

**FRANCHISE DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT  
FOR PROSPECTIVE MASTER FRANCHISEES**

**SBS Franchising, LLC**  
(a Delaware limited liability company)  
10530 Victory Blvd.  
North Hollywood, CA 91606  
(888) 981-1555  
[www.stratusclean.com](http://www.stratusclean.com)



SBS Franchising, LLC (“SBS”) grants master franchises providing for the right to sell and license individual commercial cleaning franchises using the Stratus Building Solutions system and trademarks known as a “unit franchise” to independent businesses within a designated territory. This franchise disclosure document covers the master franchise offering (the “Master Franchise”).

The Master Franchisee will operate a business offering unit franchises to operate a janitorial and building maintenance service under the name “**Stratus Building Solutions of \_\_\_\_\_**,” or “**Stratus of \_\_\_\_\_**.” The name will depend on the territory in which you are operating the Master Franchise. For example, if the Master Franchise territory is San Bernardino County, the name may be “Stratus Building Solutions of San Bernardino County” or “Stratus of San Bernardino County.” The DBA will be determined after purchase.

The total investment necessary to begin operation of a Stratus Master Franchise is from \$109,550 to \$345,950. This includes \$75,000 to \$210,000 that must be paid to SBS or its affiliate(s).

This disclosure document summarizes certain provisions of your franchise agreement and other information in plain English. Read this disclosure document and all accompanying agreements carefully. You must receive this disclosure document at least 14 calendar days before you sign a binding agreement with, or make any payment to, the franchisor or an affiliate in connection with the proposed franchise sale. **Note, however, that no government agency has verified the information contained in this document.**

You may wish to receive your disclosure document in another format that is more convenient for you. To discuss the availability of disclosures in different formats, contact Doug Flaig, CEO, at 10530 Victory Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91606, (888) 981-1555.

The terms of your contract will govern your franchise relationship. Don’t rely on the disclosure document alone to understand your contract. Read all of your contract carefully. Show your contract and this disclosure document to an advisor, like a lawyer or accountant.

Buying a franchise is a complex investment. The information in this disclosure document can help you make up your mind. More information on franchising, such as “*A Consumer’s Guide to Buying a Franchise*,” which can help you understand how to use this disclosure document, is available from the Federal Trade Commission. You can contact the FTC at 1-877-FTC-HELP or by writing to the FTC at 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580. You can also visit the FTC’s home page at [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov) for additional information. Call your state agency or visit your public library for other sources of information on franchising.

There may also be laws on franchising in your state. Ask your state agencies about them.

Issuance Date: March 10, 2025

## How to Use This Franchise Disclosure Document

Here are some questions that you may be asking about buying a franchise and tips on how to find more information:

QUESTION	WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION
<b>How much can I earn?</b>	Item 19 may give you information about outlet sales, costs, profits or losses. You should also try to obtain this information from others, like current and former franchisees. You can find their names and contact information in Item 20 or Exhibit E.
<b>How much will I need to invest?</b>	Items 5 and 6 list fees you will be paying to the franchisor or at the franchisor's direction. Item 7 lists the initial investment to open. Item 8 describes the suppliers you must use.
<b>Does the franchisor have the financial ability to provide support to my business?</b>	Item 21 or Exhibit C includes financial statements. Review these statements carefully.
<b>Is the franchise system stable, growing, or shrinking?</b>	Item 20 summarizes the recent history of the number of company-owned and franchised outlets.
<b>Will my business be the only SBS Master Franchise business in my area?</b>	Item 12 and the "territory" provisions in the franchise agreement describe whether the franchisor and other franchisees can compete with you.
<b>Does the franchisor have a troubled legal history?</b>	Items 3 and 4 tell you whether the franchisor or its management have been involved in material litigation or bankruptcy proceedings.
<b>What's it like to be SBS Master Franchisee?</b>	Item 20 or Exhibit E lists current and former franchisees. You can contact them to ask about their experiences.
<b>What else should I know?</b>	These questions are only a few things you should look for. Review all 23 Items and all Exhibits in this disclosure document to better understand this franchise opportunity. See the table of contents.

## **What You Need To Know About Franchising *Generally***

**Continuing responsibility to pay fees.** You may have to pay royalties and other fees even if you are losing money.

**Business model can change.** The franchise agreement may allow the franchisor to change its manuals and business model without your consent. These changes may require you to make additional investments in your franchise business or may harm your franchise business.

**Supplier restrictions.** You may have to buy or lease items from the franchisor or a limited group of suppliers the franchisor designates. These items may be more expensive than similar items you could buy on your own.

**Operating restrictions.** The franchise agreement may prohibit you from operating a similar business during the term of the franchise. There are usually other restrictions. Some examples may include controlling your location, your access to customers, what you sell, how you market, and your hours of operation.

**Competition from franchisor.** Even if the franchise agreement grants you a territory, the franchisor may have the right to compete with you in your territory.

**Renewal.** Your franchise agreement may not permit you to renew. Even if it does, you may have to sign a new agreement with different terms and conditions in order to continue to operate your franchise business.

**When your franchise ends.** The franchise agreement may prohibit you from operating a similar business after your franchise ends even if you still have obligations to your landlord or other creditors.

### **Some States Require Registration**

Your state may have a franchise law, or other law, that requires franchisors to register before offering or selling franchises in the state. Registration does not mean that the state recommends the franchise or has verified the information in this document. To find out if your state has a registration requirement, or to contact your state, use the agency information in Exhibit A.

Your state also may have laws that require special disclosures or amendments be made to your franchise agreement. If so, you should check the State Specific Addenda. See the Table of Contents for the location of the State Specific Addenda.

## Special Risks to Consider About *This* Franchise

Certain states require that the following risk(s) be highlighted:

1. **Out-of-State Dispute Resolution.** The franchise agreement requires you to resolve disputes with the franchisor by mediation, arbitration and/or litigation only where we currently have our principal place of business (currently California). Out-of-state mediation, arbitration, or litigation may force you to accept a less favorable settlement for disputes. It may also cost more to mediate, arbitrate, or litigate with the franchisor in California than in your own state.
2. **Sales Performance Required.** You must maintain minimum sales performance levels. Your inability to maintain these levels may result in loss of any territorial rights you are granted, termination of your franchise, and loss of your investment.
3. **Mandatory Minimum Payments.** You must make advertising fund payments (if and when the advertising fund is formed) regardless of your sales levels. Your inability to make the payments may result in termination of your franchise and loss of your investment.

Certain states may require other risks to be highlighted. Check the “State Specific Addenda” (if any) to see whether your state requires other risks to be highlighted.

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## **ITEM 1**

### **THE FRANCHISOR, AND ANY PARENTS, PREDECESSORS, AND AFFILIATES**

To simplify the language in this Disclosure Document, “us”, “we”, “our”, “SBS”, “or “Stratus Building Solutions” means SBS Franchising, LLC, the “Franchisor.” “You” means the person or entity who buys the franchise from SBS. If the franchise is purchased by a corporation, limited liability company, partnership or other entity, then “you” may also mean the shareholders, members, partners, or other owners of that entity. The person or entity buying the franchise is referred to as a “Master Franchisee” in the master franchise agreement attached as Exhibit D to this Disclosure Document (the “Master Franchise Agreement”).

The Franchisor has developed a business method for the operation of commercial cleaning and maintenance businesses to be operated in accordance with the Stratus system of specifications and operating procedures and in accordance with its brand standards (“System”). The System is identified by the service marks “Stratus” and “Stratus Building Solutions,” and such other marks and logos as we prescribe from time to time (“Marks”). The Marks and certain other intellectual property associated with the System are owned by Diversified Royalty Corp., a Canadian public company listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange (“Trademark Owner”). Trademark Owner licenses the Marks to Stratus Building Solutions, and Stratus Building Solutions will sublicense the Marks to you.

The Franchisor was originally formed as “SBS Franchising, Inc.,” a Delaware company on January 13, 2015 to purchase the assets of our Predecessor described below. On January 1, 2018, we converted our corporation to a limited liability company, under the name “SBS Franchising, LLC.” Our principal business address is 10530 Victory Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91606, and our telephone number is (888) 981-1555. We do business under the trade name “Stratus Building Solutions” and associated logos and designs registered on the Principal Register of the United States Patent and Trademark Office. We offer only master franchises, which operate under the System and Marks described in this Item 1 below. We do not offer unit franchises, and we do not own or operate any businesses of the type you will be operating. We have offered master franchises in the line of business disclosed in this Disclosure Document since January 30, 2015. We have not offered franchises in any other line of business.

The principal addresses for our agents for service of process are shown in Exhibit A.

#### **Our Parents, Predecessors and Affiliates**

We have no parent company.

#### Predecessor

Stratus Franchising, LLC, a Missouri limited liability company, is a predecessor of SBS Franchising, LLC. It was formed on October 19, 2006. Stratus Franchising, LLC offered janitorial service franchises beginning in October 2006. Its principal business address was 1976 Innerbelt Business Center Drive, St. Louis, MO 63114. The owners of Stratus Franchising, LLC were not the same as the owners of SBS Franchising, LLC. On January 30, 2015, our original franchisor entity, SBS Franchising, Inc., acquired all assets of Stratus Franchising, LLC through an Asset Purchase Agreement of the same date, including all Intellectual Property and franchise agreements. Stratus Franchising, LLC has ceased operations and does not offer franchises in any line of business. Stratus Franchising, LLC had offered franchises in the line of business disclosed in this Disclosure Document since October 2006 and ceased offering franchises in this line of business on January 30, 2015. To our knowledge, it did not offer franchises in any other line of business and did not operate businesses of the type being franchised.

## Affiliates

Our affiliate, Stratus Building Solutions Canada, Inc. (“Stratus Canada”), has its principal place of business at 4225 38th Street, Camrose, Alberta, Canada, T4V 3Z3. Stratus Canada offers master franchise agreements to master franchisees in Canada for commercial cleaning services and building maintenance care. Stratus Canada has not offered franchises in any line of business other than commercial cleaning services and building maintenance care. Stratus Canada has not conducted a business of the type being offered to you.

Our affiliate, SBS Services Group LLC (“SBS Services Group”), has its principal place of business at 10530 Victory Boulevard, North Hollywood, California 91606. In September 2019, SBS Services Group reacquired the franchise rights for the Stratus master franchise region located in Delaware. In November 2019, SBS Services Group reacquired the franchise rights for the master franchise regions located in Phoenix, Arizona; San Diego, California; Denver, Colorado; Hawaii; Iowa; Kansas; and Nebraska. In July 2021, SBS Services Group acquired from us the franchise rights for the Jacksonville, Florida master franchise region. In addition, as of January 2021, SBS Services Group reacquired the franchise rights for the San Antonio, Texas master franchise region. In January 2022, SBS Services Group reacquired the franchise rights for the master franchise regions located in Toledo, Ohio and Southern Colorado. And, in March 2023, SBS Services Group reacquired the franchise rights for the San Jose, California master franchise region. Since December 2019, SBS Services Group has offered individual unit franchise agreements to unit franchisees for commercial cleaning services and building maintenance care. These unit franchises are similar to the unit franchises that will be offered by you to individual unit franchisees. SBS Services Group has not offered franchises in any line of business other than commercial cleaning services and building maintenance care. SBS Services Group has not conducted any other business activity, but several of its officers have previously owned and operated master franchise businesses in the Stratus system.

## The Franchise Offered

We offer to individuals, partnerships and entities (i.e., corporations and limited liability companies) under this Disclosure Document a Master Franchise Agreement granting the right to license individual franchises known as “unit franchises” within a designated territory (“Territory”). For each unit franchise, a separate Unit Franchise Agreement must be signed between you and your unit franchisee (“Unit Franchisee”). The offer and sale of unit franchises are made pursuant to another Franchise Disclosure Document. An example form of the Unit Franchise Agreement is attached as Exhibit G for your information only. We do not offer unit franchises and are not making any offer of a unit franchise agreement in this Disclosure Document.

We franchise the right to you to operate a Master Franchise business. We grant you the right in your Territory to license independent Unit Franchisees to use the Stratus Marks and the Stratus System of specifications and operating procedures in the performance of cleaning and/or maintenance-related services and in accordance with our brand standards. These cleaning and/or maintenance services include commercial, industrial, institutional and residential cleaning services on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis and the providing of such specialty services as carpet care, floor care, window washing, wall cleaning, or programs of cleaning, sanitizing, deodorizing, and other related cleaning and/or maintenance services.

As a master franchisee, you will establish a business that will (1) grant franchises to unit franchisees as described above and (2) provide support and assistance to such unit franchisees – e.g., identifying cleaning contracts for unit franchisees and providing billing and collection on behalf of unit franchisees. Unlike unit franchisees, you will not engage in any cleaning services. We will provide certain territorial protection to you in your Territory as further described in Item 12 below.

Stratus Building Solutions operates in a developed market. As such, you and your unit franchisees will compete with local, regional and national providers of commercial, industrial, institutional and residential cleaning services. It is your responsibility to be aware of and be in compliance with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations applicable to your Master Franchise business, including any cleaning industry specific laws and any COVID-related state or local recommendations or restrictions regarding mask-wearing, in-person contact, etc. Because you will be selling franchises to unit franchisees, you will also need to comply with federal and state laws and regulations that apply to the offer and sale of franchises. You will be required to prepare a Franchise Disclosure Document, and you may be required to register the unit franchise offering with the applicable state agency, prior to the offer and sale of these unit franchises. Exhibit A of this Disclosure Document contains contact information for the state governmental agencies that regulate franchises in various states.

## **ITEM 2 BUSINESS EXPERIENCE**

### **Afshin Cangarlu, Member and Board Director**

Afshin Cangarlu is one of our Members and has served on our Board of Directors since December 2023. Between our inception in January 2015 and December 2023, Mr. Cangarlu served as our Chief Executive Officer in North Hollywood, California. In addition, Mr. Cangarlu is has been a Member of SBS Services Group since its inception in August 2019, has served on the Board of Directors of SBS Services Group since December 2023, and served as the Chief Executive Officer of SBS Services Group from August 2019 through December 2023, at all times in North Hollywood, California.

### **Stuart Erskine, Member and Board Director**

Stuart Erskine is one of our Members and has served on our Board of Directors since December 2023. Between December 2019 and December 2023, Mr. Erskine served as our Chief Operating Officer. In addition, Mr. Erskine has also been a Member of SBS Services Group since its inception in August 2019 and has served on the Board of Directors for SBS Services since December 2023. Mr. Erskine was our Chief International Officer from January 2018 to November 2019. He has also served as the President of Magnetsigns Group since March 2001 and the President of Declare Brands Inc., in Camrose, Alberta, Canada since 1997. He is based in Canmore, Alberta, Canada.

### **Foad Rekabi, Member and Board Director**

Foad Rekabi is one of our Members and has served on our Board of Directors since December 2023. Between January 2015 and December 2023, Mr. Rekabi served as our Chief Technology Officer and Corporate Secretary in North Hollywood, California. Mr. Rekabi has also been a Member of SBS Services Group since its inception in August 2019 and has served on the Board of Directors for SBS Services Group since December 2023, at all times in North Hollywood, California.

### **Doug Flaig, Chief Executive Officer**

Doug Flaig is our Chief Executive Officer and has held this position since December 2023. Between January 2022 and December 2023, Mr. Flag served as our President in North Hollywood, California. Prior to joining us, Mr. Flaig served as Vice President of Operations and then Chief Operating Officer of Safe Companies LLC, in Thousand Oaks, California, from February 2020 to December 2021. From September



2014 to November 2020, he was Chief Executive Officer and principal of True Impact Consulting, LLC, in Los Angeles, California.

**Jotham Hatch, Vice President of Operations**

Jotham Hatch is our Vice President of Operations and has held this position since July 2024. Mr. Hatch was previously the Vice President of Operations for iNX Commercial Cleaning Solutions, located in Los Angeles, California, from April 2022 to June 2024. Prior to that he was the Vice President of Training and Development for BELFOR Franchise Group working specifically on the Chem-Dry brand in Ann Arbor, MI from June 2018 to April 2022. He is based in Smithfield, Utah.

**David Earl, Chief Financial Officer**

David Earl is our Chief Financial Officer and has held this position since January 2020 in North Hollywood, California.

**Rob Lancit, Vice President of Franchise Development**

Rob Lancit is our Vice President of Franchise Development and has held this position since September 2022. Mr. Lancit was previously the Executive Vice President of FranServe, Inc., in Upper Saddle River, New Jersey, from May 2021 to May 2022. Prior to that, he was Vice President of MFV Expositions, in Glen Rock, New Jersey, from September 2015 to May 2021. He has also served as President of The Franchise Zone, in Weehawken, New Jersey, since founding the company in June 2021. He is based in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

**Michael Millett, Vice President of Marketing**

Michael Millett is our Vice President of Marketing and has held this position since April 2022 in North Hollywood, California. Mr. Millett was President of Digilu, Inc. in Elk Grove, California from January 1999 to March 2022.

**Arash Kolahi, Vice President of Technology**

Arash Kolahi is our Vice President of Technology and has held this position since July 2022, in Chino Hills, California. From February 2015 to July 2022, he served as our Senior Software Architect, also in Chino Hills, California.

**Sean Morrison, Advisor to Board of Directors**

Sean Morrison has served as an advisor to our Board of Directors since November 15, 2022 in Vancouver, Canada. Mr. Morrison has been the Chief Executive Office of Diversified Royalty Corporation in Vancouver, Canada since August 2013. Since 2011, he has served as a Director on the board of goeasy Ltd. in Mississauga, Canada.

**Victor Fok, Director of Learning and Development**

Victor Fok has served as our Director of Learning and Development Director in North Hollywood, California since 2019.

### **Cody Millsap Director, Franchise Services**

Cody Millsap has served as our Director, Franchise Services in Kansas City, Missouri during the immediately preceding 5 year period.

### **Matthew Schupbach, Director, Franchise Services**

Mathew Schupbach is a Director, Franchise Services since May 2024. Prior to joining Stratus he was a Business Intelligence Analyst, Data Analyst and Franchise Operations Consultant for Hand & Stone Massage and Facial Spa based in Tevose, Pennsylvania, from August 2020 to May 2024.

## **ITEM 3 LITIGATION**

*Zamarria Solorio, et al. vs. SBS Franchising LLC, et al*, Case No. 37-2024-00029829-CU-OE-CTL, pending in the Superior Court of California, San Diego County (June 28, 2024).

On June 28, 2024, plaintiffs Alma Rossio Zamarripa Solorio and Melissa Viviana Covarrubias, existing franchisees of SBS Services Group LLC, brought a Private Attorneys General Act (“PAGA”) action on behalf of the State of California, themselves and all aggrieved purported “employees” in California against the defendants. The action alleges that as a result of allegedly misclassifying franchisees as employees, the defendants failed to pay plaintiffs wages owed and violated various provisions of the California Labor Code and IWC Wage Order 5. This action was only brought after plaintiffs first submitted a Notice of Violation with the PAGA Administrator at California’s Labor and Workforce Development Agency and, upon information and belief, the PAGA Administrator declined enforcement. On October 3, 2024, the defendants filed a Motion to Compel Arbitration pursuant to the arbitration provision of the franchise agreement. The defendants believe that the allegations in this action have no merit and intend to vigorously defend themselves in this matter.

*Commonwealth of Virginia, ex rel., State Corporation Commission v. Pete Frese, Jr. and Stratus Franchising, LLC*, Commonwealth of Virginia, State Corporation Commission, Case No. SEC-2011-00008 (2011).

The Commission alleged that Stratus Franchising, LLC (the predecessor to SBS Franchising, LLC in the ownership and operation of the Stratus Building Solutions franchise system) and Pete Frese, Jr., principal and officer of Stratus Franchising, LLC violated § 13.1-563 (2) of the Virginia Retail Franchising Act, § 13.1-557 et seq. of the Code of Virginia, by making untrue statements of a material fact or omitting to state a material fact necessary in order to avoid misleading the offeree in connection with the sale or offer to sell a franchise. On June 16, 2011, the defendants agreed to a Settlement Order under which they neither admitted nor denied the allegations but agreed to pay to the Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Virginia, \$15,000 in monetary penalties and \$5,000 in costs and agreed not to violate the Virginia Retail Franchise Act in the future. For the avoidance of doubt, this action did not involve us; it only involved our predecessor. None of the owners of our predecessor have any ownership or other interest in us, nor are they employed or otherwise engaged by us.

*In re: Stratus Franchising, LLC, Peter Frese, and Dennis Jarrett, California Department of Business Oversight*, Org. ID: 84407 (September 15, 2015).

In September of 2019, SBS Franchising first learned that a 2015 injunctive order had been issued against its predecessor, Stratus Franchising, LLC (the predecessor to SBS Franchising in the ownership and operation of the Stratus Building Solutions franchise system) and certain of its executives. The order issued

by the California Department of Business Oversight (the “Department”) states that between 2007 and 2011, in various filings with the Department that were signed by President and COO Peter Frese on behalf of Stratus Franchising, LLC, the prior experience of CEO Dennis Jarrett between 2001 and 2004 was incorrectly stated as “President” of Jan-Pro International instead of “Vice President.” Based on these misstatements, the Department ordered Stratus Franchising, LLC, Peter Frese, and Dennis Jarrett to desist and refrain from willfully making untrue statements of material fact in franchise applications filed with the Department. The order was entered approximately eight months after SBS Franchising acquired the assets of Stratus Franchising, LLC. For the avoidance of doubt, this action did not involve us; it only involved our predecessor. None of the owners of our predecessor have any ownership or other interest in us, nor are they employed or otherwise engaged by us.

Other than the matters listed above, there is no litigation required to be disclosed in this Item.

#### **ITEM 4 BANKRUPTCY**

No bankruptcy information is required to be disclosed in this Item.

#### **ITEM 5 INITIAL FEES**

If you sign a Master Franchise Agreement, then you must pay us a nonrefundable initial franchise fee. An identical fee is not charged to all Master Franchisees. The initial franchise fee you will pay is based primarily upon the population of the Territory granted to you, as described in the Master Franchise Agreement. The population of a particular territory is based on data from the most recent U.S. Census report. The formula for calculating the fee is: \$75,000 for territories up to 750,000 in population and \$6,000 for each population of 100,000 people above the initial 750,000 in the territory. Therefore, the initial franchise fee for a territory with a large population will be greater than for a territory with a lower population. This formula may vary somewhat according to the density of the population related to the total area. Currently, the smallest territory we grant is for an area having a population of 500,000 people, and the largest territory we grant is for an area having a population of 3,036,114 people. Accordingly, your initial franchise fee will range from \$75,000 to \$210,000, depending primarily on your Territory’s population size. This is the total amount, except for any applicable sales tax, which is payable by you.

If, at a later date, you want to be the Master Franchisee for an additional territory, then you must sign another Master Franchise Agreement. Please note that the Master Franchise Agreement for each additional territory will be in the form currently used by SBS and, therefore, may differ from the terms of the Master Franchise Agreement described in this Disclosure Document.

The initial franchise fee is due and payable in one lump sum or pursuant to financing described in Item 10 (if applicable) at the time the Master Franchise Agreement is entered into by the parties. The initial franchise fee is fully earned when paid and non-refundable.

You pay us or our affiliates no other fees or payments for services or goods before your Master Franchise business commences operations.

## ITEM 6 OTHER FEES

Type of Fee*	Amount	Due Date	Remarks (Note 4)
<b>Royalty on Contract Services and Sales</b>	4% / 3.5% / 3% of gross revenues (See Note 1)	Payable monthly by the 10 <sup>th</sup> day of the next month for all gross revenues	Gross revenues include total receipts collected for services performed by you or your unit franchisees, or from the operation of the master franchise business, without reductions for amounts payable to or retained by unit franchisees.
<b>Royalty on Unit Franchise Fees</b>	20% / 15% / 10% of total down payment of the sale of each unit franchise, including deferred down payments (financing) and upgrades on unit franchisees (See Note 2)	Payable monthly by the 10 <sup>th</sup> day of the next month for all unit franchise agreements signed	The term “down payment” means the initial money paid by the unit franchisee to you as consideration for the unit franchisee’s initial franchise plan.
<b>Advertising and Public Relations Fund</b>	\$150 or 1% per month of gross revenues, whichever is greater	Payable monthly by the 10 <sup>th</sup> day of the next month for all gross revenues	We do not currently collect this fee, but we reserve the right to do so upon written notice to you.
<b>Transfer Fee</b>	10% of all proceeds given as consideration for the sale, transfer or assignment with a minimum of \$25,000, but not to exceed \$75,000	Upon transfer	Payable when you sell your master franchise. No charge if transferred to a family member or corporation which you control.
<b>Technology Costs</b>	Currently, \$200 to \$700 per month	Payable monthly	You must purchase a computer system capable of running the business solutions software we require, which includes an ERP software application, a CRM system, QuickBooks accounting software, e-mail address and other solutions, as further described in Item 11. For ongoing use of these software solutions, and related updates and support, you will pay monthly fees to us and third-party providers. Currently, these fees total approximately \$200-\$700 per month, but these amounts may increase depending on changes in provider fees and/or our software and technology requirements.
<b>Annual Conference</b>	The conference is free, but master franchisees must pay for their own travel and lodging.	Variable	Attendance is mandatory.
<b>Annual Conference Non-Attendance Fee</b>	\$2,500 multiplied by the number of annual conferences you have failed to attend	Upon invoice	You must attend the annual conference of all SBS master franchisees. Absent extraordinary circumstances, if you fail to attend, SBS may require a non-attendance fee to encourage future attendance. Currently the fee is set at \$2,500 multiplied by the number of annual conferences you have failed to attend.
<b>In-depth Business Consultation after First 12 Months</b>	\$350 per day, plus actual and reasonable expenses	Upon Invoice	If, after your first 12 months in operation, you request in-depth business consultation at your offices or our headquarters, you will incur this fee.
<b>Late Payment Fee</b>	5% of delinquent amounts	Upon Invoice	See Note 3

Type of Fee*	Amount	Due Date	Remarks (Note 4)
<b>Late Reporting Fee</b>	\$50 per day	Upon Invoice	This fee will be assessed where any report required to be submitted to us is not received by the tenth of any month in which the report is required to be submitted.
<b>Penalty for Non-Compliance</b>	\$500 per day for each day of non-compliance	As incurred	Payable if you purport to terminate or not renew the Master Franchise Agreement and you refuse to return certain materials as required under the Master Franchise Agreement.
<b>Attorney Fees and Costs</b>	The cost of legal fees and other expenses	As incurred	Payable when we incur legal fees or other expenses as a result of any breach of your obligations under the Master Franchise Agreement.

\* All of these fees or payments are payable to us, are nonrefundable, and are generally uniformly imposed.

#### Notes:

1. The Royalty on contract sales and services is scaled based on the amount of gross revenues generated by your Master Franchise business. For contract services and sales, you will pay us 4% of gross revenues less than \$300,000; 3.5% of gross revenues between \$300,000 and \$500,000; and 3% of gross revenues over \$500,000.

2. The Royalty you must pay us for initial franchise fees for sales of unit franchises (“Unit Franchise Fee”) is determined based on the amount of gross revenues generated by your Master Franchise business. You must remit to us 20% of revenue from Unit Franchise Fees in the prior month if your Master Franchise business generated less than \$300,000 in gross revenues in the prior month, 15% of revenue from Unit Franchise Fees in the prior month if your Master Franchise business generated between \$300,000 and \$500,000 in gross revenues in the prior month, and 10% of revenue from Unit Franchise Fees in the prior month if your Master Franchise business generated over \$500,000 in gross revenues in the prior month.

3. Any fee that is not paid when due is subject to a late charge which is the greater of 5% of the delinquent payment or the maximum late fee allowed by the law in the state of your Territory.

4. We may collect all fees from you through ACH electronic transfer. You are required to sign all documents necessary to establish an ongoing ACH electronic transfer.

SBS may implement, from time to time, new programs and operating procedures that would allow it to provide improved productivity or to render better services and may require that additional capital from you be provided. Examples of such programs are the use of technology to generate more lead sources for you, better ways to communicate with you and improved promotional materials, sales materials and service manuals. The additional capital from you that would be required ranges from \$10 to \$300 per month.

**ITEM 7**  
**ESTIMATED INITIAL INVESTMENT**

**YOUR ESTIMATED INITIAL INVESTMENT**

<b>Type of Expenditure</b>	<b>Amount<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Method of Payment<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>When Due</b>	<b>To Whom Payment is to be Made</b>
INITIAL FRANCHISE FEE <sup>3</sup>	\$75,000 - \$210,000	Lump Sum	At Signing	Us
REAL ESTATE, FIXTURES, LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS, AND UTILITY DEPOSITS <sup>4</sup>	\$1,500 - \$15,000 (varies depending on the market)	As Arranged	As Arranged	Property Mgt. Co.
INITIAL SUPPLIES AND INVENTORY <sup>5</sup>	\$500 - \$1,000	As Incurred	As Incurred	Suppliers
EQUIPMENT <sup>6</sup>	\$2,800 - \$5,450	Lump Sum/ Installment	Before Opening	Suppliers
LICENSES, PERMITS, SECURITY DEPOSITS, ETC. <sup>7</sup>	\$750 - \$5,000	Lump Sum	Before Opening	Government Agencies, Utilities
INSURANCE <sup>8</sup>	\$1,000 - \$3,500	As Incurred	As Incurred	Suppliers
TRAINING <sup>9</sup>	\$3,000 - \$6,000	As Incurred	As Incurred	Unknown
ADDITIONAL FUNDS <sup>10</sup> (6 months)	\$25,000 - \$100,000	As Incurred	As Incurred	Retained by You (Paid to Vendors/ Employees)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$109,550 - \$345,950</b>			

Notes:

1. These expenses are estimates. We urge you to consult with experience financial and legal advisors who can assist you in analyzing your potential expenses and developing a business plan and financial projections for your particular Master Franchise. These estimates are based on costs and expenses as would be incurred to establish a Master Franchise in a non-union market. Your costs and expenses may be higher if you establish a Master Franchise in a union market. These estimates may vary with factors such as the size of the Territory, its location, economic conditions, local conditions, local code or other requirements (e.g., union labor), availability of materials and labor, taxes, interest rates and other items. The estimates do not take into account any financing charges, inflation, compensation for your time or labor, rent or interest payable before the Master Franchise opens for business or related costs which you may have to pay. For the estimated range of costs, SBS has relied on its and its founders' experience in the cleaning industry, as discussed in Items 1 and 2 of this Disclosure Document. With respect to fees payable to us, such fees are not refundable.

2. Payments are not refundable unless permitted by the payee.

3. As described in Item 5, your initial franchise fee will range from \$75,000 to \$210,000, depending primarily on your Territory's population size. Currently, the smallest territory we grant is for an area having a population of 500,000 people (for an initial fee of \$75,000), and the largest territory we grant is for an area having a population of 3,036,114 people (for an initial fee of \$210,000). The initial franchise fee includes the cost of initial office supplies and promotional/sales materials.

4. You are not allowed to operate your business from your home. There is no requirement that you purchase or lease any real estate from SBS, but you are required to maintain an appropriate business office, which must be approved as to location and décor by SBS, and you must conduct your business from there. This estimate includes the décor of the business office, which we estimate will be approximately \$500 to \$1,500, and the initial deposits and build-out of office space, which may cost you \$500 to \$2,500 depending on the office space leased. The business will ideally be located in a multi-tenant or single-tenant office space with approximately 1,400 to 1,800 square feet of “B-Class” office space, and be centrally located in the region.

5. This estimate includes the initial inventory of chemicals that we recommend you purchase. You are not required to purchase any supplies from SBS.

