

Risk Factors Comparison 2024-02-29 to 2023-03-01 Form: 10-K

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Investing in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the risks and uncertainties described below, together with all of the other information in this Annual Report on Form 10-K, including the financial statements and the related notes included in Item 8. “ Financial Statements and Supplementary Data, ” before making an investment decision. The discussion of these risks is organized by the following sections: Risks Related to Our Limited Operating History, Risks Related to Our Industry and the Broader Economy, Risks Related to Our Acquisition Strategy, Risks Related to the Nature of Our Business, Risks Related to Our Contracts and Revenue Streams, Technology and Privacy Related Risks, Risks Related to Our Indebtedness, Risks Related to Ownership of Our Common Stock, Risks Related to Provisions in Our Charter Documents, and General Risks. Some of the more significant risks include: • ~~our history of losses and ability to achieve profitability~~; • ~~our ability to promote and develop our brands~~; • general global economic, business and other conditions and the cyclical nature of some of our end markets; • the highly competitive nature of our business; • ~~our limited operating history~~; • **rapidly changing technology and industry and regulatory standards**; • our ability to execute on our acquisition strategy and successfully integrate and realize benefits of our acquisitions; • the parts of our business that depend on difficult to predict natural or manmade events ; • **our work on high profile projects and the risks related thereto** ; • our ability to maintain necessary accreditations and other authorizations; • significant environmental governmental regulation; • our ability to attract and retain qualified managerial and skilled technical personnel; • **safety** ~~the impact of the COVID- 19 pandemic~~ **related issues** ; • our ability to expand our client base; and • lack of compliance with prescribed organizational policies and procedures may result in poor performance or suboptimal transactions. If any of the risks described below actually occurs, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially and adversely affected and the trading price of our common stock could decline, causing you to lose all or part of your investment in our common stock. **We have a history of losses and..... of operations may be adversely affected.** General global economic, business and other conditions and our vulnerability to the cyclical nature of the sectors and industries in which our clients operate, may adversely affect our business. We compete in various end markets and geographic regions domestically and around the world. We provide environmental services to clients operating in a number of sectors and industries, including the financial, oil & gas, utilities, construction, automotive, real- estate, midstream energy, manufacturing, commodities, petrochemical, ~~tobacco~~, food and beverage, telecommunications and engineering industries, as well as local, state, provincial and federal government entities. These sectors and industries and the resulting demand for our services have been, and we expect will continue to be, cyclical and subject to significant fluctuations due to a variety of factors beyond our control, including economic conditions, such as inflation and supply chain difficulties, regulatory requirements, appropriation levels and changes in client capital spending, particularly during periods of economic or political uncertainty. Important factors for our business and the businesses of our clients include macroeconomic conditions, the overall strength of, and our clients’ confidence in, the economy, industrial and governmental capital spending, governmental fiscal and trading policies, environmental and regulatory policies the strength of the residential and commercial real estate markets, unemployment rates, consumer spending, availability of financing, interest rates, tax rates and changes in tax laws, political conditions, energy and commodity prices and programs such as renewable fuel standard programs and low- carbon fuel standard programs. While we attempt to minimize our exposure to economic or market fluctuations by serving a balanced mix of end markets and geographic regions, any of the above factors, individually or in the aggregate, or a significant or sustained downturn in a specific end market or geographic region, can impact our business and that of our clients. These factors may make it difficult for our clients and us to accurately forecast and plan future business activities; neither we nor our clients can predict the timing, strength or duration of any economic downturn or subsequent recovery. Furthermore, if a significant portion of our clients or projects are concentrated in a specific geographic area or industry, our business may be disproportionately affected by negative trends or economic downturns in those specific geographic areas or industries. These factors may also cause our clients to reduce their capital expenditures, alter the mix of services purchased, seek more favorable prices and other contract terms and otherwise slow their spending on our services. In addition, due to these conditions, many of our competitors may be more inclined to take greater or unusual risks or accept terms and conditions in contracts that we might not deem acceptable. These conditions and factors may reduce the demand for our services and solutions, and more generally may adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations. We engage in a highly competitive business and any failure to effectively compete could have a material adverse effect on us. The assessment, permitting and response, measurement and analysis and remediation and reuse industries are highly fragmented and competitive. Our primary competitors in these industries include companies that specialize in one or more services similar to those offered by us on a local or regional basis. We also compete with global, national, regional and local firms specializing in testing, environmental engineering and consulting services, remediation services and other services we provide. Some of our primary competitors include, in our Assessment, Permitting and Response segment, the environmental divisions of ERM, Ramboll, Geosyntec, Exponent, **WSP** and other large engineering companies and small businesses, in our Measurement and Analysis segment, the environmental divisions of SGS, TRC Companies, Eurofins, Pace Analytical and other large testing companies and small businesses, and in our Remediation and Reuse segment, the environmental divisions or remediation segments of Tetra Tech, AECOM, **Evoqua Xylem, Veolia** , Mead & Hunt, and other large engineering companies and other small businesses. It is also possible that our clients may establish in-house capabilities to perform certain services that we currently provide. We operate in markets that are characterized by client demand that is often broad in scope but localized in delivery. We compete with companies that may be better positioned to

capitalize on highly localized relationships and knowledge that are difficult for us to replicate. Our potential clients may prefer local providers, whether because of existing relationships or local legal restrictions or incentives that favor local businesses. Smaller regional companies may also have lower cost structures with fewer fixed costs. As a result, efforts to expand, whether organically or through acquisition, or support our service network may not improve our ability to penetrate new local markets or expand our footprint in existing markets. New entrants to our key markets could cause us to lose clients and otherwise harm our competitive position. Competition in our industry is based on many factors, but we believe the principal points of competition in our markets are the quality, range, pricing, technology and availability of services. Maintaining and improving our competitive position will require successful management of these factors, including continued investment by us in research and development, sales, marketing, technology, customer service and support, personnel and our professional networks. Our future growth rate depends upon our ability to compete successfully, which is impacted by a number of factors, including our ability to identify emerging technological trends in our target end markets, develop and maintain a wide range of competitive and appropriately priced services and solutions, defend our market share against competitors, including new and non-traditional competitors, expand into new markets and attract, develop and retain individuals with the requisite technical expertise and understanding of clients' needs to develop and sell new services. We may not be successful in maintaining or growing our competitive position for a number of reasons. Some of our competitors may have access to greater financial or other resources than we do, which may afford them greater power, efficiency, financial flexibility, geographical reach or capital resources for growth. In addition, some of our competitors are vertically integrated and can leverage this structure to their advantage. We may fail to identify optimal service or geographic markets, focus our attention in suboptimal service or geographic markets or fail to execute an appropriate business model in certain service or geographic markets. Our competitors may develop new services or technologies that are superior to ours, develop more efficient or effective methods of providing services or adapt more quickly, efficiently or effectively than we do to new technologies. Our competitors may be positioned to provide better service or influence client requirements, or more quickly respond to changing client requirements, and thereby establish stronger relationships with clients. Our competitors may offer their services at lower prices because, among other things, they possess the ability to provide similar services more efficiently, as part of a bundle with other services or generally at a lower cost. These pricing pressures could cause us to lower the price for any one or more of our services to at or below our costs, requiring us to sacrifice margins or incur losses. Alternatively, we may choose to forgo entering certain markets or exit others, which would limit our growth and competitive reach. Any failure by us to compete or to generally maintain and improve our competitive position could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. If we are unable to develop successful new services or adapt to rapidly changing technology and industry standards or changes to regulatory requirements, our business could be harmed. The market for our services is characterized by rapid technological change and evolving industry standards and, to a lesser extent, changing regulatory requirements. This constant evolution may reduce the effectiveness of or demand for our services or render them noncompetitive or obsolete. Our continued success and growth depend upon our ability to anticipate these challenges and to innovate by enhancing our existing services and developing and successfully implementing new services to keep pace with the ever-changing and increasingly sophisticated needs of our clients. New service introductions that are responsive to new technologies and changing industry and regulatory standards can be complex and expensive as they require significant planning, design, development and testing. We may find it difficult or costly to update our services and to develop new services quickly enough to work effectively with new or changed technologies, to keep the pace with evolving industry standards or to meet our clients' needs. In addition, our industry may be slow to accept new technologies that we develop because of, among other things, existing regulations or standards written specifically for older technologies and general unfamiliarity of clients with new technologies. As a result, any new services that we may develop may not be successful for a number of years, if at all. If we are unable to successfully enhance or update existing services or develop new services to meet these challenges, our business, financial condition and results of operations may be adversely affected. The COVID-19 pandemic has adversely affected our business and may continue to do so. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization designated the global outbreak of a new strain of coronavirus, COVID-19, a pandemic. The global and domestic response to the COVID-19 pandemic by both governments and businesses was unprecedented and responsive measures included government mandates and restrictions on movement and travel, and restriction or required closure of commercial and business activity. Our business has been adversely, and may be materially adversely affected, by the COVID-19 pandemic and the government or global response. We provide important services to the public's health, safety, and welfare, including COVID-19 response support, and therefore most of our businesses were classified as "essential" in most jurisdictions in which we operate. However, we did experience some postponements and cancellations of projects, particularly within our Remediation and Reuse segment, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic that adversely impacted our operating results. We also had employees who have contracted COVID-19 or were exposed to the virus. The COVID-19 pandemic also adversely affected many industries as well as the economies and financial markets of many countries, at times, causing a significant deceleration of economic activity and extreme volatility in capital markets. These changes early in the pandemic reduced production, decreased demand for a broad variety of goods and services, diminished trade levels and led to widespread corporate downsizing, causing a sharp increase in unemployment. More recently, global supply chain issues and high rates of inflation have impacted many industries and businesses. The closure of client sites, limitations on our ability to travel to client sites and other disruptions to our operations and the availability of the resources we need to provide our services, including a significant outbreak at certain of our laboratory facilities, could adversely impact our ability to provide our services and our results of operations. If any of the third parties with whom we work, including our customers and suppliers, are adversely affected by the pandemic, we could similarly be negatively impacted, even if the pandemic is not directly impacting our operations. The continued impact of this outbreak on the United States and world economies, on our business and results of operations and those of our customers and suppliers remains uncertain and, unless the pandemic is further controlled, these adverse impacts could again worsen, impacting all

