

# EXTERNAL AUDITORS

## OVERVIEW OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR

Grant Thornton was appointed by the shareholders through the General Assembly Meeting held on 30 April 2023, as the external auditor for the Company. And Dr. Osama El-Bakry, the Grant Thornton partner, was appointed as their representative and responsible for the Company's accounts.

Grant Thornton has been operating in the UAE for more than 55 years, and has 3 offices in the country, with 450 employees, in addition to its wide-spread around the world. The number of its offices is 750 and it has approximately 62,000 employees, and it provides its services to many economic sectors.

## APPOINTMENT, FEES AND SERVICES

The shareholders resolved on 30 April 2023 to appoint Grant Thornton as the external auditors for GULFNAV, with a total remuneration amounting to AED 250,000.

and recommendation from the Audit Committee and Board of Directors. The appointment of the external auditors (firms/fees) are eventually approved by the shareholders through the General Assembly Meeting.

On an annual basis, the Company requests quotation/proposal from different audit firms and formal evaluation (technical/financial) is conducted before nominating the external auditors for the next year, including review

Details about the external audit firms, fees and scope of services are briefly explained in the table below:

Audit Firms/Consultants	Grant Thornton
Associated since (year)	2023
Total audit fees for the financial statement	250,000
Fees and costs of the special services, other than audit of financial statements	n/a
The details/nature of other services	n/a
Statement of other services obtained from another external auditors/consultants	MMJS Consulting were appointed as VAT Consultant for KSA branch VAT submission

Qualified opinions were not issued/given by the auditors for the financial period 2023.

# INTERNAL CONTROLS SYSTEMS

## BOARD'S RESPONSIBILITY WITH RESPECT TO THE INTERNAL CONTROLS' SYSTEM, ITS EFFECTIVENESS AND REVIEW MECHANISM

- The board has the overall responsibility for ensuring adequate internal control systems/framework within the Company.
- Board reviews the Internal Control deliverables through Audit Committee – highlighting matters discussed and resolutions passed after each meeting of Audit Committee in terms of internal audit assignments, audit follow-ups, special assignments, compliance audit, risk management and governance.
- Establish mechanism for employees to communicate irregularities discovered by them (whistleblowing/confidential reporting).
- Conduct special assignments/investigations as per the requests from the Board.
- Perform independent overview/analysis over the financial statements and present the same to the executive management and the Audit Committee along with the audit inputs/comments, variance justifications and commentaries.

## DEALING WITH MAJOR/CRITICAL PROBLEMS IN THE COMPANY

- During the year 2023, no major/critical audit observations were noted.
- Major/critical issues (if any) are being immediately discussed and reported to the Audit Committee and Senior Management (where appropriate). Periodic follow-up of these issues is carried out to ensure that they are implemented in accordance with the directions of the Board/Committees.

## NAME OF THE INTERNAL CONTROL DEPARTMENT MANAGER WITH THE QUALIFICATION

The Company did not appoint an Internal Control Department Manager in 2023.

## NAME OF THE COMPLIANCE OFFICER WITH THE QUALIFICATION

Mrs. Rajasree Ravivarma assumed her duties of compliance with the Company on 3 November 2022 replacing the previous compliance officer. Mrs. Ravivarma has more than 12 years of experience working various reputable law firms. She possesses exceptional knowledge and proficiency in Employment, Real Estate, Commercial and Corporate laws. Noting that Mrs. Rajasree is no longer working with the Company as of 1 November 2023.

## NUMBER OF REPORTS ISSUED BY THE INTERNAL CONTROL DEPARTMENT TO THE COMPANY'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

No reports were issued by the Internal Control Department.