



**2023** ANNUAL REPORT



## 5 ESG INFORMATION

### 5.6 LIMITED ASSURANCE REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

To: the management board and the supervisory board of SBM Offshore N.V.

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#### *Assurance report with limited assurance on the sustainability information 2023*

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##### *Our conclusion*

Based on our procedures performed and the assurance information obtained, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the sustainability information included in the annual report 2023 of SBM Offshore N.V. does not present fairly, in all material respects:

- the policy with regard to sustainability; and
- the business operations, events and achievements in that area for the year ended 31 December 2023, in accordance with the Sustainability Reporting Standards of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and the applied supplemental reporting criteria as included in the section 'Reporting criteria' of our report.

##### *What we have reviewed*

We have reviewed the sustainability information included in the following sections of the annual report for 2023 (hereafter: the sustainability information):

- Chapter 1: Business Environment;
- Chapter 2: Performance Review and Impact;
- Chapter 5: ESG Information, except for chapter 5.1.5 EU Taxonomy Disclosure.

This review is aimed at obtaining a limited level of assurance.

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##### *The basis for our conclusion*

We conducted our review in accordance with Dutch law, including Dutch Standard 3810N 'Assuranceopdrachten inzake duurzaamheidsverslaggeving' (assurance engagements relating to sustainability reporting), which is a specific Dutch Standard that is based on the International Standard on Assurance Engagements (ISAE) 3000 'Assurance engagements other than audits or reviews of historical financial information'. Our responsibilities under this standard are further described in the section 'Our responsibilities for the review of the sustainability information' of our report.

We believe that the assurance evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our conclusion.

##### *Independence and quality control*

We are independent of SBM Offshore N.V. in accordance with the 'Verordening inzake de onafhankelijkheid van accountants bij assuranceopdrachten' (ViO - Code of ethics for professional accountants, a regulation with respect to independence). Furthermore, we have complied with the 'Verordening gedrags- en beroepsregels accountants' (VGBA - Dutch Code of ethics for professional accountants, a regulation with respect to rules of professional conduct).

PwC applies the 'Nadere voorschriften kwaliteitssystemen' (NVKS – Regulations for quality systems) and accordingly maintains a comprehensive system of quality control including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and other relevant legal and regulatory requirements.

##### *Reporting criteria*

The reporting criteria applied for the preparation of the sustainability information are the Sustainability Reporting Standards of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and the applied supplemental reporting criteria, as disclosed in chapters '5.1.1 Reporting about ESG Information', '5.1.2 Materiality Methodology' and '5.2 Reporting Boundaries' of the annual report.

The sustainability information is prepared in accordance with the GRI Standards. The GRI Standards applied are listed in the GRI Content Index as disclosed in chapter '5.4 GRI Content Index' of the annual report.

The absence of an established practice on which to draw, to evaluate and measure the sustainability information allows for different, but acceptable, measurement techniques and can affect comparability between entities, and over time.

Consequently, the sustainability information needs to be read and understood together with the reporting criteria applied.

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##### *Limitations to the scope of our review*

The sustainability information includes prospective information such as expectations on ambitions, strategy, plans, expectations, and estimates. Inherent to this prospective information, the actual future results are uncertain, and are likely to differ from these expectations. These differences may be material. We do not provide any assurance on the assumptions and achievability of prospective information.

In the sustainability information references are made to external sources or websites. The information on these external sources or websites is not part of the sustainability information reviewed by us. We therefore do not provide assurance on this information.

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## **Responsibilities for the sustainability information and the review thereon**

### *Responsibilities of the management board and the supervisory board for the sustainability information*

The management board of SBM Offshore N.V. is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the sustainability information in accordance with the reporting criteria as included in section 'Reporting criteria', including applying the reporting criteria, the identification of stakeholders and the definition of material matters. The management board is also responsible for selecting and applying the reporting criteria and for determining that these reporting criteria are suitable for the legitimate information needs of the intended stakeholders, considering applicable law and regulations related to reporting. The choices made by the management board regarding the scope of the sustainability information and the reporting policy are summarised in chapters '5.1.1 Reporting about ESG Information', '5.1.2 Materiality Methodology' and '5.2 Reporting Boundaries' of the annual report.

Furthermore, the management board is responsible for such internal control as the management board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the sustainability information that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

The supervisory board is responsible for overseeing the company's reporting process on the sustainability information.

### *Our responsibilities for the review of the sustainability information*

Our responsibility is to plan and perform the review engagement in a manner that allows us to obtain sufficient and appropriate assurance evidence to provide a basis for our conclusion.

Our objectives are to obtain a limited level of assurance, as appropriate, about whether the sustainability information is free from material misstatements and to issue a limited assurance conclusion in our report. The procedures vary in nature and timing from, and are less in extent than for, a reasonable assurance engagement. The level of assurance obtained in a review (limited assurance) is therefore substantially less than the assurance obtained in an audit (reasonable assurance) in relation to both the risk assessment procedures, including an understanding of internal control, and the procedures performed in response to the assessed risks.

### *Procedures performed*

We have exercised professional judgement and have maintained professional scepticism throughout the review, in accordance with the Dutch Standard 3810N, ethical requirements and independence requirements. Our procedures included, amongst other things of the following:

- Performing an analysis of the external environment and obtaining an understanding of relevant sustainability themes and issues and the characteristics of the company.
- Evaluating the appropriateness of the reporting criteria applied, their consistent application and related disclosures in the sustainability information. This includes the evaluation of the company's materiality assessment and the reasonableness of estimates made by the management board.
- Through inquiries, obtaining a general understanding of the control environment, the reporting processes, and the information systems and the entity's risk assessment process relevant to the preparation of the sustainability information, without obtaining assurance evidence about the implementation or testing the operating effectiveness of controls.
- Identifying areas of the sustainability information where misleading or unbalanced information or a material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, is likely to arise. Designing and performing further assurance procedures aimed at determining the plausibility of the sustainability information responsive to this risk analysis. These procedures consisted among others of:
  - Interviewing management (and/or relevant staff) at corporate (and business/division/cluster/local) level responsible for the sustainability strategy, policy and results.
  - Interviewing relevant staff responsible for providing the information for, carrying out internal control procedures on, and consolidating the data in the sustainability information.
  - Obtaining assurance evidence that the sustainability information reconciles to underlying records of the company.
  - Reviewing, on a limited test basis, relevant internal and external documentation.
  - Considering the data and trends.
- Reconciling the relevant financial information to the financial statements.
- Considering the consistency of the sustainability information with the information in the annual report, which is not included in the scope of our review.
- Considering the overall presentation, structure and balanced content of the sustainability information.
- Considering whether the sustainability information as a whole, including the sustainability matters and disclosures, is clearly and adequately disclosed in accordance with the applicable reporting criteria.

We communicate with the supervisory board regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the review and significant findings that we identify during our review.

Rotterdam, 28 February 2024

PricewaterhouseCoopers Accountants N.V.

A.A. Meijer RA



An aerial photograph of a large-scale construction site, likely a port or industrial facility, with several tall red cranes and concrete structures. The image is overlaid with a blue gradient and a white text overlay. On the left side, there is a large orange shape and a white shape.

TRUE.  
BLUE.  
TRANSITION.