segments of the global economy, and could result in a significant recession or worse, any of which could impact our business. Considerable uncertainty still surrounds the COVID-19 pandemic and the new strains identified globally as well as the extent and effectiveness of responses taken on a local, national, and global level, including the long-term efficacy of vaccines and vaccines mandates and the ability to develop new vaccines in response to future variants. While we expect the pandemic and related events will continue to have a negative effect on our business and could accelerate or magnify one or more of the risks described elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K, the full extent and scope of the impact on our business and industry as well as on national, regional and global markets and economies remains uncertain and cannot be predicted. Accordingly, our ability to conduct our business in the manner and on the timelines previously done or presently planned could be adversely affected. The success of our business depends, in part, on our ability to execute on our acquisition strategy. A significant portion of our historical growth has occurred through acquisitions, and we anticipate continued growth through acquisitions in the future. Our growth strategy is primarily partially dependent on acquiring and integrating the operations of companies in the environmental services industry. Since January 1, 2020, we have acquired 16-19 companies. We are presently evaluating, and we expect to continue to evaluate on an ongoing basis, a variety of possible acquisition transactions. We cannot predict the timing of any contemplated transactions, and there can be no assurances that we will identify suitable acquisition opportunities or, if we do identify such opportunities, that any transaction can be consummated on terms acceptable to us. We also compete for acquisitions with other potential acquirers, some of which may have greater financial or operational resources than we do. A significant change in our business or the economy, an unexpected decrease in our cash flows or any restrictions imposed by our debt may limit our ability to obtain the necessary capital for acquisitions or otherwise impede our ability to complete an acquisition. Certain proposed acquisitions or dispositions may also trigger a review by the U. S. Department of Justice, or DOJ, and the U. S. Federal Trade Commission, or FTC, under their respective regulatory authority, focusing on the effects on competition, including the size or structure of the relevant markets and the pro- competitive benefits of the transaction. Any delay, prohibition or modification required by regulatory authorities could adversely affect the terms of a proposed acquisition or could require us to modify or abandon an otherwise attractive acquisition opportunity. The terms of our Series A- 2 preferred stock also restrict our ability to make certain acquisitions without the consent of the holder majority, including acquisitions in excess of \$ 75. 0 million. The failure to identify suitable transaction partners and to consummate transactions on acceptable terms could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Our acquisition strategy exposes us to significant risks and additional costs. Acquisitions involve risks that the businesses acquired will not perform as expected and that judgments concerning the value, strengths and weaknesses of acquired businesses will prove wrong. We may not accurately assess the value, strengths, weaknesses or potential profitability of an acquisition target, and our acquisition strategy for a particular business may prove to be unsuccessful or expose us to additional risks. We may become liable for certain unforeseen pre- acquisition liabilities of an acquired business, including, among others, tax liabilities, environmental liabilities, contingent consideration and liabilities for employment practices, and these liabilities could be significant. In addition, an acquisition could result in the impairment of client relationships and other acquired assets such as goodwill. We may also incur costs and experience inefficiencies to the extent an acquisition expands the industries, products, markets or geographies in which we operate due to our limited exposure to and experience in a given industry, market or region. Acquisitions may require that we incur additional debt to finance the transaction, which could be substantial and limit our operating flexibility or, alternatively, acquisitions may require that we issue stock as consideration, which could dilute share ownership. Acquisitions can also involve post- transaction disputes regarding a number of matters, including a purchase price or working capital adjustment, earn- out or other contingent payments, environmental liabilities or other obligations. Our recent growth and our acquisition strategy have placed, and will continue to place, significant demands on our management' s time, which may divert their attention from our day- to- day business operations, and may lead to significant due diligence and other expenses regardless of whether we pursue or consummate any acquisition. We may also not be able to manage our growth through acquisitions due to the number and the diversity of the businesses we have acquired or for other reasons. If any of these risks were to occur, our business, financial condition and results of operations may be adversely affected. Any inability to successfully integrate our recent or future acquisitions, or realize their anticipated benefits, could have a material adverse effect on us. Acquisitions have required, and in the future will require, that we integrate into our existing operations separate companies that historically operated independently or as part of another, larger organization, and had different systems, processes and cultures. Acquisitions may require integration of finance and administrative organizations and involve exposure to different legal and regulatory regimes in jurisdictions in which we have not previously operated. We may not be able to successfully integrate any business we have acquired or may acquire, or may not be able to do so in a timely, efficient or cost-effective manner. Our inability to effectively complete the integration of new businesses on schedule and in an orderly manner could increase costs and lower profits. Risks involved with the successful integration of an acquired business include, but are not limited to: • diverting the attention of our management and that of the acquired business; • merging or linking different accounting and financial reporting systems and systems of internal controls and, in some instances, implementing new controls and procedures; • merging computer, technology and other information networks and systems, including enterprise resource planning systems; • assimilating personnel, human resources and other administrative departments and potentially contrasting corporate cultures; • integrating our governmental contracting work with similar services provided by acquired companies; • incurring or guaranteeing additional indebtedness; • disrupting relationships with or losses of key clients and suppliers of our business or the acquired business; • interfering with, or loss of momentum in, our ongoing business or that of the acquired company; • failure to retain our key personnel or that of the acquired company; and • delays or cost- overruns in the integration process. **We have not yet completed the integration of our June 2023 acquisition of Matrix, including with respect to our internal control over financial reporting, and we excluded this business from our management' s report on our internal controls over financial reporting and the effectiveness thereof as of December 31, 2023 included herein, as permitted by**

guidelines established by the SEC for newly acquired businesses. See Item 9A. “ Controls and Procedures. ” As a result, there may risks related to the integration of Matrix that we have not discovered, including those listed above or others that we may not currently appreciate. Our inability to manage our growth through acquisitions, including the integration process, and to realize the anticipated benefits of an acquisition could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Parts of our business may depend on certain natural or manmade events which are impossible to predict, and our revenue and customer concentration resulting from these businesses may fluctuate significantly based on the frequency and scale of these events. Certain of our businesses depend on specific environmental circumstances, including both naturally occurring and manmade events. Our Assessment, Permitting and Response segment, in particular, which includes ~~the operations of CTEH,~~ **our environmental emergency response business that** engages in response activities following an environmental incident or a natural disaster. There is no way for us to predict the occurrence of these events, nor the significance, duration or outcome of the events. As a result, this segment may experience revenues one year that are not indicative of future results due to the occurrence of an incident that was neither typical nor predictable. For example, this segment’s revenues ~~were significantly~~ **increased higher at the end of 2020 and** during in the fiscal year ended December 31, 2021, due in significant part to the contribution of ~~CTEH’s COVID - 19~~ **work during the heights of the pandemic .** ~~But, as the pandemic subsided, these revenue streams declined, adversely affecting segment results in the year ended December 31, 2022 when comparing those results to the prior year.~~ The volatile nature of our environmental emergency response business, and its dependency on factors beyond our control, ~~as well as the impact the revenues generated by CTEH or our overall results,~~ makes it difficult to predict its potential profitability or success **and, therefore, at times, ours as well** . Any extended period without these types of events or other downturn in activity for these business lines may negatively impact our business, financial condition and results of operations. In addition, as a result of the nature of these services, our Assessment, Permitting and Response segment may at times experience higher customer concentration levels based on the severity, duration and outcome of environmental emergencies (e. g. those caused by natural disasters and industrial accidents) for which we provide response services. For example, during the heights of the pandemic, for the fiscal ~~years~~ **year** ended December 31, 2021 ~~and 2020,~~ **65 % and 58 % of CTEH’s our Assessment, Permitting and Response segment** revenues ~~, respectively,~~ were attributable to just three customers, each of whom engaged ~~CTEH us~~ **in connection with COVID- 19 related support across dozens of independent projects .** ~~In~~ **However, in** the year ended December 31, 2022, as the pandemic ~~has begun to subsided~~ **subside** , this percentage dropped to ~~38-32 %~~ **32 %** . ~~Similarly, for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023, 43 % of total Assessment, Permitting and Response segment revenues, were attributable to just three customers, each of whom engaged us in connection with environmental emergency response related support across multiple projects .~~ We cannot predict from period to period whether we will experience risks associated with high customer concentration, including the inability of such customers to pay for our services, and such concentration could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. We may work on high profile projects, and any negative publicity or perceived failures of those projects, or litigation resulting from such projects, could damage our reputation and harm our operating results. We may be engaged on high profile projects that garner public attention and scrutiny, particularly with respect to the emergency response division of ~~the our~~ **the CTEH business** . This division of ~~the CTEH business~~ **conducts environmental sampling and provides toxicological assessments** , among other services, in emergency situations and natural disasters, many of which are widely covered by the press and in the public eye, such ~~Hurricane Harvey~~ **as performing COVID- 19 work for the Golden Globes Awards, performing COVID- 19 work for the U. S. Department of State – African Leaders Summit in 2022** ~~2017~~ , implementing a disinfection plan and overseeing the implementation of the plan for a contaminated international cruise ship in the early stages of the COVID- 19 outbreak, ~~the Intercontinental Terminals Co, or and ITC, fires in 2019 , the pandemic and Hurricane Harvey the Norfolk Southern train derailment in 2017~~ **2023** . Any mishandling of these situations, even if not our own ~~, could lead to negative publicity. The negative publicity may be attributed to our business and services at no fault of our own other than our association with the project. Our involvement with these high- profile projects exposes us to the risk of reputational damage which may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. In addition, such high- profile projects often lead to an enhanced risk of litigation, and we may be brought into such litigation regardless of our role in the project. Any such litigation proceedings are inherently costly and uncertain, and could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. We may not be able to maintain or expand our accreditation and other authorizations, which may adversely affect our ability to provide our services. A significant part of our business is subject to obtaining and maintaining accreditations, approvals, licensing permits, delegated authority, official recognition and general authorizations at the federal, state, provincial and local level, including in some instances accreditations and licenses for individual professionals. A major risk inherent in our operations is the need to obtain and renew these authorizations. Our operations are also subject to inspection and regulation by various governmental agencies, including the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and equivalent state, provincial and local agencies, as well as their counterparts in the various foreign jurisdictions in which we operate. These authorizations are issued by public authorities or professional organizations following application processes, reviews and investigations which are often long and complex, at times resulting in delays in our ability to bid on and execute certain projects. These authorization requirements can also be costly or difficult to meet, and often vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, meaning our capacity to obtain such authorizations could affect our ability to provide services in certain regions, states, provinces or localities. Certain authorizations are granted for limited periods of time and are subject to periodic renewal, requiring us to go through similar processes on multiple occasions, which necessitates that we utilize additional financial and operational resources. Authorizations or the requirements to obtain an authorization may also change without notice and we may not be able to comply with the revised or new requirements to maintain one or more of these authorizations. Although we closely monitor the quality of services performed under our various authorizations, as well as the need to obtain any new authorizations and the renewal and maintenance of our existing portfolio of authorizations, any failure to~~

