directors to Create Series and Fix Rights.* Under our certificate of amalgamation, as amended, our board of directors can issue an unlimited amount of preferred shares from time to time in one or more series. Our board of directors is authorized to fix by resolution as to any series the designation and number of shares of the series, the voting rights, the dividend rights, the redemption price, the amount payable upon liquidation or dissolution, the conversion rights, and any other designations, preferences or special rights or restrictions as may be permitted by law. Unless the nature of a particular transaction and the rules of law applicable thereto require such approval, our board of directors has the authority to issue these shares of preferred shares without shareholder approval.

*Outstanding Preferred Shares.* Holders of our outstanding preferred shares are entitled to certain rights and subject to certain conditions as set forth in our articles of amalgamation and by-laws, as amended. See “Description of Share Capital — Preferred Shares.”

### **DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES**

We may issue series of debt securities, which may include debt securities exchangeable for or convertible into common shares or preferred shares. When we offer to sell a particular series of debt securities, we will describe the specific terms of that series in a supplement to this prospectus. The following description of debt securities will apply to the debt securities offered by this prospectus unless we provide otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement. The applicable prospectus supplement for a particular series of debt securities may specify different or additional terms.

The debt securities offered by this prospectus may be secured or unsecured, and may be senior debt securities, senior subordinated debt securities or subordinated debt securities. The debt securities offered by this prospectus may be issued under an indenture between us and the trustee under the indenture. The indenture may be qualified under, subject to, and governed by, the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended. We have summarized selected portions of the indenture below. The summary is not complete. The form of the indenture has been filed as an exhibit to the registration statement on Form S-3, of which this prospectus is a part, and you should read the indenture for provisions that may be important to you.

The terms of each series of debt securities will be established by or pursuant to a resolution of our board of directors and detailed or determined in the manner provided in a board of directors’ resolution, an officers’ certificate and by a supplemental indenture. The particular terms of each series of debt securities will be described in a prospectus supplement relating to the series, including any pricing supplement.

We may issue any amount of debt securities under the indenture, which may be in one or more series with the same or different maturities, at par, at a premium or at a discount. We will set forth in a prospectus supplement, including any related pricing supplement, relating to any series of debt securities being offered, the initial offering price, the aggregate principal amount offered and the terms of the debt securities, including, among other things, the following:

- the title of the debt securities;
- the price or prices (expressed as a percentage of the aggregate principal amount) at which we will sell the debt securities;
- any limit on the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities;
- the date or dates on which we will repay the principal on the debt securities and the right, if any, to extend the maturity of the debt securities;
- the rate or rates (which may be fixed or variable) per annum or the method used to determine the rate or rates (including any commodity, commodity index, stock exchange index or financial index) at which the debt securities will bear interest, the date or dates from which interest will accrue, the date or dates on which interest will be payable and any regular record date for any interest payment date;
- the place or places where the principal of, premium, and interest on the debt securities will be payable, and where the debt securities of the series that are convertible or exchangeable may be surrendered for conversion or exchange;
- any obligation or right we have to redeem the debt securities pursuant to any sinking fund or analogous provisions or at the option of holders of the debt securities or at our option, and the terms and conditions upon which we are obligated to or may redeem the debt securities;
- any obligation we have to repurchase the debt securities at the option of the holders of debt securities, the dates on which and the price or prices at which we will repurchase the debt securities and other detailed terms and provisions of these repurchase obligations;
- the denominations in which the debt securities will be issued;
- whether the debt securities will be issued in the form of certificated debt securities or global debt securities;
- the portion of principal amount of the debt securities payable upon declaration of acceleration of the maturity date, if other than the principal amount;
- the currency of denomination of the debt securities;
- the designation of the currency, currencies or currency units in which payment of principal of, premium and interest on the debt securities will be made;

- if payments of principal of, premium or interest on, the debt securities will be made in one or more currencies or currency units other than that or those in which the debt securities are denominated, the manner in which the exchange rate with respect to these payments will be determined;
- the manner in which the amounts of payment of principal of, premium or interest on, the debt securities will be determined, if these amounts may be determined by reference to an index based on a currency or currencies other than that in which the debt securities are denominated or designated to be payable or by reference to a commodity, commodity index, stock exchange index or financial index;
- any provisions relating to any security provided for the debt securities;
- any addition to or change in the events of default described in the indenture with respect to the debt securities and any change in the acceleration provisions described in the indenture with respect to the debt securities;
- any addition to or change in the covenants described in the indenture with respect to the debt securities;
- whether the debt securities will be senior or subordinated and any applicable subordination provisions;
- a discussion of material income tax considerations applicable to the debt securities;
- any other terms of the debt securities, which may modify any provisions of the indenture as it applies to that series; and
- any depositaries, interest rate calculation agents, exchange rate calculation agents or other agents with respect to the debt securities.

We may issue debt securities that are exchangeable for and/or convertible into common shares or preferred shares. The terms, if any, on which the debt securities may be exchanged and/or converted will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. Such terms may include provisions for exchange or conversion, which can be mandatory, at the option of the holder or at our option, and the manner in which the number of common shares, preferred shares or other securities to be received by the holders of debt securities would be calculated.

We may issue debt securities that provide for an amount less than their stated principal amount to be due and payable upon declaration of acceleration of their maturity pursuant to the terms of the indenture. We will provide you with information on the U.S. federal income tax considerations, and other special considerations applicable to any of these debt securities in the applicable prospectus supplement. If we denominate the purchase price of any of the debt securities in a foreign currency or currencies or a foreign currency unit or units, or if the principal of and any premium and interest on any series of debt securities is payable in a foreign currency or currencies or a foreign currency unit or units, we will provide you with information on the restrictions, elections, specific terms and other information with respect to that issue of debt securities and such foreign currency or currencies or foreign currency unit or units in the applicable prospectus supplement.

