

# **SASHWAT TECHNOCRATS LIMITED**

## **POLICY ON RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

### **1. SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF THE POLICY**

Related party transactions can present a potential or actual conflict of interest which may be against the best interest of a company and its shareholders. Considering the requirements for approval of related party transactions as prescribed under the Companies Act, 2013 (“Act”) read with the Rules framed there under and Regulation 23 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015 (“SEBI Listing Regulations”), the Company has formulated guidelines for identification of related parties and the proper conduct and documentation of all related party transactions. Regulation 23(1) of the SEBI Listing Regulations requires a company to formulate a policy on materiality of related party transactions and dealing with related party transactions. Further, Regulation 23(2) requires the Audit Committee to define material modification and disclose it as a part of the policy.

The Audit Committee would review and amend the Policy, at least once every three years, subject to the approval of the Board, unless there is a change in applicable regulations and/or in business conditions affecting the Company / its subsidiaries, which requires an earlier change to the Policy. If the terms of this Policy differ from any existing or newly enacted regulation or standard governing the Company, such regulation or standard will take precedence over this Policy until this Policy is changed to conform to said regulation or standard.

### **2. OBJECTIVE OF THE POLICY**

The objective of this Policy is to set out (a) the materiality thresholds for related party transactions, (b) define material modification and (c) the manner of dealing with and disclosing the transactions between the Company and its related parties as required under the Act, the SEBI Listing Regulations and any other laws and regulations as may be applicable to the Company.

### **3. DEFINITIONS**

3.1 **“Arm’s Length Transaction (‘ALP’)”** means a transaction between two related parties that is conducted as if they are unrelated, so that there is no conflict of interest or where based on the business requirements and then prevailing economic conditions, the relevant stake holders have approved the terms of proposed related party transaction or where a regulator provides for any conditions impacting the market price of such transaction (for example in the case of an Advance Pricing Agreement) etc.

- 3.2 **“Ordinary Course of Business (‘OCB’)”** means a transaction which / wherein:
- is carried out in the normal course of business envisaged in accordance with the Memorandum of Association (‘MoA’) of the Company as amended from time to time, or
  - is as per historical practice with a pattern of frequency, or
  - is in connection with the normal business carried on by the Company, or
  - the income, if any, earned from such activity/transaction is assessed as business income in the Company’s books of accounts and hence is a business activity, or
  - is common commercial practice, or
  - meets any other parameters/criteria as decided by the Board/Audit Committee.
- 3.2 **“Material Related Party Transactions”** shall have the same meaning as defined in Regulation 23 of the SEBI Listing Regulations.
- 3.3 **“Relative”** in relation to a related party shall have the same meaning assigned to in Section 2(77) of the Act.
- 3.5 **“Related Party”** shall have the same meaning as defined under Section 2(76) of the Act and Regulation 2(1)(zb) of the SEBI Listing Regulations. Reference and reliance may be placed on the clarification issued by the Ministry of the Corporate Affairs, Government of India and SEBI and other Authorities from time to time on the interpretation of the term “Related Party”.
- 3.6 **“Related Party Transactions”** shall have the meaning as defined under Regulation 2(1)(zc) of the SEBI Listing Regulations or as envisaged in Section 188(1) of the Act.
- 3.7 **“Transaction”** shall be construed to include single transaction or a group of transactions in a contract.
- 3.8 Any other term not defined herein shall have the same meaning as defined in the Companies Act, 2013, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 or any other applicable law or regulation.

#### 4. **MATERIALITY THRESHOLDS**

- 4.1 Section 188 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with rules thereunder and Regulation 23 (1) of the SEBI Listing Regulations provide materiality thresholds for transactions beyond which prior approval of the shareholders’ will be required by way of a resolution.
- 4.2 The Company has fixed its materiality thresholds at the level prescribed under explanation to Regulation 23(1) of the SEBI Listing Regulations as under:

- 4.2.1. In case of transaction involving payments made to a Related Party with respect to brand usage or royalty, if it exceeds five percent (5%) of the annual consolidated turnover of the Company as per its last audited financial statements.
- 4.2.2. In case of any other transaction, if the transaction(s) to be entered into individually or taken together with previous transactions during a financial year, exceeds Rupees 1,000 crore or ten percent (10%) of the annual consolidated turnover of the Company as per the last audited financial statements of the Company, whichever is lower.
- 4.2.3. Further, Regulation 23 of the SEBI Listing Regulations provide that any subsequent material modifications to the terms of such transactions, as defined by the Audit Committee, shall also require shareholders' prior approval will be required by way of a resolution.