meet the applicable requirements, whether actual or perceived, could cause us to lose, either temporarily or permanently, one or more of our authorizations. A public authority or professional organization that has granted us one or more authorizations may also decide unilaterally to withdraw such authorizations. Further, we may not be able to obtain or renew the required authorizations for businesses we acquire in the future, or for an organic expansion we wish to pursue, and the failure to obtain these authorizations could limit the opportunity to expand our business. If we fail to secure or maintain any such authorizations, or if the relevant bodies place burdensome restrictions or limitations on our ability to obtain or maintain the necessary authorizations, we may not be able to operate in one or more jurisdictions and our business, financial condition and results of operations may be materially adversely affected as a result. Our clients are subject to significant governmental regulation with respect to the environment and any changes to these laws and regulations could have a material adverse effect on our business. As a company involved in the provision of environmental services, our clients operate in a heavily regulated environment. Our clients are subject to federal, state, provincial and local laws and regulations, including laws and regulations relating to, among other things, air emissions, the release or discharge of materials into the environment and the management, use, generation, treatment, processing, handling, storage, transport or disposal of hazardous wastes and materials. In addition, because of the site-specific nature of our services, the laws and regulations to which we are subject may vary from one state, province or region to another, sometimes substantially. We and our clients are also required to obtain various government approvals, certificates, permits and licenses in order to conduct our respective businesses, which may require making significant capital, operating and maintenance expenditures to comply with applicable laws and regulations. Any future changes to laws and regulations, including changes to permit requirements, applicable to our clients could have a material impact on their businesses and their service needs. If the needs of our clients change, we may be required to incur significant capital and operating expenditures to shift the environmental services we provide in order to address such needs. If we are unable to address the changing needs of our clients in a timely manner, or at all, demand for our services may decrease, which would have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations and liquidity. Our future growth and performance are dependent in part on the impact and timing of potential new laws and regulations, as well as potential changes to existing laws and regulations, including the potential impact of environmental policies of the current presidential administration in the United States or other executives in the foreign countries in which we operate. If stricter laws or regulations are delayed or are not enacted, are enacted with prolonged phase- in periods, or not enforced, if existing laws and regulations are repealed or amended to be less strict or if a generally less restrictive regulatory framework develops, demand for our services may be reduced. Conversely, the strengthening or enforcement of regulations may also create operating conditions that limit our business areas or more generally slow our development. In extreme cases, such changes in the regulatory environment could lead us to exit certain markets. Rapid and / or important changes in current regulations may in the future have a significant adverse effect on our business, financial position and results of operations. Federal and state, provincial legislatures may review and consider legislation that could impact our business and our industry. Such legislation or enforcement policies may intensify competition in the markets that we serve, impact demand for some or all of our services or require us to develop new or modified services in order to meet the needs of and compete effectively in the marketplace. Any of the foregoing could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. If we fail to attract and retain qualified management and skilled technical personnel, our business may be adversely affected. Our long- term success depends, in significant part, upon the continued service and performance of our senior management and other key personnel. We rely on knowledgeable, experienced and skilled technical personnel, particularly engineers, analysts, technicians, scientists, policy experts and service personnel to provide environmental services in stringent regulatory markets. Certain of our employees, including our senior management and the key employees of the various businesses we have acquired, have exceptionally strong knowledge of our businesses, sectors and clients. Their departure could lead to the loss of know- how and information of value to us, and their departure could pose a risk to key client relationships. Our continued growth will also depend upon our ability to attract and retain additional skilled management and other key employees, including skilled technical personnel in new markets, whether organically or through acquisitions. For certain of our businesses, there may be a limited number of qualified people to fulfill roles in such businesses, particularly given the recent competition in the job market. The loss of the services of one or more members of our management team or of qualified employees and other key personnel, or the inability to identify, hire and retain the key personnel that may be necessary to grow our business, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Safety- related issues could adversely impact our business. We often work on complex projects, sometimes in geographically remote locations and in challenging environments. These sites often put our employees and others in close proximity with chemical, manufacturing, construction and other dangerous processes and highly regulated materials. In addition, our employees sometimes handle hazardous materials, including pressurized gases or concentrated toxins and other highly regulated materials, which, if improperly handled, could subject us to civil and / or criminal liabilities. If we fail to implement proper safety procedures or if the procedures we implement are ineffective, or if others working at the site fail to implement and follow appropriate safety procedures, our employees and others may become injured, disabled or even lose their lives, the completion or commencement of our projects may be delayed and we may be exposed to litigation or investigations. Unsafe work sites also have the potential to increase employee turnover, increase project costs, damage our reputation and brand and raise our operating and insurance costs. Any of the foregoing could result in, among other things, financial losses or reputational harm, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. We are responsible for the training and safety of our employees at work, and, on occasion, we take on expanded site safety responsibilities, which subjects us to regulations dealing with occupational health and safety. Although we implement what we believe to be appropriate health, safety and environmental work procedures throughout our organization, including hazardous sites, we cannot guarantee the safety of our personnel and others for whom we may be responsible. If our employees or others become injured, if we fail to implement appropriate training and health and safety procedures, or if we fail to comply with

applicable regulations, among other things, we may be subject to claims, investigations or litigation or required to pay penalties or fines, and our business, financial condition and results of operations could be harmed. Our safety record is critical to our reputation. Many of our clients require that we meet certain safety criteria to be eligible to bid for contracts or perform on-site services. If our safety record is not within the levels required by our clients, or compares unfavorably to our competitors, we could lose business, incur significant costs or reputational damage, be prevented from working at certain facilities or suffer other adverse consequences. Additionally, we may incur costs to defend our position even if we do not believe we have any liability for a release of or exposure to a hazardous substance or waste or other environmental damage. Any of the foregoing could, among other things, negatively affect our profitability or cause us to lose one or more projects or clients, or otherwise could have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition and results of operations. ~~The~~ **Our environmental emergency response** business of CTEH places ~~its~~ **our** employees in dangerous situations which may present serious and enhanced safety issues that could adversely affect our business. ~~The CTEH~~ **Our environmental emergency response** business is focused on assisting companies, governments and communities with responses to and recovery from environmental emergencies ~~and in response to the COVID-19 pandemic~~. A significant portion of CTEH's **our environmental emergency response** employees work in emergency situations that pose threats to the environment and surrounding communities. Danger of injury or death is inherent in this role, despite safety precautions, training and compliance with federal, state and local health and safety regulations. These employees and any subcontractors we use for such projects are at an enhanced risk of workplace-related injuries given the dangers of their workplace environment. Oftentimes, the risks of the emergency situations are not yet known, and there is no way to predict the magnitude of the danger. While we have insurance coverage in place that we believe is reasonable in addition to policies and procedures designed to minimize these risks, including stringent training, we may nonetheless be unable to avoid material liabilities for an injury or death arising out of these emergency-related hazards. In light of the potential cost and uncertainty involved in litigation, we may settle matters even when we believe we have a meritorious defense. Litigation and its related costs, as well as the damage to our reputation should any employee or subcontractor injury or death occur during these emergency situations, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Allegations regarding whether we have complied with professional standards, duties and statutory obligations or our failure to provide accurate results may have an adverse effect on our business. Our services typically involve difficult analytical assignments and carry risks of professional and other similar liabilities, both directly and through the actions of our testing personnel. In delivering our measurement and analytics services, we provide reports regarding emissions and other testing results to our clients who rely on the accuracy of the data that we gather or analyze on their behalf. Similarly, in delivering our remediation and reuse services, we provide environmental engineering solutions which our clients rely on to design and implement major projects. We take our professional responsibilities very seriously in light of this reliance and the fact that many of our engagements involve matters that could have a significant impact on a client's business, create substantial financial obligations for the client or prevent the client from pursuing desirable business opportunities. Notwithstanding the fact that our professionals maintain credentials and we perform our services based on our professional expertise and these professional credentials, we face exposure to a variety of claims, ranging from alleged or actual breaches of applicable professional standards, duties and statutory obligations to allegedly inaccurate data and / or faulty analysis. In certain instances, in performing our services, we may rely on our interpretation of reports or data prepared or gathered by third parties. If such information is not properly prepared or gathered, or is not accurate or complete, we may become subject to claims or litigation, regardless of whether we had any responsibility for the error. ~~The~~ **Our** CTEH business is often responsible for the presentation of plans and advice in emergency situations, including natural disasters and manmade accidents. While ~~the~~ **our** CTEH employees are not responsible for the ultimate approval of such plans, the failure or minimized success of a plan could expose us to potential litigation and damage to our reputation. Further, claims that we performed negligently, disclosed client confidential information, infringed on intellectual property, falsified data, are required to withdraw due to an apparent or actual conflict, or otherwise breached our obligations to a client, including as a result of actions of our employees, could expose us to significant liabilities to our clients and other third parties and tarnish our brand and reputation. A client who is dissatisfied with our performance could threaten or bring litigation on the basis of our failure to perform our professional duties in order to recover damages or to contest its obligation to pay our fees, even if our results were accurate or our services were otherwise performed without issue. If the results or design we provided do turn out to be errant or we otherwise fail to meet our contractual obligations, because some of the agreements that we have in place with clients require us to indemnify them for losses that they suffer as a result of errors and omissions or negligence by us, we may be subject to legal liability or required to pay significant damages, and the client relationship could be harmed. Our contracts typically include provisions to limit our exposure to legal claims relating to our services, but these provisions may not protect us or may not be enforceable in all cases. Further, we maintain professional liability insurance and such other coverage as we believe appropriate based on our experience to date, this coverage may prove insufficient. Regardless of any contractual provision or insurance, any client claims could have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. We may use small aircraft to transport employees to project sites which could expose us to risks associated with air travel. ~~We~~ **Through our acquisition of CTEH, we acquired an airplane that we used - use a small aircraft in our business** for transportation of employees. On February 22, **particularly in connection with our** 2023, the airplane carrying five employee passengers crashed on route to an emergency response **services**; ~~and none of the passengers survived~~. There are inherent risks associated with air travel, including aviation accidents due to weather, technical malfunctions or human error. While we will strive to comply with all safety regulations and ensure the aircraft undergoes necessary and adequate maintenance, accidents or incidents may occur while the aircraft is transporting employees, ~~An accident or incident involving our aircraft such as the one which~~ occurred on February 22, 2023, **when our airplane crashed killing five employees. An accident or incident involving our aircraft** could result in significant claims of injured employees and others, as well as repair or replacement of the damaged aircraft and its consequential loss from service. In

