

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

In re:  Black Press Ltd., <i>et al.</i> , <sup>1</sup>  Debtors in a Foreign Proceeding.	Chapter 15  Case No. 24-10044 (MFW)  (Jointly Administered)  Re: D.I. Nos. 48, _____
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**ORDER (I) RECOGNIZING AND ENFORCING  
THE SISF ORDER, AND (II) GRANTING RELATED RELIEF**

Upon consideration of the motion (“Motion”)<sup>2</sup> filed by Black Press Ltd. (“BP Holdco”) in its capacity as the duly appointed foreign representative (“Foreign Representative”) of the above-captioned debtors (collectively, the “Debtors”), pursuant to sections 105, 363, 1507, 1520, and 1521 of title 11 of the United States Code (“Bankruptcy Code”), for entry of an order (this “Order”): (a) recognizing and enforcing the SISF Order, attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**, approving, among other things, (i) the Sales Procedures, (ii) the Debtors’ entry into the Stalking Horse Transaction Agreement, and (iii) the Bid Protections, and (b) granting such other relief as the Court deems just and proper, all as more fully set forth in the Motion; and it appearing that the relief requested in the Motion is necessary and beneficial to the Debtors; and adequate and sufficient notice of the filing of the Motion having been given by the Foreign Representative; and this Court having held a hearing to consider the relief requested in the Motion; and there being no objections

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<sup>1</sup> The Debtors in these chapter 15 cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number (or BN as applicable), include: Black Press Group Ltd. (BN 104728464); Sound Publishing Inc. (TIN 91-1396047); The Beacon Journal Publishing Company (TIN 34-1095666); Black Press Ltd. (BN 824544084); Sound Publishing Holding Inc. (TIN 91-1396047); 311773 BC Ltd. (BN 129593265); Sound Publishing Properties, Inc. (TIN 91-1396047); Oahu Publications, Inc. (TIN 99-0353529); San Francisco Print Media Company (TIN 90-0860940); Central Web Offset Ltd. (BN 100875111); 0922015 B.C. Ltd. (BN 851234906); and WWA (BPH) Publications, Inc. (TIN 45-3687876). The location of the Debtors’ corporate headquarters and service address is: 15288 54a Ave #208, Surrey, British Columbia, Canada V3S 5X7.

<sup>2</sup> Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Motion.

or other responses filed that have not been overruled, withdrawn, or otherwise resolved; and after due deliberation and sufficient cause appearing therefor,

**THE COURT FINDS AND CONCLUDES AS FOLLOWS:**

- A. The Court has jurisdiction over this matter under 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 & 1334.
- B. This is a core proceeding under 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2)(P).
- C. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. § 1410.
- D. This Court may enter a final order consistent with Article III of the United States Constitution.
- E. Notice of the hearing on the Motion was sufficient under the circumstances and no further or other notice of or hearing on the Motion is necessary or required.
- F. No objections or other responses were filed that have not been overruled, withdrawn, or otherwise resolved.
- G. On January 25, 2024, the Canadian Court entered the SISP Order, approving, among other things, (a) the Sales Procedures, (b) the Debtors' entry into the Stalking Horse Transaction Agreement, and (c) the Bid Protections.
- H. On January 25, 2024, the Canadian Court entered the Amended and Restated Initial Order, approving, among other things, the Debtors' entry into the Amended and Restated Transaction Support Agreement.
- I. The relief granted pursuant to this Order: (a) is necessary and appropriate to (i) effectuate the purposes of chapter 15 of the Bankruptcy Code; (ii) protect the assets of the Debtors; and (iii) protect the Debtors and their interests and the interests of creditors and other parties in interest; (b) is consistent with the laws of the United States, international comity, public policy, and the policies of the Bankruptcy Code; and (c) will not cause any hardship to any party in interest

that is not outweighed by the benefits of the relief granted because the parties in interest in these cases are sufficiently protected by the provisions in the SISP Order.

J. Absent the relief granted pursuant to this Order, the Canadian Court and the Foreign Representative in conducting the Canadian Proceedings and effectuating the restructuring may be frustrated, which is a result that is inconsistent with the purposes of chapter 15 of the Bankruptcy Code.

K. The relief requested in the Motion and granted herein is appropriate and warranted pursuant to sections 1507 and 1521 of the Bankruptcy Code.

L. All creditors and other parties in interest, including the Debtors, are sufficiently protected in the grant of the relief ordered hereby in compliance with 11 U.S.C. § 1522(a).

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

1. The Motion is **GRANTED** as provided in this Order.
2. Any objections or responses to the Motion or the relief requested therein that have not been withdrawn, waived, or settled by stipulation filed with the Court, are hereby overruled on the merits.
3. The SISP Order, and all of its terms, including any immaterial or administrative amendments thereto, including those necessary to give effect to the substance of such orders, either as provided in the SISP Order or as approved by the Canadian Court, are fully recognized and given full force and effect within the territorial jurisdiction of the United States.
4. The Sales Procedures, including all deadlines and requirements therein as set forth in the SISP Order, are hereby fully recognized and given full force and effect in the United States, including as bidding procedures for the sale of assets and/or equity of the Debtors located in the

territorial jurisdiction of the United States, and shall apply with respect to parties located in the United States.