We may issue debt securities of a series in whole or in part in the form of one or more global securities that will be deposited with, or on behalf of, a depositary identified in the prospectus supplement. Global securities will be issued in registered form and in either temporary or definitive form. Unless and until it is exchanged in whole or in part for the individual debt securities, a global security may not be transferred except as a whole by the depositary for such global security to a nominee of such depositary or by a nominee of such depositary to such depositary or another nominee of such depositary or by such depositary or any such nominee to a successor of such depositary or a nominee of such successor. The specific terms of the depositary arrangement with respect to any debt securities of a series and the rights of and limitations upon owners of beneficial interests in a global security will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The indenture and the debt securities will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the internal laws of the State of New York, unless we otherwise specify in the applicable prospectus supplement.

## DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

We may issue and offer warrants under the material terms and conditions described in this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement. The accompanying prospectus supplement may add, update or change the terms and conditions of the warrants as described in this prospectus.

### General

We may issue warrants to purchase our common shares, preferred shares or debt securities. Warrants may be issued independently or together with any securities and may be attached to or separate from those securities. The warrants will be issued under warrant agreements to be entered into between us and a bank or trust company, as warrant agent, all of which will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to the warrants we are offering. The warrant agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the warrants and will not have any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders or beneficial owners of warrants.

### Equity Warrants

Each equity warrant issued by us will entitle its holder to purchase the equity securities designated at an exercise price set forth in, or to be determinable as set forth in, the related prospectus supplement. Equity warrants may be issued separately or together with equity securities.

The equity warrants are to be issued under equity warrant agreements to be entered into between us and one or more banks or trust companies, as equity warrant agent, as will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement and this prospectus.

The particular terms of the equity warrants, the equity warrant agreements relating to the equity warrants and the equity warrant certificates representing the equity warrants will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement, including, as applicable:

- the title of the equity warrants;
- the initial offering price;
- the aggregate amount of equity warrants and the aggregate amount of equity securities purchasable upon exercise of the equity warrants;
- the currency or currency units in which the offering price, if any, and the exercise price are payable;
- if applicable, the designation and terms of the equity securities with which the equity warrants are issued, and the amount of equity warrants issued with each equity security;
- the date, if any, on and after which the equity warrants and the related equity security will be separately transferable;
- if applicable, the minimum or maximum amount of the equity warrants that may be exercised at any one time;
- the date on which the right to exercise the equity warrants will commence and the date on which the right will expire;
- if applicable, a discussion of tax, accounting or other considerations applicable to the equity warrants;
- anti-dilution provisions of the equity warrants, if any;
- redemption or call provisions, if any, applicable to the equity warrants; and
- any additional terms of the equity warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of the equity warrants.

Holders of equity warrants will not be entitled, solely by virtue of being holders, to vote, to consent, to receive dividends, to receive notice as shareholders with respect to any meeting of shareholders for the election of directors or any other matters, or to exercise any rights whatsoever as a holder of the equity securities purchasable upon exercise of the equity warrants.

## Debt Warrants

Each debt warrant issued by us will entitle its holder to purchase the debt securities designated at an exercise price set forth in, or to be determinable as set forth in, the related prospectus supplement. Debt warrants may be issued separately or together with debt securities.

The debt warrants are to be issued under debt warrant agreements to be entered into between us, and one or more banks or trust companies, as debt warrant agent, as will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement and this prospectus.

The particular terms of each issue of debt warrants, the debt warrant agreement relating to the debt warrants and the debt warrant certificates representing debt warrants will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement, including, as applicable:

- the title of the debt warrants;
- the initial offering price;
- the title, aggregate principal amount and terms of the debt securities purchasable upon exercise of the debt warrants;
- the currency or currency units in which the offering price, if any, and the exercise price are payable;
- the title and terms of any related debt securities with which the debt warrants are issued and the amount of the debt warrants issued with each debt security;
- the date, if any, on and after which the debt warrants and the related debt securities will be separately transferable;
- the principal amount of debt securities purchasable upon exercise of each debt warrant and the price at which that principal amount of debt securities may be purchased upon exercise of each debt warrant;
- if applicable, the minimum or maximum amount of warrants that may be exercised at any one time;
- the date on which the right to exercise the debt warrants will commence and the date on which the right will expire;
- if applicable, a discussion of United States federal income tax, accounting or other considerations applicable to the debt warrants;
- whether the debt warrants represented by the debt warrant certificates will be issued in registered or bearer form, and, if registered, where they may be transferred and registered;
- anti-dilution provisions of the debt warrants, if any;
- redemption or call provisions, if any, applicable to the debt warrants; and
- any additional terms of the debt warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of the debt warrants.

Debt warrant certificates will be exchangeable for new debt warrant certificates of different denominations and, if in registered form, may be presented for registration of transfer, and debt warrants may be exercised at the corporate trust office of the debt warrant agent or any other office indicated in the related prospectus supplement. Before the exercise of debt warrants, holders of debt warrants will not be entitled to payments of principal of, premium, if any, or interest, if any, on the debt securities purchasable upon exercise of the debt warrants, or to enforce any of the covenants in the indentures governing such debt securities.

## DESCRIPTION OF UNITS

We may issue units comprised of one or more of the other securities described in this prospectus in any combination. Each unit will be issued so that the holder of the unit is also the holder of each security included in the unit. Thus, the holder of a unit will have the rights and obligations of a holder of each included security. The unit agreement under which a unit is issued may provide that the securities included in the unit may not be held or transferred separately, at any time or at any time before a specified date.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe:

- the designation and terms of the units and of the securities comprising the units, including whether and under what circumstances those securities may be held or transferred separately;
- any unit agreement under which the units will be issued;
- any provisions for the issuance, payment, settlement, transfer or exchange of the units or of the securities comprising the units; and
- whether the units will be issued in fully registered or global form.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of any units. The preceding description and any description of units in the applicable prospectus supplement does not purport to be complete and is subject to and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the unit agreement and, if applicable, collateral arrangements and depositary arrangements relating to such units. For more information on how you can obtain copies of the applicable unit agreement if we offer units, see “Where You Can Find More Information” and “Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference.” We urge you to read the applicable unit agreement and any applicable prospectus supplement in their entirety.

## PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell or distribute the securities offered by this prospectus, from time to time, in one or more offerings, as follows:

- through agents;
- to dealers or underwriters for resale;
- directly to purchasers;
- in “at-the-market offerings,” within the meaning of Rule 415(a)(4) of the Securities Act, to or through a market maker or into an existing trading market, on an exchange or otherwise; or
- through a combination of any of these methods of sale.