the event of an accident, our liability insurance may not be adequate to offset our exposure to potential claims and we may be forced to bear losses from the accident. The success of the CTEH **our environmental emergency response** business depends on its employees, and an aviation accident or incident that results in the serious injury or death of those employees could have a material adverse effect on the business. ~~As of the date of this Annual Report, we are not aware of any material adverse effect on the business resulting from the February 22, 2023 accident.~~ ESG matters, including those related to climate change, sustainability and the goals and initiatives we set and implement and the public statements and disclosures we make in respect of these matters, may have an adverse effect on our business. Companies across all industries are facing increasing scrutiny relating to their environmental, social and governance, or ESG, practices. Changing consumer preferences are also resulting in increased demands regarding the environmental impact on sustainability. This scrutiny and demand could require additional transparency, due diligence and reporting and could cause us to incur additional costs or to make changes to our operations to comply with these demands. Further, concern over climate change and other environmental sustainability matters may result in new or increased legal and regulatory requirements to reduce or mitigate impacts to the environment, including greenhouse gas emissions regulations, alternative energy policies and sustainability initiatives. **For example, in March 2022, the SEC proposed rules that would require companies to make certain climate-related disclosures, including information about climate-related risks, GHG emissions and certain climate-related financial statement metrics. The SEC expects to finalize these rules in 2024. In January 2023, the European Union’s Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (“CSRD”) went into effect, which introduced more detailed sustainability reporting requirements. The CSRD phases in over time, with its disclosure requirements with respect to our EU operations going into effect for fiscal year 2025 with reporting required in 2026. In addition, in October 2023, the Governor of California signed into law the Climate-Related Financial Risk Act and the Climate Corporate Data Accountability Act, which impose significant and mandatory climate-related reporting requirements for large companies doing business in the state, as well as the Voluntary Carbon Market Disclosures Act, which requires companies operating in California to make certain disclosures to support any claims they make in the state regarding net zero, carbon neutrality, or significant GHG reductions, as well as disclosure regarding voluntary carbon offsets purchased, used, marketed, or sold within California.** Increased regulatory requirements may be more aggressive than any sustainability measures we may be currently undertaking or may implement in the future may cause disruptions in supply chains or an increase in operating and compliance costs. If we do not adapt to or comply with **these and other** new regulations or if we are perceived to have not responded appropriately to the growing concern for ESG matters, we may face legal or regulatory actions or the imposition of fines, penalties, or other sanctions and adverse publicity, any of which could materially harm our reputation or have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations. We have developed, and will continue to establish, goals, targets and other objectives related to sustainability matters. These statements reflect our current plans and do not constitute a guarantee that they will be achieved. Our efforts to research, establish, accomplish and accurately report on these goals, targets and objectives expose us to numerous operational, reputational, financial, legal and other risks. Our ability to achieve any stated goal, target or objective is subject to numerous factors and conditions, many of which are outside of our control. Examples of these factors include evolving regulatory requirements affecting sustainability standards or disclosures or imposing different requirements, the pace of changes in technology, the availability of requisite financing and the availability of third parties with whom we do or will do business that can meet our sustainability and other standards. Our business may face increased scrutiny from the investment community, other stakeholders, regulators and the media regarding our sustainability activities, including the goals, targets and objectives that we announce, and our methodologies and timelines for pursuing them. Additionally, we may be subject to higher expectations or greater scrutiny than other companies due to the nature of our business. If our sustainability practices do not meet investor or other stakeholder expectations and standards, which continue to evolve, our reputation, our ability to attract or retain employees, and our attractiveness as an investment, business partner, or as an acquirer could be negatively impacted. Similarly, our failure or perceived failure to pursue or fulfill our goals, targets and objectives, to comply with ethical, environmental or other standards, regulations or expectations, or to satisfy various reporting standards with respect to these matters, within the timelines we announce, or at all, could have the same negative impacts, as well as expose us to government enforcement actions and private litigation. Even if we achieve our goals, targets and objectives, we may not realize all of the benefits that we expected at the time they were established. Product and systems offerings subject us to risks that could adversely affect our business. Certain of our environmental solutions include product or system offerings, including those offered by ECT2 and our biogas division. We have a limited history in offering products and designing and building systems as compared to the services we offer, and this expansion subjects us to new and different risks generally associated with offering products manufactured by third parties, including but not limited to: • production difficulties of third-party manufacturers, including problems involving changes in their production capacity and yields, quality control and assurance, component supply and shortages of qualified personnel; • failure to establish or maintain supplier relationships; • supply chain issues of third-party manufacturers and the failure of suppliers to produce components to specification or supply us with a sufficient amount or adequate quality of materials, ~~including those that began during the COVID-19 pandemic~~; • increases in the cost of raw materials, components or the overall cost of production passed to us; • failure to adequately design new or improved products or respond to changing regulatory requirements; • use of defective materials or workmanship in the manufacturing process; • improper use of our products; • failure to satisfy any warranty or performance guarantee; • product liability claims; and • lack of market acceptance, delays in product development and failure of products to operate properly. Under any of these circumstances, demand may suffer, we may incur substantial expense to remedy the problem, may incur penalties under the customer agreement and may be required to obtain replacement products if available. If we fail to remedy any such problem in a timely manner, we risk the loss of revenue resulting from the inability to sell those products or systems and related increased costs. If product or system defects or other issues are not discovered until after they are purchased by our

clients, our clients could lose confidence in our products and our brand and reputation may be negatively impacted. Any failure to successfully respond to the foregoing risks or any others that we may not appreciate as a result of our limited history of production could have material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Our operations are subject to environmental laws and regulations and any liabilities may have a material adverse effect on our business. We are in regular contact with waste, biogas, chemicals and other hazardous materials in the ordinary course of providing services to our clients. We also operate a number of O & M client sites. As a result, our business is subject to numerous U. S. and international laws and regulations relating to the protection of the environment. For example, we must comply with a number of U. S. federal and state laws that strictly regulate the handling, removal, treatment, transportation and disposal of toxic and hazardous substances. As an operator of client O & M facilities, if there is a spill of a hazardous substance or other contamination event at one of these sites, under the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, or CERCLA, and comparable state, provincial and local laws, we may be required to investigate, mitigate and remediate any contamination, including addressing natural resource damage, compensating for human exposure or property damage and installing costly pollution control equipment. CERCLA and comparable state, provincial and local laws typically impose strict, joint and several liabilities without regard to whether an entity knew of or caused the release of hazardous substances. Other environmental laws affecting our business include, but are not limited to, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972, as amended, also known as the Clean Water Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, National Environmental Policy Act, the Clean Air Act, the Occupational Safety and Health Act, the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, the Toxic Substances Control Act and the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act. Our business operations may also be subject to similar international laws relating to environmental protection. Liabilities related to contamination or violations of these laws and regulations could result in material costs to us, including clean-up costs, fines, civil or criminal sanctions and third-party claims for property damage or personal injury, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Seasonality of demand for certain of our services and weather conditions and other factors outside our control may adversely affect, or cause volatility in, our financial results. We experience seasonal demand with respect to certain of the services we provide, particularly in our Measurement and Analysis segment, **and, following the acquisition of Matrix in Canada, the Remediation and Reuse segment**, as demand for those services can follow weather trends. Seasonal effects may vary from year to year and are impacted by weather patterns, particularly by temperatures, rainfall and droughts. In addition, we may experience earnings volatility as a result of the timing of large contract wins and the timing of large emergency response projects following an incident or natural disaster due to the unpredictable nature thereof. Further, we ~~have~~ generated meaningful revenues related to COVID- 19 response work, particularly in 2020 and 2021, and ~~if as a result of the pandemic continues to subside~~ **subsiding**, as demonstrated by the decrease in revenues specific to COVID- 19 work in 2022, we may not be able to replace these revenue streams in future periods. Our business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially and adversely affected by severe weather, natural disasters or environmental factors. Furthermore, our ability to deliver services on time to our clients can be significantly impeded by such conditions and events. Our business could be disrupted by catastrophic events. Occurrence of any catastrophic event, including earthquake, fire, flood, tsunami or other weather event, **pandemic**, power loss, telecommunications failure, software or hardware malfunctions, cyber-attack, war or terrorist attack, could result in lengthy interruptions in our services. Our insurance coverage may not compensate us for losses that may occur in the wake of such events. In addition, acts of terrorism could cause disruptions to the internet or the economy as a whole. Even with our disaster recovery arrangements, our services could be interrupted. If our systems were to fail or be negatively impacted as a result of a natural disaster or other event, our ability to deliver services to our clients would be impaired or we could lose critical data. If we are unable to develop or, in the event of a disaster or emergency, successfully execute on, adequate plans to ensure that our business functions continue to operate during and after a disaster, our business, results of operations, financial condition and reputation would be harmed. We may not be successful in expanding our client base or the services we provide to existing clients, which could adversely affect our business. Our success and the planned growth and expansion of our business depends on our ability to expand into new markets and further penetrate existing markets. Our ability to expand is to a large extent contingent on our services and solutions achieving greater and broader acceptance, resulting in a larger client base, a broader array of prospective clients and expanded services provided to existing clients. However, demand for our services is uncertain, and there can be no assurance that clients will purchase our offerings, or that we will be able to continually expand our client base within existing geographies or into new geographies, whether we expand organically or through acquisition. Expanding our client base is also subject to external factors, many of which are beyond our control, including the overall demand for the services we offer, the actions of our competitors and the finite number of prospective clients in a given market. We cannot provide any assurances regarding our immediate or long- term growth rates in any geographic market or segment, or if we will grow at all. If we are unable to effectively market or expand our offerings to new clients or cross- market our services to existing clients, we may be unable to grow our business or implement our business strategy. Any of the above could materially impair our ability to increase sales and revenue and have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. We generally do not have formal long- term agreements with our clients and attempts by clients to change the terms of or terminate their relationships with us may have a negative impact on our business. Our operations depend upon our relationships with our clients. Our clients are companies operating in a number of sectors and industries, including the financial, oil & gas, utilities, construction, automotive, real- estate, midstream energy, manufacturing, commodities, petrochemical, ~~tobacco~~, food and beverage, telecommunications and engineering industries, as well as local, state, provincial and federal government entities. As is customary in our industry, we do not always enter into formal written agreements with our clients, and to the extent we do, such agreements do not generally restrict our clients from altering the terms of the relationship. These arrangements allow clients to attempt to seek concessions, introduce unfavorable terms or limit the services and solutions that we provide to them before a project is finished or as a condition to continued or