6. You will be required to purchase a commercial backpack vacuum cleaner, a commercial floor polisher (high speed), a commercial scrubber (slow speed), and a commercial wet/dry vacuum. These items are not included in the initial supply package furnished by SBS. Based on our experience, depending upon whether the equipment is new or used, the cost of the equipment may range from approximately \$1,000 to \$2,500 from any equipment supplier. This equipment is used as back-up equipment for the Unit Franchisees and may be rented by you to your Unit Franchisees. You will also be required to purchase or lease, and maintain, a computer system that is capable of running the business solutions software we require. The approximate cost of purchasing a computer system ranges from \$850 to \$2,000 per user. You must also purchase and use the required customer relationship management (CRM) system, at an approximate cost of \$80 per user per month, after a one-time start-up fee of \$1,000. You are not required to purchase any equipment, computer systems, or software from SBS; however, we reserve the right to require you to pay some or all of these fees to us, some or all of which we will remit to the applicable.

7. You must obtain all proper business licenses and permits from your state and local agencies before engaging in business. This estimate includes the filing and application fees that may range up to \$500 each, depending on your location and the location of your Unit Franchisees, and the business telephone and office equipment costs that typically will range from \$500 to \$3,000 depending on the quality and quantity. You may also need to hire legal counsel or a financial professional to assist you in the preparation of franchise disclosure documents, franchise agreements, financial statements, etc. in order to comply with federal and state franchise law requirements. Security deposits and other expenses which must be prepaid and working capital will also vary substantially.

8. You must purchase comprehensive liability insurance, including property, bodily injury, product and automotive coverage, by no later than: (i) ten (10) days after the sooner of: (a) the date you sign an office lease for your business or (b) the date you hire its first employee, but in any case (ii) ten (10) days prior to the Opening Date. The cost of such coverage varies, depending on several factors such as: the charges established by the carrier, the terms of payment, and your prior history. Typically, adequate coverage will require an investment of between \$1,000 and \$3,000. You must also secure a commercial cleaning service bond. You will obtain insurance, covering yourself, your employees, and your Unit Franchisees, naming SBS and Trademark Owner as an Additional Insured and including a Grantor of Franchise endorsement, in the following minimum amounts and provide proof of coverage on demand:

Type	Minimum Limit
Commercial Cleaning Service Bond	\$50,000
Comprehensive General Liability	\$2,000,000
Worker’s Compensation	Greater of \$1,000,000 or “Statutory Benefits”

The limits described in the table above will include complete operations and products coverage with an extended property damage endorsement for building service contractors. SBS may increase the minimum limits of insurance required or have new types of coverage added at its sole discretion when circumstances so dictate or as the laws of your home jurisdiction may dictate.

9. You must pay any expenses incurred in traveling to the Training. Initial Training will be in Los Angeles, California for one week. Actual costs will depend on the distance traveled, lodging, meals, type of transportation, etc.

10. While no other amounts are payable to SBS, you must have access to funds for working capital in the approximate amount of \$25,000 to \$100,000 for operational expenses during the first six months of operation. These expenses will be for supplies, utilities, local advertising and other miscellaneous costs. Your working capital requirements may increase or decrease depending upon your geographic area, number of employees, labor rates, minimum wage laws, operating revenues and other economic factors. Living expenses are not calculated since they vary with each Master Franchisee. The estimate of working capital and total estimates is based on SBS' and its founders' experience in the cleaning industry.

There are no other direct or indirect payments in conjunction with the purchase of the Master Franchise.

## **ITEM 8 RESTRICTIONS ON SOURCES OF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES**

SBS has no required specifications, designated suppliers, or approved suppliers for goods, services or real estate relating to the establishment and operation of your franchise business other than required business solutions software, digital marketing platforms, website access and usage, and certain chemical and cleaning product supplies as described in this Item.

You must use the business solutions software we require, which includes the required ERP software application (Opus), the required CRM system, QuickBooks online accounting software (by Intuit Software), an e-mail address, and a suite of Google products. We are the only approved supplier of the ERP software application, which is used to manage all business transaction activities, and the consulting and IT support for that software. The costs associated with the ERP software are covered by the portion of the Technology Costs fee you pay to us, as described in Item 6.

You must use only the digital solutions and platforms we support, which includes the websites StratusClean.com and StratusBuildingSolutions.com which will only be supported by our approved digital marketing vendors, including vendors for search engine optimization, paid digital advertising, and marketing automation. Additionally, no websites may be used without our prior, written approval.

You are not required to purchase or obtain from us or our affiliates any goods, services, supplies, cleaning chemicals, fixtures, equipment, inventory, insurance coverage, or real estate for your business. We have developed a distribution network with several approved suppliers of Stratus-branded chemicals and cleaning products. We do not have to issue our specifications and standards for our approved suppliers to franchisees or approved suppliers, nor are our criteria for supplier approval made available to franchisees. We can add and remove approved suppliers at any time in our sole discretion.

During our most recent fiscal year, ending December 31, 2024, we did not receive any revenue from required purchases made by Master Franchisees of goods, services, supplies, materials, or other products, but did receive rebates of approximately \$3,854.57 from purchases from our supplier of green cleaning chemicals, Nyco, by Master Franchisees and unit franchisees. In the last fiscal year, these rebates were approximately 0004% of our total revenues. Other than as described in this paragraph, we did not receive



any revenue from required purchases made by Master Franchisees of goods, services, supplies, materials, or other products.

During its most recent fiscal year, ending on December 31, 2024, our master franchisee affiliate, SBS Services Group, had revenues of approximately \$2,254,651 from the sale of equipment, chemicals, supplies, insurance, or uniforms to its unit franchisees, which represents approximately 17.6% of SBS Services Group's total revenues of \$12,779,000. Taking into account SBS Services Group's costs in procuring these goods and services, the marginal revenue from these sales and leases to franchisees represented only 6.5 of SBS Services Group's total revenues.

SBS has negotiated strategic relationships with equipment suppliers to ensure that Master Franchisees receive preferential pricing from these strategic suppliers, but these suppliers are not restricted by SBS to the Master Franchisees. SBS does not currently sell or lease any products to Master Franchisees other than the ERP software application (Opus). If you purchase any goods, services, supplies, materials or other products from a supplier who has established a business relationship with us, or purchase product directly from us, we may derive revenue from the purchases made by you, including rebates or other discounts from certain suppliers for purchases made by you and other franchisees.

None of our officers own any interest in any approved or designated suppliers, and none of our affiliates are currently approved suppliers.

We estimate that your purchase or lease of equipment and supplies from suppliers and manufacturers (or those which meet our specifications) will represent approximately 1% of your costs to establish your Stratus Master Franchise and approximately 5% of your costs for ongoing operation.

We do not have a purchasing or distribution cooperative at this time, but may establish one in the future, in our sole discretion.

We do not provide material benefits to a franchisee based on the franchisee's purchase of particular products or services or use of a particular supplier; provided, however, that we will deny expansion requests (in addition to reserving other rights and remedies available to us) if a franchisee fails to purchase designated products or services or to use designated suppliers.

## ITEM 9 FRANCHISEE'S OBLIGATIONS

**This table lists your principal obligations under the franchise and other agreements. It will help you find more detailed information about your obligations in these agreements and in other items of this disclosure document.**

	Obligation	Section in Agreement	Disclosure Document Item
a.	Site selection and acquisition/ lease	Section II	Item 11
b.	Pre-opening purchases/leases	Not Applicable	Items 7 and 8
c.	Site development and other pre-opening requirements	Section II	Items 6, 7 and 11
d.	Initial and ongoing training	Section XVI	Item 11
e.	Opening	Section II	Item 11
f.	Fees	Section IV	Items 5 and 6
g.	Compliance with standards and policies/ Brand Standards Manuals	Section VI	Item 11
h.	Trademarks and proprietary information	Section XV	Items 13 and 14
i.	Restrictions on products/services offered	Section VII	Item 16

	<b>Obligation</b>	<b>Section in Agreement</b>	<b>Disclosure Document Item</b>
j.	Warranty and customer service requirements	Section VII(D)	Item 11
k.	Territorial development and sales quotas	Sections II and V	Item 12
l.	Ongoing product/service purchases	Not Applicable	Item 8
m.	Maintenance, appearance, and remodeling requirements	Not Applicable	Item 11
n.	Insurance	Section XIII	Items 6 and 8
o.	Advertising	Sections VI(B), XV and XVI	Items 6 and 11
p.	Indemnification	Sections VII(F), XI, XIII and XV(L)	Item 6
q.	Owner's participation/management/staffing	Sections VI(A) and VII	Items 11 and 15
r.	Records and reports	Sections IV and X	Item 6
s.	Inspections and audits	Sections X(C) and XX(B)	Items 6 and 11
t.	Transfer	Section VIII	Item 17
u.	Renewal	Section III	Item 17
v.	Post-termination obligations	Section XVIII	Item 17
w.	Non-competition covenants	Section XII	Item 17
x.	Dispute resolution	Section XIX	Item 17
y.	Other (Copyrights, Patents)	Not Applicable	Item 14
z.	Guaranty	Section XX	Item 15

## **ITEM 10 FINANCING**

The initial franchise fee must be paid in full at the time you sign the Master Franchise Agreement. To assist in your purchase of a Master Franchise, SBS may, at its sole option, based on various objective and subjective internal determinants - - including without limitation with respect to your creditworthiness, your liquid cash and available working capital, the geographic area in which you are interested in acquiring the Master Franchise, competition in your market, and other factors that we determine - - work finance up to 20% of the initial franchise fee. If SBS elects this option, you will be required to sign a promissory note with you as maker, substantially in the form attached to this Disclosure Document as Exhibit E.

Typically, the promissory note will obligate you to pay the unpaid principal balance in monthly installments over a three-year period at an interest rate of 12% per annum, or the maximum allowed by law, whichever is lower. If the Master Franchisee is a partnership or entity (i.e., a limited liability company or corporation), then the promissory note must be guaranteed individually by all partners or owners/shareholders. The debt secured by the promissory note may be prepaid with no prepayment penalty. In the event of nonpayment or other default under the promissory note or in the event of a breach of the Master Franchise Agreement, the payment of all principal and interest may be accelerated at SBS' option. In addition, your failure to cure a default under the promissory note within 30 days of receiving written notice of such default from SBS may constitute good cause for termination of the Master Franchise Agreement. If SBS employs an attorney to enforce any of the terms of the promissory note, then you must pay the reasonable costs and attorneys' fees associated with those enforcement efforts.

The terms of the financing do not include any waivers of legal rights by you. The terms of the note do not prevent you from asserting a defense against SBS or any party to whom SBS may assign the note. Financing is offered only for the initial franchise fee and not for any other purpose.

Item Financed (Source)	Source of Financing (Lender)	Down Payment	Amount Financed	Term (Years)	APR % (include any finance charges)	Monthly Payment	Prepayment Penalty	Security Required? If so, in what collateral?
Franchise Fee	Us	80%	20% of the initial franchise fee, which is dependent on the size of the Territory	3	10%	Depends on the amount being financed	None	Franchise Assets

Neither SBS nor any agent or affiliate has any practice of selling, assigning, or discounting to a third party, in whole or in part, any note, contract or other instrument signed by you. However, SBS reserves the right to do so in the future.

## ITEM 11

### FRANCHISOR'S ASSISTANCE, ADVERTISING, COMPUTER SYSTEMS, AND TRAINING

**Except as listed below, SBS is not required to provide you with any assistance.**

1. Assistance Before Opening – After approval of your Master Franchise, and before opening:
  - a. **Locations.** SBS will advise you in determining a location for and establishing an office for the operation of your Master Franchise business as a portion of SBS' services during the training period. SBS must approve your office location, furnishing and décor in order to protect the image and reputation of SBS. However, SBS does not have any experience or expertise in selecting real estate sites in the geographic area where your Master Franchise will be located and, therefore, SBS has no obligation, duty, or liability to you as a result of the site selected by you. SBS will review the site and will review any lease for the premises for compliance with the terms and conditions of the Master Franchise Agreement. Factors considered by SBS when reviewing a proposed site include accessibility, visibility, population trends, household income and financial statistics, lease terms and other demographic information. SBS will accept, reject or provide comments to you regarding your proposed site within 30 days after SBS' receipt of your site proposal. Your Master Franchise Agreement will not be terminated due to a rejection of your proposed site. You will simply continue to search and propose sites until one is approved by SBS. SBS' approval of your site and premises is not a warranty, representation or guaranty by SBS that a Master Franchise opened at that site will be a financial success. There is no time limit or consequence if a site is not selected. SBS does not generally own the premises of any office location.

You will at all times maintain your office and all fixtures, furnishings, signs and equipment in good order and condition, and in conformity with the Stratus system image as may be prescribed by SBS from time to time. You will make all necessary additions, alterations, repairs and replacements to the office as required by SBS. However, you cannot make any other additions, alterations, repairs or replacements not specifically requested by SBS without first obtaining its written consent. This includes periodic repainting or replacement of signs, furnishings, equipment or décor. Furthermore, you will make certain that your office conforms to all applicable local ordinances and building codes. You will also be required to obtain all necessary permits and licenses (i.e., occupancy, sanitation, building, driveway, utility, etc.). No other business venture will operate out of the premises used by you for your office without first obtaining SBS' written consent. You will require any Unit Franchisee who leases commercial office space outside of their residence to fully comply with the conditions described in this paragraph. (See Section II(G) of the Master Franchise Agreement.)

b. **Brand Standards Manuals.** SBS will make available and provide to you confidential Brand Standards Manuals and training aids, constituting the new materials office package. SBS will also loan you a copy of the Brand Standards Manuals. These items are confidential and will remain the property of Trademark Owner during and after the term of the Master Franchise Agreement. (See Sections VI(D) and XVI of the Master Franchise Agreement.) The current Brand Standards Manuals have a total of 467 pages. The Table of Contents of the Manuals (and number of pages in each section) as of the end of our last fiscal year is provided in Exhibit B to this Disclosure Document.

c. **Use of Marks.** SBS will allow you the right in your Territory, as described in the Master Franchise Agreement, to use the Stratus Marks, insignia, logo, design, and color scheme, and to utilize the processes, methods, materials, equipment and promotional items developed or adopted by SBS. (See Sections II(A) and XV of the Master Franchise Agreement.)

d. **Training.** SBS will provide you with a four-Phase training program. Phase I (Week 1) will last one week. The first week will be conducted at our home office in Los Angeles, California. Phase I (Week 2 and Week 3) and Phases II, III, and IV will be conducted at your offices approximately 30, 90 and 180 days after you open your office. (See Section XVI of the Master Franchise Agreement.)

2. Assistance during the operation of the Master Franchise:

a. **On-Site Assistance.** SBS will provide an additional period of on-site assistance in the office start up, sales, operations, and administrative procedures implementation. (See Section XVI of the Master Franchise Agreement.)

b. **Advising.** SBS will advise you of all appropriate facets of the Stratus System as well as all pertinent new developments in the janitorial service industry, including procedures for improved efficiency. (See Section XVI of the Master Franchise Agreement.)

c. **Other Materials.** SBS will inform you of promotional materials, sales materials and service manuals, and other materials as they are developed that would be relevant to the operation of your Master Franchise, and will provide these materials to you at a reasonable cost. (See Section XVI of the Master Franchise Agreement.)

d. **Advertising.**

*Stratus Cleaning Advertising Fund*

SBS does not currently have an advertising fund or currently collect monthly advertising and public relations fees, but it reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to reestablish the Stratus Cleaning advertising fund (“Stratus Cleaning Advertising Fund”) and require that Master Franchisee pay to such fund a monthly advertising and public relations fee of \$150 or 1% of its gross revenues, whichever is greater. (See Section XVI(B) of the Master Franchise Agreement.)

If established, the Stratus Cleaning Advertising Fund will be administered by SBS. Any SBS-owned Master Franchise business must contribute to the Stratus Cleaning Advertising Fund on the same basis and at the same time as other master franchisees. SBS would not use the advertising fund to solicit other master franchisees. The Stratus Cleaning Advertising Fund, all contributions thereto, and any earnings thereon, may be used exclusively to meet any and all costs of maintaining, administering, directing, conducting and preparing advertising, marketing, public relations, and/or promotional programs and materials, and any other activities which SBS believes will enhance the image of the System, including, among other things, advertising in cleaning trade magazines in order to acquire new

accounts and in entrepreneurial-type magazines to assist in the acquisition of unit franchisees; the costs of preparing and conducting radio, cable television, print, and Internet-based advertising campaigns; and other emerging media or promotional tactics; developing, maintaining, and updating any Website(s) on the Internet; direct mail advertising; marketing surveys; employing advertising and/or public relations agencies to assist therein; purchasing promotional items; and providing promotional and other marketing materials and services to the businesses operating under the System. SBS is not obligated to make expenditures for you that are equivalent or proportionate to your contributions to the advertising fund. SBS will not ensure that any particular master franchisee benefits directly or proportionately from the advertising fund. SBS also is not obligated to spend any amount of the advertising funds in your particular Territory, nor is SBS obligated to make certain that its advertising impacts or penetrates your Territory. The Stratus Cleaning Advertising Fund will not be a trust, and SBS will not be a fiduciary.

The Stratus Cleaning Advertising Fund may be used to meet all costs of administering, directing, preparing, placing and paying for national, regional or local advertising. Neither SBS nor its affiliates receive payment for providing goods or services to the Fund. SBS is not obligated to maintain the fund, and income earned by the advertising fund will be placed in a separate account. The advertising is not audited. However, if established, you may obtain an accounting of the Stratus Cleaning Advertising Fund's expenditures for the prior fiscal year, by submitting a written request to SBS.

SBS anticipates that it would spend most of the advertising funds during the fiscal year in which the advertising fees are paid. SBS did not collect Stratus Cleaning Advertising Fund fees in 2024.

If SBS spends *more* than the amount in the Stratus Cleaning Advertising Fund in any fiscal year (in addition to any money it has to spend because it did not spend all the money in the advertising fund during the year before), then SBS can reimburse itself from the advertising fund during the next fiscal year for all excess expenditures during the previous fiscal year.

If SBS spends *less* than the total in the advertising fund during any fiscal year, SBS can either spend the unused money during the next fiscal year or it can rebate all or a portion of the unused money to master franchisees on a basis proportionate to their contributions.

Although SBS intends that the Stratus Cleaning Advertising Fund will be perpetual, SBS can terminate the fund at any time.

#### *Advertising by Master Franchisee*

You are not required to spend any particular amount on advertising in your Territory. However, it is highly recommended that a portion of your working capital be allocated to local advertising in order to enable you to meet the sales volume or market penetration requirements described more fully in Item 12 of this Disclosure Document and Section V of the Master Franchise Agreement.

You may develop advertising materials for your own use, at your own cost. However, before you use your own advertising materials, you must first obtain SBS' written approval of your advertising materials. There are no restrictions concerning the use of advertising on the Internet or a World Wide Web page, other than to first obtain SBS' written approval of the advertising materials to be presented on the Internet or World Wide Web. (See Sections XV(D) and XV(G) of the Master Franchise Agreement).

### *Advertising Cooperatives/Advertising Councils*

There is no advertising council comprised of master franchisees that advises SBS on advertising policies. The Master Franchise Agreement does not give SBS the power to form, change or dissolve an advertising council.

There is no advertising cooperative that you must join or to which you must make contributions. The Master Franchise Agreement does not give SBS the power to form, change, dissolve or merge an advertising cooperative.

SBS is not required to spend any amount on advertising in your Territory or area.

e. **Consultation.** A representative of SBS will be available to answer routine questions by telephone and/or computer during normal business hours. (See Section XVI(A) of the Master Franchise Agreement.) In-depth business consultations at your business office or at SBS' corporate headquarters, after the initial 12 months, is available at the rate of \$350 per day, plus actual and reasonable expenses. This rate is subject to review every 12 months, depending on rises in cost from year to year. This rate would only apply if deficiencies continued after corrections had been suggested by SBS.

f. **Guidance.** Although not cited within the Master Franchise Agreement, and SBS is not required to perform such services under the Agreement, SBS will use its best efforts to provide the following guidance and assistance on a continuing basis to enhance the growth and performance of the Stratus Master Franchise program:

1. SBS will continue to search for more cost-efficient sources of supplies. With the strength of group purchasing, SBS will endeavor to purchase supplies and inventory at reduced rates and pass along the benefits of quantity purchasing to all master franchisees. However, you are not required to purchase any cleaning equipment or supplies from SBS or other parties, and you may be able to obtain equal or lower prices on comparable products purchased from other sources.
2. SBS may perform periodic quality control visits to your office. During such visits, all phases of operations are inspected and recommendations to correct deficiencies, improve techniques, and enhance the efficiency of your Master Franchise will be offered.

There is no other supervision, assistance or service to be provided by SBS during the operation of your Master Franchise business.

### Time to Open

The typical length of time between the signing of the Master Franchise Agreement or the first payment of any consideration for the Master Franchise and the opening of your business is eight weeks and depends on a number of factors including: finding an approved office site, completing your training program; obtaining the required business permits and licenses, acquiring inventory, equipment and supplies; obtaining financing (if applicable); and hiring and training your employees.

### Computer Systems

You must purchase or lease, and maintain, a computer system(s) that is capable of running the business solutions software we require, which includes the required ERP software application (Opus), the required CRM system, QuickBooks online accounting software, an e-mail address, and a suite of Google products.

The approximate monthly fee to use QuickBooks online is \$100 to \$500 per month. The approximate cost of the required CRM system is \$80 per user per month, after a one-time start-up fee of \$1,000. For the typical arrangement involving three users, the total first-year cost is approximately \$3,830. The approximate cost of purchasing a computer system ranges from \$850 to \$2,000 per user. We reserve the right to require you to pay some or all of these fees to us, some or all of which we will remit to the applicable vendors.

SBS will have independent access to your computer data and information. In addition, SBS can review, inspect, audit and make copies of all of your Master Franchise's financial records. Therefore, you must give us your passwords and other information necessary to access your computer software and computer-stored files, so that we can perform an inspection or audit. (See Section X(C) of the Master Franchise Agreement.) Furthermore, SBS can assume the responsibility for your computerized or manual billing and accounting services, if certain circumstances as outlined in the Master Franchise Agreement arise. (See Section XVI(A) of the Master Franchise Agreement.)

You must keep your computer system in good maintenance and repair and install all additions, changes, modifications, substitutions, and/or replacements to your computer system and required business solutions software as we may reasonably direct periodically in writing, all at your own expense. You must upgrade or update your computer system and business solutions software at your expense as we may require. There is no limitation on how often we may require these upgrades or the cost of these upgrades. We and our affiliates have no obligation to provide ongoing maintenance, repairs, upgrades, or updates.

## Training

### **Training Program**

<b>Training Phase</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Hours of Classroom Training</b>	<b>Hours of On-the-Job Training</b>	<b>Location</b>
Phase I (Week 1)	Business overview	4	0	Varies based on site availability but generally held in Midwest, U.S.
	Franchise Sales	12	4	
	Operations Overview	3	1	
	Inside Sales	2	4	
	Customer Contract Sales Overview	2	4	
	Opus, Accounting, HR & Back offices	6	2	
Phase I (Week 2)	On-Site Training: Unit Franchisee training methods, franchise sales review, customer contract sales training, operational and management aspects of the Stratus office. (Approximately 2 weeks after North Hollywood Training)	28	12	Your office
Phase I (Week 3)	Customer Contract Sales (Approximately 4 weeks after North Hollywood Training)	8	24	Your office
Phase II	Franchise Development (Approximately 6 weeks after North Hollywood Training)	20	4	Your office
Phase III	On-Site Training: Customer service training (3 days approximately 90 days after opening)	24	0	Your office

Training Phase	Subject	Hours of Classroom Training	Hours of On-the-Job Training	Location
Phase IV	On-Site Training: Administration training (3 days approximately 180 days after opening)	24	0	Your office
<b>Total</b>		<b>133</b>	<b>55</b>	

Phase I Training is offered bi-monthly as needed. Subsequent phases are scheduled approximately 30, 90 and 180 days after you open your office. Instructional materials for all of our training consists of the Brand Standards Manual. Instructors for Phase I Training include the Development Manager, and/or Office Manager, and/or Operations Manager, and/or Training Manager. Instructors for Phase II Training include the Operations Manager, and/or Training Manager, and/or Sales Manager.

All training instructors are required to have a minimum of two years of industry experience before training any Master Franchisees. The current instructors include Jotham Hatch, Matthew Schupbach, Cody Millsap and Victor Fok, who each have at least 1 year of experience with SBS and at least 10 years of experience in the industry, with the exception of Matthew Schupbach who has less than one year in commercial cleaning experience but over 5 years of franchise industry experience.

SBS does not charge for training sessions. However, you must pay your travel expenses to and from the training site as well as any and all of your living expenses while in at our designated training site for the Phase I training including lodging, food, transportation, entertainment, etc.

You or another person with a principal financial interest in your Master Franchise are required to attend our training program. Regional Directors must also complete the training program. The “Regional Director” is the person or entity designated by you to be personally responsible for the day-to-day management of the franchise and for compliance with the terms of the Master Franchise Agreement, if you will not be working in such a capacity.

You will be allowed to open your Master Franchise only after you or another person with a principal financial interest in your Master Franchise has completed Phase I of the training program to the satisfaction of SBS, in its sole discretion. Your training attendee will typically complete Phase I of the program during the 8-week period following execution of the Master Franchise Agreement, but there is no requirement that the attendee do so within that specific time period, or within a certain number of days before the opening of the Master Franchise business. Phase I of the training program, however, must be satisfactorily completed before your Master Franchise opens for business. If the training attendee does not satisfactorily complete Phase I of the training, the attendee must retake the Phase I training program, or you must appoint another individual to attend Phase I training.

SBS will also provide annual and/or regional master franchise meetings and seminars from time to time. Your attendance at these sessions is mandatory and there is no fee for attendance. You will be responsible for your travel and lodging costs. There is customarily one annual conference attended by all SBS master franchisees. Because SBS spends significant resources on this conference, it is important to us that all master franchisees attend. To encourage your attendance, if you fail to attend any such annual conference, SBS will have the right to impose a fee. The fee amount is currently equal to \$2,500 multiplied by the number of annual conferences you have failed to attend. (See Section XVI(A) of the Master Franchise Agreement.) SBS may waive this fee for extraordinary circumstances.

No additional training programs are required, unless otherwise noted in this Disclosure Document.



## **ITEM 12 TERRITORY**

**Protected Territory.** You will be licensed and permitted to operate under the Master Franchise Agreement in a specific Territory as designated in the Master Franchise Agreement. The Territory is typically delineated by the boundaries of the designated Standard Combined Statistical Area, and/or specific county, city or country borders sufficient to encompass a specified population. This Territory will be determined by SBS, and you will be informed as to the specific boundaries of the Territory before the signing of the Master Franchise Agreement. You must establish and maintain your principal office within the Territory. The Territory will be initially determined by a population analysis and will thereafter remain static for the term of the Master Franchise Agreement. Currently, there is a minimum territory population of 500,000 to start a master franchise region, and the largest territory we grant is for an area having a population of 3,036,114. A description of the protected Territory will be inserted into the body of the Master Franchise Agreement, or a map or description of the protected Territory will be attached to the Master Franchise Agreement as an exhibit.

During the term of the Master Franchise Agreement, SBS will not establish or operate, or grant other franchisees the right to establish or operate, a SBS Master Franchisee business under the System and the Marks within the Territory, except under the limited circumstances provided for in the Master Franchise Agreement related to the failure of the Master Franchisee to meet the minimum growth obligation or a termination of the Master Franchise Agreement, and as otherwise provided below.

You will not receive an exclusive territory. You may face competition from other franchisees, from outlets that we own, or from other channels of distribution or competitive brands that we control.

SBS retains the rights, among others, on any terms and conditions SBS deems advisable, and without granting any rights to you: (a) to establish and operate, and license others to establish and operate, an SBS Master Franchise business under the System and the Marks at any location outside your Territory, notwithstanding the proximity to your Territory; (b) to sell or distribute, or license others to sell or distribute, directly or indirectly, any products and services other than products and services sold through the Stratus System, through any distribution channel (including the Internet), at any location whether within or outside your Territory under any proprietary marks (including the Marks); and (c) to establish, acquire, franchise, or operate any business or cleaning or maintenance service business of any kind, including competitive businesses, under any marks other than the Marks at any location within the Territory, and to purchase, or be purchased by, or merge or combine with, competing businesses, wherever located, including the Territory.

You may not relocate your SBS Master Franchise business or modify your Territory without our prior written approval. SBS may require, in its discretion, that you sign SBS' then-current form of master franchise agreement and a general release prior to granting approval of relocation. In general, master franchisees may in the normal course acquire additional territories, with SBS' prior written approval, in which to offer unit franchises. However, the Master Franchise Agreement grants the Master Franchisee no options, rights of first refusal or similar rights that would entitle it to do so.

Absent prior written consent from SBS, you are expressly prohibited from the solicitation or acceptance of customers or prospective Unit Franchisees outside the Territory. You may not make sales within or outside of your Territory using other channels of distribution, including the Internet, catalog sales, telemarketing, or other direct marketing. SBS may insist on reparations to any neighboring master franchisee who is damaged by your solicitation or acceptance of orders from outside your Territory. SBS will not have to compensate you for soliciting or accepting orders from inside your Territory.

Continuation of your territorial rights is dependent upon your achievement of the sales volume or market penetration requirements described in Section V of the Master Franchise Agreement and as summarized immediately below. Failure to maintain those minimum levels could result in the loss or modification of your territorial protection, otherwise your territorial protections will remain unchanged during the term of the Master Franchise Agreement.

**Minimum Annual Revenues and Unit Franchises Required.** Within one year after the “Opening Date” set forth in the Master Franchise Agreement, you must meet the minimum monthly gross revenues (the “Minimum Monthly Revenues”). This means that, beginning with the second year after the Opening Date (i.e., the 13th calendar month after the Opening Date), you must generate at least \$40,000 in monthly gross revenues on an annual basis. Within two years after the Opening Date, you must meet the minimum monthly gross revenues requirement of \$80,000. This means that, beginning with the third year after the Opening Date (i.e., the 25th calendar month after the Opening Date), you must generate not less than \$80,000 in monthly gross revenues on an annual basis. In addition to generating the Minimum Monthly Revenues, your monthly gross revenues must increase each year beginning with the third year after the Opening Date, all as a condition of the continuation of your Master Franchise. If you do not meet the minimum growth obligations, then SBS, at its sole discretion, has the following options:



- (a) SBS may require you and your key employees to attend remedial training at SBS’ principal place of business or other location selected by SBS, at your sole expense; and/or
- (b) SBS may cancel the territorial protection described in this Item 12 (i.e., the sole right to acquire customers and sell unit franchises in your Territory) and granted in Section II of the Master Franchise Agreement, and SBS may from that point forward acquire contracts and accounts and sell additional master franchises, and unit franchises, within your licensed Territory (who may then, in turn, directly compete with you).

Beginning on the first day of the third year, and at all times from that point forward, you must (i) have at least 36 operating and active (i.e., not in default) Unit Franchisees within the Territory licensed to you under the Master Franchise Agreement, (ii) continue to maintain an updated and valid Franchise Disclosure Document, and (iii) continue to actively offer and sell new franchises each year, as SBS may determine in its sole discretion. Meeting each obligation in this paragraph is a condition to the continuation of your Master Franchise.

You may not solicit or accept sales for the establishment of unit franchises or locations outside of the Territory. However, you are not prohibited from using normal channels of advertising or marketing unless the marketing amounts to a direct solicitation of customers or prospective unit franchisees outside of the Territory.

### ITEM 13 TRADEMARKS

Trademark Owner owns the following trademarks on the Principal Register of the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office (“USPTO”):

Trademark	Registration Number	Registration Date
<b>STRATUS BUILDING SOLUTIONS</b>	3,230,289	April 17, 2007 (renewed)
<b>STRATUS BUILDING SOLUTIONS</b>	5,811,443	July 23, 2019
<b>STRATUS</b>	5,296,290 5,296,293	September 26, 2017
<b>STRATUS (&amp; Design)</b> 	5,441,491 5,441,492	April 10, 2018
<b>STRATUS BUILDING SOLUTIONS (&amp; Design)</b> 	6,128,579	August 18, 2020
<b>STRATUS CLEAN</b>	6,853,352	September 20, 2022

There is no pending, infringement, opposition or cancellation proceeding nor any pending material federal or court litigation involving Trademark Owner’s, SBS Services Group’s, or SBS’ use or ownership rights in the above Marks.

