



# 2017

## ANNUAL REPORT



**EXPERIENCE MATTERS**



The Management Board may, with the authorization of the General Meeting and the Supervisory Board and without prejudice to the provisions of sections 98 and sections 98d, Book 2, Dutch Civil Code and the articles of association, cause the Company to acquire fully paid up shares in its own capital for valuable consideration. The Management Board may resolve, subject to the approval of the Supervisory Board, to dispose of shares acquired by the Company in its own capital. No pre-emption right shall exist in respect of such disposal. At the General Meeting of 2017, the shareholders have delegated the authority to the Management Board for a period of eighteen months as from April 13, 2017 and subject to approval of the Supervisory Board, to acquire up to 10% of the total outstanding shares at that time. In December 2016, SBM Offshore completed its EUR 150 million share repurchase program. The program was predominantly for share capital reduction purposes and, to a lesser extent, for employee share programs. At the 2017 General Meeting the shareholders approved to cancel the number of ordinary shares repurchased in 2016 and the shares potentially repurchased under the aforementioned authorization.

### 3.5.6 AUDITORS

The external auditor of SBM Offshore is appointed at the Annual General Meeting on the proposal of the Supervisory Board. During the Annual General meeting of 2014, PricewaterhouseCoopers Accountants N.V. was appointed auditor. Since the implementation of the Code, the current appointment is reviewed annually by the Audit and Finance Committee. The Audit and Finance Committee advises the Supervisory Board, which communicates the results of this assessment to the Annual General Meeting. The Audit and Finance Committee and the Management Board report their dealings with the external auditor to the Supervisory Board annually and discuss the auditor's independence.

The current lead auditor is Mr. M. de Ridder of PricewaterhouseCoopers Accountants N.V. He will be present at the Annual General Meeting 2018 and may be asked questions with regard to his statement on the fairness of the financial statements. The external auditor attends all meetings of the Audit and Finance Committee, as well as the meeting of the Supervisory Board at which the financial statements are approved. He receives the financial information and underlying reports of the quarterly figures and is given the opportunity to comment and respond to this information.

Based on auditor independence requirements, the lead auditor in charge of the SBM Offshore account is changed every five years. Pursuant to the Dutch Audit Profession Act (Wet op het accountantsberoep), the audit firm of a so-called public interest entity (such as a listed company) will have to be replaced if the audit firm performed the statutory audits of the Company for a period of ten consecutive years, at the latest in 2024.

Pursuant to the Audit Profession Act, the auditors are prohibited from providing the Company with services in the Netherlands other than 'audit services aimed to provide reliability concerning the information supplied by the audited client for the benefit of external users of this information and also for the benefit of the Supervisory Board, as referred to in the reports mentioned'. The Company has taken the position that no additional services may be provided by the external auditor and its global network that do not meet these requirements, unless local statutory requirements so dictate.

### 3.5.7 STICHTING CONTINUÏTEIT SBM OFFSHORE

In this paragraph, SBM Offshore's anti-takeover measures are described as well as the circumstances under which it is expected that these measures may be used.

A Foundation 'Stichting Continuïteit SBM Offshore' (the Foundation), has been established on March 15, 1988. In summary, the objectives of the Foundation are to represent the interests of SBM Offshore in such a way that the interests of the Company and of all parties involved in this are safeguarded, and that influences which could affect the independence, continuity and/or the identity of the Company in breach of those interests are deterred. The Foundation will perform its role, and take all actions required, at its sole discretion. In the exercise of its functions it will, however, be guided by the interests of the Company and the business enterprises connected with it, and all other stakeholders, including shareholders and employees.

The Foundation is managed by a Board, the composition of which is intended to ensure that an independent judgement may be made as to the interests of the Company. The Board consists of a number of experienced (former) senior executives of multinational companies. To be kept informed about the business and interests of the Company, the