The prospectus supplement with respect to the securities may state or supplement the terms of the offering of the securities.



In addition, we may issue the securities as a dividend or distribution or in a subscription rights offering to our existing security holders. In some cases, we or dealers acting for us or on our behalf may also repurchase securities and reoffer them to the public by one or more of the methods described above. This prospectus may be used in connection with any offering of our securities through any of these methods or other methods described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Our securities distributed by any of these methods may be sold to the public, in one or more transactions, either:

- at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed;
- at market prices prevailing at the time of sale;
- at prices related to prevailing market prices; or
- at negotiated prices.

#### **Sale through Underwriters or Dealers**

If underwriters are used in the sale, the underwriters will acquire the securities for their own account, including through underwriting, purchase, security lending or repurchase agreements with us. The underwriters may resell the securities from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions. Underwriters may sell the securities in order to facilitate transactions in any of our other securities (described in this prospectus or otherwise), including other public or private transactions and short sales. Underwriters may offer the securities to the public either through underwriting syndicates represented by one or more managing underwriters or directly by one or more firms acting as underwriters. Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase the securities will be subject to certain conditions, and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all the offered securities if they purchase any of them. The underwriters may change from time to time any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers.

If dealers are used in the sale of securities offered through this prospectus, we will sell the securities to them as principals. They may then resell those securities to the public at varying prices determined by the dealers at the time of resale. The applicable prospectus supplement will include the names of the dealers and the terms of the transaction.

#### **Direct Sales and Sales through Agents**

We may sell the securities offered through this prospectus directly. In this case, no underwriters or agents would be involved. Such securities may also be sold through agents designated from time to time. The applicable prospectus supplement will name any agent involved in the offer or sale of the offered securities and will describe any commissions payable to the agent. Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, any agent will agree to use its commonly reasonable efforts to solicit purchases for the period of its appointment. We may sell the securities directly to institutional investors or others who may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act with respect to any sale of those shares. The terms of any such sales will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Offered securities may be sold at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed, or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. Any agent involved in the offer or sale of the offered securities in respect of which this prospectus is delivered will be named, and any commissions payable by us to such agent will be set forth, in the supplement relating to that offering. Unless otherwise specified in connection with a particular offering of securities, any such agent will be acting on a best efforts basis for the period of its appointment.

As one of the means of direct issuance of offered securities, we may utilize the services of an entity through which it may conduct an electronic “dutch auction” or similar offering of the offered securities among potential purchasers who are eligible to participate in the auction or offering of such offered securities, if so described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

## **Delayed Delivery Contracts**

If the applicable prospectus supplement indicates, we may authorize agents, underwriters or dealers to solicit offers from certain types of institutions to purchase securities at the public offering price under delayed delivery contracts. These contracts would provide for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. The contracts would be subject only to those conditions described in the prospectus supplement. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the commission payable for solicitation of those contracts.

## **Market Making, Stabilization and Other Transactions**

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement states otherwise, each series of offered securities will be a new issue and will have no established trading market. We may elect to list any series of offered securities on an exchange. Any underwriters that we use in the sale of offered securities may make a market in such securities, but may discontinue such market making at any time without notice. Therefore, we cannot assure you that the securities will have a liquid trading market.

Any underwriter may also engage in stabilizing transactions, syndicate covering transactions and penalty bids in accordance with Rule 104 under the Exchange Act. Stabilizing transactions involve bids to purchase the underlying security in the open market for the purpose of pegging, fixing or maintaining the price of the securities. Syndicate covering transactions involve purchases of the securities in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover syndicate short positions.

Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a syndicate member when the securities originally sold by the syndicate member are purchased in a syndicate covering transaction to cover syndicate short positions. Stabilizing transactions, syndicate covering transactions and penalty bids may cause the price of the securities to be higher than it would be in the absence of the transactions. The underwriters may, if they commence these transactions, discontinue them at any time.

## **Derivative Transactions and Hedging**

We and the underwriters may engage in derivative transactions involving the securities. These derivatives may consist of short sale transactions and other hedging activities. The underwriters may acquire a long or short position in the securities, hold or resell securities acquired and purchase options or futures on the securities and other derivative instruments with returns linked to or related to changes in the price of the securities. In order to facilitate these derivative transactions, we may enter into security lending or repurchase agreements with the underwriters. The underwriters may affect the derivative transactions through sales of the securities to the public, including short sales, or by lending the securities in order to facilitate short sale transactions by others. The underwriters may also use the securities purchased or borrowed from us or others (or, in the case of derivatives, securities received from us in settlement of those derivatives) to directly or indirectly settle sales of the securities or close out any related open borrowings of the securities.

## **Loans of Securities**

We may loan or pledge securities to a financial institution or other third parties that in turn may sell the securities using this prospectus and an applicable prospectus supplement.

## **General Information**

Agents, underwriters, and dealers may be entitled, under agreements entered into with us, to indemnification by us, against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act. Our agents, underwriters, and dealers, or their affiliates, may be customers of, engage in transactions with or perform services for us or our affiliates, in the ordinary course of business for which they may receive customary compensation.

## **Conflicts of Interest**

Underwriters, dealers and agents may be entitled, under agreements with us, to indemnification by us relating to material misstatements and omissions in our offering documents. Underwriters, dealers and agents may engage in transactions with, or perform services for, us in their ordinary course of business.

Except for securities issued upon a reopening of a previous series, each series of offered securities will be a new issue of securities and will have no established trading market. Any underwriters to whom offered securities are sold for public offering and sale may make a market in such offered securities, but such underwriters will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. The offered securities may or may not be listed on a securities exchange. No assurance can be given that there will be a market for the offered securities.

## **LEGAL MATTERS**

The validity of the debt securities, warrants and units offered by this prospectus, to the extent governed by the laws of the State of New York, will be passed upon for us by Pryor Cashman LLP, our special United States counsel. The validity of the common and preferred shares, the debt securities, the warrants and the units to the extent governed by Ontario law, will be passed upon for us by Meretsky Law Firm, our special legal counsel as to Ontario, Canada law. If legal matters in connection with offerings made pursuant to this prospectus are passed upon by counsel to underwriters, dealers or agents, such counsel will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to any such offering.