5. This Court retains jurisdiction to enforce the terms and provisions of the SISP Order in the territorial jurisdiction of the United States.

6. The portion of the SISP Order that authorized and approved the Debtors' entry into the Stalking Horse Transaction Agreement, on the terms set forth in the SISP Order, is recognized by this Court and is enforceable within the territorial jurisdiction of the United States.

7. The failure to specifically reference or include any provision of the SISP Order in this Order shall not impair, diminish, or limit the effectiveness of such provision.

8. The Debtors and any party to the Amended and Restated Transaction Support Agreement or the Stalking Horse Transaction Agreement may exercise the respective rights and remedies available to them under the Amended and Restated Transaction Support Agreement or the Stalking Horse Transaction Agreement in the territorial jurisdiction of the United States, respectively and as applicable, in accordance with the terms thereof and the SISP Order, but only to the extent approved by the SISP Order.

9. All persons and entities subject to the jurisdiction of the United States are permanently enjoined and restrained from taking any actions inconsistent with, or interfering with the enforcement and implementation of, the SISP Order or any documents incorporated by the foregoing.

10. Nothing herein ratifies, approves, and/or recognizes the sale and/or vesting of any property pursuant to the Stalking Horse Transaction Agreement, and all rights, claims, objections, and interests of any interested party, at law or in equity, with respect to the proposed sale and vesting of property pursuant to the Stalking Horse Purchase Agreement or Successful Bid (as

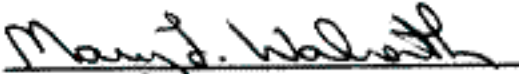
defined in the Sales Procedures) are not waived and are expressly preserved and may be asserted in the Canadian Proceedings in accordance with the applicable rules and procedures applicable in the Canadian Court.

11. The Foreign Representative is authorized to take all actions it deems necessary to effectuate the relief granted pursuant to this Order in accordance with the Motion and the SISP Order.

12. Notwithstanding any provision in the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (“Bankruptcy Rules”) to the contrary including, but not limited to Bankruptcy Rules 7062 and 1018: (a) this Order shall be effective immediately and enforceable upon its entry; (b) the Foreign Representative is not subject to any stay in the implementation, enforcement, or realization of the relief granted in this Order; and (c) the Foreign Representative and the Debtors are authorized and empowered, and may in their discretion and without further delay, take any action and perform any act necessary to implement and effectuate the terms of this Order.

13. This Court retains exclusive jurisdiction with respect to all matters arising from or related to the implementation, interpretation, and/or enforcement of this Order.

Dated: February 7th, 2024  
Wilmington, Delaware

  
MARY F. WALRATH  
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

**EXHIBIT 1**



No. S-240259  
Vancouver Registry

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE *COMPANIES' CREDITORS ARRANGEMENT ACT*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36, AS AMENDED

AND

IN THE MATTER OF THE *BUSINESS CORPORATIONS ACT*, S.B.C. 2002, c. 57, AS AMENDED

AND

IN THE MATTER OF BLACK PRESS LTD., 311773 B.C. LTD.,  
AND THOSE ENTITIES LISTED IN SCHEDULE "A"

PETITIONERS

**ORDER MADE AFTER APPLICATION**

**(SISP APPROVAL ORDER)**

BEFORE THE HONOURABLE )  
JUSTICE ) January 25, 2024  
)

THE APPLICATION of the Petitioners coming on for hearing at Vancouver, British Columbia, on the 25th day of January, 2024 (the "**Order Date**"); AND ON HEARING Vicki Tickle and Stephanie Fernandes, counsel for the Petitioners and the non-petitioner affiliates of the Petitioners listed in Schedule "B" hereto (the "**Non-Petitioner Stay Parties**") and collectively with the Petitioners, the "**Black Press Entities**"), and those other counsel listed on Schedule "C" hereto; AND UPON READING the material filed, including the First Affidavit of Christopher Hargreaves made January 12, 2024 (the "**First Hargreaves Affidavit**"), the First Report of KSV Restructuring Inc. in its capacity as monitor of the Petitioners (the "**Monitor**") dated January 23, 2024 (the "**First Report**"); AND pursuant to the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*, R.S.C. 1985 c. C-36 as amended (the "**CCAA**"), the British Columbia Supreme Court Civil Rules and the inherent jurisdiction of this Honourable Court;

**THIS COURT ORDERS AND DECLARES THAT:**

**SERVICE AND DEFINITIONS**

1. The time for service of this Notice of Application and supporting materials is hereby abridged such that the Notice of Application is properly returnable today.
2. Capitalized terms used in this Order and not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Sale and Investment Solicitation Process in respect of the business and assets of the Black Press Entities, in the form attached hereto as Schedule "D" (the "**SISP**"), the Amended and Restated Initial Order of this Court dated January 25, 2024 (the "**ARIO**"), or the First Hargreaves Affidavit, as applicable.