increased business. The arrangements also generally allow a client to terminate or to decide not to renew their contracts or purchase orders with little or no advanced notice to us. A loss of one or more clients, a meaningful reduction in their purchases from us or an adverse change in the terms on which we provide our services and solutions could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Public clients involve unique policy, contract and performance risks, and we may face challenges to our government contracts or our eligibility to serve government clients, any of which could materially adversely impact our business. We derive, and expect to continue to derive in the future, revenues from federal, state, provincial or local government clients, which accounted for approximately 11 % of our revenues for the fiscal year ended December 31, ~~2022~~ **2023**. Sales to governments and related entities present risks in addition to those involved in sales to many of our other clients, including policy- related risks such as potential disruption due to appropriation and spending patterns, delays in the adoption of new technologies due to political, fiscal or bureaucratic processes, delays in approving budgets and the government' s right to cancel contracts and purchase orders for its convenience. General political and economic conditions, which we cannot accurately predict, also directly and indirectly affect policies relating to the quantity and allocation of expenditures by government clients. In addition, government contracts may involve long purchase and payment cycles, competitive bidding requirements, qualification requirements, delays or changes in agreed- to funding, budgetary constraints, political agendas, extensive specification development and price negotiations, milestone requirements and the potential unenforceability of limitations on liability or other contractual provisions, any of which may create price pressure and reduce our margins. As a result, we could experience a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Each government entity also maintains its own rules and regulations with which we must comply and which can vary significantly among clients. We face risks associated with the failure to comply with such rules and regulations such as bid protests, in which our competitors could challenge the contracts we have obtained, or suspension, debarment or similar ineligibility from serving government clients. Challenges to our current or future government contracts or to our eligibility to serve government clients could result in a loss of government sales and have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Our contracts with federal, state, provincial and local governments may be terminated or adversely modified prior to completion, which could adversely affect our business. Government contracts generally contain provisions, and are subject to laws and regulations, that give the government rights and remedies not typically found in commercial contracts, including provisions permitting the government to: • terminate our existing contracts; • reduce potential future revenues from our existing contracts; • modify some of the terms and conditions in our existing contracts; • suspend or permanently prohibit us from doing business with the government or with any specific government agency; • impose fines and penalties; • subject us to criminal prosecution or debarment; • subject the award of some contracts to protest or challenge by competitors, which may require the contracting agency or department to suspend our performance pending the outcome of the protest or challenge and which may also require the government to solicit new bids for the contract or result in the termination, reduction or modification of the awarded contract; • suspend work under existing multiple year contracts and related task orders if the necessary funds are not appropriated by the relevant governmental authority; and • decline to exercise an option to extend an existing multiple year contract. Governmental authorities may terminate contracts with us either for convenience (for instance, due to a change in perceived needs or a desire to consolidate work under another contract) or if we default by failing to perform under the contract. Upon a termination for convenience, we are generally able to recover the purchase price for delivered items and reimbursement of allowable work- in- process costs. If a governmental authority terminates a contract with us based upon our default, we generally would be denied any recovery for undelivered work, and instead may be liable for excess costs incurred by the government in procuring undelivered work. The exercise by any governmental entity of one or more of these rights under its agreements with us could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. A failure in or breach of our networks or systems, including as a result of cyber- attacks, could have a material adverse effect on our business. Our **efforts to minimize the likelihood and impact of adverse cybersecurity incidents and to protect data and intellectual property may not be successful and our business could be negatively affected by cyber or security threats or other disruptions. We routinely experience various cybersecurity threats to our technology infrastructure, unauthorized attempts to gain access to our company, employee and customer- sensitive information, insider threats and other attacks. Our customers, suppliers, subcontractors and partners experience similar security threats. In addition to cyber threats, we face threats to the security of our facilities and employees, which could materially disrupt our business if carried out. We could also be impacted by the improper conduct of our employees or others working on behalf of us who have access to export controlled or Controlled Unclassified Information (" CUI"), which could adversely affect our business and reputation. The threats we face vary from attacks common to most industries, such as ransomware, to more advanced and persistent threats, highly organized adversaries, including nation state actors, which target us and other defense contractors and other companies. These threats can cause disruptions to our business operations. In addition to cyber threats, our** cybersecurity and processing systems, as well as those of our third- party **service providers, including cloud** service providers, newly acquired companies that have not yet been integrated , and those of our clients which we periodically manage , may experience damage or disruption from a number of causes, including power outages, computer and telecommunication failures, internal design, manual or usage errors, workplace violence or wrongdoing, catastrophic events, natural disasters , and severe weather conditions. These systems may also be damaged, disrupted , or fail entirely as a result of computer viruses or other malicious codes, social- engineering schemes, unauthorized access attempts , and cyber- attacks that could include phishing- attacks, denial- of- service attacks, ransomware, malware , and hacking . **If we are unable to protect sensitive information, including complying with evolving information security and data protection / privacy regulations, our customers or governmental authorities could question the adequacy of our threat mitigation and detection processes and procedures. Moreover, depending on the severity of an incident, our customers' data, our employees' data, our intellectual property (including trade secrets and research, development and**

engineering know-how), and other third-party data (such as subcontractors, suppliers and vendors) could be compromised. As previously disclosed, on June 11, 2022, we were the target of an organized ransomware attack on our IT systems that, although not ultimately material to our results of operations for the year ended December 31, 2022, and December 31, 2023, or any individual fiscal quarter within the those year years, the attack led to the temporary disruption of our regular operations and lost revenues in 2022. See Item 7. “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Key Factors that Affect Our Business and Our Results — Cybersecurity.” Any of these numerous and evolving cybersecurity threats, particularly on internet applications, could compromise the confidentiality, availability and integrity of data in our systems or that on the systems of our clients which we are periodically responsible for managing. We believe our possession of CUI, confidential or protected client information may put us at a greater risk of being targeted. In addition, we manage and operate supervisory control and data acquisition systems at a number of operations and maintenance, or O & M, client facilities, including water and biogas facilities, and another cyber-attack or other system failure could cause the facility to be shutdown, which could create regulatory compliance issues, cause a contamination event or have other adverse consequences for which we could have liability. Because of the persistence, sophistication and volume of cyber-attacks, we may not be successful in defending against an attack that could have a material adverse effect on us and due to the evolving nature of these security threats, the impact of any future incident cannot be predicted. We also typically work cooperatively with our customers, suppliers, subcontractors, and entities we acquire, who or which are subject to similar threats, to seek to minimize the impact of cyber threats, other security threats or business disruptions. These entities, which are typically outside our control and may have access to our information, have varying levels of cybersecurity expertise and safeguards, and their relationships with government contractors, including us, may increase the likelihood that they are targeted by the same cyber threats we face. The security measures and procedures we, our clients, and third-party service providers have in place to protect sensitive data and other information may not be successful or sufficient to counter all data breaches, cyber-attacks, or system failures. Although we devote what we believe to be appropriate resources to our cybersecurity programs and have implemented security measures to protect our systems and data, and to prevent, detect and respond to data security incidents, there can be no assurance that our efforts will prevent any additional future threats. Because the techniques used to obtain unauthorized access, or to disable or degrade systems change frequently, have become increasingly more complex and sophisticated, and may be difficult to detect for periods of time, we may not anticipate these acts or respond adequately or timely. As these threats continue to evolve and increase, we may be required to devote significant additional resources in order to modify and enhance our security controls and to identify and remediate any security vulnerabilities. Our systems and those of third parties with whom we do business have been, and will likely continue to be, subject to these types of malicious attacks. To our knowledge, other than as noted above, there has not been a significant breach of our systems, and no attack on our systems has had a direct, material impact on us or our business to date. We cannot, however, predict the extent and severity of any additional future attacks that may occur. Laws and regulations regarding the handling of client confidential data and information may have a negative impact on our business. Certain aspects of our business rely on the processing of our clients’ confidential data in a number of jurisdictions and the movement of data across borders. Legal requirements relating to the collection, storage, handling, use, disclosure, transfer and security of this information continue to evolve, and regulatory scrutiny in this area is increasing. Significant uncertainty exists as privacy and data protection laws may be interpreted and applied differently in different jurisdictions and may create inconsistent or conflicting requirements. Although we have procedures and systems in place to address applicable legal and regulatory requirements for those aspects of our business impacted by these laws, enforcement actions and investigations by regulatory authorities related to data security incidents and privacy violations continue to increase, and we could be subject to such activity. The enactment of more restrictive laws, rules, regulations or future enforcement actions or investigations could increase costs or restrictions on certain of our businesses, and noncompliance with existing or future laws could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Our current indebtedness, and any future indebtedness we may incur, may limit our operational and financing flexibility and negatively impact our business. Our As of December 31, 2023, our Senior Secured Credit Agreement, provides provided for a \$ 300. 0 million credit facility comprised of a \$ 175. 0 million term loan and a \$ 125. 0 million revolving line of credit, or the 2021 Credit Facility. In February As of December 31, 2022-2024, the aggregate principal amount of our debt outstanding Company partially exercised its option to access the \$ 150 million accordion under our Senior Secured Credit Agreement, and as a result, the Senior Secured Credit Agreement was amended to provide for an additional \$ 100. 0 million credit availability under the 2021 Credit Facility, comprised of an additional \$ 50. 0 million term loan and \$ 50. 0 million revolving credit facility was \$ 166. 3 million, all of which was outstanding under the term loan. The revolving credit facility includes a \$ 20. 0 million sublimit for the issuance of letters of credit. Subject to certain exceptions, all amounts under the 2021 Credit Facility will become due on April 27, 2026. The As of December 31, 2023, our total indebtedness was \$ 164. 5 million, consisting of \$ 154. 2 million outstanding under the 2021 Credit Facility, all of which was outstanding under the term loan, and \$ 10. 3 million under our aircraft loan. Further, following the exercise of the accordion feature in February 2024, the Company has the remaining option to borrow incremental term loans or request an increase in the aggregate commitments under the revolving credit facility up to an aggregate amount of \$ 150. 0 million subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions described in greater detail in Item 7. “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Liquidity and Capital Resources.” We also may enter into new borrowing arrangements and incur significant indebtedness in the future to continue to support our organic and acquisition-related growth. Our existing and any future indebtedness could have important consequences, including: • making it more difficult for us to make payments on our existing indebtedness; • increasing our vulnerability to general economic and industry conditions; • requiring a substantial portion of our cash flow from operations to be dedicated to the payment of principal and interest on our indebtedness, thereby reducing our ability to use our cash flow to fund our operations, capital expenditures and future business opportunities; •

