



MEMORANDUM

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To Metasurface Technologies Holdings Limited

Cc UOB Kay Hian (Hong Kong) Limited

FROM Hogan Lovells

DATE June 21, 2024

Privileged and Confidential

SUBJECT Memorandum of Advice – Sanctions analysis in accordance with the Chapter 4.4 Guidance

1. Introduction and Scope

- 1.1 We have acted as the international sanctions counsel to Metasurface Technologies Holdings Limited (the "**Company**") in connection with the proposed initial public offering (the "**Offering**") and listing of shares on GEM of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the "**HKEX**") of the Company.
- 1.2 In light of Chapter 4.4 of the Guide for New Listing Applicants (the "**Chapter 4.4 Guidance**") effective from January 2024, this memorandum assesses whether (i) the Company and its subsidiaries (the Company and its subsidiaries together, the "**Group**") engaged in Primary Sanctioned Activity (as defined below) that violates applicable laws or regulations in the Relevant Jurisdiction(s) (as defined below), and/or results in any material sanctions risk to the Relevant Persons (as defined below); (ii) the Group engaged in Secondary Sanctionable Activity (as defined below) that would likely result in the imposition of any sanctions against the Relevant Persons; and (iii) the Group is a Sanctioned Target (as defined below), is located, incorporated, organized or resident in a Sanctioned Country (as defined below), or

is a Sanctioned Trader (as defined below). We understand the Company has not engaged us to advise on export controls so we have not included export controls analysis herein.

- 1.3 This memorandum is provided for the purposes of the Offering only. However, our advice is applicable whether or not the Company proceeds with the Offering.
- 1.4 For the purpose of this memorandum and consistent with the Chapter 4.4 Guidance, the following terms and expressions shall have the respective meanings set out below:

"International Sanctions" means rules and regulations related to economic sanctions programs administered by the Relevant Jurisdictions.

"Primary Sanctioned Activity" means any activity in a Sanctioned Country or (i) with; or (ii) directly or indirectly benefiting, or involving the property or interests in property of, a Sanctioned Target by the Company incorporated or located in a Relevant Jurisdiction (if applicable) or which otherwise has a nexus with such jurisdiction with respect to the relevant activity, such that it is subject to the relevant sanctions law or regulation. This definition is in line with the definition of Primary Sanctioned Activity as set out in the Chapter 4.4 Guidance.

"Relevant Jurisdiction" means any jurisdiction that is relevant to the Company and has sanctions related law or regulation restricting, among other things, its nationals and/or entities which are incorporated or located in that jurisdiction from directly or indirectly making assets or services available to or otherwise dealing in assets of certain countries, governments, persons or entities targeted by such law or regulation. For the purpose of this memorandum, the Relevant Jurisdictions include United States ("**U.S.**"), European Union ("**EU**"), United Nations ("**UN**"), the United Kingdom ("**UK**") and Australia.

"Relevant Persons" means the Company, together with its investors and shareholders and persons who might, directly or indirectly, be involved in permitting the listing, trading, clearing and settlement of its shares, including the HKEX and related group companies.

"Sanctioned Activity" means Primary Sanctioned Activity and Secondary Sanctionable Activity.

"Sanctioned Country" means any country or territory subject to a general and comprehensive export, import, financial or investment embargo under sanctions related law or regulation of the Relevant Jurisdiction.

"Sanctioned Target" means any person or entity (i) designated on any list of targeted persons or entities issued under the sanctions-related law or regulation of a Relevant Jurisdiction; (ii) that is, or is owned or controlled by, a government of a Sanctioned Country; or (iii) that is the target of sanctions under the law or regulation of a Relevant Jurisdiction because of a relationship of ownership, control, or agency with a person or entity described in (i) or (ii). This definition is in line with the definition of Sanctioned Target as set out in the Chapter 4.4 Guidance.

"Sanctioned Trader" means any person or entity that does a material portion (10% or more) of its business with Sanctioned Targets and Sanctioned Country entities or persons. This definition is in line with the definition of Sanctioned Trader as set out in the Chapter 4.4 Guidance.

"Secondary Sanctionable Activity" means certain activity by the Company that may result in the imposition of sanctions against the Relevant Person(s) by a Relevant Jurisdiction (including designation as a Sanctioned Target or the imposition of penalties), even though the Company is not incorporated or located in that Relevant Jurisdiction and does not otherwise have any nexus with that Relevant Jurisdiction. This definition is in line with the definition of Secondary Sanctionable Activity as set out in the Chapter 4.4 Guidance.

- 1.5 This memorandum provides preliminary analysis in accordance with the Chapter 4.4 Guidance based on the facts provided to date to assess the Group's compliance with the International Sanctions and, where appropriate, sets forth certain recommendations in regard to Sanctioned Activities. This memorandum is not intended as a full due diligence review of these issues, nor is it intended to provide any assessment of the Group's existing policies or wider procedures implemented to manage its compliance with rules and regulations related to the International Sanctions.
- 1.6 In preparing this memorandum, Hogan Lovells reviewed the Company's responses to the "*International Sanctions Due Diligence Checklist*" dated March 23, 2023 (the "**Sanctions DD Checklist**"), prepared by Hogan Lovells, and related e-mail correspondence. We have also reviewed the information contained in the Company's prospectus prepared in connection with the Offering, as that document being amended from time to time during the Offering (the "**Prospectus**"). We have also screened the list of customers and counterparties in the Relevant Region (as defined below) provided by the Group using Accuity screening tool against the lists of Sanctioned Targets maintained by the Relevant Jurisdictions. The Group's responses to the Sanctions DD Checklist have included various spreadsheets of sales records and other documents that relate to the subject matter of the Sanctions DD Checklist, and we have reviewed those documents as part of our preparation of this memorandum. As to matters of fact material to the conclusion stated herein, we have relied on the representations and statements of fact made in the documents we reviewed or made by the Group. We have not independently verified or established the facts so relied on.
- 1.7 As of the date of this memorandum, Sanctioned Countries within the meaning of the Chapter 4.4 Guidance include: Cuba, Iran, Kherson region, North Korea, Syria, the Crimea region of Ukraine/Russia, the so-called Donetsk People's Republic ("**DPR**"), Luhansk People's Republic ("**LPR**") regions of Ukraine and Zaporizhzhia region.
- 1.8 We have identified the Group's business activities during the three years ended December 31, 2023 (the "**Track Record Period**") with the following countries or territories for which Relevant Jurisdictions maintain various forms of sanctions programs in place (albeit not a "general and comprehensive export, import, financial or investment embargo" within the meaning of the Chapter 4.4 Guidance): Russia (excluding Crimea) ("**Relevant Region**").
- 1.9 This memorandum is based on the understanding and assumptions detailed herein. Hogan Lovells relies on the completeness and accuracy of the information given to it by the Company. If any of the assumptions are incorrect, or any changes occur in or correction to the information given, the Company is recommended to inform Hogan Lovells so that it can confirm the content of this analysis.
- 1.10 This memorandum is given only with respect to International Sanctions in force up to the date of this memorandum. Hogan Lovells underlines that sanctions measures adopted by

the international community remain under constant review. Therefore, the scope and application of the measures discussed below are subject to change and should be carefully monitored. We, however, have no obligation to notify any recipient or other person of any change in International Sanctions or their applications after the date of this memorandum. No opinion or/advice is expressed or implied as to the laws of any other territory, or as to matters of fact, except for International Sanctions discussed below.

2. **CONCLUSION**

2.1 On the basis of the information received from the Company and after carrying out its procedures and analysis set out below, Hogan Lovells is of the view that:

- (a) During the Track Record Period, the Group did not engage in Primary Sanctioned Activity because there were no activities in a Sanctioned Country or (i) with; or (ii) directly or indirectly benefiting, or involving the property or interests in property of, a Sanctioned Target, by the Company and its subsidiaries incorporated or located in a Relevant Jurisdiction (if applicable) or which otherwise has a nexus with such jurisdiction with respect to the relevant activity, such that it is subject to the relevant sanctions law or regulation. As such, the Group would not appear to have violated applicable sanctions law or regulation in the Relevant Jurisdictions that could result in any material sanctions risk to the Relevant Persons and, in assessing the materiality, we have taken into account the likelihood of the imposition of potential sanctions and the severity of the potential sanctions;
- (b) The Group did not engage during the Track Record Period in Secondary Sanctionable Activity because there were no activities targeted by extra-territorial provisions of sanctions law or regulation in the Relevant Jurisdictions. As such, it is highly unlikely that the Group's activities would result in the imposition of sanctions on the Relevant Persons;
- (c) None of the Group entities has been designated as a Sanctioned Target, nor is it located, incorporated, organised or resident in a Sanctioned Country; and
- (d) The Group is not a Sanctioned Trader because it did not derive a material portion of its revenue (10% or more) during the Track Record Period from business activities with Sanctioned Country entities or persons or with Sanctioned Targets (in fact, no such revenue derived from business activities with Sanctioned Country entities or persons or with Sanctioned Targets was identified).

2.2 As no material sanctions risks appear to be present, the Company and/or its shareholders are not required to make undertakings pursuant to the Chapter 4.4 Guidance.

2.3 There is no material change to the matters set out in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 after the Track Record Period and up to the Latest Practicable Date (June 3, 2024).

3. **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

3.1 The Group is primarily engaged in providing one-stop precision engineering solutions, including (i) precision machining services which are machining processes that remove material and creates machined component with a narrow range of tolerance, and (ii) precision welding services, which involve application of welds to a workpiece in a very

precise and controlled fashion and are typically used for small parts, parts with tight dimensional tolerances, or parts requiring a barely visible line weld.

3.2 During the Track Record Period, the Group had indirectly procured aluminium products from the Relevant Region through its supplier in Singapore named SL METALS PTE LTD ("**SL METALS**"), who sourced from, among other places, Russia. To the best knowledge of the directors of the Company on behalf of the Group, all the Group's transactions involving the Relevant Region (i) were procurements of Russia-origin aluminium products by Metasurface Technologies Pte. Ltd. (a direct wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company) from SL METALS; (ii) were denominated in SGD; and (iii) took place in Singapore. Since January 1, 2023, SL METALS has ceased to supply any Russian-origin aluminium products to the Group.

3.3 On April 12, 2024, the U.S. and the UK issued trade sanctions and export controls restrictions to (among other metals) aluminium of Russian Federation origin. However, such restrictions are not applicable to relevant metals produced prior to April 13, 2024, including aluminium products of Russia Federation origin indirectly procured by the Group prior to January 1, 2023.

3.4 **United States**

- (a) On the basis of our due diligence conducted and the Company's confirmations that:
- (i) neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries are incorporated in the United States, and no U.S. persons employed or otherwise engaged by the Company or its Group entities have been involved in any way (either directly or indirectly), including in the negotiation or approval of, or with the on-going performance of, any activities of the Company or its Group entities involving the Relevant Region;
 - (ii) no financing or financial assistance has been received by the Group, during the Track Record Period, either directly or indirectly, from any company, entity or body incorporated or located in the United States;
 - (iii) no products supplied, sold, exported or otherwise transferred by the Group to the Relevant Region incorporates 10% or more (by value) of U.S.-origin content. In fact, no products were supplied, sold, exported or otherwise transferred by the Group to the Relevant Region;
 - (iv) the Company has not, during the Track Record Period, undertaken, either directly or indirectly, any contract or any other activity with a counterparty, nor has otherwise provided goods or services to any person, in Sanctioned Countries;
 - (v) no products have been exported (either directly or indirectly) to any persons or entities identified on the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Industry and Security's Entity List ("**Entity List**"), Denied Parties List, Unverified List, Military-End User List, or Military-Intelligence End User List (collectively, "**BIS Lists**");

- (vi) no Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons ("**SDNs**") have been identified as being involved in the procurement conducted by the Group involving the Relevant Region during the Track Record Period;
- (vii) on February 24, 2023, OFAC issued a sectoral determination pursuant to EO 14024 to authorise the imposition of economic sanctions on any person determined to operate or have operated in the metals and mining sector of the Russian Federation economy. Pursuant to FAQ 1115 issued by the OFAC, metal and mining sector of Russia include "any act, process, or industry of extracting, at the surface or underground, ores, coal, precious stones, or any other minerals or geological materials in the Russian Federation, or any act of procuring, processing, manufacturing, or refining such geological materials, or transporting them to, from, or within the Russian Federation" (the "**Sectoral Determination**"). The Sectoral Determination has no retrospective effect. As of February 8, 2023, the Group has informed SL METALS not to supply any aluminium materials from KUMZ to the Group via written request (the "**Written Request**"). On February 9, 2023, the Group received a written response from SL Metals to confirm acknowledgement of the Written Request and that they will not supply the Group with KUMZ-Russia material from the date thereof onwards. Since the Group's procurements involving the Relevant Region from SL METALS were prior to February 24, 2023 (i.e. precedes the date of the Sectoral Determination), the Group's indirect procurement of aluminium products from Russia via SL METALS (while it may be viewed as "operating in the metals and mining sector" of Russia pursuant to FAQ 1115 issued by the OFAC) is not in breach of the Sectoral Determination. As such, the Group's business did not involve industries or sectors that are currently subject to specific sanctions by the United States;
- (viii) the Company has reviewed all transaction records since January 2018 and has not identified any payments related to Sanctioned Countries during that time;
- (ix) the Company did not instruct its customers to use any particular payment route; and
- (x) the Group's activities in the Relevant Region were limited to procurement of Russian-origin aluminium blocks from a non-sanctioned party, who procured from a Russia-based entity designated on the Entity List. On the basis of the Company's confirmations and the nature of the transactions (i.e., indirect procurement), the EAR restrictions and OFAC restrictions do not appear to be implicated by the Group's activities with SL METALS (see further discussion in 4.6 below),

Hogan Lovells' assessment is that no products have been exported to any persons or entities identified on the BIS Lists, and the business dealings of the Group with the Relevant Region do not appear to violate or implicate any breaches of applicable U.S. sanctions laws and regulations.