**SALE AND INVESTMENT SOLICITATION PROCESS**

3. The SISP is hereby approved and the Petitioners and the Monitor are hereby authorized and directed to implement the SISP pursuant to the terms thereof. The Petitioners and the Monitor are hereby authorized and directed to perform their respective obligations and to do all things reasonably necessary to perform their obligations thereunder, subject to prior approval of the Court being obtained before completion of any transaction(s) under the SISP.
4. The Petitioners and the Monitor and their respective affiliates, partners, directors, officers, employees, legal advisors, representatives, agents and controlling persons shall have no liability with respect to any and all losses, claims, damages or liabilities of any nature or kind to any person in connection with or as a result of the SISP, except to the extent of losses, claims, damages or liabilities that arise or result from the gross negligence or wilful misconduct of the Petitioners or the Monitor, as applicable, in performing their obligations under the SISP, as determined by this Court in a final order that is not subject to appeal or other review.



5. In conducting the SISF, the Monitor shall have all of the benefits and protections granted to it under the CCAA, the ARIO and any other Order of this Court in the within proceeding.

#### **STALKING HORSE PURCHASE AGREEMENT**

6. The Petitioners are hereby authorized and empowered to enter into a definitive share purchase and subscription agreement with the Noteholders and CNL or one or more entities to be formed by the Noteholders and CNL (as applicable, the "**Stalking Horse Purchaser**"), which shall be substantially on the terms set out in the Stalking Horse Term Sheet attached as Appendix "A" to the Amended and Restated Transaction Support Agreement attached as Appendix "B" to the First Report and satisfactory to the Monitor (the "**Stalking Horse Transaction Agreement**"), such minor amendments as may be acceptable to each of the parties thereto, with the approval of the Monitor; provided that, nothing herein approves the sale and the vesting of any Property to the Stalking Horse Purchaser (or any of its designees) pursuant to the Stalking Horse Transaction Agreement and that the approval of any sale and vesting of any such Property shall be considered by this Court on a subsequent application made to this Court if the transaction set out in the Stalking Horse Transaction Agreement is the Successful Bid pursuant to the SISF.

7. As soon as reasonably practicable following the Petitioners and the Stalking Horse Purchaser executing the Stalking Horse Transaction Agreement, and in any event by no later than seven (7) Business Days prior to the Qualified Bid Deadline under the SISF, the Monitor shall post a copy thereof on its website, and the Petitioners shall: (a) serve a copy thereof on the Service List; and (b) provide a copy thereof to each SISF Participant (as hereinafter defined), excluding from the public record any confidential information that the Petitioners and the Stalking Horse Purchaser, with the consent of the Monitor, agree should be redacted.

## BID PROTECTIONS

8. The Bid Protections are hereby approved and, subject to the entry of the Stalking Horse Transaction Agreement, the Petitioners are hereby authorized and directed to pay the Bid Protections to the Stalking Horse Purchaser (or to such other person as it may direct) in the manner and circumstances described in the Stalking Horse Transaction Agreement.

9. The Stalking Horse Purchaser shall be entitled to the benefit of and is hereby granted a charge (the "**Bid Protections Charge**") on the Property, which charge shall not exceed \$1,750,000, as security for payment of the Bid Protections in the manner and circumstances described in the Stalking Horse Transaction Agreement.

10. The filing, registration or perfection of the Bid Protections Charge shall not be required, and that the Bid Protections Charge shall be valid and enforceable for all purposes, including against any right, title or interest filed, registered, recorded or perfected subsequent to the Bid Protections Charge, notwithstanding any such failure to file, register, record or perfect.

11. The Bid Protections Charge shall constitute a charge on the Property and the Bid Protections Charge shall rank in priority to all other Encumbrances in favour of any Person notwithstanding the order of perfection or attachment, other than the Charges.

12. Except for the Charges or as may be approved by this Court on notice to parties in interest, the Petitioners shall not grant any Encumbrances over any Property that rank in priority to, or *pari passu* with, the Bid Protections Charge, unless the Petitioners also obtain the prior written consent of the Monitor and the Stalking Horse Purchaser.

13. The Bid Protections Charge shall not be rendered invalid or unenforceable and the rights and remedies of the Stalking Horse Purchaser in respect of the Bid Protections Charge shall not otherwise be limited or impaired in any way by: (a) the pendency of these proceedings and the

declarations of insolvency made herein; (b) any application(s) for bankruptcy order(s) issued pursuant to the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act* (Canada) (the “**BIA**”), or any bankruptcy order made pursuant to such applications; (c) the filing of any assignments for the general benefit of creditors made pursuant to the BIA; (d) the provisions of any federal or provincial statutes; or (e) any negative covenants, prohibitions or other similar provisions with respect to borrowings, incurring debt or the creation of Encumbrances, contained in any existing loan documents, lease, mortgage, security agreement, debenture, sublease, offer to lease or other agreement (collectively, an “**Agreement**”) which binds the Petitioners, and notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in any Agreement:

- (a) neither the creation of the Bid Protections Charge nor the execution, delivery, perfection, registration or performance of the Stalking Horse Transaction Agreement shall create or be deemed to constitute a breach by any of the Petitioners of any Agreement to which any of the Petitioners is a party; and
- (b) the payments made by the Petitioners pursuant to this Order, the Stalking Horse Transaction Agreement and the granting of the Bid Protections Charge, do not and will not constitute preferences, fraudulent conveyances, transfers at undervalue, oppressive conduct, or other challengeable or voidable transactions under any applicable law.