## **EXPERTS**

Our consolidated financial statements as of December 31, 2021 and 2020 and for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2021 and 2020 have been incorporated by reference herein and in the registration statement from our Annual Report on Form 20-F, in reliance upon the report of Smythe LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

The office of Smythe LLP is located at 1700-475 Howe St, Vancouver, British Columbia, V6C 2B3, Canada.

## PART II

### INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS

#### ITEM 14. OTHER EXPENSES OF ISSUANCE AND DISTRIBUTION

The following table sets forth the aggregate expenses to be paid by us in connection with this offering. All amounts shown are estimates, except for the SEC registration fee.

SEC Registration Fee	\$ 11,020
Legal Fees and Expenses	25,000
FINRA filing fees	15,500
Accounting Fees and Expenses	5,000
Printing Expenses	5,000
Miscellaneous	5,000
Total	<u>\$ 66,520</u>

#### ITEM 15. INDEMNIFICATION OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Under the Business Corporations Act (Ontario), Sphere 3D Corp. (the "Registrant") may indemnify a director or officer of the Registrant, a former director or officer of the Registrant or another individual who acts or acted at the Registrant's request as a director or officer, or an individual acting in a similar capacity, of another entity (each of the foregoing, an "Individual") against all costs, charges and expenses, including an amount paid to settle an action or satisfy a judgment, reasonably incurred by the Individual in respect of any civil, criminal, administrative, investigative or other proceeding in which the Individual is involved because of that association with the Registrant or other entity, on the condition that:

- (i) the Individual acted honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the Registrant or, as the case may be, to the best interests of the other entity for which the Individual acted as a director or officer or in a similar capacity at the Registrant's request; and
- (ii) if the matter is a criminal or administrative action or proceeding that is enforced by a monetary penalty, the Registrant shall not indemnify the Individual unless the Individual had reasonable grounds for believing that his or her conduct was lawful.

The Registrant may advance money to a director, officer or other Individual in relation to the foregoing matters, but the Individual shall repay the money of the Individual does not fulfill the conditions set out in (i) and (ii) above.

Further, the Registrant may, with the approval of a court, indemnify an Individual in respect of an action by or on behalf of the Registrant or other entity, or advance moneys as set out above, to obtain a judgment in its favor, to which the Individual is made a party because of the Individual's association with the Registrant or other entity as a director or officer, a former director or officer, an Individual who acts or acted at the Registrant's request as a director or officer, or an Individual acting in a similar capacity, against all costs, charges and expenses reasonably incurred by the Individual in connection with such action, if the Individual fulfils the conditions in (i) and (ii) above. Such Individuals are entitled to indemnification from the Registrant in respect of all costs, charges and expenses reasonably incurred by the Individual in connection with the defense of any civil, criminal administrative, investigative or other proceeding to which the Individual is subject because of the Individual's association with the Registrant or other entity as described above, provided the Individual is seeking an indemnity: (A) was not judged by a court or other competent authority to have committed any fault or omitted to do anything that the Individual ought to have done; and (B) fulfils the conditions in (i) and (ii) above.

The by-laws of the Registrant provide that, subject to the Business Corporations Act (Ontario), the Registrant shall indemnify an officer or director of the Registrant, former officer or director of the Registrant and every individual who acts or acted at the Registrant's request as a director or officer or an individual in a similar capacity of another entity, from and against all costs, charges and expense, including an amount paid to settle an action or satisfy a judgment, reasonably incurred by that individual in respect or any civil, criminal, administrative, investigative or other proceeding to which that individual is involved because of their association with the Registrant or other entity if such individual (i) acted honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the Registrant or, as the case may be, to the best interests of the other entity for which the individual acted as a director or officer or as an individual in a similar capacity at the Registrant's request and (ii) in the case of a criminal or administrative action or proceeding that is enforced by monetary penalty, the individual had reasonable grounds for believing that the conduct was lawful.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers or persons controlling the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing, the Registrant has been informed that in the opinion of the SEC such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is therefore unenforceable.

#### **ITEM 16. EXHIBITS**

The exhibits to this registration statement are listed on the Index to Exhibits to this registration statement, which Index to Exhibits is hereby incorporated by reference.

#### **ITEM 17. UNDERTAKINGS**

(A) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement;

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or any decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the SEC pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement; and

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

*provided, however*, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i), (a)(1)(ii) and (a)(1)(iii) of this section do not apply if the registration statement is on Form S-3 and the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed with or furnished to the SEC by the registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or Exchange Act, that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(4) To file a post-effective amendment to the registration statement to include any financial statements required by Item 8.A of Form 20-F at the start of any delayed offering or throughout a continuous offering. Financial statements and information otherwise required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Exchange Act need not be furnished, provided that the registrant includes in the prospectus, by means of a post-effective amendment, financial statements required pursuant to this paragraph (a)(4) and other information necessary to ensure that all other information in the prospectus is at least as current as the date of those financial statements. Notwithstanding the foregoing, with respect to registration statements on Form S-3, a post-effective amendment need not be filed to include financial statements and information required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Exchange Act or Rule 3-19 of Regulation S-K if such financial statements and information are contained in periodic reports filed with or furnished to the SEC by the registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in this Form S-3.

(5) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act to any purchaser:

(i) Each prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and

(ii) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5), or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii), or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by section 10(a) of the Securities Act shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof. Provided, however, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.

(6) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the registrant under the Securities Act to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities:

(A) The undersigned registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

(i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;

(ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned registrant;

(iii) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant; and

(iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned registrant to the purchaser.

(B) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

(C) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(D) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes to file an application for the purpose of determining the eligibility of the trustee to act under subsection (a) of section 310 of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, or the Act, in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the Commission under section 305(b)(2) of the Act.