Trademark Owner licenses the Marks and certain other intellectual property (collectively, the “IP”) to SBS pursuant to a License and Royalty Agreement, under which SBS is required to make monthly payments to Trademark Owner for the right to use and sublicense the IP. The License and Royalty Agreement does not significantly limit SBS’ right to use or license the trademarks in any manner material to you, and there are no other agreements that limit SBS’ right to use or license the use of the trademarks.

You must modify or discontinue the use of a trademark if SBS modifies or discontinues it. If that happens, SBS may reimburse you for your tangible costs of compliance (for example, costs of new business cards), but it is not obligated to do so. In the event your license to use the “Stratus” Marks is terminated, cancelled, or not renewed by us, you must immediately cease use of the “Stratus” name and Marks, and Unit Franchisees may also be required to immediately cease use of the “Stratus” name and Marks.

You must notify SBS immediately when you learn about an infringement of or challenge to your use of any Mark, and SBS will take the action it thinks appropriate. Trademark Owner or SBS has the right to control any administrative proceeding or litigation involving the Marks and IP. SBS is obligated under the Master Franchise Agreement to take action as may be necessary to protect and defend Master Franchisee against

any third party claims of infringement and unfair competition arising out of the Master Franchisee's authorized use of the Marks, and SBS is obligated under the Master Franchise Agreement to indemnify Master Franchisee from any losses or harm resulting from such claims.

All required affidavits pertaining to these registrations have been filed or will be filed by the deadlines for active Marks above. SBS knows of no superior prior rights or infringing uses that could materially affect your use of the Marks in a state where the franchised business will be located. There are no currently effective material determinations of the USPTO, the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board, or any state trademark administrator or court. There are no pending infringement, opposition, or cancellation proceedings in which any person unsuccessfully sought to prevent registration of a trademark in order to protect a trademark licensed by SBS.

## **ITEM 14**

### **PATENTS, COPYRIGHTS AND PROPRIETARY INFORMATION**

#### **Patents and Copyrights.**

Neither Trademark Owner nor SBS has any registered patents or registered copyrights that are material to the franchise, but Trademark Owner does claim a copyright to all intellectual property that is material to the franchise, including but not limited to the Brand Standards Manual and all forms, advertising materials, and promotional materials. There are no agreements currently in effect which significantly limit your right to use any IP.

To our knowledge, there are no currently effective determinations of the USPTO, the U.S. Copyright Office, or any court pertaining to or affecting any of the copyrights discussed above. As of the date of this Disclosure Document, SBS is unaware of any infringing uses of or superior previous rights to any of the copyrights that could materially affect your use of them in any state.

#### **Confidential Information.**

You may never – during the Initial Term, any Renewal Term, or after the Master Franchise Agreement expires or is terminated – reveal any SBS confidential information to another person or use it for any other person or business. You may not copy any SBS confidential information or give it to a third party except as we authorize. The SBS confidential information will include trade secrets, information, ideas, research, methods, manuals, procedures, systems, improvements, and copyrighted and other materials including educational or training materials, fee and Unit Franchise records, and the Brand Standards Manual, owned or developed by or licensed to SBS and the goodwill associated with them. Each person that is key to the Master Franchise must sign our Non-Competition Agreement, the form of which is an exhibit to the Master Franchise Agreement.

## **ITEM 15**

### **OBLIGATION OF FRANCHISEE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTUAL OPERATION OF THE FRANCHISE BUSINESS**

You are required to participate in the direct operation of the Master Franchise business. SBS believes that only a person with an equity interest can adequately ensure that the standards of quality and competence established by SBS are being maintained. The terms of the Master Franchise Agreement require that you are directly involved in the day-to-day operations of the business either through your full-time participation or by the management of a full-time Regional Director. If you own more than one Master Franchise, you must have a Regional Director at each individual location. Your Regional Director must have successfully completed our training program. Please see Item 11 of this Disclosure Document for more information

pertaining to the Stratus Master Franchisee training program. Either you or your Regional Director must permanently reside within your Territory at all times.

If SBS, after using standards and procedures applied on a uniform basis throughout the system, finds that a Regional Director is not properly performing his or her duties, we will advise you in writing and you must immediately take corrective steps to remedy the situation. If you do not correct the situation, we may require you to replace the Regional Director within 30 days of our written notice to you. Within 30 days of termination, you must appoint a successor, and that person must attend the next available training session. (See Section VI(B) of the Master Franchise Agreement.)

All partners, owners and shareholders of Master Franchisee will be listed on the signature pages of the Master Franchise Agreement and are obligated to sign the Master Franchise Agreement. As signers of the Master Franchise Agreement as individuals, all partners, owners and shareholders will be obligated to personally guaranty the performance of all obligations of the Master Franchise Agreement and payments to us. They will be required to comply with all confidentiality provisions of the Master Franchise Agreement and maintain confidential information. They will also be required to comply with all non-competition provisions, subject to state law. During the term of the Master Franchise Agreement, they may not perform any services for, engage in or acquire, become an employee of, or have any interest whatsoever in any business that performs any type of cleaning and/or maintenance related services; or is similar to the SBS janitorial, cleaning and maintenance System and business; or that sells, leases or distributes supplies and equipment related to any of the foregoing. For a period of two years after termination or transfer of the Master Franchise Agreement, they will be required to comply with the same non-competition provisions with respect to any such business within 100 miles of the territories of any Master Franchisee or Unit Franchisee. They will also be obligated to sign any documents required by us relating to the operation and ownership of your Master Franchise business. A spouse of a direct or indirect owner is only required to personally guaranty the performance of Master Franchisee and/or execute a Non-Compete Agreement if that spouse independently signs the Master Franchise Agreement or has a direct or indirect ownership interest in Master Franchisee (if Master Franchisee is a business entity) or the Master Franchise business.

## **ITEM 16**

### **RESTRICTIONS ON WHAT THE FRANCHISEE MAY SELL**

You are limited in the operation of the Master Franchise business to the sale of Unit Franchises within your Territory. You are required to provide continuing oversight of your Unit Franchisees who offer to the public complete cleaning and/or maintenance related services. No other limits or restrictions are placed on the type or quantity of customers to whom Unit Franchisees may provide service, except for restrictions contained within the Master Franchise Agreement. (See Section VII of the Master Franchise Agreement.)

You, as a Master Franchisee, must comply with all laws and regulations governing the sale of franchises, including the proper and timely delivery of a Franchise Disclosure Document, unit franchise agreement and other related documents (“Unit Franchise Compliance Documents”). If a registration is required in the state where your Territory is located, then in addition to applicable federal laws and regulations, you must file all necessary documents and disclosures with the appropriate state agency before selling, advertising or offering for sale any franchise within the Territory. A list of state agencies and the appropriate contact information is included as Exhibit A of this Disclosure Document.

SBS is not responsible for preparing or registering any Unit Franchise Compliance Documents or the accuracy of any such documents as distributed or filed for registration. SBS will offer sample documents for compliance, but makes no representation or warranty of those documents’ compliance with federal, state or local laws and regulations, and you are urged to seek the assistance of independent attorneys and counsel to review and complete such documents.

The form of all Unit Franchise Compliance Documents must be submitted to, and approved by, SBS before your use of them. Similarly, any changes, amendments or revisions to any of the Unit Franchise Documents must be approved by SBS before your use of them. All Unit Franchise Compliance Documents must include a provision stating that SBS is a third-party beneficiary of the Unit Franchise Compliance Documents with rights to assume and enforce them should you fail to do so.

You may not operate any other franchise business without first obtaining the express written consent of either the CEO or COO of SBS.

## **ITEM 17**

### **RENEWAL, TERMINATION, TRANSFER AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

**This table lists certain important provisions of the franchise and related agreements. You should read these provisions in the agreements attached to this disclosure document.**

#### **THE FRANCHISE RELATIONSHIP**

	<b>Provision</b>	<b>Section In Master Franchise Agreement</b>	<b>Summary</b>
<b>a.</b>	Length of the franchise term	Section III	Term is 15 years.
<b>b.</b>	Renewal or extension of the term	Section III	If you are in good standing you may renew the master franchise.
<b>c.</b>	Requirements for you to renew or extend	Section III	If you meet all conditions for renewal, notify SBS of your intention to renew at least 6 months before the end of term but not more than 12 months, and sign a renewal master franchise agreement. You may be asked to sign an agreement with materially different terms and conditions than your original master franchise agreement because the then-current Master Franchise Agreement must be signed in order to renew or continue the franchise relationship.
<b>d.</b>	Termination by you	Section XVII	Master Franchise Agreement contains no provisions for termination by you. Certain rights may exist under state contract law.
<b>e.</b>	Termination by SBS without cause	Not Applicable.	Not Applicable.
<b>f.</b>	Termination by SBS with cause	Section XVII	SBS can terminate only for “good cause” which means failure by you to substantially comply with the material and reasonable franchise requirements imposed by SBS.
<b>g.</b>	“Cause” defined – curable defaults	Section XVII	All defaults other than those listed in Section “h.” below. Subject to applicable state law, SBS may only terminate if it (1) gives you a written notice of default explaining the default and reason(s) for termination at least 30 days in advance of termination, and (2) you have not cured the default or corrected the reasons stated for termination in the notice of default within 30 days from receiving said notice.

	Provision	Section In Master Franchise Agreement	Summary
<b>h.</b>	“Cause” defined – non- curable defaults	Section XVII	Non-curable defaults: you voluntarily abandon your Master Franchise business; you or any owner of your Master Franchise business is charged, or convicted of, or pleads no contest to, any crime or offense directly or indirectly related to the business conducted under the Master Franchise Agreement; you fail to cure a default under the Master Franchise Agreement which materially impairs the goodwill associated with the Stratus trade name, trademark, service mark, logotype or other commercial symbol after you have received written notice to cure the default at least 24 hours in advance; you become bankrupt or insolvent; you assign the assets of the Master Franchise business for the benefit of creditors (or such assets are similarly disposed); you make any material misrepresentation relating to the Master Franchise Agreement or the Master Franchise business or in your application to become a Master Franchisee; you fail for 10 days after notice of noncompliance to comply with any law or regulation applicable to the operation of the Master Franchise business; you attempt to assign the Master Franchise business, or any right or obligation under the Master Franchise Agreement, without our prior written consent; you repeatedly fail to comply with one or more requirements of the Master Franchise Agreement or any other agreement with us, whether or not such failure is corrected after notice; the Master Franchise business premises are seized, taken over or foreclosed by a government official, creditor, lienholder or lessor, a final judgment remains unsatisfied for 30 days, or a levy of execution has been made upon the licenses granted by the Master Franchise Agreement or upon any property used in the Master Franchise business and not discharged within 5 days of such levy; we determine that your continued operation of the Master Franchise business will result in an imminent danger to public health or safety; you knowingly conceal revenues, maintain false books or records, falsify information or otherwise defraud or make false representations to us, or submit false reports to us; you or any of your owners fails to comply with the in-term covenant not to compete or violates the confidential information restrictions contained in the Master Franchise Agreement; or you engage in any act or conduct, or fail to engage in any act or conduct, which under the Master Franchise Agreement specifically authorizes us to terminate the Master Franchise Agreement immediately upon notice.
<b>i.</b>	Your obligations on termination / non-renewal	Section XVIII	Obligations on termination include complete de-identification, no divulging of trade secrets, return of all Brand Standards Manuals and software, payment of amounts due, and assigning phone numbers.
<b>j.</b>	Assignment of contract by SBS	Section VIII	No restriction on SBS’ right to assign.
<b>k.</b>	“Transfer” by you defined	Section VIII	Change in majority ownership, transfer of substantially all of the assets of your Master Franchise business or transfer of a majority of the ownership (e.g., stock or other units of ownership) of the entity owning the Master Franchise business.
<b>l.</b>	SBS’ approval of transfer by you	Section VIII	SBS has the right to approve all transfers but will not unreasonably withhold approval.

	Provision	Section In Master Franchise Agreement	Summary
<b>m.</b>	Conditions for approval of transfer	Section VIII	Your transferee meets all criteria of character, experience, financial responsibility, and other standards applicable to new master franchisees. Transfer fee paid, purchase agreement approved, training arranged, and current agreement signed by new master franchisee. SBS reserves the right to conduct a business review.
<b>n.</b>	SBS' right of first refusal to acquire your business	Section IX	SBS has the first right to purchase or to match any offer for your Master Franchise business if you offer it for sale.
<b>o.</b>	SBS' option to purchase your business	Section VIII	Only if you offer your Master Franchise business for sale; your death or disability.
<b>p.</b>	Death or disability of franchisee	Section VIII	The Master Franchise business must be assigned by estate to approved buyer within 6 months. Heirs, other than pre-approved spouse or adult child/children, must qualify.
<b>q.</b>	Non-competition covenants during the term of the franchise	Section XII	You may not perform any services for, engage in or acquire, become an employee of, or have any interest whatsoever in any business that performs any type of cleaning and/or maintenance related services; or is similar to the SBS janitorial, cleaning and maintenance System and business; or that sells, leases or distributes supplies and equipment related to any of the foregoing.
<b>r.</b>	Non-Competition covenants after the franchise is terminated or expired	Section XII	No competing business for 2 years within 100 miles of any of the territories of any SBS Master Franchisee or Unit Franchisee.
<b>s.</b>	Modification of agreement	Section XX	Only with mutual agreement.
<b>t.</b>	Integration/ merger clause	Section XX	Only the terms of the Master Franchise Agreement and other related written agreements are binding (subject to state law). Any verbal provisions not contained in the Master Franchise Agreement may not be enforceable. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing in the franchise agreement or any related agreement is intended to disclaim the representations made in the Disclosure Document.
<b>u.</b>	Dispute resolution mediation	Section XIX	The parties agree to attempt to settle disputes through good faith negotiations in the first instance. If negotiations fail, disputes arising under the Master Franchise Agreement must be submitted to non-binding mediation as a condition to commencing litigation.
<b>v.</b>	Choice of Forum	Section XIX	Subject to applicable state law, litigation must be conducted in the state in which your franchise is located, unless local state law supersedes this provision.
<b>w.</b>	Choice of Law	Section XIX	Subject to applicable state law, the laws of the state in which your franchise is located, unless local state law supersedes this provision.

Please also see the state addenda attached as Exhibit E to the Master Franchise Agreement Exhibit F to this Disclosure Document, respectively.



## **ITEM 18 PUBLIC FIGURES.**

SBS does not use any public figure to promote our franchise, although you are not restricted from doing so.

## **ITEM 19 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPRESENTATIONS**

The FTC's Franchise Rule permits a franchisor to provide information about the actual or potential financial performance of its franchised and/or franchisor-owned outlets, if there is a reasonable basis for this information, and if the information is included in the Disclosure Document. Financial performance information that differs from that included in Item 19 may be given only if: (1) a franchisor provides the actual records of an existing outlet you are considering buying; or (2) a franchisor supplements the information provided in this Item 19, for example, by providing information about possible performance at a particular location or under particular circumstances.

We present three sets of figures and charts below in this Item 19 for certain affiliate owned and master franchise regions as December 31 of the reporting year (each, a "Reporting Region").

- Section 1 below includes a table presenting average and median annual Gross Revenues figures for the Reporting Regions that have operated for longer than 12 months.
- Section 2 below includes graphs illustrating average and median annual Gross Revenues figures during the 2024 calendar year for the Reporting Regions that have operated for longer than 12 months, presented based on years of operation.
- Section 3 below includes graphs illustrating average and median annual Gross Revenues figures during the 2024 calendar year for the Reporting Regions, presented based on the financial performance (reflected in "tiers"). The performance of all affiliate owned and master franchise regions is included in this Section, regardless of their length of operation.

A master franchise business requires significant ramp-up time to achieve operational capacity, as master franchisees prepare their own franchise documents, identify and sign up unit franchises, and begin locating commercial contracts on behalf of their unit franchisees. As a result, the revenues of a master franchise business during its first 12 months of operation can vary tremendously and are less predictive of its long-term revenues over the 15-year term of the Master Franchise Agreement.

To assist you in reviewing the financial performance representations in this Item 19, "Gross Revenues" represents the actual amount of dollars received by the Reporting Region from customer revenue (including revenue from special services provided by unit franchisees), plus the franchise fees paid by unit franchisees during the calendar year. The annual Gross Revenues numbers for Reporting Regions are based on reports pulled from the CRM system (which, for our master franchise regions is based on data they enter).

Note that Stratus master franchisees do not typically operate janitorial services businesses themselves. They are, rather, engaged in the business of franchising and providing administrative support to their unit franchisees, which are operating such cleaning services businesses.

# **1. Average Annual Gross Revenues for 2022, 2023, and 2024**

As of December 31, 2022, 2023, 2024, there were a total of 57, 60 and 67 affiliate owned and master franchise regions. However, we present below the average and median annual Gross Revenues for the 55, 58, and 60 Reporting Regions that have been operating for at least 12 months as of December 31 of each year:

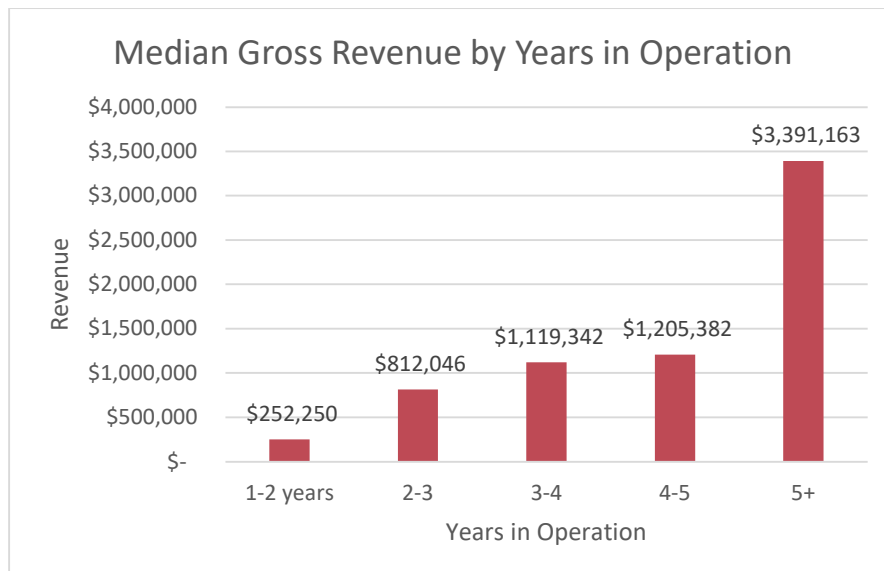
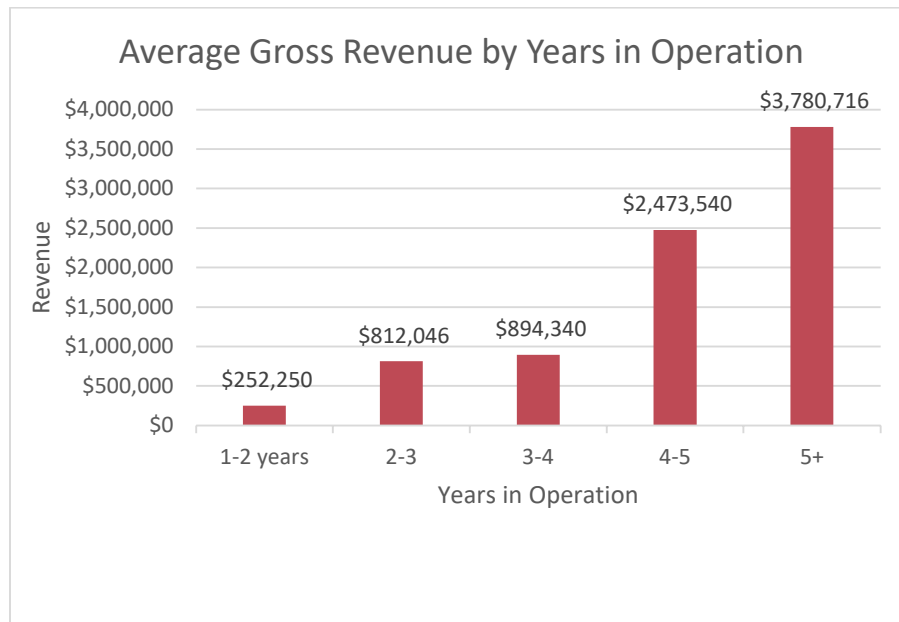
	Number of Regions in Subset	Average Annual Gross Revenues	Number (and %) of Regions at or above the Average	Median Annual Gross Revenues	Number (and %) of Regions at or above the Median	Highest Gross Revenues Region in Subset	Lowest Gross Revenues Region in Subset
2022 Franchised Regions	42	\$2,721,389	17 (40%)	\$2,200,833	21 (50%)	\$13,101,386	\$200,503
2022 Affiliate-Owned Regions	13	\$3,060,786	5 (42%)	\$1,753,323	7 (58%)	\$8,026,642	\$193,002
<b>2022 Total Regions</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>\$2,801,610</b>	<b>17 (31%)</b>	<b>\$1,989,535</b>	<b>24 (44%)</b>	<b>\$13,101,386</b>	<b>\$193,002</b>
2023 Franchised Regions	44	\$3,040,897	21 (50%)	\$3,101,964	21 (50%)	\$13,967,939	\$59,085
2023 Affiliate-Owned Regions	14	\$3,208,835	5 (36%)	\$1,956,408	7 (50%)	\$8,536,802	\$238,077
<b>2023 Total Regions</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>\$3,081,433</b>	<b>21 (38%)</b>	<b>\$2,620,826</b>	<b>23 (41%)</b>	<b>\$13,967,939</b>	<b>\$59,085</b>
2024 Franchised Regions	46	\$3,255,668	23 (50%)	\$3,193,170	23 (50%)	\$14,820,552	\$242,894
2024 Affiliate-Owned Regions	14	\$3,486,006	5 (36%)	\$2,131,579	7 (50%)	\$9,565,591	\$185,949
<b>2024 Total Regions</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>\$3,309,413</b>	<b>21 (35%)</b>	<b>\$2,934,782</b>	<b>25 (42%)</b>	<b>\$14,820,552</b>	<b>\$185,949</b>

**[Remainder of Page Intentionally Left Blank]**

## 2. 2024 Average and Median Gross Revenues by Years In Operation

As of December 31, 2024, there were a total of 67 affiliate owned and master franchise regions. However, we present below the average and median annual Gross Revenues for the 60 Reporting Regions that have been operating for at least 12 months as of December 31, 2024, presented based on their years of operation.

The data in the graphs is presented in five groups: (a) the 2 Reporting Regions operating for more than 1 year but less than 2 years; (b) the 2 Reporting Regions operating for more than 2 years but less than 3 years; (c) the 3 Reporting Regions operating for more than 3 years but less than 4 years; (d) the 7 Reporting Regions operating for more than 4 years but less than 5 years; and (e) the remaining 46 Reporting Regions operating for more than 5 years.

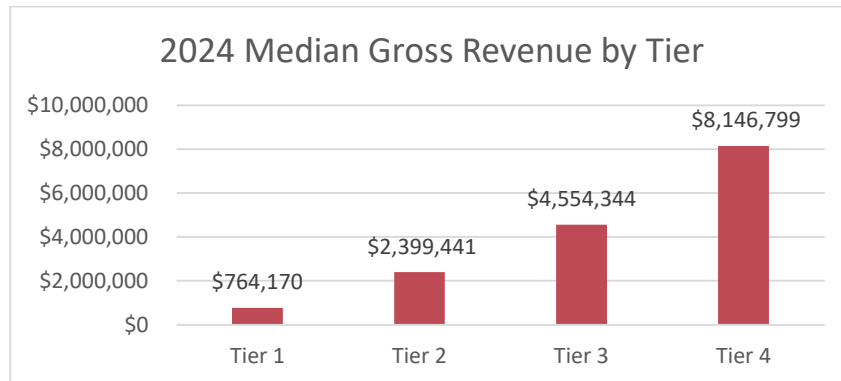
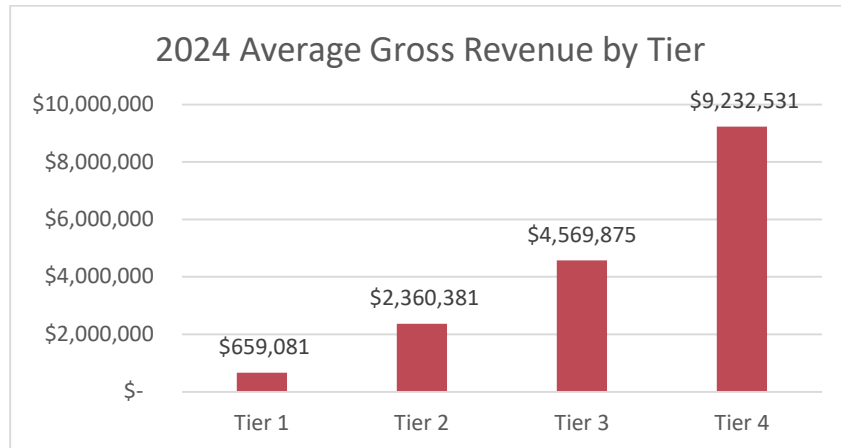


### Summary Table

Years in Operation	Number of Regions in Subset	Average Annual Gross Revenues	Number (and %) of Regions at or above the Average	Median Annual Gross Revenues	Number (and %) of Regions at or above the Median	Highest Gross Revenues Region in Subset	Lowest Gross Revenues Region in Subset
1-2	2	\$252,250	1 (50%)	\$252,250	1 (50%)	\$261,606	\$242,894
2-3	2	\$812,046	1 (50%)	\$812,046	1 (50%)	\$829,782	\$794,310
3-4	3	\$894,340	2 (67%)	\$1,119,342	2 (67%)	\$1,171,472	\$392,205
4-5	7	\$2,473,540	3 (43%)	\$1,205,382	4 (57%)	\$5,611,501	\$322,666
5+	46	\$3,780,716	19 (41%)	\$3,391,163	23 (50%)	\$14,820,552	\$185,949

### 3. 2024 Average and Median Gross Revenues by Tier

As of December 31, 2024, there were a total of 67 affiliate owned and master franchise regions. However, we present below the average and median annual Gross Revenues for the 60 Reporting Regions as of December 31, 2024, presented in tiers based on financial performance. Seven (7) master franchise region were excluded as Reporting Regions because they were open for less than twelve (12) months. Tier 1 or “Start-Up Regions” are those that generated average monthly Gross Revenues between \$0 to \$100,000 of Gross Revenues per month; Tier 2 or “Emerging Regions” are those that generated average monthly Gross Revenues between \$100,000 and \$300,000 per month; Tier 3 or “Established Regions” are those that generated average monthly Gross Revenues between \$300,000 and \$600,000 per month; and, Tier 4 or “Enterprise Regions” are those that generated average monthly Gross Revenues of over \$600,000 per month.



### Summary Table

Tier	Number of Regions in Subset	Average Annual Gross Revenues	Number (and %) of Regions at or above the Average	Median Annual Gross Revenues	Number (and %) of Regions at or above the Median	Highest Gross Revenues Region in Subset	Lowest Gross Revenues Region in Subset
<b>Tier 1</b> <b>\$0-\$100,000 monthly</b>	14	\$659,081	8 (57%)	\$764,170	7 (50%)	\$1,171,472	\$185,949
<b>Tier 2</b> <b>\$100,000 - \$300,000 monthly</b>	20	\$2,360,381	10 (50%)	\$2,399,441	10 (50%)	\$3,919,158	\$1,159,233
<b>Tier 3</b> <b>\$300,000 - \$600,000 monthly</b>	21	\$4,569,875	10 (50%)	\$4,554,344	11 (52%)	\$7,767,723	\$726,591
<b>Tier 4</b> <b>\$600,000+ monthly</b>	5	\$9,232,531	2 (40%)	\$8,146,799	3 (60%)	\$14,820,552	\$5,611,501

**Some master franchises have earned this amount. Your individual results may differ. There is no assurance that you will earn as much.**

Written substantiation of this financial performance representation will be made available to the prospective master franchisee upon reasonable request.

Other than as stated above, we do not make any representations about a master franchisee's future financial performance or the past financial performance of company-owned or franchised outlets. We also do not authorize our employees or representatives to make any such representations either orally or in writing. If you are purchasing an existing outlet, however, we may provide you with the actual records of that outlet. If you receive any financial performance information or projections of your future income other than as described in this Item, you should report it to the franchisor's management by contacting the CEO, Doug Flaig, c/o SBS Franchising, LLC, 10530 Victory Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91606, (888) 981-1555, the Federal Trade Commission and the appropriate state regulatory agencies.

### ITEM 20 OUTLETS AND FRANCHISEE INFORMATION

**Table No. 1**  
**System-wide Outlet Summary**  
**For Years 2022 to 2024**

Outlet Type	Year	Outlets at the Start of the Year	Outlets at the End of the Year	Net Change
<b>Franchised</b>	2022	44	44	0
	2023	44	46	+2
	2024	46	53	+7
<b>Company-Owned*</b>	2022	11	13	+2
	2023	13	14	+1
	2024	14	14	0
<b>Total Outlets</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>+2</b>
	<b>2023</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>+3</b>
	<b>2024</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>+7</b>

\* Throughout this Item 20, outlets owned by our affiliate, SBS Services Group LLC, are listed as "Company-Owned."