3.5 UN

- (a) On the basis of our due diligence conducted and the Company's confirmations that:
- (i) the Group's activities involving the Relevant Region were limited to indirect procurement of Russian-origin aluminium blocks; and
 - (ii) the Company, for and on behalf of the Group, has confirmed that it does not have business dealings with parties targeted by UN sanctions,

Hogan Lovells' assessment is that the Group's business dealings do not implicate restrictive measures adopted by the UN.

3.6 European Union, UK and UK Overseas Territories

- (a) On the basis of our due diligence conducted and the Company's confirmations that:
- (i) the Company was incorporated in the Cayman Islands on December 7, 2021 and is consequently subject to the rules and regulations applicable in the UK Overseas Territories;
 - (ii) the Company's activities involving the Relevant Region were limited to indirect procurement of Russian-origin aluminium blocks, and did not involve any products that are subject to sectoral sanctions in the EU, the UK or UK Overseas Territories;
 - (iii) no products supplied, sold, exported or otherwise transferred by the Group to the Relevant Region incorporates 10% or more (by value) of EU or UK-origin content, nor was any EU or UK-origin content sourced specifically to fulfil any Russia orders;
 - (iv) neither the Company nor any of its affiliates, agents, directors, officers, or employees has or is engaged in transactions, business or financial dealings that directly or indirectly involve or benefit a person or entity listed under EU, UK or UK Overseas Territories sanctions, or has or is engaged in any other activity subject to restrictions under sectoral EU or UK sanctions;
 - (v) the Company has not been, directly or indirectly, involved in the export from the EU, the UK and/or UK Overseas Territories of any items listed in the EU Common Military List or the EU Dual Use list (Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2021/821), Annex I to Council Regulation 428/2009 as retained by the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 ("**the UK Dual-Use Regulation**"), or any items listed under Schedule 2 or 3 of the UK Export Control Order 2008 as amended destined to the Relevant Region,

Hogan Lovells' assessment, based on a review of the declarations provided by the Company on behalf of the Group, is that the prohibitions and wider restrictions under EU, UK and UK Overseas Territories sanctions measures as applicable during the Track Record Period, are not implicated by the Group's business activities with the Relevant Region.

3.7 Australia

- (a) On the basis that:
- (i) the Group or any of its subsidiaries is not:
- (1) a person in Australia;
 - (2) an Australian citizen or Australian-registered body;
 - (3) owned or controlled by Australians or persons in Australia;
 - (4) a person using an Australian flag vessel or aircraft to transport goods or transact services subject to Australian autonomous sanctions; or
 - (5) engaged in any activities in Australia,

Hogan Lovells' assessment is that International Sanctions measures administered and enforced by the Government of Australia do not appear to be implicated by the Group's activities.

4. COMPANY BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Metasurface Technologies Holdings Limited was incorporated on December 7, 2021 in the Cayman Islands with limited liability. We have relied on the Prospectus for the Group's shareholding structure immediately prior to the reorganization, immediately before the completion of the Capitalization Issue and the Share Offer, and immediately upon completion of the Capitalization Issue and the Share Offer, respectively.
- 4.2 The Company has confirmed that it is not owned 50% or more, or controlled, by one or more U.S. persons as defined under U.S. economic sanctions laws and regulations.
- 4.3 The Company has confirmed that none of its, its subsidiaries, or any of the Group entities' Directors or Shareholders is a U.S., EU, UK or Australian national.
- 4.4 The following table sets out the information regarding the directors of Metasurface Technologies Holdings Limited.

Director	Name	Nationality
Executive Directors	Chua Chwee Lee	Singaporean
	JEE Wee Jene	Singaporean
	THNG Chong Kim	Singaporean
Independent Non-executive Directors	TAN Chek Kian	Singaporean
	ANG Yong Sheng, Jonathan	Singaporean
	CHAN Yang Kang	Singaporean

- 4.5 Based on the confirmations provided by the Company, none of the products transported by the Group are of U.S.-origin; the U.S. origin content contained in the products transported by the Group are not export controlled and the amount of such U.S. origin content does not exceed 10% of the value of the products and do not incorporate U.S.-origin content.
- 4.6 Based on the information provided by the Company, we note among the suppliers of the Group, a Singaporean supplier named SL METALS (as defined above) procured aluminium blocks from a Russia-based entity named 'Kamensk-Uralsky Metallurgical Works J.S. Co.' ("**KUMZ**"), which was designated by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security on the Entity List on February 25, 2021, and is restricted from receiving items subject to the U.S. Export Administration Regulations ("**EAR**") without a licence from BIS. The Group confirmed that (i) it has indirectly procured Russian-origin aluminium blocks from KUMZ via its transactions with SL METALS; (ii) it has never transferred or supplied any products or services to KUMZ; and (iii) it has never procured directly from KUMZ or any other sanctioned persons in the Relevant Region. On the basis of these confirmations and the nature of the transactions (i.e., the Group has indirectly procured from KUMZ), the Entity List restrictions under the EAR do not appear to be implicated by the Group's activities with SL METALS and indirectly with KUMZ, as such, no BIS licence under the EAR would have been required for the purpose of the indirect procurement.
- 4.7 The Company has confirmed on behalf of the all entities in the Group that, to its best knowledge, none of the products or services supplied, sold or exported or transferred by the Group are controlled under U.S. export controls or are otherwise restricted for transfer, either directly or indirectly, from the United States (or by U.S. persons) to or for use in any third country. On the basis of this confirmation and our understanding of the nature of the Group's products formed by our due diligence process, an analysis of the Group's products against U.S. export control and trade related sanctions restrictions has not been undertaken by Hogan Lovells.
- 4.8 Based on the information provided by the Company, the Company believes that none of the products supplied, sold, exported or transferred by the Group are controlled or otherwise restricted for transfer either directly or indirectly, from the EU (or by EU persons), including the UK, or from the UK Overseas Territories (or by UK Overseas Territories nationals) to or for use in any Relevant Region. On this basis and our understanding of the nature of the Group's products and services, an analysis of the Group's products against EU, UK and/or UK Overseas Territories export control and trade related sanctions restrictions has not been undertaken by Hogan Lovells.

5. **U.S. SANCTIONS: ECONOMIC SANCTIONS**

5.1 **U.S. Economic Sanctions**

- (a) There are two types of U.S. economic sanctions potentially applicable to the Group:
- (i) "Primary" U.S. sanctions applicable to "U.S. persons" or activities involving a U.S. nexus (e.g., funds transfers in U.S. currency or activities involving

U.S.-origin goods, software, technology or services even if performed by non-U.S. persons);

- (ii) "Secondary" U.S. sanctions applied extraterritorially to the activities of non-U.S. persons even when the transaction has no U.S. nexus;

(b) Primary Sanctions Applicable to U.S. Persons

- (i) The U.S. Treasury Department's OFAC administers primary U.S. sanctions programs against targeted countries, entities, and individuals. As the economic sanctions are intended to further the foreign policy goals of the United States, they vary considerably from program to program. Likewise, OFAC has wide latitude to interpret and enforce its regulations based on the foreign policy goals of the U.S. Government.

- (ii) When the U.S. Government imposes economic sanctions against a foreign country, entity, or individual, U.S. law prohibits (with limited exceptions that do not apply in this case) U.S. companies or U.S. persons from engaging in any transaction with or providing almost any goods or services for the benefit of the targeted country, entity or individual. Depending on the sanctions program and/or parties involved, U.S. law also may require a U.S. company or a U.S. person to "block" any assets/property interests owned, controlled or held for the benefit of a Sanctioned Country, entity, or individual when such assets/property interests are in the United States or within possession or control of a U.S. person. A "blocked" asset means no transaction may be undertaken or effected with respect to the asset/property interest – no payments, benefits, provision of services or other dealings or other type of performance (in case of contracts/agreements) – except pursuant to an authorization or license from OFAC.

(iii) Persons Governed by U.S. Sanctions

- (1) In general, U.S. economic sanctions apply to "U.S. persons." The term "U.S. persons" includes:

- (i) entities organized under U.S. Law (such as U.S. companies and their U.S. subsidiaries);
- (ii) any U.S. company's domestic and foreign branches;
- (iii) any individual who is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident alien ("green card" holder), regardless of his or her location in the world;
- (iv) any individual, regardless of his or her nationality, who is physically present in the United States; and
- (v) U.S. branches or U.S. subsidiaries of non-U.S. companies.

- (2) In the case of U.S. sanctions applicable to Iran and Cuba, primary sanctions specifically apply to all foreign subsidiaries of U.S.

companies and any other entities owned or controlled by U.S. persons (such as 50/50 joint ventures, for example). See Section 218 of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012, H.R. 1905 (PL 112-158), implemented by OFAC as section 560.215 of the Iranian Transactions and Sanctions Regulations ("ITSR"), which makes parent companies liable for their foreign subsidiaries' Iranian sanctions violations, and Section 515.329 of the Cuban Assets Control Regulations ("CACR").

- (3) In the case of U.S. sanctions applicable to other countries in the Relevant Region, such primary sanctions only apply to U.S. persons as defined above, not to their foreign subsidiaries or to non-U.S. companies.
- (4) In addition, primary sanctions prohibit U.S. persons, wherever located, from approving, financing, facilitating, or guaranteeing any transaction by a foreign person where the transaction by that foreign person would be prohibited if performed by a U.S. person or within the United States. This is generally known as the "facilitation" prohibition and is a broad extension of the jurisdictional reach of U.S. sanctions applicable to U.S. persons in countries subject to comprehensive sanctions prohibitions. See, e.g., ITSR, 31 C.F.R. § 560.208. The processing of payments by U.S. banks or U.S. payment processors for Iran-related trade by non-U.S. companies would constitute "facilitation" of such trade and is prohibited.
- (5) The facilitation concept is broad. In general, a U.S. person is not permitted to facilitate in any way activities of a third party with a Sanctioned Country or a sanctioned person if the U.S. person itself could not directly engage in the underlying activity. Usually it arises in the context of parent companies and their subsidiaries or between affiliates, where one entity is jurisdictionally required to comply but the other is not. The issue may also arise in the dealer/sub-dealer context, where the dealer is dependent on support from its supplier/partner. "Facilitation" may include the following activities:

"...a prohibited facilitation or approval of a transaction by a foreign person occurs, among other instances, when a U.S. person:

- (i) Alters its operating policies or procedures, or those of a foreign affiliate, to permit a foreign affiliate to accept or perform a specific contract, engagement or transaction involving a party in or the government of Iran without the approval of the U.S. person, where such transaction previously required approval by the U.S. person and such transaction by the foreign affiliate would be prohibited by this part if performed directly by a U.S. person or from the United States;

- (ii) Refers to a foreign person purchase orders, requests for bids, or similar business opportunities involving a party in or the government of Iran to which the U.S. person could not directly respond as a result of U.S. sanctions laws or regulations; or
- (iii) Changes the operating policies and procedures of a particular affiliate with the specific purpose of facilitating transactions that would be prohibited by this part if performed by a U.S. person or from the United States." ITSR § 560.417.

(iv) **Targets of Primary U.S. Sanctions Programs**

(1) There are two types of primary U.S. sanctions programs – country-based programs (which are territorial in nature) and list-based programs (which are not territorial in nature, as they do not apply to the entire country or all of its territory). Violations of either type of primary U.S. sanction program can result in "strict" civil liability (not a negligence standard) where fines and penalties may be imposed. In addition, wilful violations may result in criminal liability punishable by imprisonment and elevated fines.

(i) *Country-based sanctions programs. U.S. sanctions programs targeting specific countries fall into two categories: programs that are comprehensive in scope and programs that are limited in scope.*

1. Comprehensive sanctions programs prohibit U.S. persons from dealing in any manner with Sanctioned Countries and their governments, as well as with any persons or entities in those countries or territories. Currently, the United States maintains comprehensive sanctions against: Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Syria, the Crimea region of Ukraine/Russia, and LPR or DPR regions (comprehensive OFAC sanctions against Sudan were terminated as of October 12, 2017). Generally, comprehensive country sanctions prohibit transactions with or services in, from or benefitting the targeted country or any persons/entity in it. However, the comprehensive country sanctions may also be applicable to transactions outside the country (for example, restricting dealings in goods or services originating from a Sanctioned Country, or with persons who ordinarily reside in the Sanctioned Country).
2. Limited sanctions programs prohibit U.S. persons from participating in certain types of transactions with sanctioned countries and/or governments, such as

the provision of services, financing, investments, exports, and/or imports. Prohibited activities vary from program to program, and they generally are not as broad (for example, they do not target activities with all persons or entities in that country). Currently, the U.S. government maintains limited sanctions programs in relation to countries such as Iraq and Libya, and OFAC has issued a series of general licenses authorizing numerous activities.