## INDEX TO EXHIBITS

<b>Exhibit Number</b>	<b>Description of Document</b>
1.1*	Form of Underwriting Agreement
4.1	<a href="#">Registrant's Specimen Certificate for Common Shares (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to our registration statement on Form S-3 (file No. 333-210735), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 13, 2016)</a>
4.2*	Specimen Preferred Share Certificate and Form of Certificate of Designations of Preferred Shares
4.3*	Form of Indenture
4.4*	Form of Debt Security
4.5*	Form of Warrant
4.6*	Form of Warrant Agreement
4.7*	Form of Unit Agreement (including form of Unit Certificate)
5.1	<a href="#">Opinion of Meretsky Law Firm regarding the validity of the securities</a>
5.2	<a href="#">Opinion of Pryor Cashman LLP regarding the validity of the securities</a>
23.1	<a href="#">Consent of Smythe LLP, Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</a>
23.2	<a href="#">Consent of Meretsky Law Firm (included in Exhibit 5.1)</a>
23.3	<a href="#">Consent of Pryor Cashman LLP (included in Exhibit 5.2)</a>
24.1	<a href="#">Powers of Attorney (included as part of signature page)</a>
25.1*	Form T-1 Statement of Eligibility and Qualification under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, of the Trustee under the Indenture
107	<a href="#">Filing Fee Table</a>

\* To be filed as an exhibit to a post-effective amendment to this registration statement or as an exhibit to a report filed under the Exchange Act and incorporated herein by reference.

## SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, on February 9, 2023.

### Sphere 3D Corp.

By: /s/ Patricia Trompeter

Name: Patricia Trompeter

Title: Chief Executive Officer

## POWER OF ATTORNEY

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints each of Patricia Trompeter and Kurt L. Kalbfleisch as an attorney-in-fact with full power of substitution, for each of them in any and all capacities, to do any and all acts and all things and to execute any and all instruments which said attorney and agent may deem necessary or desirable to enable the registrant to comply with the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, and any rules, regulations and requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission thereunder, in connection with the registration under the Securities Act of common shares of the registrant, or the Shares, including, without limitation, the power and authority to sign the name of each of the undersigned in the capacities indicated below to the Registration Statement on Form S-3, or the Registration Statement, to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission with respect to such Shares, to any and all amendments or supplements to such Registration Statement, whether such amendments or supplements are filed before or after the effective date of such Registration Statement, to any related Registration Statement filed pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, and to any and all instruments or documents filed as part of or in connection with such Registration Statement or any and all amendments thereto, whether such amendments are filed before or after the effective date of such Registration Statement; and each of the undersigned hereby ratifies and confirms all that such attorney and agent shall do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities indicated below on February 9, 2023.

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Title</u>
<u>/s/ Patricia Trompeter</u> Name: Patricia Trompeter	Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer)
<u>/s/ Kurt L. Kalbfleisch</u> Name: Kurt L. Kalbfleisch	Chief Financial Officer and Secretary (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)
<u>/s/ David Danziger</u> Name: David Danziger	Director
<u>/s/ Timothy Hanley</u> Name: Timothy Hanley	Director
<u>/s/ Susan Harnett</u> Name: Susan Harnett	Director
<u>/s/ Vivekanand Mahadevan</u> Name: Vivekanand Mahadevan	Director
<u>/s/ Duncan McEwan</u> Name: Duncan McEwan	Director



**SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE**

Pursuant to the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the undersigned, the duly authorized representative in the United States of Sphere 3D Corp., has signed this registration statement or amendment thereto in the United States on February 9, 2023.

By: /s/ Kurt L. Kalbfleisch

Name: Kurt L. Kalbfleisch

Title: Chief Financial Officer



Meretsky Law Firm Barristers & Solicitors  
121 King Street West, Suite 2150, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5H 3T9  
Tel: (416) 943-0808 Fax: (416) 943-0811 www.meretsky.com

February 9, 2023

Sphere 3D Corp.  
895 Don Mills Road  
Building 2, Suite 900  
Toronto, Ontario, M3C 1W3  
Canada

Dear Sirs/Mesdames:

**Re: Sphere 3D Corp. - Registration on Form S-3**

We have acted as Canadian special counsel to Sphere 3D Corp. (the “**Company**”), a corporation amalgamated under the *Business Corporations Act* (Ontario) (the “**OBCA**”), in connection with the registration under the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “**US Securities Act**”) and the rules and regulations thereunder (the “**Rules**”), pursuant to a Registration Statement on Form S-3 filed with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission on February ●, 2023 (the “**Registration Statement**”), including the Offering Prospectus constituting part thereof (the “**Prospectus**”), as thereafter amended or supplemented, with respect to the registration of the proposed offer and sale by the Company of: (i) common shares of the Company, with no par value per share (the “**Common Shares**”), (ii) preferred shares of the Company, with no par value per share, issuable in one or more series (the “**Preferred Shares**”), (iii) debt securities, including debt securities exchangeable for or convertible into Common Shares or Preferred Shares (collectively, the “**Debt Securities**”), (iv) warrants to purchase Common Shares, Preferred Shares or Debt Securities (collectively, the “**Warrants**”), and (v) units comprised of one or more of Common Shares, Preferred Shares, Debt Securities or Warrants in any combination thereof (collectively, the “**Units**”, together with the Common Shares, the Preferred Shares, the Debt Securities and the Warrants, are sometimes referred to individually as a “**Security**” and collectively as “**Securities**”).

For the purposes of this opinion, we have examined a copy of the Registration Statement and the Prospectus, but have not participated in the review and preparation of the Prospectus. We have also examined originals or copies, certified or otherwise identified to our satisfaction, of and relied upon the following documents (collectively, the “**Corporate Documents**”):

- (a) the articles and by-laws of the Company;
- (b) certain resolutions of the Company’s directors and shareholders;
- (c) a certificate of status dated February ●, 2023 issued in respect of the Company pursuant to the OBCA, which we assume remains in full force and effect unamended; and
- (b) a certificate of an officer of the Company as to certain factual matters dated February ●, 2023, which we assume remains in full force and effect unamended (the “**Officer’s Certificate**”).

We also have reviewed such other documents, and have considered such questions of law, as we have deemed relevant and necessary as a basis for the opinion expressed herein. We have relied upon the Corporate Documents without independent investigation of the matters provided for therein for the purpose of providing our opinion expressed herein.