**Table No. 2**  
**Transfers of Outlets from**  
**Master Franchisees to New Owners (other than Franchisor)**  
**For Years 2022 to 2024**

State	Year	Number of Transfers
Florida	2022	0
	2023	0
	2024	0
Pennsylvania	2022	0
	2023	1
	2024	0
TOTALS	2022	0
	2023	1
	2024	0

**Table No. 3**  
**Status of Master Franchisee-Owned Outlets**  
**For Years 2022 to 2024**

State	Year	Outlets at Start of Year	Outlets Opened	Terminations	Non-Renewals	Reacquired by Master Franchisor	Ceased Operations - Other Reasons	Outlets at End of the Year
Arkansas	2022	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
California	2022	6	0	0	0	0	0	6
	2023	6	0	0	0	1	0	5
	2024	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Colorado	2022	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Florida	2022	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
	2023	4	1	0	0	0	0	5
	2024	5	1	0	0	0	0	6
Georgia	2022	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
	2023	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
	2024	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
Illinois	2022	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
	2023	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
	2024	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Indiana	2022	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	2023	1	0	0	0	0	0	1

State	Year	Outlets at Start of Year	Outlets Opened	Terminations	Non-Renewals	Reacquired by Master Franchisor	Ceased Operations - Other Reasons	Outlets at End of the Year
	2024	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Kentucky	2022	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	2023	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	2024	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Louisiana	2022	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	2023	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	2024	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Maryland	2022	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
	2023	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
	2024	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Michigan	2022	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
	2023	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
	2024	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Minnesota	2022	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	2023	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	2024	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Nevada	2022	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	2023	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	2024	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
New Jersey	2022	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	2023	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	2024	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
New York	2022	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	2023	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	2024	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
North Carolina	2022	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	2023	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	2024	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ohio	2022	4	0	0	0	1	0	3
	2023	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
	2024	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Oklahoma	2022	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	2023	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
	2024	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Oregon	2022	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
	2023	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
	2024	2	0	0	0	0	0	2

State	Year	Outlets at Start of Year	Outlets Opened	Terminations	Non-Renewals	Reacquired by Master Franchisor	Ceased Operations - Other Reasons	Outlets at End of the Year
Pennsylvania	2022	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
	2023	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
	2024	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
South Carolina	2022	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
	2023	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
	2024	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Tennessee	2022	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	2023	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	2024	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Texas	2022	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
	2023	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
	2024	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Utah	2022	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	2023	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	2024	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Virginia	2022	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
	2023	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
	2024	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
Wisconsin	2022	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
	2024	1	2	0	0	0	0	3
Washington	2022	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	2023	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	2024	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
TOTALS	2022	44	2	0	0	2	0	44
	2023	44	3	0	0	1	0	46
	2024	46	7	0	0	0	0	53

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**Table No. 4**  
**Status of Company-Owned Outlets**  
**For Years 2022 to 2024**

State	Year	Outlets at Start of Year	Outlets Opened	Outlets Reacquired From Master Franchisee	Outlets Closed	Outlets Sold To Master Franchisee	Outlets at End of the Year
Arizona	2022	1	0	0	0	0	1
	2023	1	0	0	0	0	1
	2024	1	0	0	0	0	1
California	2022	1	0	0	0	0	1
	2023	1	0	1	0	0	2
	2024	2	0	0	0	0	2
Colorado	2022	2	0	1	0	0	3
	2023	3	0	0	0	0	3
	2024	3	0	0	0	0	3
Delaware	2022	1	0	0	0	0	1
	2023	1	0	0	0	0	1
	2024	1	0	0	0	0	1
Florida	2022	1	0	0	0	0	1
	2023	1	0	0	0	0	1
	2024	1	0	0	0	0	1
Hawaii	2022	1	0	0	0	0	1
	2023	1	0	0	0	0	1
	2024	1	0	0	0	0	1
Iowa	2022	1	0	0	0	0	1
	2023	1	0	0	0	0	1
	2024	1	0	0	0	0	1
Kansas	2022	1	0	0	0	0	1
	2023	1	0	0	0	0	1
	2024	1	0	0	0	0	1
Nebraska	2022	1	0	0	0	0	1
	2023	1	0	0	0	0	1
	2024	1	0	0	0	0	1
Ohio	2022	0	0	1	0	0	1
	2023	1	0	0	0	0	1
	2024	1	0	0	0	0	1
Texas	2022	1	0	0	0	0	1
	2023	1	0	0	0	0	1
	2024	1	0	0	0	0	1

State	Year	Outlets at Start of Year	Outlets Opened	Outlets Reacquired From Master Franchisee	Outlets Closed	Outlets Sold To Master Franchisee	Outlets at End of the Year
TOTALS	2022	11	0	2	0	0	13
	2023	13	0	1	0	0	14
	2024	14	0	0	0	0	14

**Table No. 5**  
**Projected Openings as of December 31, 2024**

State	Franchise Agreements Signed but Outlet Not Opened	Projected New Franchise Outlets in the Next Fiscal Year	Projected New Company-Owned Outlets in the Next Fiscal Year
Alabama	0	1	0
Florida	1	2	0
Idaho	0	1	0
Kentucky	0	1	0
Maryland	1	0	0
Michigan	1	1	0
Mississippi	0	1	0
New Hampshire	1	0	0
New York	0	2	0
North Carolina	0	1	0
South Carolina	0	1	0
Vermont	0	1	0
Virginia	1	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>

In some instances, current and former master franchisees sign provisions restricting their ability to speak openly about their experience with the Stratus master franchise system. You may wish to speak with current and former franchisees, but be aware that not all such master franchisees will be able to communicate with you.

A list of current and former master franchisees can be found in Exhibit E to this Disclosure Document. If you buy this franchise, your contact information may be disclosed to other buyers when you leave the franchise system.

We have created a Stratus franchise advisory council located at 10530 Victory Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91606, (888) 981-1555. No other trademark-specific franchisee association exists.

## **ITEM 21 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Our fiscal year end is December 31. Included in this Disclosure Document as Exhibit C are our audited financial statements for the years ending December 31 of 2022, 2023 and 2024.

## **ITEM 22 CONTRACTS**

This Disclosure Document contains the Master Franchise Agreement and its exhibits, including a non-competition agreement. Also, we have enclosed a sample copy of the Unit Franchise Agreement (Exhibit G); General Release (Exhibit H); and Renewal Addendum (Exhibit I). Included in this Disclosure Document as Exhibit D to the Master Franchise Agreement (on page 77) is a Franchisee Disclosure Questionnaire.

## **ITEM 23 RECEIPT**

Two Receipt pages are attached as the last pages of this Disclosure Document. You should sign one to keep for your records and sign the other Receipt and return it to SBS Franchising, LLC, 10530 Victory Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91606, (888) 981-1555.

# **EXHIBIT A** **LIST OF STATE ADMINISTRATORS**

<p><b>California</b> Department of Financial Protection and Innovation 320 West 4th Street, Suite 750 Los Angeles, California 90013 (213) 576-7500</p> <p><b>Agent for Service of Process:</b> Commissioner of Financial Protection and Innovation 2101 Arena Boulevard Sacramento, California 95834 (866) 275-2677</p>	<p><b>Maryland</b> Maryland Securities Division Franchise Examiner 200 St. Paul Place Baltimore, Maryland 21202-2020 (410) 576-7042</p> <p><b>Agent for Consent of Service of Process:</b> Maryland: Securities Commissioner 200 Saint Paul Place Baltimore, Maryland 21202-2020</p>	<p><b>New York</b> NYS Department of Law Investor Protection Bureau 28 Liberty St., 21<sup>st</sup> Floor New York, New York 10005 (212) 416-8222</p> <p><b>Agent for Service of Process:</b> Secretary of State 99 Washington Avenue Albany, New York 12231</p>	<p><b>South Dakota</b> Division of Insurance Securities Regulation 124 S. Euclid Ave., Suite 104 Pierre, South Dakota 57501 (605) 773-3563</p> <p><b>Agent for Service of Process:</b> Director of the Division of Securities Division of Insurance Securities Regulation 124 S. Euclid Ave., Suite 104 Pierre, South Dakota 57501</p>
<p><b>Hawaii</b> Department of Commerce &amp; Consumer Affairs Commissioner of Securities of the State of Hawaii Business Registration Division 335 Merchant Street, Room 203 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 (808) 586-2722</p> <p><b>Agent for Service of Process:</b> Commissioner of Securities State of Hawaii 335 Merchant Street, Room 203 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813</p>	<p><b>Michigan</b> Michigan Attorney General's Office Consumer Protection Division Attn: Franchise Section 525 W. Ottawa Street G. Mennen Williams Building, 1st Floor Lansing, Michigan 48933 (517) 373-7117</p> <p><b>Agent for Service of Process:</b> Michigan Department of Commerce, Corporations</p>	<p><b>North Dakota</b> North Dakota Securities Department 600 East Boulevard Avenue State Capitol – 14th Floor Dept. 414 Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0510 (701) 328-4712</p> <p><b>Agent for Service of Process:</b> Securities Commissioner North Dakota Securities Department 600 East Boulevard Avenue State Capitol – 14th Floor, Dept. 414 Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0510 (701) 328-4712</p>	<p><b>Virginia</b> State Corporation Commission Division of Securities and Retail Franchising 1300 E. Main Street, 9th Floor Richmond, Virginia 23219 (804) 371-9051</p> <p><b>Agent for Service of Process:</b> Clerk, State Corporation Commission P.O. Box 1197 Richmond, Virginia 23219</p>
<p><b>Illinois</b> Office of Attorney General Franchise Bureau 500 South Second Street Springfield, Illinois 62706 (217) 782-4436</p> <p><b>Agent for Service of Process:</b> Illinois Attorney General 500 South Second Street Springfield, Illinois 62706</p>	<p><b>Minnesota</b> Commissioner of Commerce Minnesota Department of Commerce 85 Seventh Place East, Suite 500 St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198 (651) 296-6328</p> <p><b>Agent for Service of Process:</b> Commissioner of Commerce 85 Seventh Place East St. Paul, Minnesota 55101</p>	<p><b>Oregon</b> Department of Insurance &amp; Finance Corporate Securities Section Labor and Industries Building Salem, Oregon 97310 (503) 378-4387md9</p>	<p><b>Washington</b> Administrator Department of Financial Institutions Securities Division 150 Israel Road SW Tumwater, Washington 98501 (360) 902-8760</p> <p><b>Agent for Service of Process:</b> Administrator of Securities Department of Financial Institutions 150 Israel Road SW Tumwater, Washington 98501</p>
<p><b>Indiana</b> Franchise Section Indiana Securities Division Room E-111 302 West Washington Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46204 (317) 232-6681</p> <p><b>Agent for Service of Process:</b> Secretary of State 201 State House Indianapolis, Indiana 46204</p>	<p><b>Missouri</b></p> <p><b>Agent for Service of Process:</b> 1976 Innerbelt Business Center Drive St. Louis, Missouri 63114 (314) 731-2000</p>	<p><b>Rhode Island</b> Division of Business Regulation Division of Securities 1511 Pontiac Avenue John O. Pastore Complex-69-1 Cranston, Rhode Island 02920-4407 (401) 462-9527</p> <p><b>Agent for Service of Process:</b> Director of Business Regulation 1511 Pontiac Avenue John O. Pastore Complex-69-1 Cranston, Rhode Island 02920-4407</p>	<p><b>Wisconsin</b> Franchise Administrator Division of Securities Department of Financial Institutions P.O. Box 1768 Madison, Wisconsin 53701 (608) 266-2801</p> <p><b>Agent for Service of Process:</b> Commissioner of Securities Office of the Commissioner of Securities 201 W. Washington Ave., 3rd Floor Madison, Wisconsin 53703</p>

**EXHIBIT B**  
**TABLE OF CONTENTS OF BRAND STANDARDS MANUAL**

<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Number of Pages</b>
<b>Chapter 1-3</b>	Intro to the manual	21
<b>Chapter 4</b>	Onboarding	41
<b>Chapter 5</b>	Human resources	103
<b>Chapter 6</b>	Your master franchise business	20
<b>Chapter 7</b>	Unit franchise sales	53
<b>Chapter 8</b>	Customer contract sales	59
<b>Chapter 9</b>	Leadership	31
<b>Chapter 10</b>	Supporting franchisees	11
<b>Chapter 11</b>	Managing contracts	35
<b>Chapter 12</b>	Finance & accounting	43
<b>Chapter 13</b>	Brand marketing	37
<b>Chapter 14</b>	Operating procedures	10
<b>Chapter 15</b>	Additional resources	3

**Total number of pages: 467**

**EXHIBIT C**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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# SBS Franchising LLC and Subsidiary

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**Consolidated Financial Report**  
**December 31, 2024**

<b>Independent Auditor's Report</b>	1-2
<b>Consolidated Financial Statements</b>	
Balance Sheet	3
Statement of Comprehensive Income	4
Statement of Members' Equity	5
Statement of Cash Flows	6
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements	7-12



## **Independent Auditor's Report**

To the Board of Directors  
SBS Franchising LLC and Subsidiary

### **Opinion**

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of SBS Franchising LLC and Subsidiary (the "Company"), which comprise the consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 2024 and the related consolidated statements of comprehensive income, members' equity, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the consolidated financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of December 31, 2024 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Company and to meet our ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### **Report on Prior Year Consolidated Financial Statements and Restatement**

The consolidated financial statements of SBS Franchising LLC and Subsidiary as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023 were audited by other auditors, who expressed an unmodified opinion on those statements on March 5, 2024 prior to the restatement described in Note 3.

As part of our audit of the 2024 consolidated financial statements, we also audited the adjustments described in Note 3 that were applied to restate the 2023 consolidated financial statements. In our opinion, such adjustments are appropriate and have been properly applied. We were not engaged to audit, review, or apply any procedures to the 2023 consolidated financial statements of the Company other than with respect to the adjustments, and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion or any other form of assurance on the 2023 consolidated financial statements as a whole.

### **Responsibilities of Management for the Consolidated Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Company's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the consolidated financial statements are issued or available to be issued.

To the Board of Directors  
SBS Franchising LLC and Subsidiary

***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and, therefore, is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the consolidated financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Company's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

*Plante & Moreau, PLLC*

March 3, 2025

## Consolidated Balance Sheet

**December 31, 2024 and 2023**

	2024	2023 (As Restated)
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash	\$ 528,771	\$ 621,654
Restricted cash	-	1,200,000
Accounts receivable:		
Trade	747,505	613,415
Affiliates (Note 7)	3,422,266	3,563,993
Notes receivable - Master franchise fees	16,475	24,500
Tax receivable	-	178,009
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	125,197	101,406
Total current assets	4,840,214	6,302,977
<b>Intangible Assets - Net (Note 4)</b>	572,905	716,152
<b>Notes Receivable - Master Franchise Fees - Net of current portion</b>	110,591	-
<b>Other Assets - Prepaid franchise costs - Net of current portion</b>	824,957	723,423
Total assets	<b>\$ 6,348,667</b>	<b>\$ 7,742,552</b>
<b>Liabilities and Members' Equity</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	\$ 615,077	\$ 660,617
Deferred revenue - Current portion	802,521	735,957
Accrued and other current liabilities:		
Taxes payable	33,197	147,713
Accrued compensation	166,955	108,930
Other accrued liabilities	131,595	110,603
Total current liabilities	1,749,345	1,763,820
<b>Other Long-term Liabilities - Deferred revenue - Net of current portion</b>	4,491,502	3,781,385
Total liabilities	6,240,847	5,545,205
<b>Members' Equity</b>	107,820	2,197,347
Total liabilities and members' equity	<b>\$ 6,348,667</b>	<b>\$ 7,742,552</b>

**SBS Franchising LLC and Subsidiary****Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income****Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u> (As Restated)
<b>Net Revenue</b>		
Royalties	\$ 10,171,051	\$ 9,012,509
Franchise fees	399,111	602,545
Other revenue	<u>198,168</u>	<u>137,025</u>
Total net revenue	10,768,330	9,752,079
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	<u>10,433,532</u>	<u>9,210,031</u>
<b>Operating Income</b>	334,798	542,048
<b>Nonoperating Income (Expense)</b>		
Interest income	20,422	72,371
Foreign exchange gain	142,999	-
Interest expense	-	(7,545)
Loss on extinguishment of debt	-	(16,000)
Tax expense	<u>(13,936)</u>	<u>(58,809)</u>
Total nonoperating income (expense)	<u>149,485</u>	<u>(9,983)</u>
<b>Consolidated Net Income</b>	484,283	532,065
<b>Other Comprehensive Loss</b> - Cumulative translation adjustment	<u>(85,026)</u>	<u>(10,034)</u>
<b>Comprehensive Income</b>	<u><u>\$ 399,257</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 522,031</u></u>

## Consolidated Statement of Members' Equity

	Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023		
	Members' Interest	Cumulative Translation Adjustment	Total
<b>Balance - January 1, 2023 (as restated) (Note 3)</b>	\$ 1,604,636	\$ 47,270	\$ 1,651,906
Consolidated net income	532,065	-	532,065
Cumulative translation adjustment	-	(10,034)	(10,034)
Contributions	4,955,000	-	4,955,000
Distributions	(4,931,590)	-	(4,931,590)
<b>Balance - December 31, 2023 (as restated)</b>	2,160,111	37,236	2,197,347
Consolidated net income	484,283	-	484,283
Cumulative translation adjustment	-	(85,026)	(85,026)
Distributions	(2,488,784)	-	(2,488,784)
<b>Balance - December 31, 2024</b>	<b>\$ 155,610</b>	<b>\$ (47,790)</b>	<b>\$ 107,820</b>

**SBS Franchising LLC and Subsidiary****Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows****Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023**

	2024	2023 (As Restated)
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>		
Consolidated net income	\$ 484,283	\$ 532,065
Adjustments to reconcile consolidated net income to net cash and restricted cash from operating activities:		
Amortization	143,247	143,247
Loss on debt extinguishment	-	16,000
Changes in operating assets and liabilities that provided (used) cash and restricted cash:		
Accounts receivable	67,914	421,804
Prepaid expenses and other assets	(23,791)	(36,119)
Accounts payable	(45,540)	(204,259)
Accrued and other liabilities	(35,499)	143,283
Prepaid franchise costs	(101,534)	(82,437)
Deferred revenue	776,681	(29,772)
Net cash and restricted cash provided by operating activities	1,265,761	903,812
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>		
(Issuance) repayment of notes receivable	(102,566)	116,576
Net advances from (to) related parties	117,732	(1,143,420)
Net cash and restricted cash provided by (used in) investing activities	15,166	(1,026,844)
<b>Cash Flows from Financing Activities</b>		
Contributions	-	4,955,000
Distributions	(2,488,784)	(4,931,590)
Net cash and restricted cash (used in) provided by financing activities	(2,488,784)	23,410
<b>Effect of Exchange Rate Changes on Cash and Restricted Cash</b>	(85,026)	(10,034)
<b>Net Decrease in Cash and Restricted Cash</b>	(1,292,883)	(109,656)
<b>Cash and Restricted Cash - Beginning of year</b>	1,821,654	1,931,310
<b>Cash and Restricted Cash - End of year</b>	<b>\$ 528,771</b>	<b>\$ 1,821,654</b>

# Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

---

December 31, 2024 and 2023

### Note 1 - Nature of Business

SBS Franchising LLC and Subsidiary (the "Company") is in the business of franchising commercial cleaning businesses and, in that regard, granting to independent investors the right to operate master franchises of the Company's commercial cleaning and maintenance service business and granting licenses to such master franchisees to use the methods, marks, procedures and products developed by the Company.

As described in Note 5, as of November 15, 2022, the Company licenses its worldwide trademark portfolio and certain other intellectual property rights utilized in its business from Strat-B Royalties Limited Partnership (Strat-B), a division of Diversified Royalty Corp (DIV).

### Note 2 - Significant Accounting Policies

#### ***Basis of Presentation***

The consolidated financial statements of the Company have been prepared on the basis of accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP). The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

#### ***Principles of Consolidation***

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company and all of its wholly owned subsidiaries, as outlined below:

1. SBS Franchising LLC (SBS) is wholly and equally owned by two members and Best Bits. SBS offers the right to sell and license individual commercial cleaning franchises (master franchises) using the Stratus Building Solutions system and trademarks.
2. Stratus Building Solutions Canada Inc. (SBS Canada) is a Canadian corporation of which SBS is the sole owner. SBS Canada offers the right to sell and license individual commercial cleaning franchises in the Canadian provinces using the Stratus Building Solutions system and trademarks.

All intercompany accounts and transactions are eliminated upon consolidation.

#### ***Concentration of Credit Risk Arising from Deposit Accounts***

The Company maintains cash in bank deposits that at times may exceed federally insured limits. The Company has not experienced any losses in such accounts. Management believes the Company is not exposed to any significant credit risk related to such bank deposits.

#### ***Restricted Cash***

Based on the November 2022 transaction between the Company, Strat-B, and DIV described in Note 5, the Company was required to maintain a minimum cash balance of \$1,200,000 in a segregated account until the achievement of certain financial targets, as defined in the agreement. As of December 31, 2023, the financial target had not been met and written consent from DIV had not been received. In 2024, DIV authorized the release of the funds. Accordingly, there were no restricted cash balances at December 31, 2024.

## Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2024 and 2023

### **Note 2 - Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

#### ***Accounts Receivable***

Trade accounts receivable are stated at invoice amounts. An allowance for expected credit losses is considered by the Company on an ongoing basis. At December 31, 2024 and 2023, the Company did not record an allowance for credit losses, as the Company determined that there is minimal risk of credit losses based on historical loss experience, as well as current and expected future conditions, and that any such credit losses would be insignificant to these consolidated financial statements. During the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, there were no write-offs of trade accounts receivable. The balance of accounts receivable at January 1, 2023 was \$616,869.

#### ***Revenue and Cost Recognition***

The Company earns revenue from its master franchisees, which includes royalties, franchise fees, and hub-spot fees. The Company sells master franchisees the right to operate and franchise within a defined territory using the franchise name. The initial term of franchise agreements is typically 15 years, with an option to renew or transfer the franchise agreement to a new or existing master franchisee.

The master franchise arrangement between the Company as the franchisor and the master franchisee requires the Company to perform various activities to support the brand that do not directly transfer goods and services to the master franchisee but instead represent a single performance obligation, which is the transfer of the master franchise license. The Company's franchise sale performance obligations include providing initial and continuous training, brand training and reference materials, use of marks and logos, and continuous franchisee support. The nature of the Company's promise in granting the master franchise license is to provide the master franchisee with access to the brand's intellectual property over the term of the license. While revenue is presented in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income on a disaggregated basis, the services provided by the Company are highly interrelated with the franchise license and, as such, are considered to represent a single performance obligation. Therefore, the master franchise sale revenue collected from master franchisees is directly allocated to such single performance obligation. The recognition of master franchise sale revenue is spread over the term of the master franchise contracts on a straight-line basis. The royalty revenue and hub-spot fees are recognized on a monthly basis over the term of the respective master franchise agreement as the underlying sales occur.

#### **Payment Terms**

The Company's master franchise agreements require the payment of various fixed and variable fees. Initial master franchise fees are due and typically paid when a master franchise agreement is executed and are nonrefundable. These fees are collected prior to the satisfaction of the Company's performance obligations, resulting in the Company recognizing deferred revenue. Royalties and hub-spot fees are invoiced on a monthly basis based upon a percentage of franchisee gross sales and paid in the following month by the franchisee. Deferred revenue at January 1, 2023 was \$4,547,114 (as restated).

#### **Allocating the Transaction Price**

The transaction price is the amount of consideration to which the Company expects to be entitled in exchange for providing the master franchisees with the franchise right to service unit franchises. To determine the transaction price, the Company considers its customary business practices and the terms of the underlying agreement. For the purpose of determining transaction prices, the Company assumes performance obligations will be satisfied as promised in accordance with franchise agreements and that the agreements will not be canceled, renewed, or modified.

The Company's franchise agreements with master franchisees have transaction prices that contain a fixed and variable component. Variable consideration includes revenue related to royalties and hub-spot fees, as the transaction price is based on the master franchisees' sales. The variable consideration is recognized based on the actual amounts incurred each month.



## Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2024 and 2023

### Note 2 - Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

#### **Costs to Obtain a Contract**

The Company pays commissions to employees and third parties that assist in selling franchise agreements. As these represent costs to obtain the franchise contracts, they are deferred and recognized as prepaid franchise costs on the consolidated balance sheet. The amounts deferred will be amortized over a 15-year period as the corresponding franchise agreement is recognized as revenue. The commissions are payable when a master franchise agreement is signed.

#### **Notes Receivable - Master Franchise Fees**

The Company permits certain master franchisees to pay all or a portion of the initial franchise fee at a later date. These arrangements are evidenced by promissory notes receivable. The promissory notes outstanding as of December 31, 2024 bear interest ranging from 5 percent to 12 percent per annum and are payable in monthly installments of approximately \$1,700 (including interest) through 2029. The amounts due from the franchisees under these arrangements were \$127,066 and \$24,500 as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

An allowance for expected credit losses on notes receivable is considered by the Company on an ongoing basis. At December 31, 2024 and 2023, the Company did not record an allowance for credit losses, as the Company determined that there is minimal risk of credit losses based on historical loss experience, as well as current and expected future conditions, and that any such credit losses would be insignificant to these consolidated financial statements. During the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, there were no write-offs of notes receivable.

#### **Foreign Currency Translation**

Assets and liabilities of the Company's Canadian subsidiary with functional currencies other than the U.S. dollar are translated into U.S. dollars at the rate of exchange in effect at the close of the period. Income and expenses are translated at an average rate of exchange for the period. The aggregate effect of translating the consolidated financial statements is included in other comprehensive loss.

#### **Intangible Assets**

Acquired intangible assets subject to amortization are stated at cost and are amortized using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets. Intangible assets that are subject to amortization are reviewed for potential impairment whenever events or circumstances indicate that carrying amounts may not be recoverable. Assets not subject to amortization are tested for impairment at least annually.

#### **Income Taxes**

As a limited liability company, the Company does not pay federal income taxes. Instead, the taxable income is passed through to the owners. Consequently, the owners are individually liable for federal income taxes based on their share of the Company's taxable income. While the Company is not subject to federal income tax, it is subject to various state and local taxes. The Company has also elected the pass-through entity (PTE) elective tax. Based on the Company's analysis of the tax laws in the states in which PTE has been elected, the Company has determined that PTE tax payments made by the Company are attributable to the Company's members and, therefore, are classified as equity distributions rather than income tax expenses under ASC 740, *Income Taxes*.

#### **Advertising Expense**

Advertising expense is charged to income during the year in which it is incurred. Advertising expense for 2024 and 2023 was \$1,163,375 and \$1,054,741, respectively.

# Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2024 and 2023

## Note 2 - Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

### *Subsequent Events*

The consolidated financial statements and related disclosures include evaluation of events up through and including March 3, 2025, which is the date the consolidated financial statements were available to be issued.

## Note 3 - Prior Period Adjustment

The accompanying consolidated financial statements for 2023 have been restated to correct errors related to the recording of PTE taxes paid on behalf of the Company's members in 2023, unrecognized tax refunds that were determinable and reasonably assured as of December 31, 2023, unrecognized deferred revenue related to certain active franchise agreements entered into prior to 2019, and unrecognized eliminations of intercompany balances in 2023. The following financial statement line items for fiscal year 2023 were affected by the change:

### Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income Year Ended December 31, 2023

	As Computed Under Old Method	As Reported Under New Method	Effect of Change
Total revenue	\$ 9,708,718	\$ 9,752,079	\$ 43,361
Total expenses	9,210,031	9,210,031	-
Operating income	498,687	542,048	43,361
Other income	48,826	48,826	-
Income tax expense	4,990,399	58,809	(4,931,590)
Net (loss) income	(4,442,886)	532,065	4,974,951
Other comprehensive loss - Foreign currency translation	(9,969)	(10,034)	(65)
Comprehensive (loss) income	<u>\$ (4,452,855)</u>	<u>\$ 522,031</u>	<u>\$ 4,974,886</u>

# Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2024 and 2023

## Note 3 - Prior Period Adjustment (Continued)

### Consolidated Balance Sheet December 31, 2023

	As Computed Under Old Method	As Reported Under New Method	Effect of Change
Current assets	\$ 6,921,831	\$ 6,302,977	\$ (618,854)
Long-term assets	1,439,575	1,439,575	-
Total assets	<u>\$ 8,361,406</u>	<u>\$ 7,742,552</u>	<u>\$ (618,854)</u>
Current liabilities	\$ 2,006,578	\$ 1,763,820	\$ (242,758)
Franchise contract liabilities	3,781,385	3,781,385	-
Total liabilities	5,787,963	5,545,205	(242,758)
Members' interest	2,536,142	2,160,111	(376,031)
Cumulative translation adjustment	37,301	37,236	(65)
Total members' equity	<u>2,573,443</u>	<u>2,197,347</u>	<u>(376,096)</u>
Total liabilities and members' equity	<u>\$ 8,361,406</u>	<u>\$ 7,742,552</u>	<u>\$ (618,854)</u>

As a result of the prior period adjustments, members' interest as of January 1, 2023 decreased from \$2,024,028, as originally reported, to \$1,604,636. Members' distributions for 2023 increased by \$4,931,590. Additionally, operating cash flows for 2023 increased by \$4,992,232, and financing cash flows for 2023 decreased by \$4,975,407.

## Note 4 - Intangible Assets

The Company owns software that is used by the Company and its master franchises for the day-to-day management of their businesses. The Company amortizes the software over its estimated useful life of seven years.

	2024		2023	
	Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization
Software acquired	\$ 1,002,646	\$ 429,741	\$ 1,002,646	\$ 286,494

Amortization expense was \$143,247 in 2024 and 2023. Estimated amortization expense for the years ended December 31 is as follows:

2025	\$ 143,247
2026	143,247
2027	143,247
2028	143,164
Total	<u>\$ 572,905</u>

## Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**December 31, 2024 and 2023**

### **Note 5 - Sale and License of Intellectual Property**

On November 15, 2022, the Company sold its worldwide trademark portfolio and certain other intellectual property rights utilized in its business (the "Stratus Rights") to Strat-B. Concurrently with the sale, the Company entered into a licensing arrangement whereby DIV licensed the Stratus Rights in the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom back to the Company for 50 years in exchange for an initial royalty payment of approximately \$6 million per annum. The initial royalty will be automatically increased by 5 percent on each anniversary of the closing date in calendar years 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026 and by 4 percent on each anniversary of the closing date thereafter without any further consideration payable by DIV or Strat-B. The Company paid \$5,205,806 and \$4,646,936 of license fees to DIV in 2024 and 2023, respectively, which are net of reimbursements from SBS Services Group LLC (SBS Services), a related party under common control, of \$1,188,256 and \$1,411,399 in 2024 and 2023, respectively.

On April 1 of each year following the closing date, DIV can compel the Company to pay an additional royalty fee (Additional Royalty) based on the Company meeting certain EBITDA targets. The amount of the Additional Royalty fee cannot be less than \$1,000,000 per annum and must, in respect of amounts over that threshold, be in increments of \$100,000 per annum. The EBITDA targets were not met in 2024 or 2023.

If DIV compels the Company to pay the Additional Royalty, the Company will be entitled to incremental variable consideration under the sale agreement. As of December 31, 2024, the Company has not recognized the variable consideration on the sale, as Additional Royalties have not been paid.

### **Note 6 - Retirement Plans**

The Company sponsors a 401(k) plan for substantially all employees. The plan provides for the Company to make a matching contribution to participating employees that have been with the Company greater than a year. Total retirement plan cost during the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023 was \$53,924 and \$41,236, respectively.

### **Note 7 - Related Parties**

The Company pays occupancy, management, and consulting fees to related entities owned by members of the Company. These fees totaled \$207,500 and \$237,500 in 2024 and 2023, respectively.

SBS Services maintains a franchise license from the Company to operate as a master franchisor in various geographical regions within the United States. Under the master franchise license, the Company provides licenses to its franchisees to use the methods, marks, procedures, and products developed by the Company. Per the master franchise license, SBS Services is obligated to pay royalties to the Company. Royalty revenue from SBS Services in 2024 and 2023 was \$2,347,310 and \$2,086,248, respectively.

The Company is owed \$3,422,266 and \$3,563,993 from SBS Services at December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

### **Note 8 - Litigation**

The Company is a defendant in a civil lawsuit. The Company believes the lawsuit is completely without merit and intends to vigorously defend its position. In the opinion of management, it is neither probable nor estimable that the Company will have an adverse outcome from the lawsuit.



# Consolidated Financial Statements

## SBS Franchising LLC

(Expressed in US dollars)

December 31, 2023 and 2022

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# Report of Independent Certified Public Accountants

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Board of Directors

SBS Franchising LLC

## Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of SBS Franchising LLC (the “Company”), which comprise the consolidated balance sheets as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the consolidated statements of income and comprehensive income, changes in members’ equity and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

## Emphasis of matter – Restated comparative information

As discussed in note 12, the 2022 consolidated financial statements, have been restated to correct a misstatement. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

## Basis for opinion

We conducted our audits of the consolidated financial statements in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (US GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Company and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## Responsibilities of management and those charged with governance for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these consolidated financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the

Company's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date the financial statements are issued.

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with US GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgement made by a reasonable user based on the consolidated financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with US GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are events or conditions, considered in the aggregate that raise substantial doubt about the Company's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain control related matters that we identified during the audit.