exposing us to the risk of increased interest rates on our borrowings under our **2021 credit-Credit facility-Facility**, which is at variable rates of interest; • restricting us from making strategic acquisitions or causing us to make non- strategic divestitures; • limiting our ability to obtain additional financing for working capital, capital expenditures, debt service requirements, acquisitions and general corporate or other purposes; and • limiting our ability to adjust to changing market conditions and placing us at a competitive disadvantage compared to our competitors who are less highly leveraged. Our ability to make payments on debt, to repay existing or future indebtedness when due, to fund operations and significant planned capital expenditures and to support our acquisition strategy will depend on our ability to generate cash in the future. Our ability to produce cash from operations is, and will be, subject to a number of risks, including those described in “ — Risks Related to Our Business and Industry ” and elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10- K. Our financial condition, including our ability to make payments on our debt, is also subject to external factors such as interest rates, the level of lending activity in the credit markets and other external industry- specific and more general external factors, including those described in “ — Risks Related to Our Business and Industry ” and elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10- K. We may not be able to borrow additional financing or to refinance our **2021 credit-Credit facility-Facility** or other indebtedness we may incur in the future, if required, on commercially reasonable terms, if at all. In addition, our ability to borrow under our **2021 credit-Credit facility-Facility** is subject to significant conditions, as described in Item 7. “ Management’ s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Liquidity and Capital Resources. ” Despite our current level of indebtedness, we may incur more debt. We may be able to incur significant additional indebtedness in the future. For example, we may incur additional indebtedness in connection with future acquisitions. Although our **2021 credit-Credit facility-Facility** and our Series A- 2 preferred stock contain restrictions on the incurrence of additional indebtedness, these restrictions are subject to a number of qualifications and exceptions, and the additional indebtedness incurred in compliance with these restrictions could be substantial. These restrictions also do not prevent us from incurring obligations that do not constitute indebtedness. ~~As Further, as~~ of December 31, ~~2022-2023~~, the 2021 Credit Facility provided for an aggregate unused commitment of \$ 125. 0 million (without giving effect to any outstanding letters of credit, and subject to borrowing base limitations). The 2021 Credit Facility also allows us to increase the aggregate borrowings thereunder by up to \$ 150. 0 million. See Item 7. “ Management’ s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Liquidity and Capital Resources. ” We may not be able to generate sufficient cash to service all of our indebtedness and may be forced to take other actions to satisfy our obligations under our indebtedness, which may not be successful. Our ability to make scheduled payments on, or to refinance our respective obligations under, our indebtedness, and to fund planned capital expenditures, future acquisitions and other corporate expenses will depend on our future operating performance and on economic, financial, competitive, legislative, regulatory and other factors and any legal and regulatory restrictions on the payment of distributions and dividends to which we may be subject. Many of these factors are beyond our control. We cannot assure you that our business will generate sufficient cash flow from operations, that currently anticipated cost savings and operating improvements will be realized or that future borrowings will be available to us in an amount sufficient to enable us to satisfy our obligations under our indebtedness or to fund our other needs. In order for us to satisfy our obligations under our indebtedness and fund planned capital expenditures and future acquisitions, we must continue to execute on our business strategy. If we are unable to do so, we may need to reduce or delay our planned capital expenditures or execution of our acquisition strategy, seek additional capital, sell assets or refinance all or a portion of our indebtedness on or before maturity, any of which could materially and adversely affect our future revenue prospects. Our ability to restructure or refinance our indebtedness will depend on the condition of the capital markets and our financial condition at such time. Any refinancing of our existing or future debt could be at higher interest rates and may require us to comply with more onerous covenants, which could further restrict our business operations. Our **2021 credit-Credit facility-Facility , airplane loan**, and our Series A- 2 preferred stock restrict our ability to consummate or use the proceeds from asset sales. We may not be able to consummate those asset sales to raise capital or sell assets at prices that we believe are fair. Any proceeds that we receive may not be adequate to meet any debt service obligations then due. In addition, any failure to make payments of interest and principal on our outstanding indebtedness on a timely basis would likely result in a reduction of our credit rating, which could harm our ability to incur additional indebtedness. Our **2021 credit-Credit facility-Facility** restricts our ability to engage in some business and financial transactions. Our **2021 credit-Credit facility-Facility** contains a number of covenants that among other things, limit our ability to: • incur additional indebtedness or guarantees; • create liens on assets; • enter into sale and leaseback transactions; • engage in mergers or consolidations; • pay dividends and make distributions and other restricted payments; • make certain investments, loans or advances; • repay subordinated indebtedness; • make certain acquisitions; • engage in certain transactions with affiliates; • change our lines of business; • restrict distributions by our restricted subsidiaries; • amend or otherwise modify organizational documents or certain debt agreements; and • manage cash and other assets in our deposit accounts and securities accounts. In addition, our **2021 credit-Credit facility-Facility** contains certain financial covenants that, among other things, require us not to exceed specified total debt leverage ratios and to maintain a fixed charge coverage ratio. Among other things, we may not be able to borrow money under our **2021 credit-Credit facility-Facility** if we are unable to comply with the financial and other covenants included therein. Our **2021 credit-Credit facility-Facility** also contains certain customary representations and warranties, affirmative covenants and events of default (including, among other things, an event of default upon a change of control). If an event of default occurs, our lenders will be entitled to take various actions, including the acceleration of amounts due under our **2021 credit-Credit facility-Facility** and all actions permitted to be taken by a secured creditor. Any future debt that we incur may contain additional and more restrictive negative covenants and financial maintenance covenants. These restrictions could limit our ability to obtain debt financing, repurchase stock, pay dividends, refinance or pay principal on our outstanding debt, complete acquisitions for cash or debt or react to changes in our operating environment or the economy. Our failure to comply with obligations under our **2021 credit-Credit facility-Facility** or the agreements governing any future indebtedness may result in an event of default under the applicable agreement. A default, if not

cured or waived, may permit acceleration of some or all of our other indebtedness and trigger other termination and similar rights under other contracts. We cannot be certain that we will be able to remedy any defaults and, if our indebtedness is accelerated, we cannot be certain that we will have sufficient funds available to pay the accelerated indebtedness or that we will have the ability to refinance the accelerated indebtedness on terms favorable to us or at all, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. The trading price of our common stock has been and may continue to be volatile and could decline substantially. ~~The~~ **Since our initial public offering in July 2020, the** market price of our common stock has been, and may continue to be, highly volatile and subject to wide fluctuations. Some of the factors that could negatively affect the market price of our common stock or result in significant fluctuations in price, regardless of our actual operating performance, include: • actual or anticipated variations in our quarterly operating results; • changes in market valuations of similar companies; • changes in the markets in which we operate; • additions or departures of key personnel; • actions by stockholders, including sales of large blocks of our common stock; • the continuation of an active trading market in our common stock or any significant volatility in the liquidity of that market; • speculation in the press or investment community; • short selling of our common stock or related derivative securities or hedging activities; • general market, economic and political conditions, including an economic slowdown; • inflation and changes in interest rates; • our operating performance and the performance of other similar companies; • our ability to accurately project future results and our ability to achieve those or meet the expectations of other industry and analyst forecasts; and • new legislation or other regulatory developments that adversely affect us, our markets or our industry. The trading market for our common stock is also influenced in part by the research and other reports that industry or securities analysts may publish about us or our business or industry. If one or more analysts downgrade our stock, issue other unfavorable commentary about us or our industry or inaccurate research, or cease coverage or fail to regularly publish reports on us, our stock price and trading volume could decline. Furthermore, in recent years, the stock market has experienced significant price and volume fluctuations. This volatility has had a significant impact on the market price of securities issued by many companies, including companies in our industry, and often occurs without regard to the operating performance of the affected companies. Therefore, factors that have little or nothing to do with us could cause the price of our common stock to fluctuate, and these fluctuations or any fluctuations related to our company could cause the market price of our common stock to decline materially. We ~~ceased to be an emerging growth company as of the end of 2021, and any failure on our part to comply with our expanded reporting and disclosure requirements could adversely affect our business and cause the price of our common stock to fall. We ceased to be an emerging growth company as of the end of 2021 due to the aggregate market value of our common stock held by non-affiliates as of the end of our second fiscal quarter exceeding \$ 700. 0 million. As an emerging growth company we previously took advantage of exemptions from various reporting requirements applicable to other public companies but not to emerging growth companies, including, but not limited to, not being required to have our independent registered public accounting firm audit our internal control over financial reporting under Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, reduced disclosure obligations regarding executive compensation in our registration statements, periodic reports and proxy statements and exemptions from the requirements of holding a nonbinding advisory vote on executive compensation and stockholder approval of any golden parachute payments not previously approved. We also previously “opted in” to the extended transition periods that allow emerging growth companies to delay adopting new or revised accounting standards until such time as those standards apply to private companies. There can be no assurances that we will be able to comply with the new and expanded disclosure requirements that apply to us now that we are no longer an emerging growth company or that we will be able to timely adopt and implement revised accounting standards on the timelines applicable to other public companies on a non-delayed basis. Any failure to comply with these new and expanded disclosure requirements and obligations could restrict our access to the capital markets and otherwise adversely affect our business and could cause the market price of our common stock to decline materially.~~ We have no present intention to pay dividends on our common stock. ~~We have no present intention to pay dividends on our common stock.~~ Any determination to pay dividends to holders of our common stock will be at the discretion of our board of directors and will depend upon many factors, including our financial condition, results of operations, projections, liquidity, earnings, legal requirements, restrictions in our ~~2021 credit~~ **Credit facility-Facility**, the terms of our Series A- 2 preferred stock, agreements governing any other indebtedness we may enter into and other factors that our board of directors deems relevant. See Item 5. “Market for Registrant’s Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities — Dividend Policy.” Accordingly, you may need to sell your shares of our common stock to realize a return on your investment, and you may not be able to sell your shares at or above the price you paid for them. Oaktree may have conflicts of interest with other stockholders. OCM Montrose II Holdings, L. P., an affiliate of Oaktree Capital Management, L. P., or collectively, Oaktree, is the holder of all issued and outstanding shares of our Series A- 2 preferred stock. Oaktree is in the business of making investments in companies and, notwithstanding its ownership of our preferred stock and that it has a right to appoint a representative on our board of directors, Oaktree may from time to time acquire and hold interests in businesses that compete directly or indirectly with us. Oaktree may also pursue acquisition opportunities that may be complementary to our business, and as a result, those acquisition opportunities may not be available to us. In recognition that representatives of Oaktree and its affiliated entities and funds may serve as members of our board of directors, our amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides, among other things, that none of Oaktree, its affiliates or any of its representatives (including a representative who may serve on our board of directors) has any duty to refrain from engaging directly or indirectly in the same or similar business activities or lines of business that we do. In the event that any of these persons or entities acquires knowledge of a potential transaction or matter which may be a corporate opportunity for itself and us, we will not have any expectancy in such corporate opportunity, and these persons and entities will not have any duty to communicate or offer such corporate opportunity to us and may pursue or acquire such corporate opportunity for themselves or direct such opportunity to another person. Oaktree also has a right of first offer with respect to its pro rata portion of any new securities we may issue,