14. The Bid Protections Charge created by this Order over leases of real property shall only be a charge in the applicable Petitioner’s interest in such real property lease.

15. The Stalking Horse Purchaser, with respect to the Bid Protections Charge only, shall be treated as unaffected in any plan of arrangement or compromise filed by the Petitioners under the CCAA, or any proposal filed by the Petitioners under the BIA.

## PIPEDA

16. Pursuant to section 18(10)(o) of the *Personal Information Protection Act* (British Columbia), and any similar legislation in any other applicable jurisdictions, the Petitioners or the Monitor and their respective advisors are hereby authorized and permitted to disclose and transfer to prospective SISP participants that are party to a non-disclosure agreement with the Petitioners (each, a "**SISP Participant**") and their respective advisors personal information of identifiable individuals, but only to the extent required to negotiate or attempt to complete a transaction pursuant to the SISP (a "**Transaction**"). Each SISP Participant to whom such personal information is disclosed shall maintain and protect the privacy of such information and limit the use of such information to the SISP Participant's evaluation for the purpose of effecting a Transaction, and, if a SISP Participant does not complete a Transaction, shall return all such information to the Petitioners or the Monitor, or, in the alternative, destroy all such information and provide confirmation of its destruction if requested by the Petitioners or the Monitor.

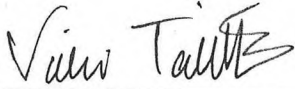
## GENERAL

17. **THIS COURT HEREBY REQUESTS** the aid and recognition of any court, tribunal, regulatory or administrative body, wherever located, to give effect to this Order and to assist the Petitioners, the Monitor, and their respective agents in carrying out the terms of this Order. All courts, tribunals, regulatory and administrative bodies are hereby respectfully requested to make such orders and to provide such assistance to the Petitioners, the Foreign Representative and the Monitor, as an officer of this Court, as may be necessary or desirable to give effect to this Order or to assist the Petitioners and the Monitor and their respective agents in carrying out the terms of this Order.

18. This Order and all of its provisions are effective as of 12:01 a.m. local Vancouver time on the Order Date.


19. Endorsement of this Order by counsel appearing on this application is hereby dispensed with.

THE FOLLOWING PARTIES APPROVE THE FORM OF THIS ORDER AND CONSENT TO EACH OF THE ORDERS, IF ANY, THAT ARE INDICATED ABOVE AS BEING BY CONSENT:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Vicki Tickle  
Lawyer for the Petitioners

BY THE COURT

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
REGISTRAR  


**SCHEDULE "A"**  
**Petitioners**

**A. Canadian Petitioners**

Black Press Ltd.

311773 B.C. Ltd.

Black Press Group Ltd.

0922015 B.C. Ltd.

Central Web Offset Ltd.

**B. US Petitioners**

Sound Publishing Holding, Inc.

Sound Publishing Properties, Inc.

Sound Publishing, Inc.

Oahu Publications, Inc.

The Beacon Journal Publishing Company

WWA (BPH) Publications, Inc.

San Francisco Print Media Co.

**SCHEDULE "B"**  
**Non-Petitioner Stay Parties**

Black Press (Barbados) Ltd.

Whidbey Press (Barbados) Inc.

Black Press Delaware LLC

Black Press Group Oregon LLC

SCHEDULE "C"  
LIST OF COUNSEL

Name of Counsel	Party Represented
Mary Buttery, KC	KSV RESTRUCTURING INC., the
	COURT - APPOINTED MONITOR
DAVID GRUBER + MICHAEL SHAKRA	CANSO INVESTMENT COUNSEL LTD.
SCOTT STEPHENS + HEATHER FRYDENLUND	VANCOUVER CITY SAVINGS CREDIT UNION + COAST CAPITAL SAVINGS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
EAMONN WATSON	SERVUS CREDIT UNION LTD.
RYAN <del>LAMY</del> LAITY	THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



**SCHEDULE "D"**  
**SISP**

See attached.