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In examining all documents and in providing our opinion expressed herein we have assumed that:

- (a) all individuals had the requisite legal capacity;
- (b) all signatures are genuine;
- (c) all documents submitted to us as originals are complete and authentic and all photostatic, certified, telecopied, notarial or other copies conform to the originals;
- (d) all facts set forth in the official public records, certificates and documents supplied by public officials or otherwise conveyed to us by public officials are complete, true and accurate; and
- (e) all facts set forth in the certificates supplied by the respective officers and directors, as applicable, of the Company including, without limitation, the Officer's Certificate, are complete, true and accurate.

Our opinion is expressed only with respect to the laws of the Province of Ontario (the "**Jurisdiction**") and the laws of Canada applicable therein. Any reference to the laws of the Jurisdiction includes the laws of Canada that apply in the Jurisdiction.

Our opinion is expressed with respect to the laws of the Jurisdiction in effect on the date of this opinion. We have no responsibility or obligation to: (a) update this opinion, (b) take into account or inform the addressee or any other person of any changes in law, facts or other developments subsequent to this date that do or may affect the opinion we express, or (c) advise the addressee or any other person of any other change in any matter addressed in this opinion, nor do we have any responsibility or obligation to consider the applicability or correctness of this opinion to any person other than the addressee.

Where our opinion refers to any of the Securities as being issued as being "fully-paid and non-assessable", such opinion assumes that all required consideration (in whatever form) has been paid or provided and no opinion is expressed as to the adequacy of any such consideration paid or provided.

Based and relying upon the foregoing, we are of the opinion that:

1. With respect to the Common Shares, when (a) the board of directors of the Company (the "**Board**"), has taken all necessary corporate action to approve the issuance of and established the terms of the offering of the Common Shares and related matters, and (b) issued, sold and delivered in the manner and for the consideration stated in the applicable definitive purchase, underwriting or similar agreement approved by the Board, upon payment of the consideration provided therein to the Company, or upon conversion, exchange or exercise of any other Security in accordance with the terms of such Security or the instrument governing such Security providing for such conversion, exchange or exercise as approved by the Board, for the consideration approved by the Board, each of the Common Shares will be validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable.

2. With respect to a series of Preferred Shares, when (a) the Board has taken all necessary corporate action to approve the issuance of and established the terms of the offering of that series of Preferred Shares and related matters (including the approval and adoption of articles of amendment setting forth the terms and attributes of that series of Preferred Shares and assuming the delivery of those articles of amendment to the Director appointed under section 278 of the OBCA), and (b) issued, sold and delivered in the manner and for the consideration stated in the applicable definitive purchase, underwriting or similar agreement approved by the Board, upon payment of the consideration provided therein to the Company, or upon conversion, exchange or exercise of any other Security in accordance with the terms of such Security or articles of amendment or other instrument governing such Security providing for such conversion, exchange or exercise as approved by the Board, for the consideration approved by the Board, each of the Preferred Shares of that series will be validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

3. With respect to Debt Securities to be issued under an indenture (the “**Indenture**”) which will be filed as an exhibit to or incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement, when (a) the Indenture has been (i) duly authorized by the Board, (ii) duly executed and delivered by each party thereto and (iii) duly qualified under applicable law, (b) the Board has taken all necessary corporate action to approve the issuance of and established the terms of such Debt Securities, the terms of the offering and related matters, (c) the Debt Securities have been executed and authenticated in accordance with the terms of the Indenture, and (d) the Debt Securities have been issued, sold and delivered in the manner and for the consideration stated in the applicable definitive purchase, underwriting or similar agreement approved by the Board, upon payment of the consideration provided therein to the Company, or upon the conversion, exchange or exercise of any other Security in accordance with the terms of such Security or the instrument governing such Security providing for such conversion, exchange or exercise under the Indenture, and as approved by the Board, for the consideration approved by the Board, the Debt Securities to be issued under the Indenture will be valid and binding obligations of the Company.

4. With respect to the Warrants, when (a) the Board has taken all necessary corporate action to approve the issuance of and established the terms of such Warrants, the terms of the offering of the Warrants and related matters, (b) one or more agreements (incorporating the provisions as are contained in a document which will be filed as an exhibit to or incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement) have been duly executed and delivered by the Company and a warrant agent, and (c) the Warrants have been issued, sold and delivered in the manner and for the consideration stated in the applicable definitive purchase, underwriting or similar agreement as approved by the Board, for the consideration approved by the Board, the Warrants will be valid and binding obligations of the Company.

5. With respect to the Units, when (a) the Board has taken all necessary corporate action to approve the issuance of and established the terms of such Units, the terms of offering of the Units and related matters, (b) one or more agreements (incorporating the provisions as are contained in a document which will be filed as an exhibit to or incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement) have been duly executed and delivered by the Company and a third party, and (c) the Units have been issued, sold and delivered in the manner and for the consideration stated in the applicable definitive purchase, underwriting or similar agreement as approved by the Board, for the consideration approved by the Board, the Units will be valid and binding obligations of the Company.

This opinion has been prepared for your use in connection with the Registration Statement and is expressed as of the date hereof. Our opinion is expressly limited to the matters set forth above and we render no opinion, whether by implication or otherwise, as to any other matters relating to the Company, the Registration Statement or the Securities.

We hereby consent to the filing of this opinion as an exhibit to the Registration Statement and to the reference to our firm appearing under the caption “Legal Matters” in the Prospectus. In giving this consent, we do not admit that we are within the category of persons whose consent is required under the US Securities Act or the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder. This opinion may not be quoted from or referred to in any documents other than the Registration Statement as provided for herein without our prior written consent.