- (ii) *List-based sanctions programs.* In addition to country-based sanctions programs, primary U.S. sanctions include list-based sanctions that prohibit U.S. persons from dealing with or facilitating dealings with individuals, entities and organizations that have been designated as SDNs by OFAC for a variety of reasons. Although some of these programs reflect the name of a particular country in its title (e.g., Belarus, Burundi, Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lebanon, Somalia, South Sudan, Yemen, Zimbabwe), these sanctions are not territorial in nature and do not apply to the country as a whole, and they do not target the government of such country as a whole nor all persons and entities in the country. Instead, the restrictions apply only to persons and entities that are on the SDN List, which may include some government officials or other parties designated for a variety of reasons (the restrictions also apply to entities owned, at 50% or higher level, by designated SDNs). The names of these designated parties are published on the OFAC SDN List; they include persons or entities targeted for a variety of reasons including but not limited to:
1. terrorists and terrorist organizations;
 2. narcotics traffickers;
 3. persons involved in the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;
 4. persons or entities undermining democratic processes, freedom of expression, or those involved in human rights abuses or censorship activities, among other targeted activities; and
 5. individuals and entities that the U.S. Government considers to be "arms" of the sanctioned governments identified above.
- (iii) U.S. persons are not permitted to have any dealings whatsoever with or facilitate dealings with parties designated

on the SDN List (or entities owned at 50% or higher level, directly or indirectly, by SDNs) unless authorized by OFAC. The SDN List is updated often, and is available on OFAC's website at <https://sdnsearch.ofac.treas.gov/>. Numerous vendors also provide screening solutions that can be tailored to fit a particular business' needs and IT systems.

(v) **Application to Russia (excluding Crimea)**

- (1) The U.S. President has issued several Executive Orders: Executive Order 13660 of March 6, 2014, Executive Order 13661 of March 16, 2014, Executive Order 13662 of March 20, 2014, Executive Order 13685 of December 19, 2014, Executive Order 13849 of September 20, 2018, Executive Order 13883 of August 3, 2019, Executive Order 14024 of April 15, 2021, Executive Order 14039 of August 20, 2021, Executive Order 14065 of February 21, 2022, Executive Order 14066 of March 8, 2022, and Executive Order of March 11, 2022, and EO 14071 of April 6, 2022, finding that the actions and policies of the Government of Russia, including its purported annexation of Crimea and its use of force in Ukraine, and purported recognition of the so-called Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) or Luhansk People's Republic (LPR) regions of Ukraine continue to undermine democratic processes and institutions in Ukraine; threaten its peace, security, stability, sovereignty, and territorial integrity; and contribute to the misappropriation of its assets, and thereby constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. These Executive Orders impose comprehensive restrictions on dealings with SDNs (including entities owned, at 50% or higher level, by SDNs directly or indirectly, individually or in the aggregate), comprehensive trade embargo on the Crimea, LPR, and DPR regions, prohibitions on the import into the United States of Russian-origin fish, seafood, or preparations thereof, alcoholic beverages, non-industrial diamonds, or other Russian-origin products as determined by the U.S. Government, prohibition on import into the United States of Russian-origin oil, gas, and coal, prohibition on new investment in the Russian energy sector by U.S. persons or other sectors as determined by the United States Government, prohibition on direct or indirect supply of luxury goods as defined by the US Government, a more general prohibition on new investment in Russia by U.S. persons, and more limited restrictions (so-called "**sectoral sanctions**") on certain types of dealings with designated parties in Russia's energy, financial and defense sectors (including entities owned by them, at 50% or higher level, directly or indirectly, individually or in the aggregate).
- (2) With certain exceptions, U.S. persons are prohibited from dealing with certain Russian persons and entities listed on OFAC's SDN List (or entities owned by them, as noted above); from dealing in any property in the U.S. or in the possession or control of a U.S. person

in which any SDN has an interest; and in making any new investment in or exporting or importing any product, service or technology to or from the Crimea, DPR or LPR regions. In addition, there are export restrictions on certain U.S.-origin products as well as restrictions on U.S. persons' ability to provide any products or services to certain parties in Russia targeted by sectoral sanctions if such items would be used for one of the three types of targeted oil/gas production or exploration projects (irrespective of the origin of such goods or services).

- (3) Pursuant to Executive Order 13662 ("**EO 13662**") and the Ukraine-Related Sanctions Regulations ("**URSR**"), OFAC promulgated financial restrictions on companies operating in specific sectors of the Russian economy, and the restrictions apply whenever there is a U.S. nexus to the transaction (including U.S. Dollar payments). The entities listed on the Sectoral Sanctions Identifications List ("**SSIL**") have not been added to the SDN List so these SSIs are not subject to blocking requirements noted above. Instead, OFAC has prohibited certain types of transactions with the SSIs. Specifically, OFAC issued four "**directives**" as outlined below (certain of these have since been amended, as described in further detail below):
- i. Directive 1: The following transactions by U.S. persons or within the United States involving targeted companies are prohibited by Directive 1: "all transactions in, provision of financing for, and other dealings in new debt of longer than 14 days maturity or new equity of [these] persons..., their property, or their interests in property..." The 14-day term is for new debt or new equity issued on or after November 28, 2017. For new debt or new equity issued on or after July 16, 2014 and before September 12, 2014, the term is 90 days. For new debt or new equity issued on or after September 12, 2014 and before November 28, 2017, the term is 30 days. All other transactions with these persons are permitted, provided such transactions are not otherwise prohibited by any other sanctions programs implemented by OFAC.
 - ii. Directive 2: The following transactions by U.S. persons or within the United States involving targeted companies are prohibited by Directive 2: "all transactions in, provision of financing for, and other dealings in new debt of longer than 60 days (for new debt issued after November 28, 2017 but the term is 90 days for new debt issued between July 16, 2014 and before November 28, 2017) maturity of [these] persons..., their property, or their interests in property..." All other transactions with these persons are permitted, provided such transactions do not otherwise involve any other sanctions programs implemented by OFAC. Unlike Directive 1, Directive 2 does not place restrictions on transacting in, providing financing for, or

otherwise dealing in new equity of the entities listed pursuant to Directive 2.

- iii. Directive 3: The following transactions by U.S. persons or within the United States involving targeted companies are prohibited by Directive 3: "all transactions in, provision of financing for, and other dealings in new debt of longer than 30 days maturity of [these] persons..., their property, or their interests in property..." All other transactions with these persons are permitted, provided such transactions do not otherwise involve any other sanctions programs implemented by OFAC. Unlike Directive 1, Directive 3 does not place restrictions on transacting in, providing financing for, or otherwise dealing in new equity of the entities listed pursuant to Directive 3.
 - iv. Directive 4: The following transactions by U.S. persons or within the United States involving targeted companies are prohibited by Directive 4: "the provision, exportation, or re-exportation, directly or indirectly, of goods, services (except for financial services), or technology in support of exploration or production for deepwater (more than 500 feet), Arctic offshore, or shale projects (i) that have the potential to produce oil in the Russian Federation, or in maritime area claimed by the Russian Federation and extending from its territory" or (ii) "that are initiated on or after January 29, 2018, that have the potential to produce oil in any location, and in which any person determined to be subject to this Directive or any earlier version thereof, their property, or their interests in property has (a) a 33 percent or greater ownership interest, or (b) ownership of a majority of the voting interests."
- (4) The SSIL restrictions apply not only to U.S. persons' dealings with the designated under the directives above, but also to entities directly or indirectly owned 50% or more by entities listed on the SSIL (the "**SSI**").
 - (5) "Debt" in the SSIL context includes bonds, loans, extensions of credit, loan guarantees, letters of credit, drafts, bankers' acceptances, discount notes or bills, or commercial paper. "Equity" includes stocks, share issuances, depositary receipts, or any other evidence of title or ownership. OFAC has advised that these lists are illustrative, not exhaustive. OFAC has confirmed that the term "extension of credit" would include providing an SSI customer with payment terms that exceed 30 or 90 days, depending on the Directive under which the SSI is designated.
 - (6) In addition, there are export restrictions on certain U.S.-origin products as well as restrictions on U.S. person's ability to provide any products or services to certain parties in Russia targeted by sectoral sanctions if such items would be used for one of the three

types of targeted oil/gas production or exploration projects (irrespective of the origin of such goods or services).

- (7) On August 2, 2017, President Trump signed into law the "Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act" ("**CAATSA**"), which amended some of the existing U.S. primary sanctions against Russia and added secondary sanctions targeting certain activities involving Russia. For example, CAATSA required OFAC to amend Directive 1 by reducing the maturity term from 30 to 14 days, and Directive 2 by reducing the maturity term from 90 to 60 days, tightening restrictions on the extension of credit to SSI entities targeted by these directives. On September 29, 2017, OFAC issued amended Directives 1 and 2, indicating that the reduction of maturity term to 14 and 60 days, respectively, would be effective as of November 28, 2017. CAATSA also required OFAC to amend Directive 4, which targets certain energy projects, expanding its territorial reach beyond Russia to any location in the world where one of the targeted exploration/production projects is located so long as a Russian SSI party has at least a 33% interest in such project (this took effect on January 29, 2018). CAATSA also authorizes the U.S. Government to designate state-owned entities in the Russian railway sector and impose sectoral sanctions upon such designations.
- (8) In addition to changes to sectoral sanctions, there are also secondary sanctions that were imposed by CAATSA, so any persons (U.S. or non-U.S.) who engage in these activities could face exposure to restrictive U.S. measures, even if the underlying activity has no U.S. nexus. These new Russia-related secondary sanctions include (but are not limited to):
- i. Making of an investment that directly and significantly contributes to the enhancement of the ability of the Russian Federation to construct energy export pipelines; or selling, leasing or providing to the Russian Federation, for the construction of Russian energy export pipelines, goods, services, technology, information, or support that could directly and significantly facilitate the maintenance or expansion of the construction, modernization, or repair of energy export pipelines by the Russian Federation, and which meet either of the following criteria:
 - ii. Any of which have a fair market value of US\$1,000,000 or more; or
 - iii. That, during a 12-month period, have an aggregate fair market value of US\$5,000,000 or more.
 - iv. Making an investment, with actual knowledge, of US\$10,000,000 or more (or any combination of investments of

not less than US\$1,000,000 each, which in the aggregate equals or exceeds US\$10,000,000 in any 12-month period), or facilitates such an investment, if the investment directly and significantly contributes to the ability of the Russian Federation to privatize state-owned assets in a manner that unjustly benefits:

- v. Officials of the Government of the Russian Federation; or
 - vi. Close associates or family members of those officials.
 - vii. Knowingly engaging in a "significant" transaction with a Russian sanctioned person as defined in Section 228, or with a person that is part of, or operates for or on behalf of, the Russian defense or intelligence sectors as defined in Section 231 of CAATSA. For purposes of Section 231, the U.S. Government issued a list of "persons that are part of, or operate for or on behalf of, the defense and intelligence sectors of the Government of the Russian Federation" so foreign parties have additional clarity as to who in Russia is targeted by this measure and can avoid engaging in "significant" transactions with such parties unless such foreign parties want to face exposure under secondary U.S. sanctions.
 - viii. Foreign financial institutions determined to have knowingly facilitated certain defense- and energy-related transactions on behalf of the Russian Government, or have knowingly facilitated a significant financial transaction on behalf of any Russian SDN.
- (9) Non-U.S. companies engaging in these sanctionable activities are potentially subject to the imposition of several restrictions by the U.S. Government, such as visa denials, prohibition on importation of products into the United States, restrictions on accessing U.S. financing or processing USD payments, and even a designation as an SDN.
- (10) Moreover, CAATSA also required the President to submit a list identifying "the most significant senior foreign political figures and oligarchs in the Russian Federation, as determined by their closeness to the Russian regime and their net worth." This list was submitted on January 29, 2018, but did not result in the imposition of sanctions on the individuals listed.
- (11) The U.S. Government has issued guidance to clarify broad language used in Section 228. A broad reading of Section 228 would have allowed the U.S. Government to impose restrictive measures on any non-U.S. person who facilitates a "significant" transaction with an SSI entity, even if such transaction is not prohibited by primary U.S. sanctions. The term "significant" is not defined in CAATSA, and the U.S. Government could use multiple factors in

deciding what is significant. The recent guidance made it clear that the term "significant transaction" will not include transactions that do not require a U.S. person to obtain a specific license from OFAC to participate in them (such guidance was incorporated into amended regulations issued by OFAC). As such, the activities with SSIs that are not prohibited by sectoral sanctions should also not trigger exposure under Section 228. The OFAC guidance indicates that a transaction in which a party is on the SSI list "must also involve deceptive practices (i.e., attempts to obscure or conceal the actual parties or true nature of the transaction(s), or to evade sanctions) to potentially be considered significant." Therefore, even if a U.S. person would need a license from OFAC to engage in an activity with an SSI, a non-U.S. person engaging in the same transaction will not face secondary sanctions exposure under Section 228 so long as there are no deceptive practices.