# Sale and Investment Solicitation Process

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1. On January 15, 2024, the Supreme Court of British Columbia, Vancouver Registry (the "**CCAA Court**") issued an Order (the "**Initial Order**") granting certain relief to Black Press Ltd., 311773 B.C. Ltd., Black Press Group Ltd., 0922015 B.C. Ltd., Central Web Offset Ltd., Sound Publishing Holding, Inc., Sound Publishing Properties, Inc., Sound Publishing, Inc., Oahu Publications, Inc., The Beacon Journal Publishing Company, WWA (BPH) Publications, Inc., San Francisco Print Media Co. (collectively, the "**Petitioners**" and together with the Non-Petitioner Stay Parties (the "**Black Press Entities**") pursuant to the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36 (the "**CCAA**" and the Petitioners proceedings thereunder, the "**CCAA Proceedings**").
2. Pursuant to the Initial Order, KSV Restructuring Inc. was appointed as monitor (in such capacity, the "**Monitor**") of the Petitioners in the CCAA Proceedings.
3. Pursuant to proceedings commenced in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware (the "**US Bankruptcy Court**") under Chapter 15, Title 11, of the United States Code, the Petitioners obtained, among other things, recognition of the CCAA Proceedings.
4. On January 25, 2024, the CCAA Court granted:
  - (i) an Order amending and restating the Initial Order (the "**ARIO**"), and
  - (ii) an Order (the "**SISP Approval Order**") that, among other things, authorized:
    - (a) the Petitioners to implement a sale and investment solicitation process in respect of the Black Press Entities (the "**SISP**") in accordance with the terms hereof, (b) the Black Press Entities to negotiate and finalize a definitive Stalking Horse Transaction Agreement (the "**Stalking Horse Bid**") with the Stalking Horse Purchaser; (c) approved the Bid Protections subject to entry of the Stalking Horse Transaction Agreement; and (d) granted the Bid Protections Charge.
5. Capitalized terms that are not otherwise defined herein have the meanings ascribed to them in the ARIO or the SISP Approval Order, as applicable. Copies of the ARIO and the SISP Approval Order can be found at [www.ksvadvisory.com/experience/case/black-press](http://www.ksvadvisory.com/experience/case/black-press) (the "**Monitor's Website**").
6. This SISP sets out the manner in which: (a) binding bids for executable transactions involving the business and/or assets of, or the equity interests in, the Black Press Entities will be solicited from interested parties; (b) any such bids received will be addressed; (c) any Successful Bid (as defined below) will be selected; and (d) CCAA Court approval of any Successful Bid will be sought.
7. The SISP shall be conducted by the Petitioners with the assistance and under the oversight of the Monitor and the Monitor shall be entitled to receive all information in relation to the SISP.
8. Parties who wish to have their bids considered must participate in the SISP.
9. The Black Press Entities and the Monitor, in accordance with section 10 below, shall:

- a) disseminate marketing materials and a process letter to potentially interested parties identified by the Black Press Entities and the Monitor;
  - b) solicit interest from parties with a view to such interested parties entering into non-disclosure agreements (each an “**NDA**”) (parties shall only obtain access to the virtual data room and be permitted to participate in the SISP if they execute an NDA, in form and substance satisfactory to the Black Press Entities; provided that those parties that have already executed a NDA with the Black Press Entities shall not be required to execute a further agreement unless such agreement has expired or will expire during the SISP);
  - c) provide applicable parties who have entered into an NDA with the Black Press Entities access to a virtual data room containing, among other things, diligence information; and
  - d) request that such parties submit a binding offer meeting at least the requirements set forth in Section 11 below, as determined by the Black Press Entities and the Monitor (each a “**Qualified Bid**”), by the Qualified Bid Deadline (as defined below).
10. The SISP shall be conducted subject to the terms hereof and the following key milestones, which milestones may be extended by the Black Press Entities, with the consent of the Monitor and the Stalking Horse Purchaser:<sup>1</sup>
- a) the CCAA Court issues the SISP Approval Order by no later than January 25, 2024;
  - b) the Black Press Entities and the Monitor commence the solicitation process by no later than January 25, 2024, it being understood that the Black Press Entities and/or the Monitor shall be at liberty to contact, provide marketing materials and commence discussions with interested parties prior to such date as they consider appropriate;
  - c) deadline to submit a Qualified Bid – 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time on February 16, 2024 (the “**Qualified Bid Deadline**”);

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<sup>1</sup> To the extent any dates fall on a non-business day in British Columbia, they shall be deemed to be the first business day thereafter.

- d) deadline to determine whether a bid is a Qualified Bid and, if applicable, to notify those parties who submitted a Qualified Bid of the Auction (as defined below) – by no later than 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time on February 21, 2024;
- e) the Black Press Entities and the Monitor to hold an Auction (if applicable) and select the successful bid(s) (the “**Successful Bid**”) – by no later than 10:00 a.m. Pacific Time on February 26, 2024 (the “**Definitive Agreement Deadline**”);
- f) Transaction Order (as defined below) hearing:
  - o (if there is no Auction) – by no later than March 1, 2024 subject to CCAA Court availability; or
  - o (if there is an Auction) – by no later than March 6, 2024, subject to CCAA Court availability; and
- g) closing of the Successful Bid as soon thereafter as possible and, in any event, by no later than 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time on March 15, 2024 (the “**Outside Date**”).