excluding any shares to be issued by us in certain specified circumstances. These potential conflicts of interest could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations if, among other things, attractive corporate opportunities are allocated by Oaktree to itself or one of its other affiliates. See “ Corporate Opportunities ” in the Description of Securities exhibit incorporated by reference as exhibit 4. 2 to this Annual Report on Form 10- K. Future sales of our common stock in the public market could cause our stock price to fall. Shares held by our affiliates are eligible for resale in the public market, subject to applicable securities laws, including the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act. Therefore, unless shares owned by any of our affiliates are registered under the Securities Act, these shares may only be resold into the public markets in accordance with the requirements of an exemption from registration or safe harbor, including Rule 144 and the volume limitations, manner of sale requirements and notice requirements thereof. However, pursuant to the terms of an Investor Rights Agreement, Messrs. Richard Perlman and James Price, Oaktree, and certain other stockholders have the right to demand that we register their shares under the Securities Act as well as the right to include their shares in any registration statement that we file with the SEC, subject to certain exceptions. Approximately 2, 500, 000 ~~million~~ shares of common stock held by affiliates and certain other parties entitled to these registration rights were registered on a shelf registration statement filed with the SEC on August 11, 2021 and declared effective on August 20, 2021. This registration statement also registered approximately 320, 000 shares held at such time by other executive officers and directors. Oaktree also holds all outstanding shares of our Series A-2 stock, which may be converted into shares of common stock in the future and would also receive the benefit of these registration rights. See Note ~~18-16~~ to our audited consolidated financial statements included in Item 8. “ Financial Statements and Supplementary Data. ” Registration of these or other shares enables those shares to be sold in the public market, subject to certain restrictions in the Investor Rights Agreement. Any sale by Messrs. Perlman and Price, Oaktree, by our executive officers or other stockholders or any perception in the public markets that such a transaction may occur could cause the market price of our common stock to decline materially. We have also registered the shares available under our Amended and Restated 2017 Stock Incentive Plan and outstanding awards issued under this plan and our prior stock option plan. Subject to the terms of the awards pursuant to which these shares have been or may be granted, and except for shares held by affiliates who will be subject to the resale restrictions described above, the shares issuable pursuant to awards granted under our stock incentive plans will be available for sale in the public market immediately. Our ability to raise capital in the future may be limited. We may not be able to secure additional financing on terms that are acceptable to us, or at all. In order for us to grow and successfully execute our business plan, we will require additional financing. Additionally, our business and operations may consume resources faster than we anticipate. Therefore, in the future, we expect we will raise additional funds through various financings that may include the issuance of new equity securities, debt or a combination of both. However, any sale or perception of a possible sale by Oaktree or our other affiliates, and any related decline in the market price of our common stock, could impair our ability to raise capital. Further, additional financing, whether debt or equity, may not be available on favorable terms, or at all. If adequate funds are not available on acceptable terms, we may be unable to fund our capital requirements. If we issue new debt securities, the debt holders would have rights senior to common stockholders to make claims on our assets, and the terms of any debt could restrict our operations, including our ability to pay dividends on our common stock. If we issue additional equity securities, existing stockholders will experience dilution, and the new equity securities could have rights senior to those of our common stock. Because our decision to issue securities in any future offering will depend on market conditions and other factors beyond our control, we cannot predict or estimate the amount, timing or nature of our future offerings. Thus, our stockholders bear the risk of our future securities offerings reducing the market price of our common stock and diluting their interest. Provisions of our amended and restated governing documents, Delaware law and other documents could discourage, delay or prevent a merger or acquisition at a premium price. Provisions in our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws may have the effect of delaying or preventing a change of control or changes in our management. For example, our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws include provisions that: • permit us to issue, without stockholder approval, preferred stock in one or more series and, with respect to each series, fix the number of shares constituting the series and the designation of the series, the voting powers, if any, of the shares of the series and the preferences and other special rights, if any, and any qualifications, limitations or restrictions, of the shares of the series; • prevent stockholders from acting by written consent; • limit the ability of stockholders to amend our certificate of incorporation and bylaws; • require advance notice for nominations for election to the board of directors and for stockholder proposals; • do not permit cumulative voting in the election of our directors, which means that the holders of a majority of our common stock may elect all of the directors standing for election; and • establish a classified board of directors with staggered three- year terms. These provisions may discourage, delay or prevent a merger or acquisition of our company, including a transaction in which the acquirer may offer a premium price for our common stock. We are also subject to Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, or the DGCL, which, subject to certain exceptions, prohibits us from engaging in any business combination with any interested stockholder, as defined in that section, for a period of three years following the date on which that stockholder became an interested stockholder. In addition, our 2017 Stock Plan permits accelerated vesting of stock options and restricted stock, and payments to be made to the employees thereunder in certain circumstances, in connection with a change of control of our company, which could discourage, delay or prevent a merger or acquisition at a premium price. In addition, our **2021 credit Credit facility Facility** includes, and other debt instruments we may enter into in the future may include, provisions entitling the lenders to demand immediate repayment of all borrowings upon the occurrence of certain change of control events relating to our company, which also could discourage, delay or prevent a business combination transaction. See “ Provisions of Our Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws and Delaware Law That May Have an Anti- Takeover Effect ” in the Description of Securities exhibit incorporated by reference as exhibit 4. 2 to this Annual Report on Form 10- K. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation includes an exclusive forum clause, which could limit our stockholders’ ability to obtain a favorable judicial forum for disputes with us. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides that, unless we consent in

writing to the selection of an alternative forum, the sole and exclusive forum for any stockholder (including any beneficial owner) to bring (i) any derivative action or proceeding brought on our behalf, (ii) any action asserting a claim of breach of a fiduciary duty owed by any of our directors, officers or employees to us or to our stockholders, (iii) any action asserting a claim arising pursuant to any provision of the DGCL or our certificate of incorporation or bylaws or (iv) any action asserting a claim governed by the internal affairs doctrine, is a state court located within the State of Delaware (or, if no state court located within the State of Delaware has jurisdiction or declines to accept jurisdiction, the federal district court for the District of Delaware); in all cases subject to such court having personal jurisdiction over the indispensable parties named as defendants. In addition, our amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides that the federal district courts of the United States are the exclusive forum for resolving any complaint asserting a cause of action arising under the Securities Act but that the forum selection provision does not apply to claims brought to enforce a duty or liability created by the Exchange Act. Although we believe these provisions benefit us by providing increased consistency in the application of Delaware law for the specified types of actions and proceedings, the provisions may have the effect of discouraging lawsuits against us or our directors and officers. Alternatively, if a court were to find the choice of forum provision contained in our amended and restated certificate of incorporation to be inapplicable or unenforceable in an action, we may incur additional costs associated with resolving such action in other jurisdictions, which could harm our business, financial condition, and results of operations. Any person or entity purchasing or otherwise acquiring any interest in shares of our capital stock is deemed to have notice of and consented to the foregoing provisions. The exclusive forum clause may limit our stockholders' ability to obtain a favorable judicial forum for disputes with us. See "Exclusive Forum Clause" in the Description of Securities exhibit incorporated by reference as exhibit 4.2 to this Annual Report on Form 10-K. Our profitability will suffer if we are not able to price our services appropriately or control our costs. Our margins, and therefore our profitability, is largely a function of the rates we are able to charge for our services and the costs incurred to provide such services. Accordingly, if we are not able to maintain, raise or otherwise appropriately set our pricing, or we are not able to maintain or reduce costs as and when needed, we will not be able to sustain our margins and our business and results of operations will be adversely affected. For example, in 2022-2023, we experienced higher elevated rates of inflation, which primarily impacted direct costs, including outside services, field supplies and project-related travel costs, and to a lesser extent, labor costs as a result. In some instances, these costs increases were in excess of inflation pricing increases taken early in the year, which negatively impacted margins until additional pricing could be implemented. If we are not able to raise the rates we charge for our services to offset the impact of any cost increases, we will not be able to sustain our margins and our profitability will suffer. The rates we are able to charge for our services are affected by a number of factors, including: • our clients' perception of our ability to add value through our services; • general competition; • introduction of new services or solutions by us or our competitors; • pricing policies of our competitors; and • general economic conditions. Our costs are affected by a number of factors, including: • our cost of labor and our ability to transition our technical personnel from completed projects to new engagements; • our ability to effectively and efficiently staff projects; • our ability to forecast demand for our services; • our ability to manage the costs of indirect expenses and other related factors, including inflation; and • our overhead costs necessary to support the successful delivery of services. Our profitability is a function of our ability to raise prices, control our costs and improve our efficiency. We may not be able to raise prices sufficiently to cover higher costs of labor and other input costs. In addition, as we increase the number of our technical personnel and execute both our strategy for growth, we may not be able to manage a significantly larger workforce, control our costs or improve our efficiency. Our success. We have a history of losses and may not be limited by able to achieve or sustain profitability in the future. While we have been able to generate revenues, we may not be able to increase the amount of revenues we generate, and we might incur net losses for some time as we continue to grow. We experienced net losses in each year since inception, including net losses of \$ 30.9 million and \$ 31.8 million for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively, and we may incur net losses in the future. As of December 31, 2023, we had an accumulated deficit of \$ 210.4 million. It is difficult for us to predict our future results of operations, and we expect our operating expenses to increase significantly over difficulties, complications, problems and delays, including the need for next several years as we continue to hire additional financing personnel, expand uncertainty surrounding our operations and infrastructure, integrate completed acquisitions, make and integrate future acquisitions and invest in research and development. If we fail to increase efforts, challenges with the successful commercialization of our revenue to offset the increases in services, market and client acceptance of our services operating expenses, unexpected issues with federal we may not achieve or sustain profitability state regulatory authorities, competition from larger organizations, uncertain intellectual property protection, fluctuations in expenses and dependence on corporate partners and collaborators. Any failure to successfully address these and other risks and uncertainties commonly associated with early stage companies could seriously harm our business and prospects, and we may not succeed given the technological, marketing, strategic and competitive challenges we will face in the sectors in which we operate or may choose to operate in the future. Any evaluation of our business and our prospects must be considered in light of these factors and the other risks and uncertainties frequently encountered by companies in our stage of development. No assurance can be given that we will successfully navigate these issues or implement any of our plans for future growth in a timely or effective manner, including our acquisition strategy, which would negatively impact our business, financial condition and results of operations. We may not be successful in promoting and further developing our brands, which could adversely affect our business. We have a limited operating history as a company and, as a result, the Montrose Environmental brand is not fully established, although many of the brands we use, including those acquired through our acquisition activity, have a longer and more well-established history. Our industry is highly fragmented and we believe that our future success depends in part on our ability to maintain and further strengthen our core brands, including the Montrose Environmental brand across the diverse range of environmental services that we provide. Strengthening our brand will require significant time, expense and the attention of management, and any success will depend largely on our marketing efforts and