- (12) On September 20, 2018, OFAC issued Executive Order 13849 ("EO 13849") to implement the CAATSA sanctions. EO 13849 prohibits U.S. financial institutions from making loans or providing credits to designated persons totalling more than \$10 million USD in any 2-month period (unless such person is engaged in activities to relieve human suffering and the loans or credits are provided for such activities; prohibit any transactions in foreign exchange that are subject to U.S. jurisdiction in which the sanctioned person has any interest; prohibit any transfers of credit or payments between financial institutions, or by, through, or to any financial institution, to the extent such transfers or payments are subject to U.S. jurisdiction and involve the sanctioned person; block all property and interests in property of sanctioned persons; prohibit any U.S. person from investing in or purchasing significant amounts of equity or debt instruments of the sanctioned person; and impose similar measures on the principal executive officer or officers of sanctioned persons or any persons performing similar functions or with similar authorities.
- (13) On August 1, 2019, the U.S. Government issued EO 13883, which provides for sanctions against Russia for violations of the Chemical and Biological Weapons Act.
- (14) On March 2, 2021, the U.S. Government announced additional restrictions related to Russia, including designating parts of the Russian government (Federal Security Bureau and Main Intelligence Directorate) as SDNs under a different sanctions program. There are also new export control restrictions on certain items to Russia under both the EAR and the International Traffic in Arms Regulations ("ITAR"), and new designations on the BIS Entity List.
- (15) On April 15, 2021, OFAC issued Executive Order 14024 ("**EO 14024**") that provides new authorities to designate persons as

SDNs, including among others those found by OFAC to be operating in Russia's technology and defense (and related materiel) sectors (in February 2022, Russia's financial services sector was also added to the list of targeted sectors under EO 14024, creating risks for those found to be operating in such sector). On April 15, 2021, Directive 1 was issued under EO 14024 which provides targeted financial sanctions related to purchases by U.S. financial institutions of Russian sovereign debt (we note that this Directive 1 under EO 14024 is distinct from Directive 1 issued under EO 13662 referenced above). On February 22, 2022, Directive 1 was superseded by Directive 1A and OFAC also issued Directives 2, 3, and 4 pursuant to EO 14024:

- i. Directive 1A: as of June 14, 2021, U.S. financial institutions are prohibited in participating in the primary market for ruble or non-ruble denominated bonds issued after June 14, 2021 by the Central Bank of the Russian Federation (“**CBR**”), the National Wealth Fund of the Russian Federation, or the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation; as of March 1, 2022, U.S. financial institutions are prohibited from participating in the secondary market for ruble or non-ruble denominated bonds issued after March 1, 2022 by the CBR, the National Wealth Fund of the Russian Federation, or the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation.
- ii. Directive 2: prohibits U.S. financial institutions from (i) opening or maintaining of a correspondent account or payable-through account for or on behalf of foreign financial institutions determined to be subject to the prohibitions of Directive 2, or their property or interests in property; and (ii) the processing of a transaction involving foreign financial institutions determined to be subject to the prohibitions of Directive 2, or their property or interests in property. Directive 2 prohibits such transactions not only with an institution identified in Annex I to Directive 2 but also any foreign financial institution owned 50% or more, directly or indirectly, individually or in the aggregate by one or more foreign financial institutions determined to be subject to Directive 2.
- iii. Directive 3: prohibits U.S. persons from all transactions, provision of financing for, other dealings in, and providing new debt of longer than 14 days maturity or new equity to entities listed under Directive 3 where such new debt or new equity is issued after 12:01 a.m. ET on March 26, 2022 (or 30 days after a new entity is designated under Directive). Directive 3 applies both to any entity listed in Annex I or otherwise determined to be subject to Directive 3 and entities 50 percent or more owned, directly or indirectly, individually or in the aggregate, by one or more entities determined to be subject to Directive 3.

- iv. Directive 4: prohibits U.S. persons from any transaction involving the CBR, the National Wealth Fund of the Russian Federation, or the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation, including any transfer of assets to such entities or any foreign exchange transaction for or on behalf of such entities.
- (16) The Directives above are not full blocking sanctions like those that apply to SDNs so U.S. persons generally are only prohibited from engaging in transactions with entities listed under the Directives set forth above that are specifically prohibited under any of the Directives. OFAC has also issued several general licenses authorizing certain transactions involving parties subject to various Directives and/or certain SDNs.
- (17) OFAC has also issued six determinations pursuant to EO 14024:
- i. The February 22, 2022 determination provides OFAC authority to designate persons in the financial services sector of the Russian Federation economy;
 - ii. The March 31, 2022 determination provides OFAC authority to designate persons in the aerospace, electronics, and marine sectors of the Russian Federation Economy;
 - iii. The May 8, 2022 determination provides OFAC authority to designate persons in the accounting, trust, and corporate formation services, and management consulting sectors of the Russian Federation economy;
 - iv. The September 15, 2022 determination provides OFAC authority to designate persons in the quantum computing sector in Russia; and
 - v. The February 24, 2023 determination provides OFAC authority to designate persons in the metals and mining sector in Russia.
 - vi. The May 19, 2023 determination provides OFAC authority to designate persons in the architecture, engineering, construction, manufacturing, and transportation sectors in Russia.
 - vii. By virtue of these determinations, OFAC can impose sanctions on any individual or entity determined to operate or have operated in any of these sectors in Russia.
- (18) On February 21, 2022, the President issued **EO 14065** which prohibits
- i. New investment in DPR or LPR by a U.S. person;

- ii. Import into the United States, directly or indirectly, of any goods, services, or technology from DPR or LPR;
 - iii. Export, reexport, sale, or supply, directly or indirectly, from the United States or by a U.S. person of any goods, services, or technology to DPR or LPR; or
 - iv. U.S. person approval, financing, facilitation, or guarantee of a transaction by a foreign person that would be prohibited as noted above.
- (19) On March 8, 2022, the President issued **EO 14066** which prohibits:
- i. the importation into the United States of the following products of Russian Federation origin: crude oil; petroleum; petroleum fuels, oils, and products of their distillation; liquefied natural gas; coal; and coal products;
 - ii. new investment in the energy sector in the Russian Federation by a United States person, wherever located; and
 - iii. any approval, financing, facilitation, or guarantee by a United States person, wherever located, of a transaction by a foreign person where the transaction by that foreign person would be prohibited by this section if performed by a United States person or within the United States.
- (20) On March 11, 2022, the President issued **EO 14068** which prohibits:
- i. the importation into the United States of the following products of Russian Federation origin: fish, seafood, and preparations thereof; alcoholic beverages; non-industrial diamonds; and any other products of Russian Federation origin as may be determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Commerce;
 - ii. the exportation, reexportation, sale, or supply, directly or indirectly, from the United States, or by a United States person, wherever located, of luxury goods, and any other items as may be determined by the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury, to any person located in the Russian Federation;
 - iii. new investment in any sector of the Russian Federation economy as may be determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, by a United States person, wherever located;
 - iv. the exportation, reexportation, sale, or supply, directly or indirectly, from the United States, or by a United States person, wherever located, of U.S. dollar-denominated banknotes to the

Government of the Russian Federation or any person located in the Russian Federation; and

- v. any approval, financing, facilitation, or guarantee by a United States person, wherever located, of a transaction by a foreign person where the transaction by that foreign person would be prohibited by this section if performed by a United States person or within the United States.
- vi. Effective June 28, 2022, OFAC issued a determination under EO 14068 that prohibits the importation of Russian origin gold into the United States (excluding gold of Russian Federation origin that was located outside of the Russian Federation prior to the effective date of this determination).

(21) On April 6, 2022, OFAC issued **EO 14071** which prohibited

- i. new investment in the Russian Federation by a United States person, wherever located;
- ii. the exportation, reexportation, sale, or supply, directly or indirectly, from the United States, or by a United States person, wherever located, of any category of services as may be determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to any person located in the Russian Federation (on May 8, 2022, OFAC identified accounting, trust/corporate formation and management consulting services, and subsequently quantum computing services, metals and mining sectors were added as well); and
- iii. any approval, financing, facilitation, or guarantee by a United States person, wherever located, of a transaction by a foreign person where the transaction by that foreign person would be prohibited by this section if performed by a United States person or within the United States.
- iv. Effective December 5, 2022, OFAC issued a determination that prohibits US persons from providing (or facilitating the provision) of the following services that relate to the maritime transport of crude oil of Russian Federation origin (collectively, the "Covered Services") unless they relate to such oil purchased at or below the relevant price cap (subsequently, the same Covered Services were targeted if they relate to the maritime transport of Russian-origin petroleum products purchased above the relevant price cap):
 - v. Trading/commodities brokering;
 - vi. Financing;
 - vii. Shipping;

- viii. Insurance, including reinsurance and protection and indemnity;
 - ix. Flagging; and
 - x. Customs brokering;
 - xi. The May 19, 2023 determination prohibits the exportation, reexportation, sale, or supply, directly or indirectly, from the United States, or by a United States person, wherever located, of architecture services or engineering services to any person located in the Russian Federation
- (22) BIS also imposed strict export controls on items destined for Russia and a license is now required for: (a) any item identified in any ECCN on the CCL; (b) any item subject to U.S. law (including EAR99 food and medicine) that is destined to a military end user or for MEU in Russia; (c) certain foreign-made items that are now subject to US law for purposes of export and reexport to Russia due to the expanded application of the foreign direct product rule, and (d) “luxury goods” subject to US law as defined by BIS or any other items subject to the EAR identified in Supplements 2, 4, 5 or 6 of the EAR’s Part 746. The EAR applies to (i) exports of commodities, software and technology from the U.S. to foreign countries and to re-export from one foreign country to another; and (ii) shipments from one foreign country to another of foreign-made products that incorporate more than de minimis amount (varying from 25% to less than 10%) of controlled U.S. origin parts, components or materials, or the foreign direct product with certain controlled U.S. technology.
- (23) On December 22, 2023, OFAC issued a determination on December 22, 2023 pursuant to the amendment of EO 14024 (“**Russia Critical Items Determination**”) specifying the items or classes of items (“**Russia Critical Items**”) for which transactions would be sanctionable under Section 11(a)(ii) of the amended EO 14024. The specific items are listed in the Annex to the Russia Critical Items Determination and include the following categories:
- i. certain machine tools and manufacturing equipment;
 - ii. certain manufacturing materials for semiconductors and related electronics;
 - iii. certain electronic test equipment;
 - iv. certain propellants, chemical precursors for propellants and explosives;
 - v. certain lubricants and lubricant additives;
 - vi. certain bearings;

vii. certain advanced optical systems; and

viii. certain navigation instruments.

- (24) On December 22, 2023, President Biden issued Executive Order 14114 (“**EO 14114**”) on authorizing sanctions against foreign financial institutions (“**FFIs**”) that support Russia’s military industrial complex. EO 14114 amended EO 14024 by adding a new section 11 that provides authority to the Secretary of Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Commerce, to impose secondary sanctions on FFIs that are determined to have:
- a. conducted or facilitated any significant transaction or transactions for or on behalf of any person designated for operating or having operated in certain Russian Federation military-industrial sectors; or
 - b. conducted or facilitated any significant transaction or transactions, or provided any service, involving Russia’s military-industrial base, including the sale, supply, or transfer, directly or indirectly, to the Russian Federation of any item or class of items as may be determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Commerce.
- (25) On December 22, 2023, OFAC issued the Guidance for Foreign Financial Institutions on OFAC Sanctions Authorities Targeting Support to Russia’s Military-Industrial Base (the “**FFIs Advisory**”). The FFIs Advisory provided examples of activities that could expose FFI to secondary sanctions, including:
- a. Maintaining accounts, transferring funds, or providing other financial services (i.e., payment processing, trade finance, insurance) for
 - b. any persons designated for operating in the specified sectors; or
 - c. any persons, either inside or outside Russia, that support Russia’s military-industrial base, including those that operate in the specified sectors of the Russian Federation economy.
 - d. Facilitating the sale, supply, or transfer, directly or indirectly, of Russia Critical Items to Russian importers or companies shipping the items to Russia.
 - e. Helping companies or individuals evade U.S. sanctions on Russia’s military-industrial base (including by offering to set up alternative/non-transparent payment mechanisms; changing/removing customer names/other relevant information from payment fields; obfuscating the true purpose of parties

involved in payments; or otherwise taking steps to hide the ultimate purpose of transactions to evade sanctions).