11. In order to constitute a Qualified Bid, a bid must comply with the following:

- a) it provides for aggregate consideration, payable in cash in full on closing in an amount equal to or greater than (i) all outstanding obligations under the Senior Secured Notes (as defined in the First Hargreaves Affidavit), (ii) all outstanding obligations under the DIP Term Sheet, (iii) any obligations in priority to amounts owing under the DIP Term Sheet, including any Charges, (iv) the amount of \$500,000 to fund any professional fees incurred in connection with the wind-up of the Petitioners’ CCAA proceedings and any further proceedings or wind-up costs; and (v) the amount of \$1,750,000 to satisfy the Bid Protections (the “**Consideration Value**”), and provides a detailed sources schedule that identifies, with specificity, the composition of the Consideration Value and any assumptions that could reduce the net consideration payable including details of any material liabilities that are being assumed or being excluded;
- b) it contemplates closing of the proposed transaction by not later than the Outside Date;
- c) it contains:
  - i. duly executed binding definitive transaction document(s);
  - ii. the legal name and identity (including jurisdiction of existence) and contact information of the bidder, full disclosure of its direct and indirect principals, and the name(s) of each of its equityholder(s);
  - iii. a redline to the Stalking Horse Transaction Agreement posted in the virtual data room;
  - iv. evidence of authorization and approval from the bidder’s board of directors (or equivalent governing body) and, if necessary to complete the transaction, the bidder’s equityholder(s);

- v. disclosure of any past or current connections or agreements with the Black Press Entities or any of their affiliates, any known, potential, prospective bidder, or any current or former officer, manager, director, member or known current or former equity security holder of any of the Black Press Entities or any of their affiliates;
  - vi. such other information reasonably requested by the Black Press Entities or the Monitor;
  - vii. indicates whether any Transaction Order (as defined below) approving the bid will require recognition from the US Bankruptcy Court;
- d) it includes a letter stating that the bid is submitted in good faith, is binding and is irrevocable until closing of the Successful Bid; provided, that if such bid is not selected as the Successful Bid or as the next-highest or otherwise best Qualified Bid as compared to the Successful Bid (such bid, the "**Back-Up Bid**") it shall only remain irrevocable until selection of the Successful Bid;
- e) it provides that the bid will serve as a Back-Up Bid if it is not selected as the Successful Bid and if selected as the Back-Up Bid it will remain irrevocable until the earlier of: (i) closing of the Successful Bid; or (ii) closing of the Back-Up Bid;
- f) it provides written evidence of a bidder's ability to fully fund and consummate the transaction (and satisfy its obligations under the transaction documents, including binding equity/debt commitment letters and/or guarantees covering the full value of all cash consideration and the additional items (in scope and amount) covered by the guarantees provided by affiliates of the bidder in connection with the Successful Bid;
- g) it does not include any request for or entitlement to any break fee, expense reimbursement or similar type of payment;
- h) it is not conditional upon:
- i. approval from the bidder's board of directors (or equivalent governing body) or equityholder(s);
  - ii. the outcome of any unperformed due diligence by the bidder; or
  - iii. the bidder obtaining financing;
- i) it includes acknowledgments and representations that the bidder: (i) has had an opportunity to conduct any and all required due diligence prior to making its bid, and has relied solely upon its own independent review, investigation and inspection in making its bid; (ii) is not relying upon any written or oral statements, representations, promises, warranties, conditions, or guaranties whatsoever, whether express or implied (by operation of law or otherwise), made by any person or party, including the Black Press Entities, the Monitor and their respective employees, officers, directors, agents, advisors and other representatives, regarding the proposed transactions, this SISF, or any information (or the

completeness of any information) provided in connection therewith, except as expressly stated in the proposed transaction documents; (iii) is making its bid on an "as is, where is" basis and without surviving representations or warranties of any kind, nature, or description by the Black Press Entities, the Monitor or any of their respective employees, officers, directors, agents, advisors and other representatives, except to the extent set forth in the proposed transactions documents; (iv) is bound by this SISF and the SISF Approval Order; and (v) is subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the CCAA Court with respect to any disputes or other controversies arising under or in connection with the SISF or its bid;

- j) it specifies any regulatory or other third-party approvals the party anticipates would be required to complete the transaction (including the anticipated timing necessary to obtain such approvals);
  - k) it includes full details of the bidder's intended treatment of the Petitioners' employees, customers, contracts, collective bargaining agreements, pension and benefit obligations and vendors under the proposed bid;
  - l) it is accompanied by a cash deposit (the "**Deposit**") paid by wire transfer of immediately available funds in an amount equal to at least 10% of the Consideration Value, which Deposit shall be retained by the Monitor in an interest-bearing trust account in accordance with the terms hereof;
  - m) it includes a statement that the bidder will bear its own costs and expenses (including legal and advisor fees) in connection with the proposed transaction, and by submitting its bid is agreeing to refrain from and waive any assertion or request for reimbursement on any basis; and
  - n) it is received by the Black Press Entities, with a copy the Monitor, by the Qualified Bid Deadline at the email addresses specified on Schedule "A" hereto.
12. The Black Press Entities, with the consent of the Monitor, may in their sole discretion waive compliance with any one or more of the requirements specified in Section 11 above and deem a non-compliant bid to be a Qualified Bid, provided that requirements 11(a), 11(b) and 11(l) may not be waived without the consent of the Stalking Horse Bidder.
13. Notwithstanding the requirements specified in Section 11 above, the transaction contemplated by the Stalking Horse Transaction Agreement (the "**Stalking Horse Bid**"), is deemed to be a Qualified Bid, provided that, for greater certainty, no Deposit shall be required to be submitted in connection with the Stalking Horse Bid.
14. If one or more Qualified Bids (other than the Stalking Horse Bid) has been received by the Black Press Entities on or before the Qualified Bid Deadline, the Black Press Entities shall proceed with an auction process to determine the successful bid(s) (the "**Auction**"), which Auction shall be administered in accordance with Schedule "B" hereto. The successful bid(s) selected pursuant to the Auction shall constitute the "**Successful Bid(s)**". Forthwith upon determining to proceed with an Auction, the Black Press Entities shall provide written notice to each party that submitted a Qualified Bid (including the Stalking Horse Bid) of which Qualified Bid is the highest or otherwise best bid (as determined by the Black Press Entities, in consultation with the Monitor) along with a copy of such bid.