Yours truly,

Meretsky Law Firm

February 9, 2023

Sphere 3D Corp.  
895 Don Mills Road, Bldg. 2, Suite 900  
Toronto, Ontario, M3C 1W3, Canada

**Re: Registration Statement on Form S-3**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have acted as United States securities counsel for Sphere 3D Corp., an Ontario, Canada company (the "Company"), in connection with the preparation and filing by the Company of a registration statement on Form S-3 (including the Offering Prospectus constituting part thereof (the "Prospectus")) to which this opinion letter has been filed as an exhibit (the "Registration Statement"), relating to the offer and sale by the Company from time to time, pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), of (i) common shares, no par value (the "Common Shares"), (ii) preferred shares, no par value ("Preferred Shares", and together with the Common Shares, "Equity Securities"), (iii) debt securities of the Company (the "Debt Securities"), in one or more series, (iv) warrants to purchase Equity Securities or Debt Securities (the "Warrants") and (v) units consisting of one or more of the foregoing (the "Units"). The Common Shares, Preferred Shares, Debt Securities, Warrants and Units are collectively referred to herein as the "Securities." The Securities being registered for sale by the Company are for a maximum aggregate offering price of \$100,000,000. Such Securities may be offered and sold from time to time pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act, at which time it is contemplated that the Offering Prospectus included in the Registration Statement will be supplemented by one or more supplements (each, a "Prospectus Supplement").

In rendering our opinions set forth below, we have reviewed such corporate documents and records of the Company, such certificates of public officials and such other matters as we have deemed necessary or appropriate for purposes of this opinion letter. As to facts material to the opinions expressed herein, we have relied upon oral and written statements and representations of officers and other representatives of the Company. We also have assumed (a) the authenticity of all documents submitted to us as originals; (b) the conformity to the originals of all documents submitted to us as copies; (c) the genuineness of all signatures; (d) the legal capacity of natural persons; (e) the truth, accuracy and completeness of the information, factual matters, representations and warranties contained in all of such documents, (f) the Company's due organization and valid existence, in good standing, under the laws of Ontario, Canada; and (g) the Company's legal power and authority to execute, deliver, and perform its obligations under the Securities.

Based upon such examination, and subject to the further assumptions, qualifications and limitations contained herein, it is our opinion that:

1. The Debt Securities, upon issuance and delivery of certificates of indebtedness or notes (or book-entry notation if uncertificated) evidencing such Debt Securities, against payment therefor of such lawful consideration as the Board of Directors of the Company (the "Board") (or a duly authorized committee thereof) may determine, will constitute valid and legally binding obligations of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with their terms.

2. The Warrants, upon their issuance and delivery of certificates (or book-entry notation if uncertificated) for such Warrants, against payment therefor of such lawful consideration as the Board (or a duly authorized committee thereof) may determine, will constitute valid and legally binding obligations of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with their terms.

3. The Units, upon their issuance and delivery of certificates (or book-entry notation if uncertificated) for such Units, against payment therefor of such lawful consideration as the Board (or a duly authorized committee thereof) may determine, to the extent such Units constitute or include Debt Securities or Warrants, will constitute valid and legally binding obligations of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with their terms.

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In rendering the foregoing opinions, we have assumed that: (i) the Registration Statement, and any amendments thereto, shall have become effective under the Securities Act and will remain effective at the time of issuance of any Securities thereunder; (ii) a Prospectus Supplement describing each class or series of Securities offered pursuant to the Registration Statement, to the extent required by applicable law and relevant rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission"), will be timely filed with the Commission; (iii) the definitive terms of each class or series of Securities shall have been established in accordance with resolutions duly adopted by the Board (or an authorized committee thereof) (each, a "Board Action"), the Company's Articles of Amalgamation (the "Articles") and Bylaws (the "Bylaws") and applicable law; (iv) the Company will issue and deliver the Securities in the manner contemplated by the Registration Statement, the Prospectus, the applicable Prospectus Supplement and any applicable underwriting agreement; (v) the total number of shares of Common Shares issuable (including upon conversion, exchange or exercise of any other Security) will not exceed the total number of shares of Common Shares that the Company is then authorized to issue under its Articles and Bylaws; (vi) the Board Action authorizing the Company to issue, offer and sell the Securities will have been adopted by the Board (or an authorized committee thereof) and will be in full force and effect at all times at which the Securities are offered or sold by the Company; and (vii) all Securities will be issued in compliance with applicable federal and state securities laws.

With respect to any Securities consisting of Debt Securities, we have further assumed that: (i) such Debt Securities shall have been issued pursuant to an indenture (individually, and as supplemented from time to time, an "Indenture") between the Company and a trustee to be identified in the applicable Prospectus Supplement (the "Trustee"); (ii) such Indenture shall have been duly authorized, executed and delivered on behalf of the Company; (iii) all terms of such Debt Securities not provided for in such Indenture shall have been established in accordance with the provisions of the Indenture and reflected in appropriate documentation approved by us and, if applicable, executed and delivered by the Company and the Trustee; (iv) such Debt Securities shall have been duly executed, authenticated, issued and delivered in accordance with the provisions of such Indenture; (v) such Debt Securities, as executed and delivered, do not violate any law applicable to the Company or result in a default under or breach of any agreement or instrument binding upon the Company; (vi) such Debt Securities, as executed and delivered, comply with all requirements and restrictions, if any, applicable to the Company, whether imposed by any court or governmental or regulatory body having jurisdiction over the Company and (vii) such Debt Securities and the related Indenture, if any, shall be governed by the laws of the State of New York.

With respect to any Securities consisting of Warrants, we have further assumed that (i) such Warrants shall have been issued pursuant to a warrant agreement (individually, a "Warrant Agreement") between the Company and a warrant agent to be identified in the applicable Prospectus Supplement (the "Warrant Agent"); (ii) such Warrant Agreement shall have been duly authorized, executed and delivered on behalf of the Company; (iii) all terms of such Warrants shall have been established in accordance with the provisions of such Warrant Agreement(s); (iv) such Warrants shall have been duly executed, issued and delivered in accordance with the provisions of such Warrant Agreement(s); (v) such Warrants and the related Warrant Agreement(s), as executed and delivered, do not violate any law applicable to the Company or result in a default under or breach of any agreement or instrument binding upon the Company; (vi) such Warrants and the related Warrant Agreement(s), as executed and delivered, comply with all requirements and restrictions, if any, applicable to the Company, in any case whether imposed by any court or governmental or regulatory body having jurisdiction over the Company; and (vii) such Warrants and the related Warrant Agreement, if any, shall be governed by the laws of the State of New York.