(vi) **Application to the Group**

- (1) There are no U.S. persons for purposes of U.S. sanctions in the Group, and neither the Company nor any of its other Group entities are incorporated in the United States and the Group does not otherwise maintain any subsidiaries, branches or affiliates which are either incorporated, domiciled or otherwise located in the territory of the United States.
- (2) No products supplied, sold, exported or otherwise transferred by the Group from the Relevant Region were of U.S. origin or incorporated U.S.-origin content;
- (3) No U.S. persons employed or otherwise engaged by the Group have been involved in any way (either directly or indirectly), including in the negotiation or approval of, or with the on-going performance of, any activities of the Company or its Group entities involving the Relevant Region.
- (4) The Group has not engaged in activities involving Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Syria, the Crimea region of Ukraine/Russia, and self-proclaimed DPR and LPR, Kherson region and Zaporizhzhia region of Ukraine. The Group is not subject to any of the above described primary U.S. sanctions administered by OFAC, either country-based or list-based, when the activity has no U.S. nexus.
- (5) The Company confirmed for and on behalf of the Group that neither the Group nor any of its affiliates, agents, directors, officers or employees are engaged in other transactions, business or financial dealings that directly or indirectly involve Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Syria, the Crimea region of Ukraine/Russia, and self-proclaimed DPR and LPR, Kherson region and Zaporizhzhia region of Ukraine. For avoidance of doubt, there are no territorial sanctions with respect to Russia (excluding Crimea).
- (6) Based on the information provided by the Company, we note among the suppliers of the Group, a Singaporean company, SL METALS, has procured aluminium blocks from a Russia-based entity, KUMZ, which was designated by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security on the Entity List on February 25, 2021, and is restricted from receiving items subject to EAR without a licence from BIS. The Group confirmed that (i) it has indirectly procured Russian-origin aluminium blocks from KUMZ via its transactions with SL METALS; (ii) it has never transferred or supplied any products or services to KUMZ; and (iii) it has never procured directly from KUMZ or any other sanctioned persons in the Relevant Region. On the basis of these confirmations and the nature

of the transactions (i.e., the Group has indirectly procured from KUMZ), the Entity List restrictions under the EAR do not appear to be implicated by the Group's activities with SL METALS and indirectly with KUMZ, as such, no BIS licence under the EAR would have been required for the purpose of the indirect procurement. On February 24, 2023, OFAC issued a sectoral determination pursuant to EO 14024 to authorise the imposition of economic sanctions on any person determined to operate or have operated in the metals and mining sector of the Russian Federation economy. Pursuant to FAQ 1115 issued by the OFAC, metal and mining sector of Russia include "any act, process, or industry of extracting, at the surface or underground, ores, coal, precious stones, or any other minerals or geological materials in the Russian Federation, or any act of procuring, processing, manufacturing, or refining such geological materials, or transporting them to, from, or within the Russian Federation." (the "**Sectoral Determination**") The Sectoral Determination has no retrospective effect. On February 8, 2023, the Group has informed SL METALS not to supply any aluminium materials from KUMZ to the Group via the Written Request. On February 9, 2023, the Group received a written response from SL Metals to confirm acknowledgement of the Written Request and that they will not supply the Group with KUMZ-Russia material from the date thereof onwards. Since the Group's procurements involving the Relevant Region from SL METALS during the Track Record Period are prior to February 24, 2023 (i.e. precedes the date of the Sectoral Determination), the Group's indirect procurement of aluminium products from Russia via SL METALS (while it may be viewed as "operating in the metals and mining sector" of Russia pursuant to FAQ 1115 issued by the OFAC) is not in breach of the Sectoral Determination. Therefore, the Group's business did not involve industries or sectors that are currently subject to specific sanctions by the United States.

- (7) the Group did not, in any circumstances, make any payment (including refund) to any sanctioned persons with respect to its transactions with the Relevant Region during the Track Record Period.
- (8) No financing or financial assistance has been received by the Group during the Track Record Period, either directly or indirectly, from any company, entity or body incorporated or located in the United States.
- (9) No products have been exported (either directly or indirectly) to any persons or entities identified on the BIS List.

Hogan Lovells assessment is that the business dealings of the Group with the Relevant Region do not appear to violate or implicate any breaches of the applicable U.S. sanctions.

(c) **Secondary Sanctions Applicable to Non-U.S. Persons**

- (i) The U.S. has also enacted secondary sanctions targeting non-U.S. persons who are engaged in certain defined activities, including:
- (1) those who are dealing in "confiscated" property in Cuba;
 - (2) those who are engaging in certain Syria- or Iran-related activities, including certain targeted sectors of Iranian, North Korean, Belarussian, Burmese, Nicaraguan, Russian and Venezuelan economy;
 - (3) those who are found to "operate in" the Crimea or DPR/LPR regions or in the targeted sectors of Venezuelan economy (gold, oil, financial, defense/security), Nicaraguan economy (gold), Russian economy (metals and mining, quantum computing, defense, technology, maritime, aerospace, electronics, financial services, accounting, management consulting and corporate/trust formation services sectors), North Korean (construction, energy, financial services, fishing, information technology, manufacturing, medical, mining, textiles, or transportation), Burmese (defense), or Belarussian (defense and related materiel, security, energy, potassium chloride (potash) sector, tobacco products, construction, or transportation);
 - (4) those engaging in a "significant" importation from or exportation to North Korea of any goods, services, or technology;
 - (5) those engaging in "significant" transactions with Iranian or Russian SDNs; and
 - (6) those who are engaging in the provision of "material assistance" or support to most types of SDNs (including SDNs designated under the Ukraine/Russia sanctions programs, among others).
- (ii) The Company has, for and on behalf of the Group has confirmed that based on their due diligence process, it has no dealings involving Crimea, DPR/LPR, Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Syria, and Venezuela or with any SDNs. The nature of the Group's business with Relevant Region should not trigger U.S. secondary sanctions targeting certain industries. Accordingly, secondary sanctions are not likely to be triggered by the Group's business operations, based on our due diligence process, the Group's due diligence in this respect, as well as the information provided by the Group. For those reasons, Hogan Lovells' assessment is that the Group or Relevant Persons would not face exposure to secondary U.S. sanctions.

(d) **The Offering**

- (i) The Group will be required to make standard representations, warranties and covenants to the Sponsor in the Hong Kong Underwriting Agreement

and International Underwriting Agreement that the proceeds of the offering will not be used in any manner that could be found to violate any International Sanctions laws or regulations, including representing that the Group will not make any of the proceeds of the offering, directly or indirectly, available to (i) a person on the SDN List or (ii) fund any activity that is prohibited by International Sanctions laws or regulations.

- (ii) We note from the draft Prospectus as of June 12, 2024 under which the Company's intended uses of the proceeds of the Share Offer are set out in detail, and we have relied on those statements in connection with our analysis; the Company has confirmed that such statements are accurate in all respects. In those statements, the Company confirms that the net proceeds will be used:
- a. for expanding the Group's scale of operation and increasing its production capabilities, including procurement of raw materials (for avoidance of doubt, the procurement of raw materials by the Group no longer involves the indirect supply of aluminium materials from KUMZ or the Relevant Region since January 1, 2023) and enhancing its human resources management;
 - b. for strengthening the Group's quality control capabilities, including enhancing its information system and acquiring a new coordinate measuring machine;
 - c. enhancing the Group's marketing efforts for the purpose of maintaining relationships with existing customers and diversifying the Group's customer base;
 - d. for repayment of bank loans; and
 - e. for working capital and general corporate purposes.

6. UN SANCTIONS

6.1 UN sanctions measures are adopted via a Resolution of the UN Security Council ("**UNSC**"). The UNSC can take action to maintain or restore international peace and security under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. UN Security Council Resolutions are binding upon all members of the UN, including the United States, Member States of the European Union and Australia. UN Member States are required to bring into force (i.e. implement, administer and enforce) national measures to ensure compliance with the measures prescribed in the UN Resolution. The main aim of UN sanctions measures, as set out in the UN Charter, is to maintain or restore international peace and security. Sanctions measures encompass a broad range of enforcement options that do not involve the use of armed force. Since 1966, the UNSC has established 30 sanctions regimes. Decision of UNSC bind members of the UN and override other obligations of UN member states.

6.2 The UNSC sanctions have taken a number of different forms, in pursuit of a variety of goals. The measures have ranged from comprehensive economic and trade sanctions to more targeted measures such as arms embargoes, travel bans, and financial or commodity restrictions. The UNSC has applied sanctions to support peaceful transitions, deter non-

constitutional changes, constrain terrorism, protect human rights and promote non-proliferation. There are 14 ongoing sanctions regimes which focus on supporting political settlement of conflicts, nuclear non-proliferation, and counter-terrorism. Each regime is administered by a sanctions committee chaired by a non-permanent member of the UNSC. There are ten monitoring groups, teams and panels that support the work of the sanctions committees. United Nations sanctions are imposed by the UNSC, usually acting under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.

6.3 **Application to Russia (excluding Crimea)**

- (a) During the Track Record Period, the UN has not imposed any sanctions with respect to Russia.

6.4 **Application to the Group**

On the basis of the Company's confirmations that:

- (a) neither the Group nor any of its affiliates, agents, directors, officers, or employees is engaged in transactions that directly or indirectly involve or benefit a person on the sanctions list of the UN;
- (b) the Group's business dealings in the Relevant Region do not implicate the restrictive measures adopted by UN because the Group does not have any business dealings with persons on the list of persons and entities designated by the UN with whom member states of the UN are prevented from doing business with; and
- (c) all of the Company's business in relation to the Relevant Region was in relation to the exports of minerals, which were not conducted in relation to, or otherwise involve any export-controlled products,

Hogan Lovells' assessment is therefore that the Group's business dealings do not appear to implicate restrictive measures adopted by the UN.

7. **EU AND UK SANCTIONS**

7.1 **Overview of EU Sanctions Measures**

Sanctions are one of the EU's tools to promote the objectives of its Common Foreign and Security Policy ("**CFSP**"), being peace, democracy and the respect for the rule of law, human rights and international law.

- (a) Sanctions applicable in the EU stem from:
 - (i) sanctions adopted by the UN; or
 - (ii) autonomous sanctions regimes adopted by the EU without any UN action.
- (b) The EU implements sanctions measures via a unanimous decision of the Council of the European Union (the "**Council**"). Members States of the EU are then legally bound to act in conformity with the decision.

- (c) Certain sanctions, such as arms embargoes and travel bans, are implemented directly by EU Member States. Such measures only require a decision by the Council. Economic sanctions measures require separate implementing legislation in the form of a Council Regulation.
- (d) Council Regulations are directly applicable in EU Member States. However, some Member States may nevertheless enact national legislation implementing the EU sanctions measures. In addition, individual Member States are responsible for establishing measures to set and impose penalties and their implementation and enforcement, and for establishing relevant competent licensing authorities.
- (e) EU sanctions regimes are generally targeted, meaning that the relevant prohibitions or restrictions are focused on individual people or organizations, certain sectors of the target's economy, specified goods, technology, technical assistance and wider associated services, or specific activities.
- (f) As of January 1, 2021, the UK is no longer an EU Member State. Pursuant to the terms of Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community (Withdrawal Agreement), EU law including sanctions law continued to apply to and in the UK until December 31, 2020. The UK was still an EU Member State during part of the Track Record Period and the EU sanctions analysis fully applies thereto until December 31, 2020. For the part of the Track Record Period starting on January 1, 2021, UK applied its own sanctions programs.

7.2 Overview of UK sanctions

- (a) Sanctions are one of the UK's tools to promote the objectives of its foreign policy, being peace, democracy and the respect for the rule of law, human rights and international law.
- (b) As of January 1, 2021, sanctions applicable in the UK stem from:
 - (i) Sanctions adopted by the UN; or
 - (ii) Autonomous sanctions regimes adopted by the UK; Some of which have been retained from EU legislation and have been transitioned into UK law.
- (c) UK sanctions are in force under the Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act 2018 ("**the UK Sanctions Act**"), which enables the transition of existing EU sanctions programs and the establishment of autonomous UK regimes. The UK Sanctions Act is implemented through regulations setting out the specific measures under each UK sanctions regime.
- (d) Specifically, Section 63(3) of the UK Sanctions Act provides that the UK may by way of Order extend the application of the sanctions regulations to any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, and any of the British Overseas Territories. UK sanctions measures have also been extended by the UK on a regime by regime basis to apply to and in the UK Overseas Territories (without requiring enactment of any further legislation by them), including the Cayman Islands as of January 1, 2021.

7.3 Application of Sanctions Measures

- (a) EU and UK sanctions measures broadly apply to: (i) any company incorporated under the laws of the EU or the UK; (ii) any EU or UK national; and (iii) any business done in whole or in part within the EU or the UK.
- (b) EU and UK sanctions measures will therefore apply to:
 - (i) the Company as a company incorporated in the Cayman Islands and any of the Group's subsidiaries or affiliates incorporated in the EU, UK or a UK Overseas Territory;
 - (ii) any EU and UK nationals employed by or otherwise engaged on behalf of the Group regardless of where they are located, such as in Singapore, in the EU, the UK or in any other country;
 - (iii) any business of the Group conducted within the EU, the UK or a UK Overseas Territory;
 - (iv) any counterparty incorporated in the EU or the UK with whom the Group does business including for example, suppliers, customers, distributors, agents, manufacturers, shipping agents and freight forwarders;
 - (v) any EU or UK incorporated financial institution that the Group or any of its companies uses to provide payment processing services, trade finance services, short or long term debt financing or any other service; and
 - (vi) any entity incorporated in the EU or the UK, or national of these regions who subscribes for shares in the Group.
- (c) EU and UK sanctions will not apply to:
 - (i) Non-EU and non-UK nationals in their personal capacity, including the Company's Directors (to the extent that they are not carrying out business of the Group in the territory of the EU or the UK); and
 - (ii) any company subsidiary that is not incorporated under the laws of an EU Member State or the UK, which acts in a wholly independent manner from its parent company and which does not carry out any activities in the EU or the UK.