15. If by the Qualified Bid Deadline, no Qualified Bid (other than the Stalking Horse Bid) has been received by the Black Press Entities, then the Stalking Horse Bid shall be deemed the Successful Bid and shall be consummated in accordance with and subject to the terms of the Stalking Horse Transaction Agreement.
16. Following selection of a Successful Bid, if any, the Black Press Entities, with the assistance of its advisors, and in consultation with the Monitor, shall seek to finalize any remaining necessary definitive agreement(s) with respect to the Successful Bid in accordance with the milestones set out in Section 10. Once the necessary definitive agreement(s) with respect to a Successful Bid have been finalized, as determined by the Black Press Entities in consultation with the Monitor, the Petitioners shall apply to the CCAA Court for an order or orders approving such Successful Bid and/or the mechanics to authorize the Petitioners to complete the transactions contemplated thereby, as applicable, and authorizing the Petitioners to: (a) enter into any and all necessary agreements and related documentation with respect to the Successful Bid; (b) undertake such other actions as may be necessary to give effect to such Successful Bid; and (c) implement the transaction(s) contemplated in such Successful Bid (each, a "**Transaction Order**"). If the Successful Bid is not consummated in accordance with its terms, the Black Press Entities shall be authorized, but not required, to elect that the Back-Up Bid (if any) is the Successful Bid.
17. The highest Qualified Bid may not necessarily be accepted by the Black Press Entities. The Black Press Entities, with the written consent of the Monitor, reserve the right not to accept any Qualified Bid or to otherwise terminate the SISP. The Black Press Entities, with the written consent of the Monitor, reserve the right to deal with one or more Qualified Bidders to the exclusion of others, to accept a Qualified Bid for different parts of the Black Press Entities business and assets or to accept multiple Qualified Bids and enter into definitive agreements in respect of all such bids, provide that the aggregate of such Qualified Bids satisfies the requirements of Section 11(a) and (b).
18. If a Successful Bid is selected and a Transaction Order authorizing the consummation of the transaction contemplated thereunder is granted by the Court, any Deposit paid in connection with such Successful Bid will be non-refundable and shall, upon closing of the transaction contemplated by such Successful Bid, be applied to the cash consideration to be paid in connection with such Successful Bid or be dealt with as otherwise set out in the definitive agreement(s) entered into in connection with such Successful Bid. Any Deposit delivered with a Qualified Bid that is not selected as a Successful Bid will be returned to the applicable bidder as soon as reasonably practicable (but not later than ten (10) business days) after the date upon which the Successful Bid is approved pursuant to a Transaction Order or such earlier date as may be determined by the Black Press Entities, in consultation with the Monitor; provided, the Deposit in respect of the Back-Up Bid shall not be returned to the applicable bidder until the closing of the Successful Bid.
19. The Black Press Entities shall be permitted, in their discretion, to provide general updates and information in respect of the SISP to legal counsel to any creditor (each a "**Creditor**") on a confidential basis, upon: (a) irrevocable confirmation in writing from such counsel that the applicable Creditor will not submit any bid in the SISP; and (b) counsel to such Creditor entering into confidentiality arrangements with the Black Press Entities, in form and substance satisfactory to the Black Press Entities and the Monitor.
20. The Interim Lender shall only be entitled to the consultation rights specified herein in its favour and confidential updates and information from the Black Press Entities and the

Monitor in respect of the SISP, including copies of any Qualified Bids, upon the Interim Lender (in its capacity as Stalking Horse Bidder) irrevocably confirming in writing to the Petitioners and the Monitor that it will not submit any bid in the SISP except for the Stalking Horse Agreement and will not participate in the Auction.

21. Any amendments to this SISP may only be made by the Black Press Entities with the written consent of the Monitor and the Interim Lender or by further order of the court.



**SCHEDULE "A": E-MAIL ADDRESSES FOR DELIVERY OF BIDS**

To the counsel for the Black Press Entities:

[vtickle@cassels.com](mailto:vtickle@cassels.com); [jenns@cassels.com](mailto:jenns@cassels.com); [riacobs@cassels.com](mailto:riacobs@cassels.com); [jbello@cassels.com](mailto:jbello@cassels.com); [jbornstein@cassels.com](mailto:jbornstein@cassels.com)

and with a copy to the Monitor:

[ngoldstein@ksvadvisory.com](mailto:ngoldstein@ksvadvisory.com); [jknight@ksvadvisory.com](mailto:jknight@ksvadvisory.com); [ebrenner@ksvadvisory.com](mailto:ebrenner@ksvadvisory.com)

## SCHEDULE "B": AUCTION PROCEDURES

1. **Auction.** If the Black Press Entities receive at least one Qualified Bid (other than the Stalking Horse Bid), the Black Press Entities will conduct and administer the Auction in accordance with the terms of the SISP. Instructions to participate in the Auction, which will take place via video conferencing, will be provided to Qualified Parties (as defined below) not less than 24 hours prior to the Auction.