Vancouver, Canada  
March 5, 2024

Chartered Professional Accountants



# SBS Franchising LLC

## Consolidated Balance Sheets

(Expressed in US dollars)

December 31

2023

2022

### Assets

#### Current

Cash	\$ 621,654	\$ 731,310
Restricted cash (note 3)	1,200,000	1,200,000
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$Nil (2022 - \$35,900)	994,500	616,869
Due from related parties (note 9)	3,979,771	2,838,923
Prepaid expenses	101,406	65,287
Master franchise fee receivable	24,500	125,472

Total current assets	<u>6,921,831</u>	<u>5,577,861</u>
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Intangible assets (note 4)	716,152	859,399
Franchise assets (note 5)	723,423	640,986
Master franchise fee receivable	-	15,604

<b>Total assets</b>	<b><u>\$ 8,361,406</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 7,093,850</u></b>
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### Liabilities

#### Current

Line of credit with financial institutions (note 6)	\$ 89,771	\$ 45,954
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	1,556,946	848,876
Franchise contract liabilities (note 5)	359,861	150,738

Total current liabilities	<u>2,006,578</u>	<u>1,045,568</u>
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Franchise contract liabilities (note 5)	3,781,385	3,976,984
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Total liabilities	<u>5,787,963</u>	<u>5,022,552</u>
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#### Members' equity

Members' interest	2,536,142	2,024,028
Cumulative translation adjustment	37,301	47,270

Total members' equity	<u>2,573,443</u>	<u>2,071,298</u>
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<b>Total liabilities and members' equity</b>	<b><u>\$ 8,361,406</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 7,093,850</u></b>
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On behalf of the board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director

# SBS Franchising LLC

## Consolidated Statements of Income and Comprehensive Income

(Expressed in US dollars)  
Years ended December 31

2023  
as restated

Revenue		
Royalty fees	\$ 9,012,509	\$ 6,779,096
Franchise license fees	559,184	349,125
Other revenues	137,025	84,630
Total revenues	9,708,718	7,212,851
Expenses (income)		
License fees (note 10)	4,646,936	768,905
Employee compensation and benefits (note 7)	2,071,723	1,849,040
Marketing and advertising	1,054,741	781,481
Legal and professional fees	618,149	1,349,238
General and administration	412,701	450,989
Occupancy (note 9)	155,721	145,719
Depreciation & amortization	143,247	143,247
Software license fee (note 9)	104,367	86,749
Franchise contract expense	10,846	4,888
Gain on sale of IP (note 10)	-	(49,371,163)
Franchisee expenses	-	150,000
Recovery of doubtful accounts receivable	(8,400)	(51,700)
Total expenses (income)	9,210,031	(43,692,607)
Operating income	498,687	50,905,458
Other income (expenses)		
Interest earned	72,371	7,791
Exchange gain or loss	-	(894)
Interest expense	(7,545)	(179,902)
Loss on extinguishment of debt	(16,000)	-
Income tax expense (note 8)	(4,990,399)	(118,670)
Net (deficit) income	(4,442,886)	50,613,783
Other comprehensive income		
Foreign currency translation	(9,969)	39,645
Comprehensive (deficit) income	\$ (4,452,855)	\$ 50,653,428

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

# SBS Franchising LLC

## Consolidated Statements of Changes in Members' Equity

(Expressed in US dollars)

Years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

	Members' Interest	Cumulative Translation	Total Members' Equity
January 1, 2022	\$ (1,927,856)	7,625	\$ (1,920,231)
Net income	50,613,783	-	50,613,783
Member distributions	(46,661,899)	-	(46,661,899)
Cumulative translation	-	39,645	39,645
December 31, 2022	2,024,028	47,270	2,071,298
Net income	(4,442,886)	-	(4,442,886)
Member contributions	4,955,000	-	4,955,000
Cumulative translation	-	(9,969)	(9,969)
<b>December 31, 2023</b>	<b>\$ 2,536,142</b>	<b>\$ 37,301</b>	<b>\$ 2,573,443</b>

# SBS Franchising LLC

## Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

(Expressed in US dollars)  
Years ended December 31

2023

2022

### Cash flows from operating activities

Net (deficit) income	\$ (4,442,886)	\$ 50,613,783
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash (used in) provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation	143,247	143,247
Gain on sale of IP (note 10)	-	(49,371,163)
Loss on extinguishment of debt	16,000	-
Change in operating assets and liabilities:		
Increase in accounts receivable	(217,581)	(192,508)
Increase in prepaids and other assets	(36,119)	(65,287)
Increase in franchise contract assets	(82,437)	(34,917)
Increase in accounts payable	529,561	520,893
Decrease in deferred revenue	-	(23,800)
Increase in franchise contract liabilities	1,795	366,069

**Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities** (4,088,420) 1,956,317

### Cash flows from investing activities

Advances to related parties (note 9)	(1,143,420)	(2,829,843)
Decrease in notes receivable	116,885	208,722
Sale of IP (note 10)	-	59,400,000
Acquisition of BRM software (note 4)	-	(1,002,647)

**Net cash (used in) provided by investing activities** (1,026,535) 55,776,232

### Cash flows from financing activities

Repayments of debt	-	(2,100,000)
Repayment to related parties (note 9)	-	(200,000)
Drawdown (repayment) of line of credit (note 6)	43,817	(85,188)
Members contributions (distributions) (note 9)	4,955,000	(53,762,262)

**Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities** 4,998,817 (56,147,450)

Foreign exchange differences on cash and cash equivalents 6,482 (15,422)

Net (decrease) increase in cash (109,656) 1,569,676

Cash, beginning of year 1,931,310 361,634

Cash, end of year \$ 1,821,654 \$ 1,931,310

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# **SBS Franchising LLC**

## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

December 31, 2023

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### **1. Operations and economic dependence**

SBS Franchising, Inc. (the “Company”) was formed under the General Corporation Law of the state of Delaware on January 13, 2015. For income tax purposes, the Company converted from a corporation to a limited liability company at the beginning of 2018 and changed its name to SBS Franchising, LLC. The Company is in the business of franchising commercial cleaning businesses and, in that regard, granting to independent investors the right to operate master franchises of the Company’s commercial cleaning and maintenance service business, and granting licenses to such master franchisees to use the methods, marks, procedures and products developed by the Company.

#### **Going concern**

The Company had a net loss of \$4,442,886 and negative operating cash flow of \$4,088,420 during the period. This is primarily due to a deferred tax charge of \$4,919,000 related to the gain on the sale of IP from the previous reporting period. In order to meet this tax liability, the Company is dependent upon its shareholders for financial support. The Company believes it has sufficient resources for future periods to continue as a going concern.

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### **2. Summary of significant accounting policies**

#### **Basis of presentation**

The Company has prepared these consolidated financial statements in accordance with US Generally Accepted Accounts Principles (U.S. GAAP).

#### **Use of estimates**

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and the accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Making estimates requires management to exercise significant judgement. Management base its estimates on historical experience and various other assumptions that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. These estimates are based on information available as of the date of the financial statements; therefore, actual results may differ materially from those estimates. Significant areas requiring the use of estimates relate to the determination of recoverability of trade receivables.

#### **Related party transactions**

Related party transactions are measured at the exchange amount, which is the amount of consideration established and agreed to by the related parties.

#### **Concentrations of credit risk**

Financial instruments that could potentially subject the Company to concentration of credit risk include cash deposited in accounts in excess of federally insured limits, and accounts receivable.

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# **SBS Franchising LLC**

## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

December 31, 2023

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### **2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)**

#### **Foreign Operations**

The consolidated financial statements are presented in U.S. dollars, which is the reporting currency. The Company translates the results of operations of its subsidiaries with functional currencies other than the U.S. dollar using average exchange rates during each period and translates balance sheet accounts using exchange rates at the end of each period.

The Company records currency translation adjustments as a component of equity within Accumulated other comprehensive income and transaction gains and losses in other expense, net in our consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive (loss) income. Foreign currency translation balances.

reported within Accumulated other comprehensive income are recognized in the consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive (loss) income when the operation is disposed of or substantially liquidated.

#### **Revenue recognition**

Franchise revenue, in the form of royalty fees, franchise license fees, and other revenue is recognized in accordance with ASC 606 - Revenue from Contracts with Customers ("ASC 606"). Under ASC 606, revenue is recognized upon transfer of control of promised services or goods to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration the Company expects to receive for those services or goods.

The standard includes the following five-step revenue recognition process:

1. Identify the contract with a customer
2. Identify performance obligations in the contract
3. Determine the transaction price
4. Allocate the transaction price to the performance obligations
5. Recognize revenue when each performance obligation is satisfied

The Company has implemented this five-step process in recognizing revenues related to the sale of franchise contracts. The Company has executed franchise agreements with its customers (the "Franchisees") in which the rights and obligations of each party are specified. The contract terms are typically 15 years. The franchise arrangement between the Company as the franchisor and the franchisee as the customer requires the Company to perform various activities to support the brand that do not directly transfer goods and services to the franchisee, but instead represent a single performance obligation, which is the transfer of the franchise license. The Company's franchise sale performance obligations include providing initial and continuous training, brand training and reference materials, use of marks and logos, and continuous franchisee support. The nature of the Company's promise in granting the franchise license is to provide the franchisee with access to the brand's intellectual property over the term of the license. While revenue is presented in the consolidated statements of income on a disaggregated basis, the services provided by the Company are highly interrelated with the franchise license and as such are considered to represent a single performance obligation. Therefore, the franchise sale revenue collected from Franchisees are directly allocated to such single performance obligation. While the recognition of franchise sale revenues is spread over the term of the franchise contracts on a straight-line basis, the royalty revenues are recognized on a monthly basis as a percentage of revenues earned by the Franchisees.

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# **SBS Franchising LLC**

## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

December 31, 2023

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### **2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)**

#### **Revenue recognition (continued)**

The un-recognized portions of the contract costs and revenues have been recorded as master franchise fee receivable and franchise contract liabilities, respectively, in the Company's financial statements. Incremental costs of obtaining customer contracts are capitalized as a franchise asset and expensed on a straight-line basis over the life of the contract. A franchise contract liability is recognized to defer initial franchise fee revenue over the period of the contract it relates to.

The Company receives cash and master franchise fee receivable as consideration upon the issuance of non-cancelable business licensing contracts with its cleaning service master licensees. The Company recognizes franchise fee revenue in accordance with ASC 606 as the licenses are issued, and cash is received, or master franchise fee receivable are signed and become effective.

The Company does not incur a significant amount of contract acquisition costs in conducting its franchising activities. The Company believes its franchising arrangements do not contain a significant financing component. The Company usually receives cash within 30 days of invoice.

#### **Accounts receivable and master franchise fee receivable**

The Company uses the accrual method of accounting and evaluates the collectability of its accounts and master franchise fee receivable based on historical data and anticipated effects of economic and other business trends that may have a bearing on collectability.

#### **Intangible assets**

Intangible assets are stated at cost at the date of purchase, less accumulated amortization. Amortization is calculated using the straight-line method over of the estimated useful life of the asset. Intangible assets have a useful life of 7 years.

Intangible assets area assessed for impairment on an annual basis. If there is an indicator of impairment, the Company determines if there is a significant adverse change in the expected amount or timing of future cash flows from the intangible asset and adjusts the carrying value accordingly.

#### **Fair value of financial instruments**

Fair value is an exit price, representing the amount that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants. As such, fair value is a market-based measurement that should be determined based on assumptions that market participants would use in pricing an asset or a liability. There is a three-tier fair value hierarchy, which prioritizes the inputs used in the valuation methodologies in measuring fair value:

##### **Level 1 -**

Observable inputs that reflect quoted prices (unadjusted) for identical assets or liabilities in active markets.

##### **Level 2 -**

Includes other inputs that are directly or indirectly observable in the marketplace, such as quoted market prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar assets and liabilities in markets that are not active, or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data.

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# **SBS Franchising LLC**

## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

December 31, 2023

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### **2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)**

#### **Fair value of financial instruments (continued)**

Level 3 -

Unobservable inputs which are supported by little or no market activity.

Financial instruments (principally cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, accounts payable and accrued expenses) are carried at cost, which approximates fair value due to the short-term maturity of these instruments. Our credit facility is carried at cost, which approximates fair value due to the variable interest rate associated with the revolving credit facility.

#### **Income taxes**

As a limited liability company, the Company does not pay federal income taxes. Instead, the taxable income is passed through to the owners. Consequently, the owners are individually liable for federal income taxes based on their share of Company's taxable income. A fee is paid to the state of California based on the gross receipts of the Company during the taxable year.

#### **Consolidation**

This policy outlines the processes necessary to ensure proper financial statement presentation of these entities within the SBS Franchising LLC's consolidated financial statements.

Financial statement information for SBS Franchising LLC Group entities is maintained in separate ledgers. The following consolidated entities are in-scope for purposes of this policy:

1. SBS Franchising, LLC ("SBS") is a Delaware corporation of which Afshin Cangarlu, Foad Rekabi, and Best Bits Inc. are sole owners. SBS Franchising offers the right to sell and license individual commercial cleaning franchises ("master franchises") using the Stratus Building Solutions system and trademarks.
2. Stratus Building Solutions Canada Inc. is a Canadian corporation of which SBS Franchising, LLC is the sole owner. Stratus Building Solutions Canada Inc. offers the right to sell and license individual commercial cleaning franchises ("master franchises") in the Canadian provinces using the Stratus Building Solutions system and trademarks.

All intercompany transactions are eliminated upon consolidation.

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### **3. Restricted cash**

Per the Acquisition Agreement (note 10) by and between SBS Franchising ("Vendor"), LLC, Strat-B Royalties Limited Partnership, and Diversified Royalty Corp ("DIV"), the Vendor shall maintain a minimum cash balance of \$1,200,000 in a segregated account until the later of the first anniversary of the closing date of the sale of the Vendor's worldwide trademark portfolio and certain other intellectual property rights or DIV consent in writing that the Vendor's trailing twelve-month EBITDA target have been met. As at December 31, 2023, the EBITDA target has not been met.



# SBS Franchising LLC

## Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2023

### 4. Intangible Assets

On January 1, 2022, the Company purchased software from BRMCloud Inc. (note 9). The software is used by the Company and its master franchises for the day-to-day management of their businesses. The Company amortize the software over its useful life of 7 years.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
January 1	\$ 859,399	\$ 2,913,921
Software acquired	-	1,002,646
Transfer from related party (note 9)		7,114,856
Amortization	(143,247)	(143,247)
Disposals (note 10)		(10,028,777)
Ending balance	<u>\$ 716,152</u>	<u>\$ 859,399</u>

Following is a schedule of future amortization expenses as of December 31, 2023:

2024	\$ 143,247
2025	143,247
2026	143,247
2027	143,247
2028	143,164
	<u>\$ 716,152</u>

### 5. Franchise contract assets and liabilities

Franchise contract assets	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
January 1	\$ 640,986	\$ 606,086
Additions	152,575	69,817
Amortization	(70,138)	(34,917)
Ending balance	<u>\$ 723,423</u>	<u>\$ 640,986</u>
Franchise contract liabilities	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
January 1	\$ 4,127,722	\$ 3,785,798
Additions	358,286	664,461
Amortization	(344,762)	(322,537)
Ending balance	<u>\$ 4,141,246</u>	<u>\$ 4,127,722</u>

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# **SBS Franchising LLC**

## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

December 31, 2023

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### **6. Line of credit**

The Company has a line of credit available of \$140,000. As at December 31, 2023, the Company had drawn down \$89,711 (2022: \$45,954). The interest rate is 2.99%.

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### **7. Employee salaries and benefits**

The Company offers a matching contributory retirement plan to the employees that have been with the Company for more than one year. The total cost during the year was \$41,263 (2022: \$22,943).

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### **8. Provision for income taxes**

The Company files income tax returns in the U.S. federal jurisdiction, and the states of Delaware and California. While the Company is not subject to U.S. federal tax, it is subject to California state limited liability fees based on gross receipts, with a minimum \$800 annual fee.

SBS Franchising LLC has elected the pass-through-entity elective tax. The elective tax is 9.3% of the entity's qualified net income, which is the sum of the pro rata or distributive share and guaranteed payments of each qualified taxpayers' income subject to California personal income tax. Qualified taxpayers are eligible to claim a non-refundable credit for tax paid on the qualified taxpayers' pro rata or distributive share and guaranteed payments included in the qualified entity's qualified net income. Unused credits can be carried over for up to 5 years.

The Company follows the provisions of uncertain tax positions as addressed in FASB Accounting Standards Codification 740-10-65-1. The Company recognizes no increase in the liability for unrecognized tax benefits. The Company has no tax position at December 31, 2023 for which the ultimate deductibility is uncertain. The Company recognizes interest accrued related to unrecognized tax benefits in interest expenses and penalties in operating expenses. No such interest or penalties were recognized during the period presented. The Company had no accrual for interest and penalties at December 31, 2023 and 2022.

In 2022, the Company filed an extension for payment which was granted, deferring the tax charge to the year ended December 31, 2023.

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### **9. Related parties**

The Company pays management fees to a related entity owned by two of the owners of the Company. The total management fees paid in 2023 and 2022 were \$Nil and \$150,000, respectively.

The Company pays occupancy, management and consulting fees to related entities owned by three of the owners of the Company. The total fees in 2023 and 2022 were \$237,500 and \$759,333, respectively.

The Company purchased software in 2022 from BRMCloud Inc., which is owned by two of the Company's owners. The software is used by the Company and its master franchises for the day-to-day management of their businesses.

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# **SBS Franchising LLC**

## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

December 31, 2023

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### **9. Related parties (continued)**

The Company purchased software in 2022 from BRMCloud Inc., which is owned by two of the Company's owners. The software is used by the Company and its master franchises for the day-to-day management of their businesses.

The Company owners participate in monthly founders' royalty and equity drawdowns. The total founders' royalty in 2023 and 2022 was \$Nil and \$617,516, and the ownership drawdowns in 2023 and 2022 were \$Nil and \$1,050,000, respectively.

The Company received \$Nil (2022: \$7,114,856) as a contribution in the form of intangible assets from SBS Services Group, LLC.

The Company received a contribution of \$4,955,000 from its owners (2022: made a distribution of \$52,109,239 to its owners). Total member contributions received in cash for the period amount to \$4,955,000 (2022: \$53,762,262 distributions paid).

SBS Services Group, LLC maintains a franchise license from SBS Franchising, LLC to operate as a "Master Franchisor" in various geographical regions within the United States. Under the master franchise license, the Company provides licenses to its franchisees to use the methods, marks, procedures and products developed by the Company. Per the master franchise license, SBS Services Group, LLC is obligated to pay royalties to the Company. The total royalties for 2023 and 2022 were \$2,086,248 and \$1,232,418, respectively.

The Company is owed \$1,411,399 and \$678,057 from SBS Services Group, LLC and Stratus Building Solutions Canada Inc. respectively, in relation to license fees paid in 2023 to Diversified Royalty Corp (note 10).

---

### **10. Sale of intellectual property**

On November 15, 2022 the Company sold its worldwide trademark portfolio and certain other intellectual property rights utilized by Stratus Franchising, LLC ("Stratus Rights") in its business to Strat-B Royalties Limited Partnership, a division of Diversified Royalty Corp ("DIV"). The total purchase price included cash of \$59.4 million and variable consideration in the form of an incremental earn out discussed below.

Concurrently with the sale, the Company entered into a licensing arrangement whereby DIV licensed the Stratus Rights in the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom back to the Company for 50 years, in exchange for an initial royalty payment of \$6 million per annum. The initial royalty will be automatically increased by 5% on each anniversary of the closing date in calendar years 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026 and by 4% on each anniversary of the closing date thereafter without any further consideration payable by DIV or Strat-B LP. During 2023, the Company paid \$4,646,936 to DIV in respect of license fees (2022: \$768,905).

On April 1st of each year following the closing date, DIV can compel the Company to pay an additional royalty fee ("Additional Royalty") based on the Company meeting certain EBITDA targets. The amount of the Additional Royalty fee cannot be less than \$1,000,000 per annum and must, in respect of amounts over that threshold, be in increments of \$100,000 per annum. The EBITDA targets were not met in 2023.

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# **SBS Franchising LLC**

## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

December 31, 2023

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### **10. Sale of intellectual property (continued)**

If DIV compels the Company to pay the Additional Royalty, the incremental earn out is triggered and the Company will be entitled to incremental earn out payments under the sale agreement. As discussed above, the incremental earn out is a form of variable consideration, and as at December 31, 2023, the Company is unable to assert that it is highly probable there will not be a significant reversal. As a result, the Company has not recognized the variable consideration on the sale. The Company will reassess the likelihood at each reporting period.

The sale of the Stratus Rights resulted in a gain of \$49,371,163 recognized in the year ended December 31, 2022.

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### **11. Commitments and contingencies**

The Company may, from time to time, be subject to claims and legal proceedings brought against it in the normal course of business. Such matters are subject to many uncertainties. The Company provides for these uncertainties when the occurrence of events is likely, and a reasonable estimate of the loss can be made.

As of the date of the audit report there are no contingent or other liabilities that have not been recorded or disclosed in these financial statements or accompanying notes and that there is no pending or threatened litigation against the Company, its management or its owners.

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### **12. Restatement**

Management evaluated the presentation of the Gain on sale of IP and amortization & depreciation within other income (expenses) in the prior reporting period and concluded it was not presented in accordance with US Generally Accepted Accounts Principles (U.S. GAAP). These items have therefore been presented in operating income in these financial statements. The Company determined that the change is a result of a misapplication of US GAAP and should be treated as a correction of an error, even though its previously reported net income would not change.

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### **13. Subsequent events**

Management evaluated subsequent events through March 5, 2024, the date these financial statements were issued. There were no material subsequent events that required recognition or additional disclosure in the financial statements.

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**EXHIBIT D**  
**MASTER FRANCHISE AGREEMENT (with attachments)**

**SBS FRANCHISING, LLC**  
**MASTER FRANCHISE AGREEMENT**

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### **EXHIBITS:**

Exhibit A – Non-Competition Agreement

Exhibit B – Schedule of Principals

Exhibit C – Deal Terms

Exhibit D – Franchise Disclosure Questionnaire

Exhibit E – State Addenda

THIS MASTER FRANCHISE AGREEMENT (the “Agreement”) between SBS Franchising, LLC a/k/a Stratus Building Solutions, a Delaware limited liability company (“SBS, “Stratus,” “Franchisor,” “we,” “our,” or “us”); and \_\_\_\_\_, (“Master Franchisee,” “you,” or “your”) is effective on the date it is accepted and executed by an SBS officer (the “Effective Date”).

## **I. MASTER FRANCHISEE’S APPLICATION**

Master Franchisee and its Owners acknowledge that they accept the terms, conditions and covenants in this Agreement, recognizing that they are necessary to:

- A. Maintain Stratus’ high standards of service to its master franchisees, unit franchisees and clients/customers; and
- B. Maintain the uniformity of those standards throughout the United States as described in our Training Program, Brand Standards Manuals and other materials we provide to you; and
- C. Protect and preserve the goodwill of the proprietary marks, including the service marks “Stratus” and “Stratus Building Solutions,” and such other marks and logos as we may prescribe from time to time (“Marks” or “Stratus Marks”); and
- D. Protect and preserve the proprietary methods, know-how, specialized training, access to trade secrets, and proprietary and confidential information related to the business method for the operation of commercial cleaning and maintenance businesses, including, without limitations, information about the operational, sales, promotional and marketing methods and techniques of Stratus Building Solutions (“Proprietary Information”) to be operated in accordance with the Stratus system of methods, manuals, specifications, and operating procedures and in accordance with its brand standards (“System” or “Stratus System”).

Master Franchisee recognizes that the nature of a janitorial business master franchise may evolve and change over time, and that an investment in a Stratus Master Franchise, like any other business, involves business risks.

Master Franchisee has applied for a license to own and operate a Master Franchise in an exclusive territory to be approved by the Franchisor and described below; and such application has been approved by Stratus in reliance upon all of the representations made therein including, without limitation, Master Franchisee’s representation that it will actively operate and manage its Master Franchise in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

## **II. LICENSE GRANTED, TERRITORY, OFFICE & OPENING DATE**

A. License Granted – The Marks and other intellectual property related to the System are owned by Diversified Royalty Corp., a Canadian public company (“Trademark Owner”); and Trademark Owner has licensed to SBS the right to use and sublicense the Marks and other intellectual property. Subject to the terms and conditions described below, SBS grants to the Master Franchisee the exclusive right to establish and operate a Stratus Building Solutions Master Franchise and a license to use the Marks and Stratus System in the business of selling and servicing comprehensive cleaning and maintenance service franchises, as well as the sale, leasing or distribution of related supplies and equipment, in the territory described on Exhibit C (the “Territory”).



B. Principal Office Must Be Located In Territory – Master Franchisee must establish and maintain its principal office within the Territory.

C. Opening Date – Master Franchisee agrees to open the Territory for business operations no later than the date set forth on Exhibit C, the actual date being referred to in this Agreement as the “Opening Date”.

D. Protected Territory. Master Franchisee will have the right to operate the Master Franchise within the described territory and SBS will not grant other such franchises under the System and the Stratus Cleaning marks, nor establish our own outlets under the System and the Stratus Cleaning marks, within the Territory, except under the limited circumstances provided for in this Agreement related to the failure of the Master Franchisee to meet the minimum growth obligation described below or a termination of this Agreement, and except as otherwise provided in Section I.F below.

E. Activity Outside of Territory Prohibited – The Master Franchisee has no authority to act under this Agreement or to provide services, or grant any rights, licenses or franchises to anyone outside the Territory. Absent prior written consent from SBS, the solicitation of customers or prospective unit franchisees outside of the Territory is strictly prohibited. SBS recognizes that media advertising may reach outside the Master Franchisee’s Territory (because the Master Franchisee may have no control over broadcast area or circulation of publications), and the Master Franchisee is not prohibited from using normal channels of advertising or marketing unless the promotion is directed to customers or prospective unit franchisees outside of the Territory. SBS may insist on reparation to any neighboring Master Franchisee who is damaged by a violation of this provision, to cure the Master Franchisee’s default.

F. Retained Rights. SBS retains the rights, among others, on any terms and conditions it deems advisable, and without granting Master Franchisee any rights therein:

1. To establish and operate, and license others to establish and operate, an SBS Master Franchise business under the System and the Stratus Marks at any location outside your Territory, notwithstanding the proximity to your Territory;

2. To sell or distribute, or license others to sell or distribute, directly or indirectly, any products and services other than products and services sold through the Stratus System, through any distribution channels (including, without limitation, the Internet), at any location whether within or outside your Territory under any proprietary marks (including the Stratus Marks); and

3. to establish, acquire, franchise, or operate any business or cleaning or maintenance service business of any kind, including competitive businesses, under any marks other than the Stratus Marks at any location in the Territory, and to purchase, or be purchased by, or merge or combine with, competing businesses, wherever located, including in the Territory.

G. Office Lease & Furnishings – Master Franchisee is solely responsible for any leases of real or personal property in connection with the operation of its business, but understands that SBS must approve the Master Franchisee’s principal office location, furniture and décor to protect the Stratus Building Solutions image and reputation. Master Franchisee must, while this Agreement is in effect, maintain such office and all fixtures, furnishing, signs and equipment located thereon in good order and condition, and in conformity with the Stratus Building Solutions System image as such may be prescribed by SBS from time to time. Master Franchisee must, within reasonable time specified by SBS, make all necessary reasonable additions, alterations, repairs and replacements to the office as required by SBS, but no others without SBS’s prior written consent, including, but not limited to, periodic repainting or replacement of signs, furnishings, equipment or décor. No other business venture may operate out of the premises utilized by

Master Franchisee for its office without the prior written consent of SBS. Master Franchisee must require any Unit Franchisee who leases office space outside the Unit Franchisee's residence to fully comply with the requirements of this Section. Master Franchisee must provide a copy of its lease to SBS within ten (10) days of its execution.

### **III. TERM & RENEWAL**

A. Initial Term – The initial term of this Agreement begins on the Effective Date and ends fifteen (15) years from that date.

B. Renewal – At Master Franchisee's option, this Agreement may be renewed for up to two (2) successive periods of fifteen (15) years each (hereinafter referred to as "Renewal Term"), provided that all of the following conditions are met on the renewal date:

1. Master Franchisee gives SBS written notice of the election to renew no less than six (6) months and no more than twelve (12) months prior to the end of the term or each Renewal Term.

2. Master Franchisee is not in default of any provision of:

(a) this Agreement, including any amendment or restatement or successor agreement, or

(b) any other agreement between Master Franchisee and SBS, its subsidiaries and affiliates,

and has substantially complied with all the terms and conditions of such agreements during the initial term and renewal term(s), as the case may be.

3. Master Franchisee has satisfied all of its monetary obligations owed to SBS, and its subsidiaries and affiliates, and has timely met these obligations throughout the term of this Agreement and each Renewal Term; and

4. Master Franchisee executes SBS' then-current form of Master Franchise Agreement, which will supersede this Agreement in all respects, and the terms of which may materially differ from the terms of this Agreement, except that Master Franchisee's territory may not be reduced as a condition to renewal and Master Franchisee is not required to pay any franchise fee which is then required of new Stratus Building Solution master franchisees; and

5. Master Franchisee has complied with SBS' then current qualifications and training requirements; and

6. Master Franchisee executes a general release in the form substantially similar to the general release attached to Franchisor's Franchise Disclosure Document provided to Master Franchisee no less than fourteen calendar days prior to the execution of this Agreement.

C. Non-Renewal – If no renewal is elected by Master Franchisee, and this Agreement has not otherwise been terminated by SBS, then it terminates on the last day of the then-current term or Renewal Term, and no notice is required. All provisions of this Agreement that specifically survive the term of this Agreement or by their nature survive the term of this Agreement, including but not limited to confidentiality and non-competition provisions, will remain in full force and effect.

#### IV. FEES, PAYMENTS & REPORTS

A. The initial franchise fee is: the amount set forth on Exhibit C and it is payable by the date(s) set forth on Exhibit C.

This franchise fee is non-refundable and is in addition to any other payments, including royalties that are payable under this Agreement.

B. Royalty Fees & Other Payment Obligations

1. Royalty on Contract Services & Sales Revenues – Master Franchisee agrees to pay to SBS, not later than the 10<sup>th</sup> day of each calendar month, a royalty fee calculated as a percentage of the Master Franchisee's Gross Revenues from contract services (whether performed directly by the Master Franchisee or its unit franchisees) for the prior calendar month, as follows:

<u>Gross Revenues – Monthly</u>	<u>Royalty Fee (% of Gross Revenues)</u>
Less than \$300,000.00	4.0%
Between \$300,000.00 and \$500,000.00	3.5%
Over \$500,000.00	3.0%

These royalties are calculated by each region independently and are not cumulative (i.e. each rate applies only to the revenues in its applicable category). For example, if Gross Revenues reach \$550,000.00 in any calendar month, the royalties would be calculated as follows:

4.0% of \$300,000.00; and

3.5% of \$200,000.00 (amount in excess of \$300,000.00 but less than \$500,000.00); and

3.0% of \$50,000 (the amount in excess of \$500,000.00).

2. Gross Revenues Defined – For purposes of calculating any royalty fee or payment due under this Agreement the term “Gross Revenues” means the total receipts collected for services and results of services performed by Master Franchisee and its Unit Franchisees at location where any type of cleaning and/or maintenance related services, including, but not limited to, commercial, industrial, institutional and residential cleaning and/or maintenance services are performed, without reduction for any amounts payable to or retained by franchisees and any other revenue related to or derived from the conduct and operation of Master Franchisee's business. Sales from any Additional Business Services conducted by Unit Franchisees shall not be deemed Gross Revenues.

3. Royalty On Unit Franchise Fees – Master Franchisee agrees to pay to SBS, not later than the 10<sup>th</sup> day of each calendar month, a royalty fee on initial franchise fees for sales of unit franchises (“Unit Franchise Fee”) received in the prior month. The royalty fee is the mathematical product of (a) the total amount of the Unit Franchisee Fees received in the prior month multiplied by (b) a percentage, which is determined based on the amount of monthly Gross Revenues generated by your Master Franchise for the prior calendar month, as follows:

<u>Gross Revenues – Monthly</u>	<u>Royalty Fee Percentage</u>
Less than \$300,000.00	20%
Between \$300,000.00 and \$500,000.00	15%
Over \$500,000.00	10%

20%/15%/10% (based on above) of any Unit Franchise Fee received by Master Franchisee at time of sale; which must be paid to SBS by the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the next calendar month after the Unit Franchise fee is received by the Master Franchisee.