7.4 Restrictions under EU and UK Sanctions Measures

- (a) The restrictions applied under an EU or UK sanctions regime depend on the jurisdiction targeted by the regime. However, there are broadly four main offences:
 - (i) making any funds or economic resources (see below) directly or indirectly available to or for the benefit of a sanctioned person or entity (a "**Designated Person**");
 - (ii) dealing with any funds or economic resources that are owned, held or controlled by a Designated Person;

- (iii) exporting, selling, transferring or making certain controlled or restricted products¹ available (either directly or indirectly) to, or for use in, a jurisdiction subject to sanctions measures (a "**Prohibited Activity**"); and
 - (iv) participating knowingly and intentionally in activities the object or effect of which is to: (i) directly or indirectly circumvent the offences listed above; or, (ii) enable or facilitate the commission of the offences.
- (b) The meaning of "economic resources" is defined widely to be "assets of every kind, whether tangible or intangible, movable or immovable, which are not funds, but may be used to obtain funds, goods or services". Therefore, the Group's products would fall within the definition of "economic resources".
- (c) Under EU and UK sanctions measures, there is no "blanket" ban on doing business in or with a jurisdiction targeted by sanctions measures. While it is prohibited for a person or entity to whom EU or UK sanctions apply to make any product of the Group available directly or indirectly to or for the benefit of a Designated Person, or to finance such activity, it is not generally prohibited (or otherwise restricted) for that person or entity to do business (involving non-controlled or restricted items) with a counterparty in a country subject to EU or UK sanctions that is not a Designated Person or engaged in non-Prohibited Activities.

7.5 **EU and UK sanctions: Dealing with Relevant Jurisdictions**

- (a) As noted above, under EU and UK sanctions legislation it is prohibited for any person or entity to whom EU sanctions apply to:
- (i) make any product of the Group directly or indirectly available to, or for the benefit of, a Designated Person; or
 - (ii) export, finance, or facilitate the transfer of any controlled or restricted products to a third country including a Relevant Jurisdiction.
- (b) **Application to Russia (excluding Crimea)**
- (i) The existing framework for EU Sanctions targeting Russia (sectoral sanctions), in view of the current situation in Ukraine, is implemented by Council Decision 2014/512/CFSP of July 31, 2014, as last amended by Council Decision (CFSP) 2024/746 of February 23, 2024, and Council Regulation (EU) No 833/2014, adopted on July 31, 2014, as last amended by Council Regulation (EU) 2024/745 of February 23, 2024. These restrictions include:
 - (1) Prohibition on the sale, supply, export or transfer of dual-use goods and technology to Russia or for use in Russia and the provision of related technical assistance, brokering services, financing or financial assistance (with certain exemptions and

¹ *An analysis of the parameters of what amounts to a controlled product is outside the scope of this advice memorandum. Hogan Lovells can provide further advice on this point as required.*

licences; licenses with regard to certain listed entities will be rejected);

- (2) Prohibition on the sale, supply, export or transfer of certain listed items that might contribute to Russia's military and technological enhancement or the development of the defence and security sectors, including mass-market encryption products not intended for personal use of individuals to Russian parties or for use in Russia, and the provision of related technical assistance, brokering services, financing or financial assistance (with certain exemptions and licences; licenses with regard to certain listed entities will be rejected);
- (3) Prohibition to provide technical assistance, financing or financial assistance related to military goods to any Russian person or for use in Russia (with certain exemptions and licenses);
- (4) Prohibition to sell, supply, transfer or export to Russia, civilian firearms and their parts and essential components and ammunition. The prohibition includes the provision of technical assistance, brokering services, financing or financial assistance, or other services related to these goods;
- (5) Prohibition on the transit of dual-use items and firearms, their parts and essential components and ammunition via the territory of Russia, except for dual-use items if the transit is intended for certain purposes such as humanitarian, medical or pharmaceutical use;
- (6) Prohibition on the sale, supply, export or transfer of certain listed items suited for oil exploration and production, as well as the provision of technical assistance, brokering services, financing or financial assistance or other services (with certain exemptions and licenses);
- (7) Prohibition on the sale, supply, export or transfer of certain listed goods and technology suited for oil refining and the liquefaction of natural gas to any person in Russia or for use in Russia and the provision of related technical assistance, brokering services, financing or financial assistance, is prohibited (with certain exemptions and licenses);
- (8) Prohibition on the sale, supply, export or transfer of certain listed goods and technology suited for use in aviation or the space industry, and jet fuel and fuel additives, to any person in Russia or for use in Russia. The prohibition extends to the provision of related technical assistance, brokering services, financing or financial assistance, insurance and re-insurance and the following activities: overhaul, repair, inspection, replacement, modification or defect rectification of an aircraft or component, with the

exception of pre-flight inspection (with certain exemptions and licenses);

- (9) Prohibited to provide public financing or financial assistance for trade with or investment in Russia after 26 February 2022, except for assistance up to EUR 10,000,000 to small- and medium-sized enterprises established in the EU, as well as for trade in food and for agricultural, medical or humanitarian purposes;
- (10) Prohibited to make any new investments or expand existing investments in, or to provide investment services to, entities active in the Russian energy, mining and quarrying sector. Member States may authorize investments that are necessary for ensuring critical supply of energy in the EU or that exclusively concern EU-owned or controlled entities established in Russia;
- (11) Prohibited to invest, participate or contribute to projects co-financed by the Russian Direct Investment Fund;
- (12) Capital market restrictions, which include:
 - (i) Prohibition to purchase, sale, provision of investment services for or assistance in the issuance of, or otherwise dealing with transferable securities and money market instruments with a maturity exceeding 90 days issued after August 1, 2014 to September 12, 2014, or with a maturity exceeding 30 days issued after September 12, 2014 to April 12, 2022, or any transferable securities and money market instruments issued after April 12, 2022 by certain Russian banks and entities; and
 - (ii) Prohibition to make or be part of any arrangement to make new loans or credit with a maturity exceeding 30 days after September 12, 2014 to February 26, 2022, or any new loan or credit after February 26, 2022 to certain Russian banks and entities.
 - (iii) Prohibition to purchase, sell, provide investment services for or assistance in the issuance of, or otherwise dealing with transferable securities and money market instruments issued after March 9, 2022 by Russia and its Government, the Central Bank of Russia or entities acting on behalf or at the direction of the Central Bank of Russia;
 - (iv) Prohibition to make or be part of any arrangement to make new loans or credit after February 23, 2022 to Russia and its Government, the Central Bank of Russia or entities acting on behalf or at the direction of the Central Bank of Russia;

- (v) Prohibition on the listing and provision of services for, as of April 12, 2022, and to admit to trading as of January 29, 2023, on trading venues registered or recognised in the EU the transferable securities of any entity established in Russia with over 50% public ownership;
- (vi) Prohibited to accept any deposits from Russian nationals or residents in Russia, or entities established in Russia, if the total value of deposits of the natural or legal person, entity or body per credit institution exceeds 100,000 EUR;
- (vii) Prohibition on Union central securities depositories to provide any financial services for transferable securities issued after April 12, 2022 to any Russian national or resident in Russia or entity established in Russia;
- (viii) Prohibition on transactions related to the management of reserves and assets of the Central Bank of Russia, including with entities acting on behalf or at the direction of the Central Bank of Russia. EU persons must also report assets and reserves of the Central Bank of Russia which they hold, control or are counterparty to;
- (ix) Prohibition to sell transferable securities denominated in any official currency of an EU Member State issued after April 12, 2022 or units in collective investment undertakings providing exposure to such securities, to any Russian national or resident in Russia or any entity established in Russia;
- (x) Prohibition to sell banknotes denominated in any official currency of an EU Member State to Russia or to any party in Russia, including the government and the Central Bank of Russia, or for use in Russia;
- (xi) Prohibition to provide crypto-asset wallet, account or custody services to Russian nationals or residents or Russian entities. Licenses are available;
- (xii) Prohibition to provide credit rating services (including access to any subscription services in this regard) to or on any Russian national or resident or any Russian entity. The prohibition does not apply to EU nationals or residents;
- (xiii) Prohibition to provide specialized financial messaging services which are used to exchange financial data (i.e., SWIFT) to certain listed Russian financial institutions and entities owned for more than 50% by those listed institutions;

- (13) Prohibition on operators to broadcast or enable, facilitate or otherwise contribute to broadcast any content by certain listed Russian media. It is also prohibited to advertise products or services in any content produced or broadcast by these listed Russian media;
- (14) Prohibition on Russian air carriers, Russian-registered aircraft and any aircraft owned or chartered or otherwise controlled by any Russian party to land in, take off from or overfly the territory of the EU. The prohibition does not apply to an emergency landing or an emergency overflight. Authorisations are available for flights required for humanitarian purposes;
- (15) No access to ports and locks in the EU for any vessel registered under the flag of Russia or certified by the Russian Maritime Register of Shipping, or a vessels that have changed their Russian flag or their registration, to the flag or register of any other State after 24 February 2022, with the exception for the purpose of leaving the territory of the EU (with certain additional exemptions and licenses);
- (16) Prohibition on the sale, supply, transfer or export of, and provision of technical assistance, brokering services, financing, financial assistance, or other services in relation to, certain listed maritime navigation goods and technology to Russian persons or for use in Russia, or for placing on board of a Russian-flagged vessel (with exemption and license possibility);
- (17) Restrictions on trade of iron and steel products, as follows. It is prohibited to (a) import certain listed iron and steel products originating in Russia or exported from Russia; (b) purchase iron and steel products located in Russia; (c) transport iron and steel products originating in Russia or which are being exported from Russia to any other country; (d) provide, directly or indirectly, technical assistance, brokering services, financing or financial assistance, including financial derivatives, as well as insurance and re-insurance related to listed iron and steel products;
- (18) Prohibition on the import of certain listed goods which generate significant revenues for Russia originating in Russia or exported from Russia. The prohibition also includes the provision of technical assistance, brokering services, financing, financial assistance, or other services. There is an import quota for potassium chloride imports;
- (19) Prohibition to import certain listed coal and other solid fossil fuels originating in Russia or exported from Russia. The prohibition also includes the provision of technical assistance, brokering services, financing, financial assistance, or other services;

- (20) Prohibition on the sale, supply, transfer, export, directly or indirectly, of certain listed luxury goods to any person in Russia or for use in Russia, insofar these goods exceed the value of EUR 300 per item unless otherwise specified (with certain exemptions and licenses);
- (21) Prohibition on the sale, supply, transfer, export, directly or indirectly, of certain listed goods which could contribute to the enhancement of Russian industrial capacities to any person in Russia or for use in Russia. The prohibition also includes the provision of technical assistance, brokering services, financing, financial assistance, or other services. There are certain exemptions and licenses;
- (22) It is prohibited for any Russian road transport undertaking to transport goods within the territory of the EU, including in transit. The prohibition does not apply to the universal mail service and to goods in transit between the EU and Kaliningrad. Member State authorities may authorize certain transportation in the EU;
- (23) Prohibition on the import, directly or indirectly, of crude oil or petroleum products originating in Russia or exported from Russia. There are exemptions for: (a) one-off transactions within a certain winddown period; (b) seaborne crude oil or petroleum products originating in a third country that are departing from or transiting through Russia; (c) pipeline crude oil to landlocked Member States. There are also certain exemptions and licenses for specific Member States;
- (24) Prohibition to provide, directly or indirectly, technical assistance, brokering services or financing or financial assistance, related to the transport, including through ship-to-ship transfers, to third countries of crude oil or petroleum products originating in Russia or exported from Russia. Subject to a winddown period, it will be prohibited to transport to third countries crude oil and petroleum products. Prohibition does not apply as of 5 December 2022 for crude oil and as of 5 February 2023 for petroleum products provided that the purchase price per barrel of such products does not exceed the price cap agreed by the Price Cap Coalition;
- (25) Prohibition to import certain listed gold items originating in Russia or exported from Russia to the EU or any third country after 22 July 2022. The prohibition also includes the provision of technical assistance, brokering services, financing, financial assistance, or other services. There are certain exceptions and authorisations;
- (26) Transaction ban with regard to certain listed state-owned entities (including Rosneft and Gazprom Neft), their non-EU 50%+ subsidiaries and any entity acting on their behalf or direction. Certain exemptions are available;