2. **Participation.** Only parties that provided a Qualified Bid by the Qualified Bid Deadline, including, for greater certainty, the Stalking Horse Bid (collectively, the "**Qualified Parties**" and each a "**Qualified Party**"), shall be eligible to participate in the Auction. No later than 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time on the day prior to the Auction, each Qualified Party must inform the Black Press Entities and the Monitor in writing whether it intends to participate in the Auction. The Black Press Entities will promptly thereafter inform in writing each Qualified Party who has expressed its intent to participate in the Auction of the identity of all other Qualified Parties that have indicated their intent to participate in the Auction. If no Qualified Party (including the Stalking Horse Purchaser) provides such expression of intent, the highest or otherwise best Qualified Bid as determined by the Black Press Entities, in consultation with the Monitor, shall be designated as the Successful Bid (as defined below).

3. **Auction Procedures.** The Auction shall be governed by the following procedures:

- a. **Attendance.** Only the Black Press Entities, the Qualified Parties and the Monitor, and each of their respective advisors will be entitled to attend the Auction, and only the Qualified Parties will be entitled to make any Overbids (as defined below) at the Auction;
- b. **No Collusion.** Each Qualified Party participating at the Auction shall be required to confirm on the record at the Auction that: (a) it has not engaged in any collusion with respect to the Auction and the bid process; and (b) its bid is a good-faith *bona fide* offer, it is irrevocable and it intends to consummate the proposed transaction if selected as the Successful Party (as defined below);
- c. **Minimum Overbid and Back-Up Bid.** The Auction shall begin with the Qualified Bid that represents the highest or otherwise best Qualified Bid as determined by the Black Press Entities, in consultation with the Monitor (the "**Initial Bid**"), and any bid made at the Auction by a Qualified Party subsequent to the Black Press Entities' announcement of the Initial Bid (each, an "**Overbid**"), must proceed in minimum additional cash increments of \$100,000, and all such Overbids shall be irrevocable until closing of the Successful Bid; provided, that if such Overbid is not selected as the Successful Bid or as the Back-Up Bid (if any) it shall only remain irrevocable until selection of the Successful Bid;
- d. **Bidding Disclosure.** The Auction shall be conducted such that all bids will be made and received in one group video-conference, on an open basis, and all Qualified Parties will be entitled to be present for all bidding with the understanding that the true identity of each Qualified Party will be fully disclosed to all other Qualified Parties and that all material terms of each

subsequent Qualified Bid will be fully disclosed to all other Qualified Parties throughout the entire Auction; provided, however, that the Black Press Entities, in their discretion, may establish separate video conference rooms to permit interim discussions among the Black Press Entities, the Monitor and individual Qualified Parties with the understanding that all formal bids will be delivered in one group video conference, on an open basis;

- e. **Bidding Conclusion.** The Auction shall continue in one or more rounds and will conclude after each participating Qualified Party has had the opportunity to submit an Overbid with full knowledge and confirmation of the then-existing highest or otherwise best bid and no Qualified Party submits an Overbid; and
- f. **No Post-Auction Bids.** No bids will be considered for any purpose after the Successful Bid has been designated, and therefore the Auction has concluded.

#### **Selection of Successful Bid**

4. **Selection.** During the Auction, the Black Press Entities, in consultation with the Monitor, will: (a) review each subsequent Qualified Bid, considering the factors set out in Section 11 of the SISP and, among other things, (i) the amount of consideration being offered and, if applicable, the proposed form, composition and allocation of same, (ii) the value of any assumption of liabilities or waiver of liabilities not otherwise accounted for in (i) above, (iii) the likelihood of the Qualified Party's ability to close a transaction by not later than the Outside Date (including factors such as: the transaction structure and execution risk; conditions to, timing of, and certainty of closing; termination provisions; availability of financing and financial wherewithal to meet all commitments; and required governmental or other approvals), (iv) the likelihood of the Court's approval of the Successful Bid, (v) the net benefit to the Black Press Entities and their stakeholders and (vi) any other factors the directors or officers of the Black Press Entities may, consistent with their fiduciary duties, reasonably deem relevant; and (b) identify the highest or otherwise best bid received at the Auction (the "**Successful Bid**" and the Qualified Party making such bid, the "**Successful Party**").

5. **Acknowledgement.** The Successful Party shall complete and execute all agreements, contracts, instruments or other documents evidencing and containing the terms and conditions upon which the Successful Bid was made within one business day of the Successful Bid being selected as such, unless extended by the Black Press Entities in their sole discretion, subject to the milestones set forth in Section 10 of the SISP.