## **5. MANNER OF DEALING WITH RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

### **5.1 Identification of related parties:**

The Company shall identify and update the list of related parties as prescribed under Section 2(76) of the Act read with the Rules framed there under and Regulation 2(1)(zb) of the SEBI Listing Regulations.

### **5.2 Identification of related party transactions:**

The Company shall identify related party transactions in accordance with Section 188 of the Act and Regulation 2(1)(zc) of the SEBI Listing Requirements. The Company shall determine whether the transaction is in the ordinary course of business and at arm's length basis and for this purpose, the Company may seek external professional opinion, if necessary.

### **5.3 Procedure for approval of related party transactions**

#### **5.3.1 Approval of the Audit Committee**

5.3.1.1 All related party transactions and subsequent material modifications require prior approval of the Audit Committee.

5.3.1.2. Only Members of the Audit Committee, who are independent directors, shall approve related party transactions.

5.3.1.4. The Company may obtain omnibus approval from the Audit Committee for such transactions, subject to compliances with the following conditions:

- The Audit Committee shall after seeking guidance of the Board of Directors, specify the criteria for granting the omnibus approval in line with this Policy which shall include the following, namely:
  - 1) the name/s of the related party and its relationship with the company and/or its subsidiary,
  - 2) nature of transaction,

- 3) period of transaction, maximum number of transactions, in aggregate, which shall be entered into in a year;
- 4) the maximum value per transaction which can be allowed;
- 5) the indicative base price/current contracted price and the formula for variation in the price, if any; transactions which cannot be subject to the omnibus approval by the Audit Committee; and Review, at such intervals as the Audit Committee may deem fit, related party transaction entered into by the Company pursuant to each omnibus approval made. such other conditions as the Audit Committee may deem fit.

- The Audit Committee shall consider the following factors while specifying the criteria for making omnibus approval, namely:
  - a) repetitiveness of the transactions (in past or in future).
  - b) justification for the need of omnibus approval
- The Audit Committee shall satisfy itself the need for such omnibus approval and that such approval is in the interest of the Company.

5.3.1.5 However, in case of related party transactions which cannot be foreseen and where the above details are not available, Audit Committee may grant omnibus approval provided the value does not exceed Rs.1 crore per transaction.

5.3.1.6. The Audit Committee shall review, at least on a quarterly basis, the details of related party transactions entered into by the Company pursuant to each of the omnibus approval given.

5.3.1.7. Such omnibus approval shall be valid for a period not exceeding 1 financial year and shall require a fresh approval after expiry of such financial year.

5.3.1.8. In compliance to the approval of the Board of Directors, the Audit Committee of the Company has specified following criteria for granting omnibus approval:

- The maximum value of the transactions, in aggregate, which can be allowed under omnibus route in a year will be 25% of the annual consolidated turnover of the company as per its last audited financial statements.
- The maximum value per transaction which can be approved under omnibus route will be the same as per the materiality threshold as defined in Clause 4 of the Policy.

5.3.1.9. For each category of transactions identified as per the Clause 5.2 of this policy, the Company has a specific framework and guidelines explaining the arm's length criteria to be followed by the Company and/or the subsidiary, as may be applicable, while entering into transactions falling under contracts and agreements with related parties identified as per Clause 5.1 of this policy.

The Company and/or the subsidiary, as may be applicable, while entering into RPTs will ensure adherence with the framework and guidelines and will maintain necessary documents for the same.

5.3.1.10. While seeking approval for a Related Party Transaction placed before the Audit Committee, the Audit Committee shall be provided with the information as required to be provided under the Act and the Listing Regulations.

5.3.1.11. The Board may consider the details as required to be provided under the Act and the Listing Regulations to the Audit Committee, in order to determine if the transaction is in the ordinary course of business and at arm's length or not.

5.3.1.12. The requirement for seeking Audit Committee approval for related party transactions shall not be applicable to transactions between the Company and its wholly owned subsidiary/ies or between two wholly owned subsidiaries of the Company, whose accounts are consolidated with the Company.

5.3.1.13. Transaction of following nature will not be subject to the omnibus approval of the Audit Committee:

- Transactions which are not at arm's length or not in the ordinary course of business.
- Transactions which are not repetitive in nature.
- Transactions exceeding materiality thresholds
- Transactions in respect of selling or disposing of an undertaking of the Company.
- Financial Transactions e.g. Loan to related parties, Inter Corporate Deposits, subscriptions to bond, debenture or preference shares issued by the related parties, corporate guarantee given/received from related parties.
- Any other transaction the Audit Committee may deem not fit for omnibus approval.