ability to provide our clients with high- quality services.If a client is not satisfied with our services,including those of our technical employees,it may be more damaging to our brand and business as compared to that of larger,more established companies.Additionally,to the extent our clients draw regulatory or media scrutiny regarding their environmental impact or other areas where we may provide services to them,we may as a consequence also draw scrutiny.We are also investing more in brand development and there can be no assurances that this investment will generate additional revenues or business.If we fail to successfully maintain and continue to grow the Montrose Environmental brand and our other brands through promotion and other efforts,incur excessive unanticipated expenses in attempting to promote and maintain our brands,or lose clients as a result,our business,financial condition and results of operations may be adversely affected . Any inability to develop or maintain and protect our intellectual property could have a material adverse effect on us. We rely on a combination of patents, trademarks, trade names, confidentiality and nondisclosure clauses and agreements and other unregistered rights to define and protect our rights to our brand and the intellectual property used in our business. We also rely on industry and market “ know- how ” that cannot be registered and may not be subject to any confidentiality or nondisclosure clauses or agreements. Our ECT2 acquisition further expanded our IP portfolio. We are also expanding the software and application design work that we do in house, including applications to take real- time measurements of certain contaminants in the air and have increased our research and development spending. These intellectual property rights or others we develop, obtain or acquire may not, however, provide us with a significant competitive advantage because our rights may not be sufficiently broad or may be challenged, invalidated or subject to government march- in or sovereign rights or compulsory licensing, sunshine laws or be subject to freedom of information requests or court- ordered public disclosure. Further, our use of contractual provisions, confidentiality procedures and agreements and other registrations may not be sufficient to protect our intellectual property rights, these protective measures may be circumvented or our rights may be misappropriated, disparaged, diluted or stolen, particularly in countries where intellectual property rights laws are not highly developed, protected or enforced. Others may independently develop similar intellectual property or designed- around ours. Our intellectual property may also be replaced by new technologies to which we have no right of use or can only acquire such use at unreasonable or unsustainable costs. Any inability to develop or acquire and maintain the necessary intellectual property rights for our business or to protect our intellectual property rights could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Claims that we infringe on the intellectual property rights of others could have a material adverse effect on us. Technology is an important part of our business and, as a result, from time to time others may claim that we have infringed upon, misappropriated, misused or otherwise violated their intellectual property rights, whether as a result of the use of third party equipment or technologies or those that we may develop in- house. Regardless of the merit of such claims, responding to these types of claims can be expensive, time consuming and may divert a substantial portion of management’ s time and attention away from running our business. If any aspect of our business is found to infringe the intellectual property rights of others, we could lose critical rights, we may be required to pay substantial damages or on- going licensing or royalty fees or we may be required to redesign, rework, replace or entirely discontinue aspects of our operations, any of which could come at substantial cost and significantly restrict or prohibit our future operations. Further, we may not be able to take any required actions on commercially reasonable terms or at all. Any infringement may also require us to enter into a settlement agreement and could also trigger indemnification obligations to our clients or under other contractual provisions. Any claim that we have misappropriated the intellectual property of others, whether or not valid, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Our global operations subject us to additional risks that could adversely affect our business. We have activities outside of the United States. Our operations, as well as those of our clients, are therefore subject to regulatory, economic, political and other events and uncertainties in countries where these operations are located. Further, our growth strategy includes expansion into additional international markets, including our expansion into Europe. In addition to the risks discussed elsewhere herein that are common to both our domestic and international operations, we face risks specific to our foreign activities, including but not limited to: • political, social, economic and financial instability, including wars, civil unrest, acts of terrorism and other conflicts, **including the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East and surrounding areas**; • difficulties and increased costs in developing, staffing and simultaneously managing a large number of varying foreign operations as a result of distance, language and cultural differences; • restrictions and limitations on the transfer or repatriation of funds and fluctuations in currency exchange rates; • complying with varying legal and regulatory environments in multiple foreign jurisdictions, including privacy laws such as the E. U. General Data Protection Regulation; • laws and business practices that favor local competitors or prohibit foreign ownership of certain businesses; • potential for privatization and other confiscatory actions; and • other dynamics in international jurisdictions, any of which could result in substantial additional legal or compliance costs, liabilities or obligations for us or could require us to significantly modify our current business practices or even exit a given market. Foreign operations bring increased complexity and the costs of managing or overseeing foreign operations, including adapting and localizing services or systems to specific regions and countries, can be material. Further, international operations carry inherent uncertainties regarding the effect of local or domestic actions, such as the ~~impact of the~~ United Kingdom’ s departure from the European Union (Brexit), any of which could be material. These and other risks related to our foreign operations, or the associated costs or liabilities, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Legal and regulatory claims and proceedings could have a material adverse effect on us. We and our clients are subject to claims, litigation and regulatory proceedings in the normal course of business and could become subject to additional claims in the future, some of which could be material. In addition to those claims discussed in greater detail elsewhere in “ — Risks Related to Our Business and Industry, ” we have been, and may in the future be, subject to claims involving labor and employment, anti- discrimination, commercial disputes and other matters. We may also be exposed to potential claims arising from the conduct of our employees for which we may be liable. In addition, in the normal course of our business, we are required to make professional judgments and recommendations about environmental conditions of project sites for our clients,

and we may be subject to claims that we are responsible for these judgments and recommendations if they are later found to be inaccurate. Claims and proceedings, whether or not they have merit and regardless of the outcome, are typically expensive and can divert the attention of management and other personnel and require the commitment of significant resources for extended periods of time. Additionally, claims and proceedings can impact client confidence and the general public's perception of our company and services and solutions, even if the underlying assertions are proven to be false. The outcomes of litigation and similar disputes are often difficult to reliably predict and may result in decisions or settlements that are contrary to or in excess of our expectations and losses may exceed our reserves. Any claims or proceedings, particularly those in which we are unsuccessful or for which we did not establish adequate reserves, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial..... of which could have a material and adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. We are subject to taxation in multiple jurisdictions. Any adverse development in the tax laws of any of these jurisdictions, any disagreement with our tax positions or any changes in effective tax rates could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations. We are subject to taxation in, and to the tax laws and regulations of, multiple jurisdictions, including non- U. S. jurisdictions as a result of the expansion of our international operations and our corporate entity structure. We are also subject to transfer pricing laws with respect to our intercompany transactions. Adverse developments in tax laws or regulations, or any change in position regarding the application, administration or interpretation thereof, in any applicable jurisdiction, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations. In addition, the tax authorities in any applicable jurisdiction may disagree with the positions we have taken or intend to take regarding the tax treatment or characterization of any of our transactions. If any applicable tax authorities were to successfully challenge the tax treatment or characterization of any of our transactions, it could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations. In addition, our tax obligations and effective tax rates could be adversely affected by recognizing tax losses or lower than anticipated earnings in jurisdictions where we have lower statutory rates and higher than anticipated earnings in jurisdictions where we have higher statutory rates, varying tax rates in the different jurisdictions in which we operate, changes in foreign currency exchange rates or changes in the valuation of our deferred tax assets and liabilities. **adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.** If our research and development activities are unsuccessful, our business could be harmed. The success of our research and development activity is highly uncertain. Research and development efforts can require substantial technical, financial and human resources. We may focus our efforts and resources on potential technologies that ultimately prove to be unsuccessful and technologies that first appear promising may be delayed or fail to reach later stages of development. Decisions regarding the further advancement must sometimes be made with limited and incomplete data, which makes it difficult to ensure or even accurately predict the outcomes. Because we have limited resources, we may forego pursuing one opportunity that later is proven to have greater commercial potential. Even if our efforts do yield new technologies, we may not be able to convert those technologies into commercially viable offerings in the long term. Further, we may not be able to recover any increased investment in our research and development activities if the particular activities do not generate viable commercial services or products we can offer to our customers or use in the provision of services. If our research and development activities are unsuccessful, our technologies and offerings may not keep pace with the market, and we may lose clients and one or more competitive advantages, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Failure to comply with anti-corruption and similar laws could subject us to penalties and other adverse consequences. We are required to comply with the FCPA, and similar laws in other countries that prohibit improper payments or offers of payment to foreign officials and political parties for the purpose of obtaining or retaining business as well as require companies to maintain accurate books and records. Bribery, corruption and trade laws and regulations, and the enforcement thereof, are increasing in frequency, complexity and severity on a global basis. In many foreign countries it may be a local custom that businesses operating in such countries engage in practices that are prohibited by the FCPA or other similar laws and regulations. Although we have implemented policies and procedures requiring our employees, consultants and other third parties with whom we do business to comply with the FCPA and similar laws and regulations, we have limited experience in these areas and there can be no assurance that our policies will be adequate or prevent and deter violations of these types of laws. If our employees, consultants or other third parties with whom we do business do violate these laws or our policies, we may be ultimately held responsible, and any violation could result in severe criminal or civil sanctions, fines and penalties and suspension or debarment from U.S. government contracting, any of which could have a material and ~~adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.~~ Insufficient insurance coverage could have a material adverse effect on us. We maintain property, business interruption, counterparty and liability insurance coverage that we believe is consistent with industry practice. However, our insurance program does not cover, or may not adequately cover, every potential risk associated with our business and the consequences thereof. In addition, market conditions or any significant claim or a number of claims made by or against us could cause our premiums and deductibles to increase substantially and, in some instances, our coverage may be reduced or become entirely unavailable. In the future, we may not be able to obtain meaningful coverage at reasonable rates for a variety of risks. If our insurance coverage is insufficient, if we are not able to obtain sufficient coverage in the future, or if we are exposed to significant losses as a result of any risks for which we may self-insure, any resulting costs or liabilities could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Our internal control over financial reporting may not be effective and our independent registered public accounting firm may not be able to certify as to their effectiveness, which could have a significant and adverse effect on our business and reputation. As a public company, we are required to comply with the SEC's rules implementing Sections 302 and 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, which require management to certify financial and other information in our quarterly and annual reports and provide an annual management report on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting. Our independent registered public accounting firm is required to formally attest to the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting ; however, the year ended December 31, 2022 is only the second

~~year we have been subject to this attestation requirement as a result of our prior status as an “Emerging Growth Company.” To comply with the requirements of being a public company, and to comply with the heightened standards of public companies who are not “Emerging Growth Companies” following the loss of that status at the end of 2021, we have undertaken and may need to undertake in the future various actions, such as implementing additional internal controls and procedures and hiring additional accounting or internal audit staff. Testing and maintaining internal controls can divert our management’s attention from other matters that are important to the operation of our business. If we identify material weaknesses in our internal control over financial reporting or are unable to comply with the requirements of Section 404 or assert that our internal control over financial reporting are effective, or if our independent registered public accounting firm is unable to express an opinion as to the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting or issues an adverse report in the event it is not satisfied with the level at which our controls are documented, designed or operating, investors may lose confidence in the accuracy and completeness of our financial reports and the market price of our common stock could be negatively affected, and we could become subject to investigations by the SEC or other regulatory authorities, which could require additional financial and management resources. Failure to maintain effective controls and procedures and comply with Section 404 could also delay or otherwise adversely affect our ability to timely produce accurate financial statements and related information, which could restrict our access to capital markets and cause the price of our common stock to fall. ~~We will continue to incur increased costs and obligations as a result of being a publicly-traded company. As a company with publicly-traded securities, we are subject to the requirements of the Exchange Act, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, the listing requirements of the NYSE and other applicable securities rules and regulations. These rules and regulations require that we adopt and maintain additional controls and procedures and disclosure, corporate governance and other practices thereby significantly increasing our legal, financial and other compliance costs. These new obligations also make other aspects of our business more difficult, time-consuming or costly and increase demand on our personnel, systems and other resources. For example, to maintain and improve the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures and internal control over financial reporting, we will need to commit significant resources, hire additional staff and provide additional management oversight. Furthermore, as a result of disclosure of information in our Exchange Act and other filings required of a public company, our business and financial condition will become more visible, which we believe may give some of our competitors who may not be similarly required to disclose this type of information a competitive advantage. In addition to these added costs and burdens, if we are unable to satisfy our obligations as a public company, we could be subject to delisting of our common stock, fines, sanctions, other regulatory actions and civil litigation, any of which could negatively affect the price of our common stock.~~~~