4. Advertising Fee – SBS reserves the right to require Master Franchisee to pay an advertising fee as described in this Section IV.B.4, although it does not require payment of such as fee as of the Effective Date. If SBS, in its sole discretion, decides to charge an advertising fee, SBS may do so upon thirty (30) days written notice to Master Franchisee. Upon receipt of such notice, Master Franchisee agrees to contribute to the Stratus Cleaning marks, not later than the 10<sup>th</sup> day of each calendar month, a monthly advertising and public relations fee of \$150.00 or one percent (1.0%) of Gross Revenues, whichever is higher.

5. Additional Payments to Franchisor – In addition to all other payments that Master Franchisee is obligated to pay SBS under this Agreement, the Master Franchise must pay to SBS, or its designees, promptly when due, the following obligations:

(a) All sales taxes, use taxes, excise taxes, personal property taxes and other similar taxes, regardless of type or nature, imposed, levied, assessed or charged, on, against, or in connection with: 1) any products, services or equipment sold, furnished or leased by SBS to the Master Franchisee, or 2) any royalties or other fees paid by Master Franchisee to SBS; other than taxes measured solely by, and imposed on SBS' taxable income.

(b) All amounts advanced by SBS or which SBS pays, or becomes obligated to pay, on behalf of Master Franchisee or any of Master Franchisee's Unit Franchisees, for any reason whatsoever.

(c) All amounts for goods or services purchased by Master Franchisee from SBS, its subsidiaries, affiliates or designees.

(d) Stratus may implement, from time to time, new programs and operating procedures that would allow it to provide improved productivity or to render better services and may require that additional capital from you be provided. Examples of such programs are the use of technology to generate efficiencies in operating the Regional Office, create more lead sources for you, better ways to communicate with you and improved promotional materials, sales materials and service manuals.

6. Late Payment Fee – Any royalty fee or other payment obligation of the Master Franchisee to SBS that is not paid when due, is subject to a late charge which is the greater of: five percent (5%) of the delinquent payment or the maximum late fee payment allowed by law in the state of Master Franchisee's Territory.

7. Material Breach for Multiple Late Reports – A late payment of any royalty or other fee due from Master Franchises to SBS is not a material default. However, failure to make TWO (2)

payments of any royalty or other fee when due, within any twelve (12) month period is a material default under this Agreement, whether or not the late payment was cured (i.e., paid at a later date).

8. Allocation of Monies Received & SBS Set-Off Rights – If Master Franchisee is delinquent in the payment of any obligation to SBS under this Agreement, or under any other agreement with, or obligation to, SBS then SBS may apply any payment from the Master Franchisee to the oldest obligation due, first to interest, penalties and late charges and then to principal, whether under this Agreement or otherwise, despite any instruction from Master Franchisee to the contrary. Any monies owed by SBS to the Master Franchisee may be applied, credited, or set off against any debt of the Master Franchisee to SBS.

9. ACH Electronic Transfer – At our discretion, Franchisor may collect any and all fees owed to it through ACH (Automated Clearing House) electronic transfers. Master Franchisee agrees to grant any approval necessary and sign any all documents necessary to establish such electronic transfers, and will not withdraw such approval without the consent of Franchisor.

### C. Reports

1. Unit Franchisee Sales Reporting – Master Franchisee agrees to send SBS a copy of all executed pages filled out or signed in the unit franchise agreements by the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the next calendar month after it is executed.

2. Monthly Gross Revenues Reports – Master Franchisee agrees to submit to SBS, or its designee, on SBS approved forms, by the 10<sup>th</sup> day of each calendar month:

(a) A report that accurately records all Gross Revenues that have been received by the Master Franchisee during the previous calendar month; and

(b) A report that accurately records all Gross Revenues that have been generated by all of the Master Franchisee's Unit Franchisees during the previous calendar month; and all reports must be mailed in such time as to reach SBS or its designee on or before the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) day of each month. Should such report not be received on or before the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) day of the month, Master Franchisee agrees to pay a late charge of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per day for each day that the report is not submitted and the parties agree such a charge is reasonable and proper.

3. Material Breach for Multiple Late Reports – The Master Franchisee's late submission of a monthly royalty report is not a material default. However, the failure to make TWO (2) monthly reports when due, within any twelve (12) month period is a material default under this Agreement, whether or not the past due report is actually filed.

## V. **MINIMUM REVENUES & MARKETING REQUIREMENTS**

A. Minimum Monthly Revenues – Within one year after the Opening Date, Master Franchisee must meet the minimum monthly Gross Revenues requirement of \$40,000 (the "Minimum Monthly Revenues"). This means that, beginning with the second year after the Opening Date (i.e., the 13<sup>th</sup> calendar month after the Opening Date), Master Franchisee must generate not less than \$40,000 in monthly Gross Revenues on an annual basis. Within two years after the Opening Date, Master Franchisee must meet the minimum monthly Gross Revenues requirement of \$80,000. This means that, beginning with the third year after the Opening Date (i.e., the 25<sup>th</sup> calendar month after the Opening Date), Master Franchisee must generate not less than \$80,000 in monthly Gross Revenues on an annual basis. In addition to generating

the Minimum Monthly Revenues, Master Franchisee's monthly Gross Revenues must increase each year beginning with the third year after the Opening Date, all as a condition to the continuation of Master Franchisee's master franchise.

If the Master Franchisee does not meet this minimum growth obligation, then SBS, at its sole discretion, has right to require either or both of the following options:

(a) SBS may require Master Franchisee and its key employees, to attend remedial training at SBS' principal place of business or other location selected by SBS, at Master Franchisee's sole expense; and/or,

(b) SBS may cancel the exclusivity right granted to Master Franchisee in Section II above to market and sell unit franchises and acquire accounts, and SBS may thereafter acquire contracts and accounts, sell additional Master Franchises as well as Unit Franchises within the Territory (who may then directly compete with the Master Franchisee).

B. Minimum Number of Unit Franchises – Beginning on the first day of the third year following the Effective Date, and at all times thereafter, Master Franchisee must (i) have at least thirty-six (36) operating and active (i.e. not in default) Unit Franchises, (ii) continue to maintain an updated and valid FDD, and (iii) continue to actively offer and sell new Unit Franchises each year, as SBS may determine in its sole discretion. Meeting each obligation in this Section V.B is a condition to the continuation of Master Franchisee's rights under this Agreement. Master Franchisee's failure to meet any of these requirements will constitute a material breach of this Agreement.

## **VI. UNIFORM METHODS, RULES & BRAND STANDARDS MANUALS**

A. Absentee Owner Prohibited – Master Franchisee (directly or through its Regional Director) agrees to devote sufficient time and effort to its Master Franchise business to comply with all of the terms of this Agreement and those rules of operation instituted by SBS from time to time. Although Master Franchisee is not obligated to devote his full time to the franchise, he must manage the business himself and may not delegate any of his authority or obligations under this Agreement without SBS' prior written consent.

If the franchise is owned by husband and wife, one spouse must be designated as the Regional Director and will be personally responsible for the day-to-day management of the franchise and compliance with the terms of this Agreement.

If the franchise is owned by a partnership, the partnership must designate one of the general partners as the Regional Director who will be personally responsible for the day-to-day management of the franchise and compliance with the terms of this Agreement.

If the franchise is owned by an entity (i.e. a limited liability company or corporation) then the majority Owner must be designated as the Regional Director, and he/she will be personally responsible for the day-to-day management of the Master Franchise and compliance with the terms of this Agreement.

If the entity's stock unit ownership is divided so that no one person owns more than fifty percent (50%) of the outstanding stock/units, then the stockholders/owners must designate one of the two (2) largest stockholders/owners as the Regional Director. If one hundred percent (100%) of the corporation's stock is owned by husband and wife, then one spouse must be designated as the Regional Director and will be personally responsible for the day-to-day management of the franchise and compliance with the terms of

this Agreement. For purposes of this Section stock or unit ownership is determined by counting only shares or units with voting rights.

The Regional Director must manage the business himself/herself and may not delegate any of his/her authority or obligations under this Agreement without SBS' prior written consent.

The Master Franchisee or the Regional Director, as the case may be, must permanently reside within the Territory at all times.

B. Review of Regional Director – If SBS, after using standards and procedures applied on a uniform basis throughout the system, finds that a Regional Director is not properly performing his or her duties, SBS will advise the Master Franchisee in writing and the Master Franchisee must immediately take corrective steps to remedy the situation. If the Master Franchisee does not correct the situation, then SBS may require the Master Franchisee to replace the Regional Director within 30 days of written notice to Master Franchisee. Within 30 days of the Regional Director's termination, the Master Franchisee must appoint a successor and that person must attend the next available SBS training session.

C. Uniform Methods – Master Franchisee promises to strictly adhere to the uniform methods, practice and operation for SBS Master Franchises. For the mutual benefit of SBS and all Master Franchisees, and to protect the quality, goodwill and public acceptance of the Stratus Building Solutions Marks and System, the Master Franchisee specifically promises and agrees that he will:

1. Use his best efforts to promote the success of his SBS Master Franchise;
2. Accept and follow all reasonable rules, procedures and standards made and adopted by SBS in the organization and operation of his SBS Master Franchise as may from time to time be contained in manuals published by SBS;
3. Keep and maintain his franchise business premises in a high degree of cleanliness and sanitation;
4. Prohibit any of his personnel wearing any uniform or item of clothing that indicates or represents an affiliation with any other janitorial or cleaning services or company, or such references or artwork that would bring discredit to Stratus Building Solutions, its affiliates, or Trademark Owner; and
5. Refrain from, and ensure his personnel refrain from engaging in any deceptive or unfair trade practice or any other sales, recruiting, advertising or other practices that are unethical or unprofessional, or that may harm SBS, its franchisees or the goodwill or reputation associated with Master Franchisee, SBS, other Stratus Building Solutions franchisees generally, the Marks or the System. Unethical or unprofessional practices include, but are not limited to: dishonesty in dealing with a customer, Unit Franchisee; submission of a false or fraudulent information to SBS, or the use of profane language, or abusive and threatening behavior or language, directed toward SBS representatives or Stratus Building Solutions customers or Unit Franchisees.

D. Stratus Building Solutions Brand Standards Manuals – SBS has the exclusive right to use and sublicense the Stratus Marks. For the mutual benefit of Master Franchisee and Franchisor to protect the Stratus Marks, and to promote the goodwill associated with the Stratus Marks, and to establish and maintain uniform standards of operation, SBS has developed various manuals (collectively the "Brand Standards Manuals") and Master Franchisee agrees to conduct its Master Franchise in strict accordance with the operational methods and procedures as prescribed in said Brand Standards Manuals and any supplemental

bulletins and notices which may be deemed a part thereof. SBS retains the right to prescribe additions, deletions or revisions in said Brand Standards Manuals which is binding on Master Franchisee agrees to keep and maintain his copy of said Brand Standards Manuals current and to be familiar with the procedures published therein.

Upon receipt of the Brand Standards Manuals the Master Franchisee must acknowledge its receipt promptly in writing to SBS. Master Franchisee will, at all times, treat the Brand Standards Manuals, and any other manuals created for or approved for use in the operation of the franchise business, supplemental materials or bulletins, and the information contained therein, as confidential Proprietary Information, and shall use all reasonable efforts to maintain such Proprietary Information as secret and confidential. Master Franchisee will not, at any time, copy, duplicate, record or otherwise reproduce the foregoing materials, in whole or in part, nor otherwise make the same available to any unauthorized person.

Master Franchisee agrees that it has no ownership interest in the Brand Standards Manuals or any Proprietary Information. Master Franchisee agrees to return its copy of said manuals and all other data, information and materials received from SBS upon the termination or expiration of this Agreement.

Master Franchisee must, at all times, insure that its copy of the Brand Standards Manuals is kept current and up-to-date, and, if there is any dispute as to the contents of the Brand Standards Manual, the terms of the master copy of the Brand Standards Manuals maintained by SBS at its principal offices is controlling. Master Franchisee agrees that it is bound by said standards and policies upon receipt of same by Master Franchisee.

E. Miscellaneous – Master Franchisee promises to faithfully exert his best efforts to distribute to all Unit Franchisees in his Territory, all materials and information that SBS instructs him to so distribute.

## **VII. SALE & MANAGEMENT OF UNIT FRANCHISES**

A. Right to Market & Sell Unit Franchises – Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, the Master Franchisee:

1. has the right to market and sell Stratus Building Solutions unit franchises (“Unit Franchise(s)”) to independent entities within the Territory; and

2. is solely responsible for the sale, supervision and management of Unit Franchises within the Territory.

B. Obligation to Supervise & Enforce Unit Franchise Agreements

1. Monitor & Enforce Unit Franchise Agreements – Master Franchisee accepts the responsibility for, and agrees to vigilantly monitor its Unit Franchisees and to enforce all of the terms and conditions of Unit Franchise Agreements issued by the Master Franchisee.

2. Supervise & Enforce Stratus Building Solutions Marks – Master Franchisee agrees to supervise and enforce the use of all Stratus Building Solutions Marks by its Unit Franchisees. Failure of Master Franchisee to exercise the proper diligence in enforcing the terms of any unit franchise agreement and to ensure that the trademarks, trade names and service marks are being properly used by Unit Franchisees is a material default in this Agreement.

3. Master Franchisee Bound By Unit Franchise Agreement – Master Franchisee acknowledges that it is also bound by each Unit Franchise Agreement and agrees to faithfully and



conscientiously meet and fulfill all of its obligations and duties under each of its Unit Franchise Agreements.

C. Training & Support of Unit Franchisees

1. Initial Training – Master Franchisee agrees to provide a comprehensive Operational Training Program for each Unit Franchisee, which must include a minimum of fifteen (15) hours of training, assistance and education. The program must begin with an extensive training session of not less than fifteen (15) hours duration, at a location to be established by Master Franchisee, and which must include Stratus Building Solutions methods and procedures for cleaning, and the sale and management of Unit Franchises, using formal instruction, self-study material and practical training. Regarding the training program, Master Franchisee will further support and assist each Unit Franchisee by:

(a) making available to Unit Franchisee applicable confidential manuals, training aids, and any pertinent information concerning Stratus Building Solutions methods and practices.

(b) continuing appropriate assistance and guidance until Unit Franchisee has been offered customers/clients that generate initial gross monthly billings as required by the Unit Franchise Agreement.

(c) having personnel available on an ongoing basis during regular daily business hours to provide technical assistance, consultation and advice on marketing and operations procedures by telephone or in training and support for Unit Franchisee at reasonable rates as established by Stratus Building Solutions procedures.

2. Alert & Educate About Stratus Building Solutions Products – Master Franchisee must consistently alert, inform and educate its Unit Franchisees about the nature, performance and availability of Stratus Building Solutions products, supplies and equipment so as to encourage uniformity throughout its Territory Master Franchise training for Unit Franchisees must include education on the performance, use and ordering process for all Stratus Building Solutions products, supplies and equipment

3. Regular Office Hours & Franchisee Support Required – Master Franchisee must maintain regular daily office hours, provide adequate Unit Franchisee communication and support; and to otherwise maintain and operate its office(s) in a manner that will promote the efficiency and success of its Unit Franchisees.

4. Develop Franchise Plan – Master Franchisee must take into account Unit Franchisees' input regarding service specifics (estimate, cost assessments, and ordering supplies) in developing Franchisees' franchise plans or selecting customer accounts.

5. Support Unit Franchisees' Additional Business Services – Master Franchisee agrees to encourage Unit Franchisees to offer and provide additional business services separate from those offered by the franchised business to generate separate revenue streams (the "Additional Business Services"). Additional Business Services may include, but is not limited to, residential cleaning services, waste removal, snow removal, and recycling services. Unit Franchisees must have the right to offer the Additional Business Services to existing customers that were originally introduced to Unit Franchisees by Master Franchisee and new customers.

D. SBS Actions and Authority

1. SBS Right to Enforce Unit Franchise Agreement – SBS has the right, but not the obligation, at all times and in its sole discretion, to enforce any provision of any Unit Franchise Agreement if the Master Franchisee fails to do so within thirty (30) days of receiving a notice from SBS of the Master Franchisee's failure to perform.

2. SBS Correction On Customer Satisfaction Failure – All customer services performed by or under the direction of Master Franchisee, or performed by a Unit Franchisee, must be performed in a good and workmanlike manner, to the satisfaction of the customer for whom such services are performed. If Master Franchisee fails to accomplish such customer satisfaction both in the letter and spirit of this Agreement, and customer complaints continue for an unreasonable period of time, or the customer requests transfer or termination of its service contract, or that SBS intervene, then SBS may, without notice, assume responsibility for that customer's service regardless of any agreement to the contrary, and without obligation to pay any royalty or fees to the Master Franchisee.

3. SBS Enforcement On Termination of Master Franchise Agreement – If this Agreement terminates or expires, SBS may, at SBS' sole option, immediately succeed, or designate and assign to a replacement master franchisee, the Master Franchisee's rights to manage and enforce all of the terms and conditions of a Unit Franchise Agreement, without notice to Master Franchisee or the Unit Franchisee. Should SBS succeed to, or designate and assign to a replacement master franchisee, the Master Franchisee's rights under any Unit Franchise Agreement, then the Master Franchisee's rights to benefit or receive revenues/royalty fees from the Unit Franchisee will simultaneously terminate. SBS may, but is not required to assume any of the Master Franchisee's obligations or liabilities to any Unit Franchisee. Should SBS elect not to assume or assign Master Franchisee's rights to manage and enforce all of the terms and conditions of a Unit Franchise Agreement, Master Franchisee must immediately terminate its Unit Franchisee Agreements.

E. Unit Franchise Documents

1. Unit Franchise Compliance Documents – Master Franchisee must comply with all laws and regulations governing the sale of franchises including, without limitation, the proper and timely delivery of a disclosure document, unit franchise agreement and other related documents ("Unit Franchise Compliance Documents"). If a registration is required in the state where Master Franchisee's Territory is located, then in addition to applicable federal laws and regulations, the Master Franchisee must file all necessary documents and disclosures with the appropriate state agency(s) prior to selling, advertising or offering for sale any franchise within the Territory.

2. SBS Not Responsible for Preparation of Compliance Documents – SBS is not responsible for preparing or registering any Unit Franchise Compliance Documents or the accuracy of any such documents as distributed or filed for registration. SBS will offer sample documents for compliance, but makes no representation or warranty of those documents' compliance with federal, state or local laws and regulations, and Master Franchisee acknowledges that it has been urged by SBS to seek the assistance of independent attorneys and counsel to review and complete such documents.

3. SBS Must Approve Form of All Unit Franchise Documents – The form of all disclosure documents must be submitted to, and approved by, SBS prior to use by the Master Franchisee. Similarly, any changes, amendments or revisions to any of the disclosure documents must be approved by SBS prior to use by the Master Franchisee. SBS reserves the right from time to time to review Master Franchisee's Unit Franchise Documents, and Master Franchisee will provide SBS with copies of all Unit Franchise Documents (including by electronic transmission) upon SBS' request.

4. Third-Party Beneficiary - All unit franchise agreements must include a provision stating that SBS is a third-party beneficiary of the agreements with rights to assume and enforce them should the Master Franchisee fail to do so.

F. Indemnification – SBS is not liable for any act, omission, debt or other obligation of any Unit Franchisee. Master Franchisee agrees to indemnify, defend and save harmless SBS and Trademark Owner from all damages, fines debts, expenses (including attorney’s fees and court costs), charges, suits, proceedings, claims, demands or actions of whatever kind or nature, by any Unit Franchisee or arising out of any Unit Franchisee’s actions or failure to act.

## **VIII. TERMS OF TRANSFER (ENCUMBRANCE PROHIBITED)**

A. Legal Terms – The legal term for transfer of a license or franchise is “assignment”. The person who transfers a franchise is the “assignor” and the person to whom the franchise is transferred is the “assignee”. This Agreement frequently uses the term “transfer” in place of “assignment” and uses the term “purchaser” in place of “assignee” and the term “seller” or “Master Franchisee” in place of “assignor” (since an assignment is usually a sale). For purposes of this Agreement, the terms “assignment” and “transfer” include any sale or transfer, whether or not for consideration and whether or not the transfer is voluntary, involuntary or by operation of law.

B. Assignment by Franchisor – SBS may, at any time, delegate any of its obligations and transfer or assign any of its rights and privileges under this Agreement.

C. Sub-Franchise or Partial Assignment Prohibited – Master Franchisee may not sub-franchise or otherwise transfer less than all of his rights and privileges acquired under this Agreement (except the grant of Unit Franchises as described herein). If Master Franchisee attempts to make a partial transfer, SBS may terminate this Agreement without notice to the Master Franchisee under Section XVI.

D. Encumbrance by Master Franchisee Prohibited – Master Franchisee may not pledge, encumber, hypothecate or otherwise grant anyone a security interest in any of the rights acquired under this Agreement without SBS’ prior written consent; and Master Franchisee understands that SBS may arbitrarily withhold its consent without cause or justification.

E. Assignment by Master Franchisee – SBS has entered into this Agreement in reliance upon Master Franchisee’s personal skill, character and qualifications (or if the Master Franchisee is an entity, then in reliance on the Master Franchisee’s principal owners/shareholders’ and officers’ qualifications). Therefore, the franchise described in this Agreement may be assigned or transferred only with SBS’ prior written consent.

1. SBS’ First Right to Purchase the Franchise – If Master Franchisee intends to transfer his Stratus Building Solutions master franchise, he must notify SBS in writing (“Sale Notice”), via certified mail, describing all the terms and conditions of the proposed transfer. For thirty (30) days after SBS receives the Sale Notice (Review Period”), it will have the exclusive first right to purchase the franchise on the same terms and conditions described in the Sale Notice. If, during the review period, SBS makes a reasonable request for additional information, the review period will be extended and SBS will have fifteen (15) days from receipt of the additional information to exercise its right to purchase. At the end of the Review Period (including extensions), SBS must notify the Master Franchisee in writing whether it has decided to exercise or waive its right to purchase. If the right to purchase is waived, the notice must describe the conditions SBS will impose on the transfer.

2. Transfer Conditions – If all transfer conditions imposed by SBS are fulfilled, SBS will consent to the assignment. If the Master Franchisee does not complete the proposed assignment within thirty (30) days after SBS consents to the transfer according to the terms in the Sale Notice, the Master Franchisee must re-notify SBS as if he has received a new offer to purchase the franchise. The conditions precedent that SBS may impose on a proposed transfer include, without limitation:

a. The purchaser will be reviewed by SBS as if he had independently applied for a franchise. Therefore, the purchaser must submit a confidential application. If the purchaser is a partnership, then all partners must complete the application. If the purchaser is an entity (i.e. corporation or limited liability company), then all stockholders/owners must complete the application. The purchaser must satisfy SBS that he (or the partners or a partnership, or the shareholders/owners of an entity) has the skills, qualifications and economic resources necessary in SBS' sole judgment to operate the franchised business and fulfill his obligations to the selling Master Franchisee.

b. Prior to closing or completion of the transfer, the selling Master Franchisee must document that he has fulfilled all of his obligations to SBS (both under this Agreement and any other agreement Master Franchisee may have with SBS).

c. SBS may require the seller to deposit a sum into an escrow account opened in SBS' name. No money may be disbursed from this account without SBS' prior written authorization. The purpose of this account is to provide for payment of Stratus Building Solutions royalties and fees owed by the seller and for payment of any of seller's disclosed debts. SBS may disburse funds from the escrow account to pay any of seller's creditors and to pay for any fees or royalties seller then owes to SBS. Interest may be earned on the escrow account and paid to the seller when the account is closed.

d. The purchaser must sign a Stratus Building Solutions Master Franchise Agreement in the form and on the terms and condition then being offered to prospective Master Franchisees with similar circumstances (except that no Initial Franchise Fee is required) together with all attachments then required by new Stratus Building Solutions master franchisees. The term of the new Master Franchise Agreement will end on the date this Agreement would have terminated. Except for the Master Franchisee's post-term obligations, this Agreement will terminate when the purchaser signs a new Master Franchise Agreement and all of the conditions described in this Section are fulfilled.

e. The Master Franchisee must pay SBS a transfer fee equal to ten percent (10%) of the gross sale price but subject to a minimum transfer fee of \$25,000 and a maximum transfer fee of \$75,000.

f. The purchaser must satisfactorily complete the initial training program then required of all new master franchisees unless such training is waived by SBS in writing, because of the purchaser's prior experience or training.

F. Partial Ownership Transfers – If Master Franchisee is a partnership or entity (i.e., a limited liability company or a corporation), then a transfer of stock or ownership interest that effectively transfers fifty percent (50%) or more of the voting control of the Master Franchisee will be considered an assignment and will be subject to the transfer conditions set forth in Section VIII.E.2 hereof. For this purpose, all transfers during the term of this Agreement must be aggregated, and if successive ownership transfers result in a transfer of control, the Master Franchisee will be treated as if it has attempted to assign the entire franchise to a new owner. For the avoidance of doubt, if a transfer of stock or ownership interest, alone

and in combination with any prior transfers of stock or ownership interest, effectively transfers less than fifty percent (50%) of the voting control of the Master Franchisee, then such transfer will not be considered an assignment and will not be subject to the transfer conditions set forth in Section VIII.E.2; provided, however, that any such transfer may only take place with SBS' prior written consent.

G. Transfer Because of Death, Disability or Incapacity – If a Master Franchisee or its principal owner (i.e. its majority shareholder or owner of 51% of the voting ownership) dies, or becomes permanently disabled or legally incapacitated, then a member of his immediate family may receive or acquire his ownership interest in the Master Franchisee if the immediate family member completes the master franchise application process, is accepted as a Stratus Building Solutions master franchisee and fulfills any transfer conditions imposed by SBS. If the Master Franchisee is an entity, then this provision applies to the death or redemption of the controlling owner/shareholder and his/her spouse. If the immediate family member's application is rejected, he/she will have ninety (90) days to find a purchaser. Any subsequently proposed sale or other transfer must be accomplished according to the terms and conditions of Section XIII-F. If the Master Franchisee cannot find a purchaser within ninety (90) days from the date of death, disability or incapacity, SBS will have the exclusive first right to purchase the franchise for its fair market value. During any time the franchise is not being managed because of a Master Franchisee's death, disability or legal incapacity, SBS may appoint a receiver/interim manager to operate the Master Franchisee's business. Master Franchisee and his heirs or legal representative must cooperate with the interim manager's efforts so that its business continues without interruption. The receiver/interim manager will have complete authority to operate the franchise with access to all of Master Franchisee's records. Revenues that the Master Franchisee would otherwise have earned will first be applied to any debt Master Franchisee owes to SBS and the balances, if any, paid to the Master Franchisee.

H. Permanent Disability Defined – For this purpose "Permanent disability" means any physical, emotional or mental injury, illness or incapacity which would prevent a person from performing the obligations set forth in this Agreement for at least ninety (90) consecutive days and from which condition recovery within ninety (90) days from the date of determination of disability is unlikely. Permanent disability must be determined by a licensed practicing physician selected by SBS upon examination of the person; or, if the person refuses to submit to an examination, then such person will be automatically deemed permanently disabled as of the date of such refusal.

I. SBS Consent Not Unreasonably Withheld – SBS may not unreasonably withhold its consent to an assignment, transfer or sale of the master franchise whenever the purchaser/transferee meets the present qualifications and standards required of a new master franchise applicant.

## **IX. RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL**

If the Master Franchisee receives a bona fide arm's length offer to purchase Master Franchisee's interest in this Agreement or in the business conducted hereunder or Master Franchisee proposes to convert, assign, or otherwise transfer Master Franchisee's interest in this Agreement or in the business conducted hereunder, in whole or in part, to a person other than an entity of which Master Franchisee or its Owners are the sole owners/shareholders. Master Franchisee must first offer to sell said interest to SBS. Master Franchisee must provide SBS, in a written statement verified by Master Franchisee, the terms of the offer received or made by Master Franchisee, and SBS shall have thirty (30) days from the receipt of said statement to either accept or refuse such offer. Written notice to Master Franchisee, of SBS' decision to accept or refuse said offer must be dated by the thirtieth (30<sup>th</sup>) day. Acceptance by SBS must be at the same price and on the same terms set forth in the written statement submitted by Master Franchisee. IF SBS fails to accept the offer within the thirty (30) day period, Master Franchisee is free to effect the disposition described in the statement upon the exact terms set forth in the statement delivered to SBS, provided that nothing in this Paragraph may be interpreted as limiting the requirements of Section VIII of this Agreement

relating to transfer of rights under this Agreement. Furthermore, if Master Franchisee is insolvent, or upon the filing of any petition by or against Master Franchisee under provisions of any bankruptcy law, SBS has the first right to purchase the business conducted by Master Franchisee, for any amount and pursuant to terms established by an independent appraiser selected by SBS.

## **X. FISCAL YEAR, ACCOUNTING RECORDS & AUDITS**

A. Fiscal Year & Accounting Records – During the term of this Agreement, Master Franchisee must maintain and preserve full, complete and accurate books, records, and accounts prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and in accordance with such other Stratus Building Solutions regulations and operation manuals (as may be revised in SBS' sole discretion from time to time). Such books and records must include, but are not limited to, records of fees collected, books of account, ledgers, financial statements, federal state and local tax returns, bank books, duplicate deposit slips and other evidence of business transactions Unit Franchise royalty fees and payments, and other Gross Revenues (collectively the "Financial Records"). Master Franchisee agrees to keep and preserve all of its Financial Records for each fiscal year not less than five (5) years after the close of that fiscal year.

B. Annual Financial Reports – Within 90 days after the close of its fiscal year, Master Franchisee must submit to SBS a complete set of financial statements for that fiscal year (the "Annual Financial Statements"). The Annual Financial Statements must be prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, by an independent certified public accountant. The Financial Statements must include a balance sheet, income statement, profit and loss statement and such other reports or statements required by SBS from time to time. If the Master Franchisee owns, directly or beneficially, a controlling financial interest in another business, the financial statement required to be submitted must reflect the financial condition of the Master Franchisee and its other operations on a consolidated basis.

C. SBS Records Review or Audit – SBS reserves the right, at any time, without notice to:

1. To review, inspect, audit and make copies of all of Master Franchisee's Financial Records.
2. Conduct an independent audit of the Master Franchisee's Financial Records.

Master Franchisee must make all of its Financial Records available and accessible at the Master Franchisee's principal place of business for any such review or audit, including necessary passwords and other information necessary to access computer software and computer stored files. SBS agrees that any review or audit will not unnecessarily interfere with Master Franchisee's day to day operation of its business.

D. Cost of Review or Audit – Any review or audit must be performed at SBS' cost and expense unless:

1. It is necessitated by the failure of Master Franchisee to provide the timely reports required or requested, or to preserve records by SBS from time to time; or
2. The inspection or audit discloses that a Master Franchisee financial statement or monthly report made by Master Franchisee is in error by more five percent (5%); in which case the Master Franchisee must immediately, and at its sole expense: 1) correct any financial statement or report that is in error, 2) pay SBS any unpaid royalty fees or other past due obligations found in the review or audit, 3) pay any late fees, interest or other penalties imposed by SBS for late payments, 4) file amended tax returns as

may be required by law, and pay all resulting taxes, penalties and interest 5) pay for the cost of the SBS review or audit.

E. Outside Audit – If Master Franchisee should, at any time, cause an audit of Master Franchisee's business to be conducted by an independent CPA, then Master Franchisee must deliver to SBS a copy of such audit report, without cost or expense to SBS.