To the extent that the obligations of the Company under an Indenture may be dependent on such matters, we further have assumed for purposes of this opinion letter that the Trustee under each Indenture (i) is duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of its jurisdiction of organization; (ii) is duly qualified to engage in activities contemplated by such Indenture; (iii) has duly authorized, executed and delivered such Indenture, and such Indenture constitutes the legally valid and binding obligation of such Trustee enforceable against such Trustee in accordance with its terms; (iv) is in compliance, with respect to acting as a trustee under such Indenture, with all applicable laws and regulations; and (v) has the requisite organizational and legal power and authority to perform its obligations under such Indenture.

To the extent that the obligations of the Company under any Warrant or Warrant Agreement may be dependent on such matters, we further have assumed for purposes of this opinion letter that the Warrant Agent under each Warrant Agreement (i) is duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of its jurisdiction of organization; (ii) is duly qualified to engage in the activities contemplated by such Warrant Agreement; (iii) has duly authorized, executed and delivered such Warrant Agreement, and such Warrant Agreement constitutes the legally valid and binding obligation of such Warrant Agent enforceable against such Warrant Agent in accordance with its terms; (iv) is in compliance, with respect to acting as a Warrant Agent under such Warrant Agreement, with all applicable laws and regulations; and (v) has the requisite organizational and legal power and authority to perform its obligations under such Warrant Agreement.

We express no opinion with respect to the enforceability of: (i) provisions relating to choice of law, choice of venue, jurisdiction or waivers of jury trial, or (ii) any waiver of any usury defense. This opinion letter is rendered as of the date hereof, and we disclaim any undertaking to advise you of any subsequent changes in the facts stated or assumed herein or any subsequent changes in applicable law that may come to our attention, and we have assumed that no change in the facts stated or assumed herein or in applicable law after the date hereof will affect adversely our ability to render an opinion letter after the date hereof (i) containing the same legal conclusions set forth herein and (ii) subject only to such (or fewer) assumptions, limitations and qualifications as are contained herein.

The foregoing opinions are limited to the laws of the State of New York and applicable federal laws of the United States of America, and we express no opinion as to the effect of the laws of any other jurisdiction, domestic or foreign. We are not rendering any opinion as to compliance with any federal or state antifraud law, rule, or regulation relating to securities, or to the sale or issuance thereof.

We hereby consent to the filing of this opinion letter with the Commission as Exhibit 5.2 to the Registration Statement in accordance with the requirements of Item 601(b)(5) of Regulation S-K under the Securities Act and to the reference to our firm therein and in the Prospectus and any Prospectus Supplement under the caption "Legal Matters." In giving such consent, we do not thereby admit that this firm is within the category of persons whose consent is required under Section 7 of the Securities Act or the rules and regulations of the Commission thereunder.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Pryor Cashman LLP  
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Pryor Cashman LLP

**Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

We consent to the reference to our firm under the caption “Experts” and to the incorporation by reference in this Registration Statement on Form S-3 of our auditors’ report dated March 30, 2022 relating to the consolidated financial statements of Sphere 3D Corp. and its subsidiaries (the “Company”) comprising the consolidated balance sheets as of December 31, 2021 and 2020, and the related consolidated statements of operations, comprehensive loss, cash flows and shareholders’ equity (deficit) for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2021 (which expresses an unqualified opinion and includes an explanatory paragraph relating to a going concern uncertainty) which report was included in the Company’s Annual Report on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2021 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

/s/ Smythe LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants  
Vancouver, Canada  
February 9, 2023



## Calculation of Filing Fee Tables

Form S-3  
(Form Type)Sphere 3D Corp.  
(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Table 1: Newly Registered Securities

	Security Type	Security Class Title	Fee Calculation or Carry Forward Rule	Amount Registered(1)	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit(2)	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(3)	Fee Rate	Amount of Registration Fee	
Newly Registered Securities									
Fees to be Paid	Equity	Common Stock, No par value	Rule 457(o)						
	Equity	Preferred Stock, No par value	Rule 457(o)						
	Debt	Debt Securities	Rule 457(o)						
	Other	Warrants	Rule 457(o)						
	Other	Units	Rule 457(o)						
	Unallocated (Universal) Shelf			Rule 457(o)			\$ 100,000,000	\$ 0.00011020	\$ 11,020.00
Carry Forward Securities									
Carry Forward Securities									
						Total Offering Amounts	\$ 100,000,000	\$ 0.00011020	\$ 11,020.00
						Total Fees Previously Paid			—
						Total Fees Offsets			—
						Net Fee Due			\$ 11,020.00

- (1) The amount to be registered consists of up to \$100,000,000 of an indeterminate amount of common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, warrants, subscription rights and/or units. There is also being registered hereunder such currently indeterminate number of (i) shares of common stock or other securities of the registrant as may be issued upon conversion of, or in exchange for, convertible or exchangeable debt securities and/or preferred stock registered hereby, or (ii) shares of preferred stock, common stock, debt securities or units as may be issued upon exercise of warrants registered hereby, as the case may be. Any securities registered hereunder may be sold separately or as units with the other securities registered hereunder. The securities registered hereunder also include an indeterminate number of securities as may be issued pursuant to anti-dilution provisions of any of such securities. In addition, pursuant to Rule 416 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), this registration statement also covers any additional securities that may be offered or issued in connection with any stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions.
- (2) The proposed maximum aggregate offering price per unit will be determined from time to time by the registrant in connection with the issuance by the registrant of the securities registered hereunder and is not specified as to each class of security pursuant to Instruction 2.A.ii.b. to Item 16(b) of Form S-3 under the Securities Act.
- (3) Estimated solely for purposes of computing the registration fee. No separate consideration will be received for (i) common stock or other securities of the registrant that may be issued upon conversion of, or in exchange for, convertible or exchangeable debt securities and/or preferred stock registered hereby, or (ii) preferred stock, common stock, debt securities or units that may be issued upon exercise of warrants registered hereby, as the case may be. The aggregate maximum offering price of all securities issued pursuant to this registration statement will not exceed \$100,000,000.