- (27) Prohibition to hold any posts in the governing bodies of state-owned entities as of January 16, 2023. Certain licenses are available;
- (28) Prohibition to award or continue the execution of any public or concession contract with: (i) Russian nationals, residents or entities established in Russia, (ii) entities owned for more than 50% by a Russian national, resident or entity established in Russia, (iii) or persons acting on behalf of those referred to in (i) and (ii). Licenses are available;
- (29) Prohibition to provide direct or indirect support under an EU, Euratom or Member State national programme to any Russian entity with more than 50% public ownership. Exemptions are available;
- (30) Prohibition to register, provide a registered office, business or administrative address as well as management services to a trust having a trustor or beneficiary: (i) Russian nationals or residents; (ii) Russian entities; (iii) entities owned for more than 50% by Russian nationals, residents or entities; (iv) entities controlled by any of the above; (v) entities acting on behalf or at the direction of any of the above. It is also prohibited to act as or arrange for another person to act as a trustee, nominal shareholder, director, secretary or similar position for a trust as described above. Certain exemptions and licenses are available; and
- (31) Prohibition to provide professional services (accounting, auditing, including statutory audit, bookkeeping or tax consulting services, or business and management consulting or public relations services, architecture, engineering, IT consultancy or legal advisory services, market research and public opinion polling services, technical testing and analysis services and advertising services) to the government of Russia or Russian entities. Certain exemptions (including for EU, EEA, Swiss owned entities and entities owned by partner countries which at the time of writing are: UK, US, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Norway) and licenses (including for divestment or winddown of business in Russia) are available.
- (32) As of 27 March 2023, prohibition to have Russian nationals hold any posts in governing bodies of owners/operators of critical infrastructures and entities;
- (33) Prohibition to provide storage capacity in an underground storage facility, except for the part of liquefied natural gas facilities used for storage, to Russian persons, entities owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, for more than 50% by Russian persons or entities acting on their behalf or at their direction;

- (ii) The existing framework for EU Sanctions targeting Russia (asset freezing measures), in view of the current situation in Ukraine, is implemented by Council Decision 2014/145/CFSP of March, 17 2014, as amended by Council Decision (CFSP) 2022/432 of February 25, 2023 and Council Regulation (EU) No 269/2014 of March 17, 2014, as amended by Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/429 of February 25, 2023. These restrictions include:
- (1) Freezing of all funds or economic resources belonging to, owned, held or controlled, by a person or entity listed in Annex I or by a person or entity owned for more than 50% or controlled, directly or indirectly, by a person or entity listed in Annex I;
 - (2) Prohibition to make available funds or economic resources, directly or indirectly, to a person or entity listed in Annex I, or to a person or entity owned for more than 50% or controlled, directly or indirectly, by a person or entity listed in Annex I.
 - (3) In total, 205 entities and 1,473 individuals are currently subject to asset freezing measures under the EU sanctions regime against Russia.
- (iii) The existing framework for EU Sanctions targeting Russia (asset freezing measures), in view of the current situation in Ukraine, is implemented by Council Decision 2014/145/CFSP of March, 17 2014, as amended by Council Decision (CFSP) 2023/2874 of December 18, 2023 and Council Regulation (EU) No 269/2014 of March 17, 2014, as amended by Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/2875 of December 18, 2023. These restrictions include:
- (1) Prohibition on Rational nationals to own, control or hold posts in the governing bodies of entities providing crypto-asset wallet, account or custody services;
 - (2) Prohibition on the purchase, import, or transfer of diamonds and products, like jewelry and watches, incorporating diamonds originating in or exported from Russia or diamonds of any origin transiting Russia;
 - (3) Prohibition on imports of Russian diamonds when they are processed (cut and polished) in third countries that will be phased in. In particular, measures include a phased import ban (i) on diamonds and jewellery made from Russian diamonds as from 1 January 2024, (ii) on Russian diamonds of certain higher weight processed in third countries as from 1 March 2024 (based on a G7-coordinated traceability mechanism) and (iii) on smaller Russian stones processed in third countries as from 1 September 2024;

- (4) Inclusion of an obligation for companies to include a contractual clause in export transactions with customers in third countries that prohibits the buyers of certain goods from re-exporting them to Russia ("**No Russia Clause**");
- (iv) The existing framework for EU Sanctions targeting Russia (asset freezing measures), in view of the current situation in Ukraine, is implemented by Council Decision 2014/145/CFSP of March, 17 2014, as last amended by Council Decision (CFSP) 2023/2874 of 2024/746 of February 23, 2024 and Council Regulation (EU) No 269/2014 of March 17, 2014, as last amended by Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/745 of February 23, 2024. These restrictions include:
 - (1) Designation of 106 individuals and 88 entities to its restricted parties list;
 - (2) Inclusion of "aluminum electrolytic fixed electrical capacitors" (excluding power capacitors) which have military applications (CN Code 8532 22) into the list of advanced technology items in Annex VII of Regulation 833/2014;
 - (3) Extension of the list of goods which could contribute in particular to the enhancement of Russian industrial capacities listed in Annex XXIII of Regulation 833/2014 to cover every item with the tariff position 8504, including all "electrical transformers, static converters (for example, rectifiers) and inductors".
- (v) As of January 1, 2021, the UK replaced the EU Russia sanctions, with substantially the same effect, by the Russia (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, which came into effect on December 31, 2020, as amended by the Sanctions (EU Exit) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (No. 2) and (No. 4) Regulations 2020, the Russian (Sanctions) (EU Exit) (Amendment) Regulations 2022 (as amended) (together, the "UK Russia Regulations"). The regulations have been extended to apply to the UK Overseas Territories by the Russia (Sanctions) (Overseas Territories) Order 2020, the Russia (Sanctions) (Overseas Territories) (Amendment) Order 2021, the Russia (Sanctions) (Overseas Territories) (Amendment) Order 2022, the Russia (Sanctions) (Overseas Territories) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order 2022, the Russia (Sanctions) (Overseas Territories) (Amendment) (No. 3) Order 2022, the Russia (Sanctions) (Overseas Territories) (Amendment) (No. 4) Order 2022 and the Russia (Sanctions) (Overseas Territories) (Amendment) Order 2023.
- (vi) On 10 February 2022, the UK enacted the Russia (Sanctions) (EU Exit) (Amendment) Regulations 2022 (amending the Russia (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019), which expanded the UK's criteria for designating Russian individuals and entities.

- (vii) Further, throughout 2022, the UK published new amendment regulations which introduce additional financial, trade and shipping sanctions against Russia (summarised below):
- (viii) The Russia (Sanctions) (EU Exit) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2022 introduce the following restrictions:
 - (1) Prohibition on dealing with securities or money-market instruments issued by, or providing loans/credit to a person connected with Russia (including Russian incorporated entities and residents) or the Russian Government. The aforementioned prohibitions also apply to all entities listed in Schedule 2, including their UK subsidiaries.
 - (2) Prohibition on UK credit or financial institutions from establishing or continuing a correspondent banking relationship and from processing sterling payments to, from or via, a “designated person” or a credit or financial institution owned or controlled by them.
- (ix) The Russia (Sanctions) (EU Exit) (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations 2022 prohibit the following:
 - (1) the export, supply, delivery and making available of dual-use goods and critical-industry goods;
 - (2) the making available and transfer of dual-use technology and critical-industry technology; and
 - (3) the provision of technical assistance, financial services, funds and brokering services, in relation to dual-use goods and technology and critical-industry goods and technology.
 - (4) Critical industry goods and technology include certain listed electronics, computers, telecommunications equipment, information security, sensors and lasers, navigation and avionics, marine and aerospace and propulsion (in each case with related software and technology also subject to controls).
- (x) The Russia (Sanctions) (EU Exit) (Amendment) (No. 4) Regulations 2022 prohibit Russian ships, and other ships to be specified by the Secretary of State, from entering UK ports. The registration of ships on the UK Ship Register is also prohibited where they are owned, controlled, chartered or operated by a designated person or persons connected with Russia, or where they are a specified ship.
- (xi) The Russia (Sanctions) (EU Exit) (Amendment) (No. 5) Regulations 2022 prohibit a UK individual or entity from providing financial services for the purpose of foreign exchange reserve and asset management to the Central Bank of the Russian Federation; the National Wealth Fund of the Russian Federation; the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation; a person owned or controlled directly or indirectly by any of the persons

above; or a person acting on behalf of or at the direction of any of the persons above.

- (xii) The Russia (Sanctions) (EU Exit) (Amendment) (No. 6) Regulations 2022 prohibit Russian aircraft from overflying or landing in the United Kingdom. The Regulations also confer powers on the Secretary of State, air traffic control and airport operators to issue directions for the purpose of preventing Russian aircraft from entering the airspace over the United Kingdom or from landing in the United Kingdom, or requiring aircraft to leave the airspace over the United Kingdom. The Regulations also confer powers on the CAA to refuse, suspend or revoke permissions in respect of Russian aircraft. The registration of aircraft on the register kept by the CAA is prohibited where they are owned, operated or chartered by demise by a designated person. The Regulations also amend the trade measures in the 2019 Regulations to add new categories of aviation and space goods and technology, based on items falling within chapter 88 of the Tariff of the United Kingdom.
- (xiii) The Russia (Sanctions) (EU Exit) (Amendment) (No. 7) Regulations 2022:
 - (1) extend the existing finance, shipping and trade sanctions relating to the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and city of Sevastopol (“Crimea”) to the non-government controlled areas of the Donetsk oblast and Luhansk oblast of Ukraine;
 - (2) extend the relevant exceptions and licensing provisions to the non-government controlled areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts;
 - (3) prohibit the provision to, or for the benefit of, a designated person of technical assistance relating to aircraft and ships. This includes a power to designate persons for the purposes of that sanctions measure; and
 - (4) amend regulation 19 (circumventing etc. prohibitions) of the 2019 Regulations to include within the scope of those prohibitions regulation 18A (provision of financial services relating to foreign exchange reserve and asset management).
- (xiv) The Russia (Sanctions) (EU Exit) (Amendment) (No. 8) Regulations 2022 introduced new restrictions in relation to trade in:
 - (1) oil refining goods and technology,
 - (2) quantum computing and advanced materials goods and technology;
 - (3) luxury goods, and
 - (4) iron and steel goods.

- (xv) The Russia (Sanctions) (EU Exit) (Amendment) (No. 9) Regulations 2022 introduced a requirement on providers of social media services, internet access services (i.e. internet service providers) and application stores to take reasonable steps to prevent their users in the United Kingdom from encountering or accessing online content generated by designated persons. Further, additional powers were conferred on OFCOM for the purpose of monitoring compliance with the new requirement and for imposing monetary penalties for failure to comply with the new requirement.
- (xvi) The Russia (Sanctions) (EU Exit) (Amendment) (No. 11) Regulations 2022 introduced additional restrictions in relation to trade in:
 - (1) maritime goods and maritime technology;
 - (2) military goods and technology with non-government controlled Ukrainian territory;
 - (3) defence and security goods and technology;
 - (4) interception and monitoring services;
 - (5) banknotes;
 - (6) jet fuel and fuel additives; and
 - (7) goods which generate significant revenues for Russia.
- (xvii) The Russia (Sanctions) (EU Exit) (Amendment) (No. 12) Regulations 2022 introduced additional financial restrictions regarding investments (and services directly related to those investments) in respect of land located in Russia, persons connected with Russia, relevant entities, joint ventures, opening a representative office or establishing a branch or subsidiary located in Russia. The Russia (Sanctions) (EU Exit) (Amendment) (No. 13) Regulations 2022 specified additional activities for which a person may be designated under the UK Russia Regulations. Further, the amending regulation introduced a new exception from trade sanctions measures for humanitarian assistance activity in non-government controlled areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.
- (xviii) The Russia (Sanctions) (EU Exit) (Amendment) (No. 14) Regulations 2022 introduced additional restrictions in relation to trade in:
 - (1) professional and business services;
 - (2) miscellaneous essential goods required for the functioning of the Russian economy;
 - (3) oil and oil products means;
 - (4) gold; and

- (5) coal and coal products.
- (xix) The Russia (Sanctions) (EU Exit) (Amendment) (No. 16) Regulations 2022 introduced a prohibition on direct or indirect supply or delivery by ship of certain oil and oil products which originate in or are consigned from Russia (i) from a place in Russia to a third country; or (ii) from one third country to another third country.
- (xx) The Russia (Sanctions) (EU Exit) (Amendment) (No. 17) Regulations 2022 introduced a prohibition on providing trust services to a designated person or for the benefit of a person connected with Russia. The regulations also introduce a number of additional professional and business services restrictions. In addition to accounting, business management and consulting and PR services, it is prohibited to provide advertising services, architectural services, auditing services, engineering services and IT consultancy and design services.
- (xxi) Under the UK Russia Regulations, it is prohibited to export the following products to or for use in Russia:
 - (1) military goods and technology to non-government controlled Ukrainian territory;
 - (2) energy-related goods;
 - (3) luxury goods;
 - (4) sterling or European Union denominated banknotes; and
 - (5) jet fuel and fuel additives.
- (xxii) Pursuant to the UK Russia Regulations, it is prohibited to import the following goods that are consigned or originate from Russia:
 - (1) Arms and related material;
 - (2) iron and steel products;
 - (3) revenue generating goods;
 - (4) oil and oil products; and
 - (5) coal and coal products.
- (xxiii) The UK Russia Regulations prohibit the supply or delivery of the following goods:
 - (1) Prohibition on supply or delivery of restricted goods, energy related goods, luxury goods, jet fuel and fuel additives and dependency and further goods from a third country to Russia.