## **XI. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR STATUS**

Unless otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, all expenses, labor and materials used in the operation of the master franchise established by this Agreement are the sole responsibility of the Master Franchisee. Master Franchisee is not authorized, under any circumstances, to make any contract, agreement, warranty or representation on behalf of SBS or to create any obligation or debt, expressed or implied, in the name of or on behalf of SBS, except the granting of unit franchises strictly in accordance with this Agreement and SBS terms, rules, and regulations as amended from time to time. Similarly, Franchisee may not establish any bank account, or apply for any loan or credit in the name of SBS.

Master Franchisee agrees to operate independently from SBS and is not considered, whether directly or indirectly, ostensible, apparently or otherwise, an employee, agent, joint venturer, shareholder, co-trustee or partner of SBS. Master Franchisee shall be solely responsible for all employment decisions and functions, including without limitation, those related to hiring, firing, establishing remuneration, personnel policies, benefits, disciplining, supervising, and recordkeeping regardless of whether Master Franchisee received advice from SBS on the subjects.

Master Franchisee acknowledges and agrees SBS and Master Franchisee are independent contractors, and that Master Franchisee has day-to-day control over its business activities, and must make operational, strategic and other business decisions, subject to Master Franchisee's compliance with the terms of this Agreement and applicable law. Master Franchisee is an independent contractor in business for itself, and have no right or interest in, or authority over SBS or any of SBS's property or business. Master Franchisee is free to conduct its business as it may deem best in providing the services to its customers and Unit Franchisees, independently of the supervision, management and control of SBS, provided that Master Franchisee agrees to abide by all the terms of this Agreement (including protection of the Marks and compliance with the System Standards) and all federal, state and local laws and regulations of all government agencies having jurisdiction over the customer's premises or the activities conducted by you. You acknowledge and agree, and will never claim otherwise, that the various restrictions, prohibitions, specifications, and procedures of the Brand Standards which Master Franchisee is required to comply with under this Agreement do not directly or indirectly constitute, suggest, infer or imply that SBS controls any aspect or element of the day-to-day operations of Master Franchisee's business, which Master Franchisee alone controls, but only constitutes standards to which Master Franchisee must adhere when exercising control of the day-to-day operations of its business.

Except as specifically provided in this Agreement, SBS has no right to control the business or operation of Master Franchisee, to control the expenditure of its funds, approve its unit franchisees or to hire or terminate any of Master Franchisee's employees; it being understood and agreed that so long as Master Franchisee conducts its business in a lawful manner and fully complies with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, that the control and direction of the Master Franchisee's business remains with the Master Franchisee. Master Franchisee shall be solely responsible for all, and SBS shall have no authority to control, either directly or indirectly any, employment decisions and employment functions related to Master Franchisee's business, including, without limitation, those related to hiring, firing, scheduling, establishing remuneration, personnel policies, benefits, disciplining, supervising, and recordkeeping, regardless of whether Master Franchisee received advice from SBS on these subjects.

Master Franchisee shall be responsible for all income and other taxes to all federal, state, municipal and other authorities required to be paid for all persons employed in Master Franchisee's operation (including the owners thereof) including the employer's portion of any social security, unemployment taxes, other payroll taxes, FICA, FUTA, and SECA payments, and any other taxes required to be paid, by deducting such expenses from the pay of all your employees including Master Franchisee's owners. Master Franchisee shall also withhold from employees' pay, and pay when due, taxes and premiums for unemployment and workman's compensation insurance for itself and all of its employees, as required by state, federal or other law.

SBS is not liable for any act, omission, debt or other obligation of Master Franchisee or for any damages to any person or property which directly or indirectly arise from or relate to the operation of Master Franchisee's business. The Master Franchisee agrees to indemnify, defend and save harmless SBS from all damages, fines debts, expenses (including attorney's fees and court costs), charges, suits, proceedings, claims, demands or actions of whatever kind or nature, arising or growing out of or otherwise connected with or related to the Master Franchisee's maintenance and/or operation of the business licensed by this Agreement, including without limitation any claim of Master Franchisee or its Unit Franchisees being characterized as an employee of Master Franchisee or SBS by any Master Franchisee, any Unit Franchisee or by federal, state, or local court or agency.

## **XII. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION AND NON-COMPETITION**

A. Consideration For Training & Access to Proprietary Information – Master Franchisee acknowledges that Master Franchisee and its Key Participants will receive valuable Proprietary Information. Master Franchisee understands and acknowledges that this training and access to Proprietary Information is, in part, the consideration for the covenants and restrictions placed on the Master Franchisee and its Key Participants.

B. Non-Competition During Term of Agreement – While this Agreement is in effect the Master Franchisee and its Key Participants may not directly or indirectly,

1. Divert, solicit, interfere with, misappropriate, take away or attempt to divert or take away any source of Stratus Building Solutions business or revenue generated by a Stratus Building Solutions Master Franchisee, Stratus Building Solutions Unit Franchisee or the customer or any Master Franchisee or Unit Franchisee.

2. Perform any services for, engage in or acquire, become an employee of, have any financial beneficial or equitable interest in, or have any interest whatsoever in any business which:

(a) performs any type of cleaning and/or maintenance related services, including, but not limited to, commercial, industrial, institutional and residential cleaning services;

(b) is similar to the Stratus Building Solutions' janitorial, cleaning and maintenance system and business described in any of the following: this Agreement, a Stratus Building Solutions Unit Franchise Agreement or the Stratus Building Solutions Brand Standards Manuals, all as amended or revised from time to time; or

(c) sells, leases or distributes supplies and equipment related to any of the above.

3. Perform or contribute to any other act injurious or prejudicial to the goodwill associated with the Stratus Marks or System.



For clarity, Master Franchisee's support of Unit Franchisees' Additional Business Services will not qualify as a violation of any of the above.

C. Non-Competition After Term of Agreement Has Expired – Within the Non-compete Area and for a period of two (2) years immediately following the termination, assignment or other transfer of this Agreement, the Master Franchisee and its Key Participants may not directly or indirectly.

1. Divert, solicit, interfere with, misappropriate, take away or attempt to divert or take away any source of Stratus Building Solutions business or revenue, Stratus Building Solutions customer or Stratus Building Solutions unit franchisee.

2. Perform any services for, engage in or acquire, become an employee of, have any financial, beneficial, or equitable interest in, or have any interest whatsoever in any business which:

(a) performs any type of cleaning and/or maintenance related services, including but not limited to, commercial industrial, institutional and residential cleaning services; or

(b) is similar to the Stratus Building Solutions' janitorial, cleaning and maintenance system and business described in any of the following: this Agreement, a Stratus Building Solutions Unit Franchise Agreement or the Stratus Building Solutions Brand Standards Manuals, all as amended or revised from time to time.

(c) sells, leases or distributes supplies and equipment related to any of the above.

3. Perform or contribute to any other act injurious or prejudicial to the goodwill associated with the Stratus Marks or System.

The "Non-Compete Area" means: (1) within one hundred (100) miles of the Master Franchisee's Territory and (2) within one hundred (100) miles of any other Stratus Building Solutions Master Franchisee territory, any Stratus Building Solutions Unit Franchisee or other business which is franchised, owned, operated or managed by or under the direction or auspices of SBS or any of its affiliates which is within one hundred (100) miles of the Master Franchisee's Territory.

For clarity, Master Franchisee's support of Unit Franchisees' Additional Business Services during the term of Unit Franchisees' Franchise Agreements will not qualify as a violation of any of the above.

D. Key Participant Defined – In this Section, the term "Key Participants" includes, without limitation:

1. All owners and their spouses (only if such spouses independently sign the Master Franchise Agreement or have a direct or indirect ownership interest in Master Franchisee (if Master Franchisee is a business entity) or the Master Franchise business;
2. All directors or others in similar decision-making or fiduciary capacity, regardless of title;
3. All officers and managers (including division managers); and
4. All people with supervisory or management positions.

Master Franchisee is obligated, at all times, to identify and provide SBS with the names of all its Key Participants. Failure to do so is a material breach of this Agreement. SBS has the sole and final authority to determine whether a person has the necessary training or access to Proprietary Information and/or decision-making authority to fall under the definition of a “Key Participant”.

E. Claims Not A Defense – No claim that Master Franchisee may have against SBS, whether or not it arises under this Agreement, may be asserted as a defense to SBS’ enforcement of the provision of this Section.

F. Reasonableness of Restrictions – SBS intends to restrict the activities of Master Franchisee and its Key Participants only to the extent necessary for the protection of SBS’s legitimate business interests. If any of the provisions or restrictions herein are excessively broad as to time, geographical scope, activity or subject, that provision must be limited and construed in a way that makes it enforceable under the applicable law.

G. SBS Remedies For Breach – Master Franchisee acknowledges that a violation of the terms and conditions of this Section will irreparably and continually damage SBS and that money damages may not be adequate (and thus no remedy at law may be available). Consequently, if SBS discovers such a violation or reasonably believes that such a violation is about to occur, then SBS is entitled to both (1) a temporary, preliminary or permanent injunction to prevent the continuing harm to SBS, and (2) money damages insofar as they can be determined. No bond is required for the issuance of a temporary restraining order of preliminary injunction and Master Franchisee expressly waives the imposition of any bond for that purpose. Master Franchisee must pay SBS’ costs (including expert witness fees) and actual attorney fees necessary to pursue any SBS remedy under this Section.

H. SBS Third-Party Beneficiary – Master Franchisee acknowledges that SBS is a third-party beneficiary of every duty, obligation and covenant imposed on the Master Franchisee and its Key Participants in this Section with the independent right to enforce them without notice to the Master Franchisee.

I. Non-Compete Agreements Required – Every Key Participant must execute a Non-Compete Agreement in the form attached as Exhibit A. Failure of the Master Franchisee to procure this Non-Compete Agreement from each Key Participants is a material breach of this Agreement.

### **XIII. INSURANCE & INDEMNIFICATION**

Master Franchisee must purchase and, while this Agreement is in effect maintain, a commercial cleaning services bond and policies of insurance with such minimum standards, coverage’s, and limits as SBS may, from time to time, prescribe in its regulations and Brand Standards Manuals (which may include, without limitation, worker’s compensation, property, bodily injury, automotive coverage (including hired car, and non-ownership vehicles), completed operation and products coverage with an extended property damage endorsement for building services contractors, cyber liability insurance, and employer’s liability). In addition, the Master Franchisee must purchase and maintain such insurance and/or bonds required by any government or government agency. Master Franchisee must provide SBS with proof of coverage at the following times:

1. Prior to the Opening Date, and this Agreement is not in effect until proof of coverage is received by SBS;
2. Annually on the anniversary date of the policy; and

3. At any other time requested by SBS.

Master Franchisee fails or refuses to purchase insurance conforming to the standards, coverage and limits prescribed by SBS, then SBS, through agents and insurance companies of its own choosing, may, but is not required to purchase such insurance as is necessary to meet such standards. The cost of such insurance so purchased by SBS will be at the expense of, and paid by, Master Franchisee. Such insurance as may be obtained by SBS for Master Franchisee may be amended, cancelled, terminated, or modified at any time upon ten (10) days written notice to Master Franchisee.

Nothing contained in this Agreement may be construed or deemed to impose any duty on SBS to obtain or maintain any specific forms, kinds or amounts of insurance for or on behalf of Master Franchisee, or as an undertaking or representation by SBS that such insurance as may be obtained by Master Franchisee or by SBS for Master Franchisee will insure Master Franchisee against any or all insurable risks of loss that may arise out of or in connection with the operation of the Master Franchisee's business.

Master Franchisee may obtain, on his own behalf and at his own cost and expense, such insurance as Master Franchisee, from time to time, may desire, in addition to that required by SBS.

Each policy of insurance purchased by Master Franchisee must name SBS and Trademark Owner as an additional insured and include a Grantor of Franchise endorsement, and shall provide that SBS shall be given at least ten (10) days prior written notice of its termination, amendment, cancellation or modification. Master Franchisee shall provide SBS with a Certificate of Insurance evidencing the amount, nature and period of coverage no later than: (i) ten (10) days after the sooner of: (a) the date Master Franchisee signs an office lease for the Business or (b) the date Master Franchisee hires its first employee, but in any case (ii) ten (10) days prior to the Opening Date. Master Franchisee shall provide current certificates during the entire term of this Agreement or any renewal terms.

Master Franchisee is solely responsible for and agrees to indemnify SBS and Trademark Owner for all loss or damage arising out of or in connection with, the operation of the Master Franchisee's business, and for all claims or demands for damages or injury (including death) to persons or property, including actual attorney fees. In addition, SBS and Trademark Owner may, at their sole option, retain their own counsel to defend any such action or claim and Master Franchisee agrees to promptly reimburse SBS and Trademark Owner for its reasonable attorney fees.

Master Franchisee agrees to require unit franchisees within its Territory, as a condition to granting any unit franchise or license, to carry similar types and amounts of insurance, and if necessary purchase such insurance for the benefit of the unit franchisee, as required by SBS rules and regulations, which may be revised at SBS' sole discretion at anytime

#### **XIV. PROTECTING MATERIALS AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

A. Confidentiality – Master Franchisee acknowledges it has no ownership interest in the trade secrets, information, ideas, research, methods, manuals, procedures, systems, improvements, and copyrighted and other materials including educational or training materials, fee and Unit Franchise records, and the Brand Standards Manuals, owned or developed by or licensed to SBS, whether or not published, confidential, or suitable for registration or copyright, and the goodwill associated with them. They are provided or revealed to Master Franchisee in trust and confidence. Any and all information, knowledge, and know-how not generally known about the Stratus Building Solutions System and methods, products, services, standards, specifications, procedures and techniques, and such other information or materials as SBS may designate as confidential, shall be deemed confidential and shall be Proprietary Information for purposes of this Agreement.

B. Disclosure Prohibited – Master Franchisee agrees to keep the aforesaid Proprietary Information confidential and to use it only for the purpose and in the manner authorized in writing by SBS. Master Franchisee agrees that during and after the termination of this Agreement for any reason, neither Master Franchisee, nor any of his agents, employees, owners, or representatives shall at any time copy or disclose to any other person or use for any purpose other than the internal operation of its franchised business, any Proprietary Information received from SBS. Master Franchisee agrees to enforce the terms of this provision as to its agents, employees, representatives, and owners. Further, Master Franchisee hereby grants SBS the right, but not the obligation, to enforce this covenant in Master Franchisee's name or SBS' name against any such agent, employee, owner, or representative violating same.

C. This Agreement – Master Franchisee shall keep the content of this Agreement and any attachments or Exhibits hereto, confidential. Master Franchisee shall not publish the contents of this Agreement to any third parties except when required to obtain a lease or bank credit, or to obey a law, governmental agency or court of law.

D. Stratus Building Solutions Materials Exclusive Property of SBS – As between the parties hereto, all Stratus Building Solutions materials, manuals and other Proprietary Information described in this Agreement, at all times remain the exclusive property of SBS. Master Franchisee agrees to use all Proprietary Information in strict confidence and only in connection with the sale or service of Unit Franchises and/or related products pursuant to this Agreement, and only while this Agreement is in effect.

E. Protection of Customer Information – Master Franchisee shall use its best efforts to protect customers against a cyber-event, identity theft, or theft of personal information. You must at all times be in compliance with (a) the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standards ("PCI DSS") (as they may be modified from time to time or as successor standards are adopted), (b) the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act ("FACTA"); (c) regional, national, and local laws and regulations relating to data and personal privacy, data security, security breaches, and electronic payments, (d) the operating rules and regulations of all credit card, debit card and/or ACH processors and networks that are utilized in the Franchised Business, and I security policies and guidelines of SBS, all as may be amended from time to time.

## **XV. USE & OWNERSHIP OF NAMES & TRADEMARKS**

A. Use of Stratus Building Solutions Name Required – Unless otherwise approved by SBS in writing, Master Franchisee must manage, market and conduct its business under the name "Stratus Building Solutions" or Stratus Building Solutions of (City)" or "Stratus of (City)" or such other names(s) that SBS may specify (hereinafter "Franchise Name") as directed by SBS and at SBS' sole discretion. SBS reserves the right, upon reasonable notice, to amend or change the Franchise Name under which the Master Franchisee and all Unit Franchises are to be managed and marketed, and to direct Master Franchisee to assume any such new or amended Franchise Name as a condition to continuation of the Master Franchise.

A Stratus Building Solutions Mark may be used in conjunction with its formal business name, such as "John Doe d/b/a/ Stratus Building Solutions" or "ABC Inc. d/b/a/ Stratus". Master Franchisee may not use as part of a corporate name or other legal name, (i) any other janitorial maintenance, or cleaning services name in conjunction with their formal name, i.e. such as "ABC Custodial", "ABC Maintenance", "ABC Cleaning Services" etc., (ii) a name prefix of "Stratus Building Solutions", "Stratus", "SBS", or any other similarly spelled or sounding prefix, or (iii) any other trademarks, service marks or trade names. All names of the entity operating as Master Franchisee, including corporate names, business names, trade or assumed names, or other legal names must be approved by SBS prior to adoption for use. All use of the Stratus Building Solutions Marks, names, or service marks by Master Franchisee or any Unit Franchisee inure to the benefit of SBS or Trademark Owner, and all such intellectual rights and properties remain the sole

property of SBS or Trademark Owner. All directory listings, advertising, web sites letterhead, or any other visual or printed matter used by Master Franchisee to communicate to anyone must conform to established Stratus standards and procedures and are subject to review and approval by Stratus prior to use and Master Franchisee agrees to submit to SBS, prior to use by Master Franchisee, samples of any and all advertising and promotional plans and materials of any type which contain in any manner any of the trade names, service marks, trademarks, slogans and logos as are now or which in the future may be approved for use by Master Franchisee.

B. Identification & Ownership of Stratus Building Solutions Marks – Master Franchisee understands and acknowledges that the Marks are owned by Trademark Owner; and that Trademark Owner has licensed to SBS the right to use and sublicense the Marks and other intellectual property. Subject to the terms and conditions described below, SBS grants to the Master Franchisee the exclusive right to establish and operate a Stratus Building Solutions Master Franchise in the Territory and a license to use the Marks and Stratus System. Master Franchisee shall use commercially reasonable efforts to identify Trademark Owner as the owner of the Marks in advertising and promotional materials.

Nothing in this Agreement may be construed as an assignment or grant to Master Franchisee of any right, title, or interest in or to any Stratus Building Solutions Marks it being understood that all rights relating thereto are reserved by SBS except as specifically provided in this Agreement. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as an assignment, grant, or license to Master Franchisee or any Unit Franchisee of any right, title, or interest in any trade names, trademarks, services marks, trade symbols, emblems, signs, slogans, insignia, or copyrights not designated by this Agreement as licensed to Master Franchisee, which may be developed by SBS for use with other franchise systems for the sale of products or services at any location. Master Franchisee recognizes the great value of the good will associated with the Franchise Name and acknowledges that the Franchise Name and all rights therein and goodwill pertaining thereto belong exclusively to SBS and Trademark Owner. Master Franchisee agrees that every use of the Franchise Name shall inure to the benefit of SBS and Trademark Owner, and that Master Franchisee shall not at any time acquire any rights in the Franchise Name. Master Franchisee agrees that it will not, while this Agreement is in effect or thereafter, attack the title or any rights of SBS or Trademark Owner in and to the Franchise Name or attack the validity of this license for the use of the Franchise Name or do anything which would jeopardize or diminish SBS' or Trademark Owner's rights to or the value of the Franchise Name.

C. No Modification of Stratus Building Solutions Marks, Logos or Artwork – Master Franchisee agrees not to alter or modify any Stratus Building Solutions Mark or associated artwork or logo and must submit to Stratus Building Solutions plans, drawings, or samples of any signs, decals, or outdoor advertising and copies of all advertising, brochures, directory listings and other printed matter or any proposed use of any of the Stratus Building Solutions Marks to SBS for review and approval as to their compliance with Stratus Building Solutions standards and policies prior to their use, dissemination or publication. Such approval will not be unreasonably withheld.

D. Non-Ownership of Marks – Master Franchisee acknowledges that it has no right, title or interest in or to any Stratus Building Solutions Marks, except for Master Franchisee's privilege and license during the term hereof to display and use the Marks. Master Franchisee acknowledges that Master Franchisee now asserts no claim and later may assert no claim to any goodwill, reputation, or ownership of the Marks by virtue of Master Franchisee's licensed or franchised use any of them.

As between the parties hereto, every Master Franchisee name or mark that includes any of the Stratus Building Solutions' Marks, whether in whole or in part, is the sole property of SBS. As between the parties, every Master Franchisee name regardless of how or where it is used, and whether or not it is used in conjunction with any artwork or logo that is designed or created by the Master Franchisee, is the property

of SBS. Master Franchisee may not register any name or mark that includes any of Stratus Building Solutions Marks, in whole or in part, without SBS' prior written consent, which consent may be withheld in SBS' sole discretion without cause or justification. Every website URL that includes any of Stratus Building Solutions Marks, in whole or in part, must be registered to Trademark Owner at Master Franchisee's expense and must comply with all specifications and standards set forth by SBS for website design and use, and must be approved by SBS.

Master Franchisee may not establish a presence on, or market using, the Internet, any website, Social Media (such as Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube, blogs and other online social networks, wikis, forums, content sharing communities, etc.), mobile app, or any other technology platform that may be developed in the future, in connection with the Franchised Business without Franchisor's prior written consent. Franchisor has established and maintains Internet websites at the uniform resource locators [www.StratusBuildingSolutions.com](http://www.StratusBuildingSolutions.com) and [www.StratusClean.com](http://www.StratusClean.com) that each provide information about the System and the products and services that Franchisor and its franchisees provide. Franchisor may (but is not required to) include at these aforementioned websites an intranet section or an interior page containing information about the Franchised Business. If Franchisor includes such information, Franchisor has the right to require Master Franchisee to contribute to or prepare some or all of the section or page, at the Master Franchisee's expense, in the manner that Franchisor directs, and to require Master Franchisee to pay reasonable, per page web hosting fees to Franchisor (or a third-party web hosting firm) on a monthly basis. All such information shall be subject to Franchisor's written approval prior to posting. Franchisor retains the sole right to advertise and sell the products and services offered by franchised businesses and use the Marks on the Internet and other technology platforms, including the use of websites, domain names, uniform resource locators, keywords, linking, search engines (and search engine optimization techniques), Social Media pages, banner ads, meta-tags, marketing, auction sites, e-commerce and co-branding arrangements. Master Franchisee may be requested to provide content for such marketing and shall be required to follow Franchisor's intranet and Internet usage rules, policies, and requirements. Franchisor retains the sole right to approve any linking to, or other use of, Stratus or Stratus Building Solutions website. If Master Franchisee is permitted to establish a presence on an Internet website or Social Media site, Master Franchisee must comply with Franchisor's guidelines as they may be revised from time-to-time, and such permission may be revoked at any time. As a condition of such permission, Franchisor must be granted continuous administrative access to the account. Master Franchisee acknowledges and agrees that upon the expiration, termination, or non-renewal of this Agreement, any such accounts shall be immediately deleted or assigned to Franchisor as Franchisor directs.

E. Acts in Derogation of the Marks – Master Franchisee agrees that Master Franchisee shall not do or permit any act or thing to be done in derogation of any of the rights of SBS or Trademark Owner in connection with the Marks, either during the term of this Agreement or after, and that Master Franchisee shall use the Marks only for the uses and in the manner licensed or franchised or both under, and as provided in, this Agreement.

F. Prohibition Against Disputing Franchisor's Rights – During or after the term of this Agreement, Master Franchisee agrees not to dispute or impugn, in any way, the validity of the Marks, or the rights of SBS or Trademark Owner to them; or the rights of SBS, Trademark Owner, or other Stratus Building Solutions Master Franchisees to use them.

G. Use of Marks –

1. Except as expressly permitted in this Agreement or in the Stratus Building Solutions Brand Standards Manuals, Master Franchisee may not erect or display any signs, or display any

trademarks, logotypes, symbols, or service marks in, upon, or in connection with Master Franchisee's operation without SBS' prior written approval.

2. Master Franchisee may use Stratus Building Solutions' Marks to promote, market and operate its Master Franchise. SBS fully anticipates that Master Franchisee will use Stratus Building Solutions Marks to promote, market and operate the business licensed under this Agreement by using such symbols in marketing and advertising materials, signs, and displays; but such use shall not, in any manner, bring discredit upon Stratus Building Solutions, the System, the Master Franchisee or any Unit Franchisee. Such promotional efforts may not include the use of Stratus Building Solutions Marks on any product or item (such as wearing apparel) offered for sale by Master Franchisee, without SBS' prior written permission, for which a separate royalty may be charged. Any such products which may be associated with Stratus Building Solutions, the Master Franchisee or any Unit Franchisee which are not purchased by or through SBS will be subject to specifications and quality standards as established from time to time by SBS in its sole discretion.

3. Upon the termination of this Agreement for any reason, Master Franchisee agrees to immediately deliver and surrender up to SBS each and all of the Marks and any physical objects bearing or containing any of those Marks. Alternatively, at Master Franchisee's election, Master Franchisee shall obliterate or destroy any service marks or trademarks in Master Franchisee's possession.

H. Non-Use of Trade Name – If Master Franchisee is an entity (e.g. a corporation or limited liability company), its names may not use or include any Stratus Building Solutions Marks or any words or symbols that are confusingly similar to any of them, in whole or in part.

I. Assumed Name Registration – If Master Franchisee is required to do so by any statute or ordinance, Master Franchisee must promptly, upon the execution of this Agreement, file with applicable government agencies or offices a notice of Master Franchisee's intent to conduct Master Franchisee's business under the Stratus Building Solutions Marks. Promptly upon the expiration or termination of this Agreement, regardless of the reason, Master Franchisee must execute and file such documents as may be necessary to revoke or terminate such assumed name registration, and if Master Franchisee fails to promptly execute and file such documents as may be necessary to effectively revoke and terminate such assumed name registration, Master Franchisee hereby irrevocably appoints SBS as Master Franchisee's attorney-in-fact to do so for and on behalf of Master Franchisee.

J. Telephone Numbers & Listings – Master Franchisee acknowledges there will be substantial confusion in the mind of the public, if after the expiration or termination of this Agreement, Master Franchisee continues to use the telephone number(s) used by Master Franchisee in conjunction with any business conducted under this Agreement whether or not listed in any telephone directory (including "yellow pages"). Therefore, Master Franchisee agrees to promptly assign its rights to all phone numbers used or listed in conjunction with any business conducted under this Agreement. Immediately after the expiration or termination of this Agreement for any reason whatsoever, Master Franchisee must direct every telephone company or other service provider the Master Franchisee to transfer the telephone number listed for the Master Franchisee in the then-current yellow pages of any telephone directory, to SBS or to such person and at such location as SBS directs. If Master Franchisee fails to promptly so direct the telephone company, Master Franchisee hereby irrevocably appoints SBS as his attorney-in-fact to direct the telephone company to make such transfer.

K. Trademark Changes – From time to time, in the Brand Standards Manuals, SBS may modify its Marks. Master Franchisee shall accept, use and display, as may be applicable, such modified Marks in accordance with the procedures, rules and regulations contained in the Brand Standards Manuals, as though such modifications were specifically set forth in this Agreement.

L. Defense of Mark by SBS – If Master Franchisee receives notice or is informed or learns of any claim, suit or demand against Master Franchisee on account of any alleged infringement, unfair competition, or similar matter relating to Master Franchisee’s use of the marks, Master Franchisee shall promptly notify SBS of such claim, suit or demand. Except as herein expressly provided, upon receiving such notice, SBS shall promptly take such action as it deems necessary to protect and defend Master Franchisee against any such claim by any third party and shall indemnify Master Franchisee against any loss, cost or expense incurred in connection with such claim. Master Franchisee shall not settle or compromise any such claim without the prior written consent of SBS. As between the parties hereto, SBS shall have the right to defend, compromise or settle any such claim at SBS’ sole cost and expense, using attorneys of its own choosing, and Master Franchisee agrees to cooperate fully with SBS in connection with the defense of any such claim. Master Franchisee irrevocably grants authority and power of attorney to SBS to defend or settle all of such claims, demands or suits. Master Franchisee may participate at Master Franchisee’s own expense in such defense or settlement, but SBS’ decision with regard to such defense or settlement shall be final. Notwithstanding the foregoing, SBS shall have no obligation to defend or indemnify Master Franchisee pursuant to this section if the claim suit or demand against Master Franchisee arises out of or relates to Master Franchisee’s use of the Marks in violation of the terms of this Agreement.

M. Prosecution of Infringers – If Master Franchisee receives notice or is informed or learns that any third party, which Master Franchisee believes to be unauthorized to use Stratus Building Solutions’ Marks, is using any of the Marks or any variant of them, Master Franchisee shall promptly notify SBS of the facts relating to such alleged infringing use. Thereupon, SBS or Trademark Owner shall determine whether or not to take any action against such third person on account of such alleged infringement of the Stratus Building Solutions Marks. Master Franchisee shall have no right to make any demand against any such alleged infringer of the Marks or to prosecute any claim of any kind or nature whatsoever against such alleged infringer of the Marks for or on account of such infringement.

## **XVI. FRANCHISOR OBLIGATIONS & MASTER FRANCHISEE TRAINING**

### **A. SBS covenants and pledges to:**

Provide the Master Franchisee, prior to opening, with the new office materials package as outlined in the Stratus Building Solutions Disclosure Document.

Provide a comprehensive Operational Training Program that will include training at the SBS principal business office inclusive of the following described training sessions: the Program will begin with an extensive training session at the SBS principal business office, which will include Stratus Building Solutions methods and procedures for franchising, sale and management of unit franchise sales, and operations using formal instruction, self-study materials and practical training.

Provide ongoing training sessions and master franchise meetings and seminars (annual/regional) from time to time. Master Franchisee understands that attendance at these sessions is mandatory and agrees to attend and be responsible for its travel and lodging cost in connection therewith. If SBS convenes an annual meeting of all Stratus master franchisees (the “Annual Conference”), and Master Franchisee fails to attend such Annual Conference, Franchisor shall have the right, in its sole discretion, to impose a non-attendance fee on Master Franchisee. Currently, this fee is equal to \$2,500 multiplied by the number of Annual Conferences that Master Franchisee has failed to attend during the initial term of this Agreement and/or any Renewal Term but may be adjusted in Franchisor’s sole discretion.

Have personnel available on an ongoing basis during normal business hours to provide technical assistance, consultation, and advice on marketing and operations procedures by telephone and/or computer.



Additional consultation at Master Franchisee's business premises is available upon request at the Master Franchisee's expense.

Advise Master Franchisee on all appropriate facets of the Stratus Building Solutions System, and to keep Master Franchisee advised of all pertinent new developments in the janitorial franchising industry as well as procedures for improved efficiency.

Inform Master Franchisee of promotional materials, sales, and services manuals, and other materials as they are developed that would be relevant to the operation of a Stratus Franchise.

SBS retains the right to assume responsibility for computerized or manual billing and accounting services to business serviced by Master Franchisee or its franchisees, under the following circumstances:

1. If Master Franchisee fails to make prompt or timely payment of any monies owed to SBS as required herein; or
2. If Master Franchisee fails to make prompt and timely payment of any monies owed to any suppliers of goods and services or any creditors, where the amount due and owing is not disputed; or
3. If Master Franchisee fails to comply with terms of any unit franchise agreement to which it is a party and withhold monies due to the unit franchisee, after unit franchisee has made a written request to Master Franchisee; or
4. If SBS has any other reason to believe that Master Franchisee is retaining funds in its possession or control in conflict with the terms of this Agreement or any unit franchise agreement.

In the event any of the above circumstances exist, SBS shall have the right to request in writing that Master Franchisee act within ten (10) days of said request to properly distribute all funds previously collected. If Master Franchisee does not fully comply with SBS' request, SBS may take all necessary steps to ensure that billing of accounts is performed and that each unit Franchisee and SBS receive all monies to which they are entitled. If SBS or its designee does perform any computerized or manual billing and accounting services to business serviced by Master Franchisee or its franchisees, SBS shall, on or before the last working day of each month, disburse to each unit franchisee or to the Master Franchisee all monies due each party, respectively, from actual collections made during the month prior to the month of payment, after first deducting from any monies collected, the costs incurred by SBS to perform said computerized or manual billing and accounting services.