## **5.3.2 Approval of the Board of Directors of the Company**

5.3.2.1. As per the provisions of Section 188 of the Act, all kinds of transactions specified under the said Section and which are not in the ordinary course of business or not at arm's length basis, are placed before the Board for its approval.

5.3.2.2. In addition to the above, the following kinds of transactions with related parties are also placed before the Board for its approval:

- Transactions which may be in the ordinary course of business and at arm's length basis, but which are as per the policy determined by the Board from time to time (i.e. value threshold and/or other parameters) require Board approval in addition to Audit Committee approval.
- Transactions in respect of which the Audit Committee is unable to determine whether or not they are in the ordinary course of business and/or at arm's length basis and decides to refer the same to the Board for approval.

- Transactions which are in the ordinary course of business and at arm's length basis, but which in Audit Committee's view requires Board approval.

### **5.3.3 Approval of the Shareholders of the Company**

5.3.3.1. All the transactions with related parties meeting the materiality thresholds, laid down in Clause 4 of the Policy, and any material modifications thereto as defined in Clause 3.2A will be placed before the shareholders for their approval.

5.3.3.2 The notice being sent to the shareholders seeking approval for any proposed related party transaction shall, include information as required under the Act and the SEBI Listing Regulations.

5.3.3.3. Where a related party transaction has been approved by the Audit Committee and shareholders, there shall be no requirement to seek fresh approval from the shareholders.

5.3.3.4 The omnibus shareholders' approval of material related party transactions approved in an annual general meeting shall be valid up to the date of the next annual general meeting for a period not exceeding fifteen months. Further in case of omnibus approval for material related party transactions, obtained from shareholders in general meetings other than annual general meeting, the validity of such omnibus approvals shall not exceed one year.

5.3.3.6. All kinds of transactions specified under Section 188 of the Act which (a) are not in the ordinary course of business or not at arm's length basis; and (b) exceed the thresholds laid down in Companies (Meetings of Board and its Powers) Rules, 2014 shall be placed before the shareholders for their approval.

5.3.3.7. For this purpose, no related party shall vote to approve the relevant resolution irrespective of whether the entity is a related party to the particular transaction or not.

5.3.3.8. Pursuant to Regulation 23(5)(b) of the SEBI Listing Regulations and Section 188(1) of the Act the requirement for seeking shareholders' approval shall not be applicable, inter alia, to:

- Transactions entered between the Company and its wholly owned subsidiary whose accounts are consolidated with the Company and placed before the shareholders at the general meeting for approval.
- Transactions between two wholly owned subsidiaries of the Company whose accounts are consolidated with the Company and placed before the shareholders at the general meeting for approval.

- Above prior approval of the Shareholders shall not be required in cases where the subsidiary is a listed entity and Regulations 23 and 15(2) of the Listing Regulations are applicable to such listed subsidiary.

- Also, requirements for shareholders' approval shall not apply in respect of a resolution plan approved under section 31 of the Insolvency Code, subject to the event being disclosed to the exchanges within one day of the resolution plan being approved.

## 6. **DISCLOSURES**

- 6.1 The Company shall disclose, in the Board's report, transactions prescribed in Section 188(1) of the Act with related parties, which are not in ordinary course of business or arm's length basis along with the justification for entering into such transaction.

## 7. **RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS NOT APPROVED UNDER THIS POLICY**

- 7.1 In the event the Company becomes aware of a transaction with a related party that has not been approved in accordance with this Policy prior to its consummation, the matter shall be reviewed by the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee shall consider all of the relevant facts and circumstances regarding the related party transaction, and shall evaluate all options available to the Company, including ratification, revision or termination of the related party transaction.

The Audit Committee shall also examine the facts and circumstances pertaining to the failure of reporting such related party transaction to the Audit Committee under this Policy and failure of the internal control systems, and shall take any such action it deems appropriate.

- 7.2 In any case, where the Audit Committee determines not to ratify a related party transaction that has been commenced without approval, the Audit Committee, as appropriate, may direct additional actions including, but not limited to, discontinuation of the transaction or seeking the approval of the shareholders, payment of compensation for the loss suffered by the related party etc. In connection with any review/approval of a related party transaction, the Audit Committee has authority to modify or waive any procedural requirements of this Policy.