- (2) Prohibition on supply or delivery of iron and steel products from Russia to a third country.
 - (3) Prohibition on supply or delivery or making available of sterling banknotes or any banknotes denominated in any official currency of the EU to a person connected with Russia or for use in Russia.
 - (4) Prohibition on supply or delivery of revenue generating goods, oil and oil products and coal and coal products from a place in Russia to a third country.
- (xxiv) The UK Russia Regulations prohibit the making available of certain goods or technology for use in Russia or to a person connected with Russia. Some prohibitions also prohibit acquiring certain goods or technology which originate in Russia, are located in Russia or from a person connected with Russia.
- (1) Prohibition on the acquisition of oil and oil products, gold and coal and coal products that originate or are located in Russia, with the intention of those goods entering the United Kingdom.
 - (2) Prohibition on making energy related goods available to a person connected with Russia.
 - (3) Prohibition on making infrastructure-related goods available for use in non-government controlled Ukrainian territory.
- (xxv) Pursuant to the UK Russia Regulations it is prohibited to transfer certain technology to a place in Russia or a person connected with Russia. The transfer of restricted technology is also prohibited from a place in Russia to persons or places outside the UK.
- (xxvi) Pursuant to the UK Russia Regulations technical support is prohibited in relation to certain specified goods or technology.
- (1) Prohibition to provide technical support relating to the repair, development, production, assembly, testing, use or maintenance of the goods or technology, or any other technical service relating to the goods or technology.
 - (2) The prohibition applies to technical assistance to persons connected with Russia or for use in Russia.
 - (3) The provision of technical assistance to in connection with specific arrangements, as specified in the UK Russia Regulations, is prohibited.
- (xxvii) Pursuant to the UK Russia Regulations the provision of financial services and funds related to certain goods and technology is prohibited.

- (1) The prohibitions in the Regulations apply to the direct and indirect provision of financial services and making available of funds to persons connected with Russia.
 - (2) The prohibitions also prohibit the direct or indirect provision of financial services or funds in pursuance of or in connection with specific arrangements involving Russia.
- (xxviii) Pursuant to the UK Russia Regulations the provision of brokering services is prohibited.
- (1) It is prohibited to directly or indirectly provide brokering services where they relate to specific arrangements as specified in the Pursuant to UK Russia Regulations.
- (c) Application to the Group
- (i) On the basis of our due diligence process and the Company's confirmation (for and on behalf of the Group) that:
 - (1) the Group's activities involving the Relevant Region have not identified any person specifically designated (i.e. listed / targeted) under any existing EU and UK sanctions regime;
 - (2) no EU or UK nationals, nor any wider persons resident or otherwise located in either the territories of the EU or the UK who are employed or otherwise engaged by the Group have been involved in any way (either directly or indirectly), including in the negotiation or approval of, or with the on-going performance of, or in any wider decision making capacity, with respect to any activity involving the Relevant Sales;
 - (3) the Group's transactions did not potentially fund or facilitate sanctions-prohibited activity, nor grant any benefit towards any sanctioned person or entity;
 - (4) the Group has not exported or directly or indirectly supplied arms and related materiel, or equipment which might be used for internal repression;
 - (5) the Group has not provided technical assistance related to military activities, or to the provision, manufacture, maintenance and use of arms and related materiel of any type;
 - (6) the Group has not provided financing or financial assistance related to any activities referred to above;

On this basis, Hogan Lovells' conclusion is that the Group's business dealings with respect to the Relevant Region have not breached the prohibitions or wider restrictions adopted by the EU or the UK .

8. AUSTRALIAN SANCTIONS

8.1 Overview

- (a) Australia has a dual sanctions regime consisting of sanctions measures imposed by the UN, together with Australian autonomous sanctions imposed by the Australian Government as a matter of its foreign policy. Australia's dual sanctions regime is administered by the Australian Sanctions Office ("**ASO**"), the Australian Government sanctions regulator, which sits within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade ("**DFAT**").
- (b) The Australian restrictions and prohibitions arising from the sanctions laws apply broadly to:
 - (i) any person in Australia;
 - (ii) any Australian anywhere in the world;
 - (iii) companies incorporated overseas that are owned or controlled by Australians or persons in Australia; and/or
 - (iv) any person using an Australian flag vessel or aircraft to transport goods or transact services subject to UN sanctions.
- (c) The ASO maintains the Consolidated List of all persons and entities designated for the purposes of sanctions regimes implemented under Australian sanction laws.
- (d) A criminal offence is committed if an individual or a body corporate to whom Australian sanctions measures apply, engages in conduct and the conduct contravenes a sanction law.
- (e) The Australian autonomous sanctions regimes are primarily implemented under the *Act Autonomous Sanctions 2011* (Cth) (the "**Act**") and the *Autonomous Sanctions Regulations 2011* (Cth) (the "**Regulations**").
- (f) The Act prohibits a person from engaging in conduct that is in breach of the sanctions laws.
- (g) Part 3 of the Regulations specifies that section 15.1 of the Criminal Code (being Schedule 1 to the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (Cth)) applies to a person that makes an unauthorised sanctioned supply. This has the effect of making the offence extra territorial if the alleged offence occurs outside of Australia by a person who is an Australian citizen or a body corporate incorporated under Australian law.
- (h) The prohibited conduct applies to conduct committed entirely inside or outside Australia if at the time of the alleged offence, the alleged offender is an Australian citizen or a body corporate incorporated under Australian law.

8.2 Application to Russia (excluding specified regions in Ukraine)

- (a) Australia imposes an autonomous sanctions regime in relation to Russia/Ukraine pursuant to the Regulations and the Autonomous Sanctions (Russia, Crimea and Sevastopol) Specification 2015 (Cth) ("**Autonomous Sanctions Specification**").
- (b) The Australian Government announced on March 19, 2014, that it would impose a sanctions regime in response to the Russian threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. On September 1, 2014, the then Prime Minister of Australia announced expanded autonomous sanctions in relation to Russia, Crimea and Sevastopol. These measures were implemented through amendments to the Regulations commencing on March 31, 2015 and, following the Russian operation in Ukraine, February 4, 2022.
- (c) Australian sanctions laws prohibits the direct or indirect supply, sale or transfer to Russia, for use in Russia, or for the benefit of Russia, of the following 'export sanctioned goods' (without a sanctions permit):
 - (i) arms or related matériel. (The import, purchase or transport of arms or related materiel which originated in or has been exported from Russia is also prohibited); and
 - (ii) items suited to any of the following categories of exploration and production projects in Russia, including its Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf:
 - (1) oil exploration and production in waters deeper than 150 meters;
 - (2) oil exploration and production in the offshore area north of the Arctic Circle; or
 - (3) projects that have the potential to produce oil from resources located in shale formations by way of hydraulic fracturing (other than exploration and production through shale formations to locate or extract from non-shale reservoirs).
- (d) Australian sanctions laws also prohibit (without a sanctions permit):
 - (i) the provision to Russia, or to a person for use in Russia:
 - (1) technical advice, assistance or training;
 - (2) financial assistance;
 - (3) a financial service; or
 - (4) another service,if it assists with, or is provided in relation to:
 - (i) a military activity; or
 - (ii) the manufacture, maintenance or use of 'arms or related materiel';

- (ii) the provision to Russia, or to a person, entity or body for use in Russia, of drilling services, well-testing services, logging and completion services and the supply of specialised floating vessels that are necessary for any of the following categories of exploration and production projects in Russia, including its Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf:
 - (1) oil exploration and production in waters deeper than 150 metres;
 - (2) oil exploration and production in the offshore area north of the Arctic Circle; or
 - (3) projects that have the potential to produce oil from resources located in shale formations by way of hydraulic fracturing (other than exploration and production through shale formations to locate or extract from non-shale reservoirs);
- (iii) the provision to a person of an investment service if it assists with, or is provided in relation to, a sanctioned commercial activity (listed in subparagraphs 8.2(d)(iv) and 8.2(d)(v) below);
- (iv) the direct or indirect purchase or sale of, or any other dealing with, bonds, equities, transferable securities, money market instruments or other similar financial instruments, if the financial instrument:
 - (1) is issued after July 28, 2017 by an entity specified in the Autonomous Sanctions Specification; and
 - (2) has a maturity period specified in the Autonomous Sanctions Specification for the financial instrument and the entity.

This prohibition does not apply to an activity in relation to tradable securities or any other financial instrument that:

- (i) is a derivative product the value of which is linked to an underlying asset of a type mentioned in Section 8.2(d)(iv); and
 - (ii) does not involve the purchase or sale of, or any other dealing in relation to, the underlying asset;
- (v) directly or indirectly making, or being part of any arrangement to make loans or credit if the loan or credit:
 - (1) is made to an entity specified in the Autonomous Sanctions Specification; and
 - (2) has a maturity period specified in the Autonomous Sanctions Specification for the financial instrument and the entity.

This prohibition does not apply to:

- (i) loans or credit that have a specific and documented objective to provide:

1. financing for non-prohibited imports or exports of goods and non-financial services between Australia and Russia; or
 2. emergency funding to meet the solvency and liquidity criteria for legal persons: established in Australia and whose proprietary rights are more than 50% owned by an entity specified in the Autonomous Sanctions Specification; and
- (ii) drawdowns or disbursements made under a contract concluded before July 28, 2017 if:
1. all the terms and conditions of such drawdown or disbursement: were agreed before July 28, 2017 and have not been modified on or after July 28, 2017; and
 2. before July 28, 2017, a contractual maturity date has been fixed for the repayment in full of all funds made available and for the cancellation of all the commitments, rights and obligations under the contract.
- (vi) from 25 April 2022, the import, purchase or transport of oil, refined petroleum products, natural gas, coal and other energy products from Russia;
- (vii) directly or indirectly supplying, selling, transferring certain luxury goods to, for use in, or for the benefit of Russia;
- (viii) directly or indirectly supplying, selling, transferring aluminium ores (including bauxite), alumina and related products to, for use in, or for the benefit of Russia;
- (ix) the import, purchase or transport of gold (including gold plated with platinum) in unwrought or in semi-manufactured forms, or in powder form, that originate in, or was exported from, Russia after 30 September 2022;
- (x) directly or indirectly making an asset available to (or for the benefit of) a designated person or entity;
- (xi) using or dealing with an asset, or allowing or facilitating another person to use or deal with an asset, if the asset is owned or controlled by a designated person or entity (the assets are 'frozen' and cannot be used or dealt with), noting that:
- (1) an 'asset' includes an asset or property of any kind, whether tangible or intangible, movable or immovable; and
 - (2) a 'controlled asset' is an asset owned or controlled by a designated person/entity (and in some cases a person/entity acting on their behalf or another entity owned or controlled by the designated person/entity); and
- (xii) the entry or transit to Australia of designated persons.

8.3 Application to the Group

- (a) The Company has confirmed that no Australian citizens employed or otherwise engaged by the Group have been involved in any way, including in the negotiation or approval of, or with the on-going performance of, or in any wider decision making capacity, with respect to any of the Group's dealings involving the Relevant Region; and
- (b) On the basis of the Company's confirmations, neither the Group nor any of its subsidiaries is:
 - (i) a person in Australia;
 - (ii) an Australian citizen or Australian-registered body;
 - (iii) owned or controlled by Australians or persons in Australia;
 - (iv) a person using an Australian flag vessel or aircraft to transport goods or transact services subject to Australian autonomous sanctions; or
 - (v) engaged in any activities in Australia;

Hogan Lovells' assessment is that the Group's activities do not implicate the prohibitions or wider restrictions under international sanctions measures administered and enforced by the Government of Australia.

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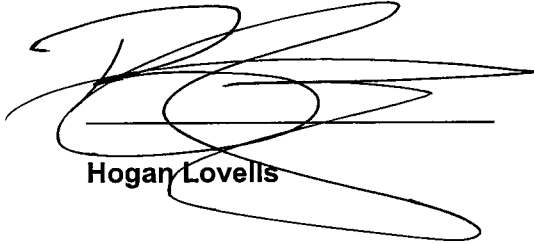
The conclusion stated in this memorandum is not binding on OFAC, the U.S. Department of State, the European Commission, the competent authorities of European Union Member States, Australia, or on any other regulatory or judicial authority, which have substantial discretion in determining whether to investigate particular transactions or relationships or to pursue sanctions or other enforcement. Accordingly, there can be no assurances that OFAC, the U.S. Department of State or any other such authority will not ultimately pursue sanctions or otherwise take actions that are contrary to the conclusions set forth in this memorandum. Such conclusion is based solely on our interpretation of the applicable laws referred to herein; and we assume no liability based on any conclusion or holding of any such authority that is inconsistent with our interpretation and conclusion.

This memorandum is only intended for the benefit of the person(s) to whom it is addressed.

This memorandum may also be disclosed for information only to (but not relied on by) the Sole Sponsor, the underwriter(s) of the Offering, the HKEX, the Securities and Futures Commission, the Companies Registry, and within the period and in accordance with procedure specified in the Prospectus, available on display to the public and such disclosure and non-reliance and the liability waiver referred to above are governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Hong Kong.

Save as the above, no recipient may disclose this memorandum to any other person or quote or refer to it in any public document or file it with any person, without our prior written consent in each specific case.

If you have questions or comments regarding this memorandum, or would otherwise like to discuss the information herein, please contact Ben Kostrzewa at ben.kostrzewa@hoganlovells.com or Aleksandar Dukic at aleksandar.dukic@hoganlovells.com.



Hogan Lovells