B. Advertising Fund. SBS does not currently have an advertising fund or currently collect monthly advertising and public relations fees, but it reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to reestablish the Stratus Cleaning advertising fund ("Stratus Cleaning Advertising Fund") and require Master Franchisee to contribute an amount equal to the greater of \$150 or one percent (1%) of Gross Revenues per month to the Stratus Cleaning Advertising Fund in accordance with Section IV.B.4 hereof. If reestablished, the Stratus Cleaning Advertising Fund shall be maintained and administered by SBS as follows:

1. SBS shall direct all advertising programs, with sole discretion over the concepts, materials, and media used in such programs and the placement and allocation thereof. Master Franchisee agrees and acknowledges that the Stratus Cleaning Advertising Fund is intended to maximize general public recognition, acceptance, and use of the System; and that SBS is not obligated, in administering the Stratus Cleaning Advertising Fund, to make expenditures for Master Franchisee or any franchisees which are equivalent or proportionate to Master Franchisee's or any franchisees' contribution, or to ensure that any

particular Master Franchisee benefits directly or from expenditures by the Stratus Cleaning Advertising Fund;

2. The Stratus Cleaning Advertising Fund, all contributions thereto, and any earnings thereon, shall be used exclusively to meet any and all costs of maintaining, administering, directing, conducting and preparing advertising, marketing, public relations, and/or promotional programs and materials, and any other activities which SBS believes will enhance the image of the System, including, among other things, advertising in cleaning trade magazines in order to acquire new accounts and in entrepreneurial-type magazines to assist in the acquisition of unit franchisees, the costs of preparing and conducting radio, cable television, print, and Internet-based advertising campaigns; and other emerging media or promotional tactics; developing, maintaining, and updating any Website(s) on the Internet; direct mail advertising; marketing surveys; employing advertising and/or public relations agencies to assist therein; purchasing promotional items; and providing promotional and other marketing materials and services to the businesses operating under the System;

3. Master Franchisee shall contribute by separate payment to the Stratus Cleaning Advertising Fund in accordance with Section IV.B.4 hereof. All sums paid by Master Franchisee to the Stratus Cleaning Advertising Fund shall be maintained in an account separate from the other monies of SBS and shall not be used to defray any of SBS's expenses, except for such reasonable costs and overhead, if any, as SBS may incur in activities reasonably related to the direction and implementation of the Stratus Cleaning Advertising Fund and advertising programs for franchisees and the System, including, among other things, costs of personnel for creating and implementing advertising, promotional and marketing programs, and a pro rata portion of the salaries of SBS's personnel who spend time on Stratus Cleaning Advertising Fund-related matters. The Stratus Cleaning Advertising Fund and any earnings thereon shall not otherwise inure to the benefit of SBS. SBS may spend, on behalf of the Stratus Cleaning Advertising Fund, in any fiscal year, an amount that is greater or less than the aggregate contribution of all Master Franchisees to the Stratus Cleaning Advertising Fund in that year and the Stratus Cleaning Advertising Fund may borrow from SBS or others to cover deficits or invest any surplus for future use. All interest earned on monies contributed to the Stratus Cleaning Advertising Fund will be used to pay advertising costs before other assets of the Stratus Cleaning Advertising Fund are expended. SBS shall not be obligated to audit the Stratus Cleaning Advertising Fund. SBS has the right to cause the Stratus Cleaning Advertising Fund to be incorporated or operated through a separate entity at such time as SBS deems appropriate and such successor entity will have all of the rights and duties specified herein. SBS shall maintain separate bookkeeping accounts for the Stratus Cleaning Advertising Fund. Master Franchisee acknowledges that SBS is not a fiduciary to Master Franchisee or any franchisees of the monies in the Stratus Cleaning Advertising Fund;

4. It is anticipated that all contributions to and earnings of the Stratus Cleaning Advertising Fund will be expended for advertising and/or promotional purposes during the taxable year within which the contributions are made. If, however, excess amounts remain in the Stratus Cleaning Advertising Fund at the end of such taxable year, all expenditures in the following taxable year(s) will be made first out of accumulated earnings from previous years, next out of earnings in the current year, and finally from contributions; and

5. The Stratus Cleaning Advertising Fund shall be of perpetual duration. SBS maintains the right to terminate the Stratus Cleaning Advertising Fund. The Stratus Cleaning Advertising Fund may not be terminated, however, until all monies in the Stratus Cleaning Advertising Fund have been expended for advertising and/or promotional purposes or returned to contributors on the basis of their respective contributions.

## **XVII. DEFAULT AND TERMINATION**

A. Termination For Upon Thirty Days' Notice – Except as provided in Section XVII.B. below, Master Franchisee will have thirty (30) calendar days after SBS furnishes a written notice of default to cure any default under this Agreement and to provide SBS with evidence that it has done so. If Master Franchisee has not cured any default within thirty (30) calendar days or any longer period that applicable law may require, SBS will have the right to terminate this Agreement effective immediately. Master Franchisee will be in default of this Agreement for any failure to comply with any of the requirements imposed upon it, its owners or its Key Participants by this Agreement or by SBS' Brand Standards Manual or if Master Franchisee, its owners, or its Key Participants otherwise fail to fulfill the terms of this Agreement in good faith.

B. Termination Upon Material Default – A material default occurs, and SBS therefore has the right to terminate this Agreement effective immediately without opportunity to cure, effective upon notice to Master Franchisee, if any of the following occur:

1. Master Franchisee abandons its Stratus Building Solutions Master Franchise business;
2. Master Franchisee or any Owner is charged, convicted of, or pleads guilty or no contest to a charge relating to any crime or offense directly or indirectly related to the business conducted pursuant to this Agreement;
3. Master Franchisee fails to cure a default under this Agreement which materially impairs the good will associated with the Marks and/or System after the Master Franchisee has received written notice to cure of at least 24 hours in advance thereof;
4. The bankruptcy or insolvency of the Master franchisee;
5. Assignment for the benefit of creditors or similar disposition of the assets of the Master Franchise business;
6. Any act by or conduct of the Master Franchisee which materially impairs the good will associated with the Marks and/or System.
7. Master Franchisee has made or makes any material misrepresentation relating to this Agreement or Master Franchise business or in its application to become a Master Franchisee;
8. Master Franchisee fails, for a period of ten (10) calendar days after notification of noncompliance, to comply with any federal, state or local law or regulation applicable to the operation of its business (including, without limitation, any law, ordinance, rule or regulation affecting or governing the offer, sale, advertising and promotion of Unit Franchisees or the franchise relationship);
9. Master Franchisee attempts to assign the Master Franchise business or any right or obligation under this Agreement without the previous written consent of SBS;
10. Master Franchisee repeatedly fails to comply with one or more requirements of this Agreement or any other agreement with SBS, whether or not corrected after notice;
11. The Master Franchise business premises are seized, taken over or foreclosed by a government official in the exercise of his duties, or seized, taken over, or foreclosed by a creditor, lienholder

or lessor; or a final judgment against Franchisee remains unsatisfied for thirty (30) calendar days (unless a supersedeas or other appeal bond has been filed); or a levy of execution has been made upon the licenses granted by this Agreement or upon any property used in the Master Franchise business, and it is not discharged within five (5) calendar days of such levy;

12. SBS makes a determination that continued operation of the Master Business by Master Franchisee will result in an imminent danger to public health or safety;

13. Master Franchisee knowingly conceals revenues; maintain false books or records; falsifies information or otherwise defrauds or makes false representations to SBS; or submits any substantially false report to SBS;

14. Master Franchisee or any of its Key Participants fails to comply with the covenant not to compete during the term of this Agreement or violates the restrictions pertaining to the use of confidential information contained in this Agreement; or

15. Master Franchisee engages in any act or conduct, or fail to engage in any act or conduct, which under this Agreement specifically authorizes us to terminate this Agreement immediately upon notice.

C. Notice Required By Law – If any valid applicable law or regulation of a governmental authority having jurisdiction over this Master Franchise and the parties, limits SBS’ rights of rescission or termination under this Agreement or requires longer notice periods than those set forth above, this Agreement is deemed amended to conform to the minimum notice periods or restrictions upon rescission or termination required by such laws and regulations. SBS is not, however, precluded from contesting the validity, enforceability or application of such laws or regulations in any action, arbitration, hearing or dispute relating to this Agreement or to its rescission or termination.

## **XVIII. OBLIGATIONS & RIGHTS UPON TERMINATION**

A. Obligations After Termination – When used in this Section the term “termination” (as in “the termination of this Agreement”) means the end of this Agreement regardless of cause or reason, and includes, without limitation, termination, non-renewal and expiration of this Agreement.

Upon termination of this Agreement, whether by reason of default, lapse of time or other cause, Master Franchisee agrees to immediately discontinue the use of all Stratus Building Solutions Marks (singly or in conjunction with any other name, artwork or item) and shall not thereafter operate or do business under any name similarly spelled or sounding in prefix or as a part of any entity name or fictitious name, or in any manner that might tend to give the general public the impression that the Master Franchisee is operating as Stratus Building Solutions franchise or any business similar to an Stratus Building Solutions franchise.

Master Franchisee shall immediately return to SBS and shall not thereafter use, in any manner, or for any purpose, directly or indirectly, any of the Stratus Building Solutions Marks or Proprietary Information including, without limitation, all of the following:

1. Any manuals, bulletins, instruction sheets, including all supplements and updates there;
2. All forms, advertising matter, trademarks, devices, insignia, slogans and designs used from time to time in connection with the Master Franchisee’s business; all advertising matter, products, or writing that contain any Stratus Building Solutions trade name, logo, or copyright, as well as any information of a

proprietary nature such as lists and files pertaining to customers/clients and/or to any Unit Franchisee, operational documents and similar information. All such lists, files and the information contained therein shall remain the exclusive property of SBS and shall upon termination immediately be surrendered to SBS, and all use of such information thereafter by anyone other than SBS is prohibited.

3. All telephone numbers used under the names granted for use in this Agreement, or any similar designation that relates to SBS, and whether or not listed in any telephone directory; which the Master Franchisee shall assign to SBS executing all forms required by any telephone service provider for that transfer, and if the Master Franchisee fails to promptly so direct the telephone company, Master Franchisee hereby irrevocably appoints SBS as his attorney-in-fact to direct the telephone company to make such transfer.

4. All files and records, franchise agreements, and any other documents or information related to the operation of the Master Franchise business and its Unit Franchisees, including without limitation, all Unit Franchisee lists, customer/client lists (with contact information, including names, addresses and phone numbers) and copies of all customer/client contracts.

5. All funds held for the benefits of a Unit Franchisee.

6. All keys to buildings, security passes and/or security codes, and any other means of access to a customer's property.

Master Franchisee agrees that the above-named items revert to, and are, the property of SBS. Until Master Franchisee complies with every obligation of this Agreement (including all post-termination responsibilities), and SBS notifies the Master Franchisee that it has fulfilled those obligations this Agreement remains in full force and effect with regard to Master Franchisee's obligations.

B. Outstanding Fees & Monetary Obligations – At termination, Master Franchisee must also pay, in full, all amounts owed to SBS at the date of termination and surrender any and all equipment belonging to SBS.

C. Termination of Unit Franchise Agreements – If this Agreement is terminated, SBS may, at SBS' sole option, immediately succeed, or designate and assign to a replacement master franchisee, the Master Franchisee's rights to manage and enforce all of the terms and conditions of a Unit Franchise Agreement, without notice to Master Franchisee or the Unit Franchisee. Should SBS succeed to the Master Franchisee's rights under any Unit Franchise Agreement, then the Master Franchisee's rights to benefit or receive revenues/royalty fees from the Unit Franchisee will simultaneously terminate. SBS may, but is not required to assume any of the Master Franchisee's obligations or liabilities to any Unit Franchisee. Should SBS elect not to assume or assign Master Franchisee's rights to manage and enforce all of the terms and conditions of a Unit Franchise Agreement, Master Franchisee must immediately terminate its Unit Franchisee Agreements.

D. Liquidated Damages for Non-Compliance – If the Master Franchisee has proclaimed to have terminated or not renewed this Agreement and refused to surrender the items described herein, the parties agree that the Master Franchisee shall pay to SBS Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) per day for each day that it has not complied with foregoing paragraph. The parties acknowledge that damages for Master Franchisee's failure to adhere to the foregoing paragraph are difficult to ascertain and therefore agree that this amount shall be payable as liquidated damages and not as a penalty.

E. Attorney-In-Fact – If the Master Franchisee fails or refuses to do so, SBS may execute, in the Master Franchisee's name and on the Master Franchisee's behalf, any and all documents necessary to

cause the discontinuance of Master Franchisee's use of the names, Marks, and Proprietary Information under this Agreement. Master Franchisee hereby irrevocably appoints SBS as Master Franchisee's attorney-in-fact to do so.

F. Continuing Obligation – All of SBS' rights and entitlements under this Agreement survive its termination or expiration, and SBS does not waive or release any rights it has to enforce this Agreement by acknowledging or accepting such termination or expiration. The termination or expiration of this Agreement does not relieve the Master Franchisee from any of its obligations under this Agreement, whether incurred, discovered or vested before or after such termination or expiration. Similarly, the Master Franchisee's obligations under this Agreement survive any termination or expiration.

## **XIX. DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

### **A. Dispute Resolution by Mediation**

The parties have reached this Agreement in good faith and in the belief that it is mutually advantageous to them. In the same spirit of cooperation, Franchisor agrees to try to resolve any and all disputes, controversies or claims that may arise between them concerning or related to this Agreement, its performance, and the relationship between Franchisor and Master Franchisee first through mediation, to be held in the city closest to our principal place of business at the time. Except as provided in except for controversies, disputes, or claims related to or based on improper use of the Marks and except as otherwise provided for in Section XIX.H below, either party shall submit such controversy or claim to non-binding mediation before the American Arbitration Association or other mutually agreeable mediator, within twenty (20) days after such dispute, controversy or claim has arisen. Both parties shall execute a confidentiality agreement not to disclose the fact of mediation, its procedures, information discovered or results to anyone other than its professional advisors who shall also agree to maintain such confidentiality reasonably satisfactory to us. Upon submission, the obligation to attend mediation will be binding on both parties, and a condition of mediation is that it shall be held and concluded within thirty (30) days after it has been requested. Each party will bear its own attorney fees and costs with respect to the mediation, except the fees for the mediation will be split equally. Good faith participation in these procedures to the greatest extent reasonably possible, despite lack of cooperation by one or more of the other parties, is a precondition to maintaining any legal action to interpret or enforce this Agreement. No party shall initiate or participate in any class action litigation claim against any other party bound hereby.

### **B. Arbitration**

1. The parties hereto agree that, except for controversies, disputes, or claims related to or based on improper use of the Marks and except as otherwise provided for in Section XIX.H below, all controversies, disputes, or claims between us and our affiliates, and our and their respective members, officers, managers, agents, and/or employees, and you (and/or your owners, managers, guarantors, affiliates, and/or employees) arising out of or related to:

- (a) this Agreement or any other agreement between you and us;
- (b) our relationship with you;
- (c) the validity of this Agreement or any other agreement between you and us; or
- (d) any Stratus System Standard;

must be submitted for binding arbitration, on demand of either party, to the American Arbitration Association. The arbitration proceedings will be conducted by one arbitrator and, except as this Subsection otherwise provides, according to the then current commercial arbitration rules of the American Arbitration Association. Any questions regarding the arbitrability of any claim is to be determined by the arbitrator and is binding upon the parties. All proceedings will be conducted at a suitable location chosen by the arbitrator in or nearest the city where our principal business address is then located. All matters relating to arbitration will be governed by the Federal Arbitration Act (9 U.S.C. §§ 1 et seq.). Judgment upon the arbitrator's award may be entered in any court of competent jurisdiction.

2. The arbitrator has the right to award or include in his or her award any relief which he or she deems proper, including, without limitation, money damages (with interest on unpaid amounts from the date due), specific performance, injunctive relief, and attorneys' fees and costs, provided that the arbitrator may not declare any Mark generic or otherwise invalid or, except as expressly provided in Subsection XVIII.G below, award any damages against either party.

3. We and you agree that any such dispute, controversy or claim between us must be submitted to arbitration no later than one (1) year after it has arisen, and that if it is not so submitted, we shall both regard it as time-barred under law. We and you further agree that, in any arbitration proceeding, each must submit or file any claim which would constitute a compulsory counterclaim (as defined by Rule 13 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure) within the same proceeding as the claim to which it relates. Any claim which is not submitted or filed as required is forever barred. The arbitrator may not consider any settlement discussions or offers that might have been made by either you or us.

4. We and you agree that arbitration will be conducted on an individual, not a class- wide, basis and that an arbitration proceeding between us and our affiliates, and our and their respective members, officers, managers, agents, and/or employees, and you (and/or your owners, managers, guarantors, affiliates, and/or employees) may not be consolidated with any other arbitration proceeding between us and any other person.

5. The provisions of this Section XIX are intended to benefit and bind certain third party non-signatories and will continue in full force and effect subsequent to and notwithstanding this Agreement's expiration or termination.

6. Limitation of Parties. Franchisor, Master Franchisee and Master Franchisee's principals may only seek damages or any remedy under law or equity for any claim against each other or their successors, assigns or guarantors arising out of or relating to the Agreement or the relationships of the parties. Franchisor and Master Franchisee agree that affiliates, shareholders, members, directors, officers, employees, agents and representatives will not be personally liable or named as a party in any litigation proceeding arising out of or relating to this Agreement or the relationship among the parties.

#### C. Governing Law and Venue

This Agreement and the franchise are governed by the law of the state in which the master franchise is located, except to the extent this Agreement or any dispute is governed by the Lanham Act or other federal law. In the event of a dispute that cannot be resolved between any of the parties hereto or otherwise arising in connection with this Agreement or the franchise relationship created pursuant to this Agreement, exclusive venue for any action or legal proceeding will be in the federal or state courts situated in the state in which your master franchise is located, and the parties (and their principals) hereby consent irrevocably to the exclusive jurisdiction of such courts.

#### D. Attorney's Fee and Costs

If Franchisor incurs legal fees or other expenses as a result of any breach by Master Franchisee of its obligations under this Agreement, then Franchisor will be entitled to recover from Master Franchisee the amount of all such legal fees and other expenses. Except as otherwise provided in this section, if either party is required to enforce this Agreement in a judicial or other legal proceeding, the party prevailing in such proceeding will be entitled to reimbursement of its costs and expenses, including reasonable accounting fees, expert witness fees and legal fees.

**E. WAIVER OF CERTAIN DAMAGES**

**THE PARTIES HEREBY WAIVE, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, ANY RIGHT TO OR CLAIM FOR ANY PUNITIVE, EXEMPLARY, INCIDENTAL, INDIRECT, SPECIAL, CONSEQUENTIAL OR OTHER DAMAGES (INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, LOSS OF PROFITS) AGAINST FRANCHISOR, ITS AFFILIATES, AND THEIR RESPECTIVE OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, SHAREHOLDERS, PARTNERS, AGENTS, REPRESENTATIVES, LICENSORS, INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS, SERVANTS AND EMPLOYEES, IN THEIR CORPORATE AND INDIVIDUAL CAPACITIES, ARISING OUT OF ANY CAUSE WHATSOEVER. EACH OF MASTER FRANCHISEE AND PRINCIPALS, IF ANY, AGREE THAT IN THE EVENT OF A DISPUTE, MASTER FRANCHISEE AND EACH PRINCIPAL IS LIMITED TO THE RECOVERY OF ANY ACTUAL DAMAGES SUSTAINED.**

**F. LIMITATIONS OF CLAIMS**

**ANY AND ALL CLAIMS ARISING OUT OF OR RELATING TO THIS AGREEMENT OR THE RELATIONSHIP AMONG THE PARTIES WILL BE BARRED UNLESS A PROCEEDING FOR RELIEF IS COMMENCED WITHIN ONE (1) YEAR FROM THE DATE ON WHICH THE PARTY ASSERTING SUCH CLAIM KNEW OR SHOULD HAVE KNOWN OF THE FACTS GIVING RISE TO SUCH CLAIMS.**

**G. WAIVER OF JURY TRIAL**

**IN THE EVENT ANY PARTY INITIATES LITIGATION FOR ANY CLAIMS ARISING OUT OF OR RELATING TO THIS AGREEMENT OR THE RELATIONSHIP AMONG THE PARTIES, INCLUDING THOSE THAT INCLUDE OTHER PARTIES OR CLAIMS, ALL PARTIES WAIVE THEIR RIGHT TO A TRIAL BY JURY. THIS WAIVER APPLIES TO ALL CAUSES OF ACTION THAT ARE OR MIGHT BE INCLUDED IN SUCH LITIGATION, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO CLAIMS RELATED TO THE ENFORCEMENT OR INTERPRETATION OF THIS AGREEMENT, ALLEGATIONS OF STATE OR FEDERAL STATUTORY VIOLATIONS, FRAUD, MISREPRESENTATION, OR SIMILAR CAUSES OF ACTION, AND IN CONNECTION WITH ANY LEGAL ACTION INITIATED FOR THE RECOVERY OF DAMAGES BETWEEN MASTER FRANCHISEE AND ITS PRINCIPALS ON THE ONE HAND, AND FRANCHISOR ON THE OTHER HAND.**

H. Injunctive Relief. Nothing in this Agreement (including, without limitation, Sections XIX.A and XIX.B above) shall bar our right to obtain injunctive relief from any court of competent jurisdiction against threatened conduct that will cause us loss or damage, under the usual equity rules, including the applicable rules for obtaining specific performance, restraining orders, and preliminary injunctions.

I. All provisions of this Section XIX survive termination or expiration of this Agreement.



## **XX. GENERAL/MISCELLANEOUS**

A. Definitions – For convenience and clarity, certain terms used throughout this Agreement have the following definition (which applies whether or not the term is capitalized):

1. “Owner” includes, without limitation, a sole proprietor, partner stockholder and limited liability member or owner, or other person with an ownership interest, whether held directly or for the benefit of another.

2. “Majority Owner” means any person who owns 50% or more of a partnership or owns 50% or more of any entity, i.e. 50% or more of the voting stock or other voting ownership interest or indicia of ownership or control whether owned/held directly or beneficially.

3. “Person” includes any natural person, trust (or trustee), corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or other entity.

B. SBS Right to Inspect – Master Franchisee understands and agrees that SBS may inspect any premises serviced by Master Franchisee or its Unit Franchisees at any time to ensure that the quality of service being performed is in accordance with Stratus Building Solutions standards. The Master Franchisee acknowledges that Stratus Building Solutions systems and methods continue to evolve in order to reflect the changing market and to meet new and changing customer demands, and that accordingly, variations and additions to the System may be required from time to time in order to preserve and enhance the public image of the System and to ensure the continuing operation efficiency of Franchisees generally. Accordingly, the Master Franchisee agrees that SBS may from time to time hereafter or otherwise change the System, including, without limitation, the adoption and use of new or modified trademarks, products, services, equipment and furnishings and new techniques and methodologies relating to the preparation, sale, promotion and marketing of service and supplies. The Master Franchisee agrees to promptly accept, implement, use and display in the operation of the franchise business all such additions, modifications and changes at its sole cost and expense.

C. SBS Ownership of New Concepts – Master Franchisee agrees that if it, any of its employees or any of its franchisees licensed under this Agreement develop any new concept, process or improvement in the operation or promotion of the Franchised Business, except those concepts developed by Unit Franchisees’ while conducting Additional Business Services, it will promptly notify SBS and provide SBS with all necessary information concerning same, without compensation. Master Franchisee acknowledges that, as between the parties, any such concept, process or improvement is or becomes the property of SBS and SBS may utilize or disclose such information to other franchisees as it determines to be appropriate.

D. Maintain Safe & Clean Workplace – Master Franchisee agrees to maintain a safe and reasonably clean place of business in compliance with all governmental and industry standards and to conduct its business in a manner that would bring goodwill and public approval to itself and Stratus.

E. No Interference With Master Franchisee Prices or Discounts – Nothing in this Agreement may be construed to prevent Master Franchisee from freely setting its own prices and discounts for services and products that it may render or sell.

F. Limitation On Effect of Any Invalid Provision:

1. Should any part of this Agreement for any reason be declared invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions, which remaining portions shall remain in force and effect as if this Agreement had been executed with the invalid portion thereof eliminated, and it is

hereby declared the intention of the parties hereto that they would have executed the remaining portions of this Agreement without including herein any such part, parts, or portions which may, for any reason, hereafter be declared invalid.

2. If any applicable and binding law or rule of any jurisdiction requires a greater prior notice of the termination of or refusal to renew this Agreement than is required hereunder, or the taking of some other action not required hereunder, or if under any applicable and binding law or rule of any jurisdiction, any provision of this Agreement or any specification, standard or operating procedure prescribed by SBS is invalid or unenforceable, the prior notice and/or other action required by such law or rule shall be substituted for the comparable provisions hereof, and SBS shall have the right, in its sole discretion, to modify such invalid or unenforceable provision, specification, standard or operating procedure to the extent required to be valid and enforceable. Master Franchisee agrees to be bound by any promise or covenant imposing the maximum duty permitted by law which is comprehended within the terms of any provision hereof, as though it were separately articulated in and made a part of this Agreement, that may result from striking from any of the provisions hereof, or any specification, standard or operating procedure prescribed by SBS, any portion or portions which a court may hold to be unenforceable in a final decision to which SBS is a party, or from reducing the scope of any promise or covenant to the extent required to comply with such a court order.

G. Entire Agreement & Modifications Only By Written Agreement – This Agreement is the entire agreement between the parties. Any amendment or modification to this Agreement is invalid unless made in writing and signed by all the parties. Nothing in this Agreement or any related agreement is intended to disclaim the representations made by SBS in the franchise disclosure document that SBS furnished to you.

H. Non-Waiver – No failure of SBS to exercise any power reserved to it in this Agreement or to insist upon compliance by Master Franchisee with any obligation or condition in this Agreement, and no custom or practice of the parties at variance with the terms hereof shall constitute a waiver of SBS' right to demand exact compliance with the terms of this Agreement. Waiver by SBS of any particular default shall not affect or impair SBS' right in respect to any subsequent default of the same or of a different nature, nor shall any delay forbearance or omission of SBS to exercise any power or right arising out of any breach or default by Master Franchisee of any of the terms, provisions or covenants of this Agreement affect or impair SBS' rights, nor shall such constitute a waiver by SBS of any rights hereunder or rights to declare any subsequent breach or default. SBS further reserves any and all right to enforce any rights or remedies that the Master Franchisee may have under any franchise agreement signed with any unit franchisee.

I. Notices – Any and all notices required or permitted under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be personally delivered, sent by registered mail, or sent by other means which affords the sender evidence of delivery or rejected delivery (including private delivery, courier service, or facsimile), which shall not include electronic communication, such as e-mail, to the respective parties at the following addresses, unless and until a different address has been designated by written notice to the other party:

Notices to SBS:	SBS Franchising, LLC 10530 Victory Blvd. North Hollywood, CA 91606 Phone: (888) 981-1555 Attn: Chief Executive Officer
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Notices to Master Franchisee:	the address listed on Exhibit C
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J. Heading For Reference Only – The numbers and headings of paragraphs used herein are for convenience only and do not affect the substance of the paragraphs themselves.

K. Master Franchisee certifies and warrants that all Owners : (1) are listed in the attached SCHEDULE OF PRINCIPALS; and (2) that all such parties will execute all Notes, or other documents as required by SBS.

**[SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS]**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have signed this as of \_\_\_\_\_.

SBS Franchising, LLC:

Master Franchisee:

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
By: (Signature of Owner, Partner, or Authorized Officer)

NAME: Doug Flaig

TITLE: Chief Executive Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPLETE IF FOR CORPORATION:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Corporate Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signor Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Title of Authorized Officer)

Federal Tax ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

ACCEPTED by the Home Office of Franchisor on \_\_\_\_\_

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

ITS: \_\_\_\_\_

(Authorized Officer)

**STRATUS BUILDING SOLUTIONS  
MASTER FRANCHISE AGREEMENT – EXHIBIT A  
NON-COMPETITION AGREEMENT**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, agree that during my association with SBS Franchising, LLC (“SBS”) and for two (2) years immediately thereafter, and within the Non-Compete Area (defined below) I will not:

1. Divert, solicit, interfere with, misappropriate, take away or attempt to divert or take away any source of Stratus Building Solutions business or revenue, Stratus Building Solutions customer or Stratus Building Solutions unit franchisee.

2. Perform any services for, engage in or acquire, become an employee of, have any financial, beneficial, or equitable interest in, or have any interest whatsoever in any business which:

(a) perform any type of cleaning and/or maintenance related services, including, but not limited to, commercial, industrial, institutional and residential cleaning services; or

(b) is similar to the Stratus Building Solutions’ janitorial, cleaning and maintenance system and business described in any of the following: this Master Franchise Agreement, a Stratus Building Solutions Unit Franchise Agreement or the Stratus Building Solutions Brand Standards Manuals, all as amended or revised from time to time.

(c) sells, leases or distributes supplies and equipment related to any of the above.

3. Perform or contribute to any other act injurious or prejudicial to the goodwill associated with Stratus Building Solutions or its Marks

The “Non-Compete Area” means: (1) within one hundred (100) miles of the Master Franchisee’s Territory and (2) within one hundred (100) miles of any other Stratus Building Solutions Master Franchisee territory, any Stratus Building Solutions Unit Franchisee or other business which is franchised, owned, operated or managed by or under the direction or auspices of SBS or any of its affiliates which is within one hundred (100) miles of the Master Franchisee’s Territory.

For clarity, Master Franchisee’s support of Unit Franchisees’ Additional Business Services during the term of Unit Franchisees’ Franchise Agreements, will not qualify as a violation of any of the above.

I acknowledge that each of my obligations in this Agreement are reasonable and necessary to protect SBS’ legitimate business interests. I understand that breaking any of my promises or obligations will irreparably and continually damage SBS for which money damages may not be adequate.

Consequently, if I violate any of my promises in this Agreement, or SBS has reason to believe that I am about to violate this Agreement, SBS will be entitled to both: (1) a preliminary or permanent injunction to prevent the continuing harm to SBS (and/or any of its Master Franchisees or Unit Franchisees), and (2) money damages insofar as they can be determined. An injunction ordering me to stop any activities that may violate this Agreement will not prevent me from earning a living. I will pay SBS its costs and expenses of enforcing this Agreement, including actual attorney fees, whether or not litigation is actually commenced.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

**STRATUS BUILDING SOLUTIONS**  
**MASTER FRANCHISE AGREEMENT – EXHIBIT B**  
**SCHEDULE OF PRINCIPALS**

ANY OTHER PERSON NOT LISTED IN THIS AGREEMENT WHO IS A PARTNER, AN OFFICER, DIRECTOR OR SHAREHOLDER OF MASTER FRANCHISEE:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

**STRATUS BUILDING SOLUTIONS**  
**MASTER FRANCHISE AGREEMENT – EXHIBIT C**  
**DEAL TERMS**

Master Franchise Agreement Provision	Deal Term
1. Territory (Section II.A)	1. The geographic area comprised by the following:
2. Opening Date (Section II.C)	2. The Opening Date may be no later than: _____
3. The Initial Franchise Fee (Section IV.A)	3. The Initial Franchise Fee is: _____
4. Initial Franchise Fee Payment Terms (Section IV.A)	4. The Initial Franchise Fee is payable as follows:  1. _____ due at the time this Agreement is executed; and  2. _____ due on _____

**STRATUS BUILDING SOLUTIONS  
MASTER FRANCHISE AGREEMENT – EXHIBIT D  
FRANCHISEE DISCLOSURE QUESTIONNAIRE**



## FRANCHISEE DISCLOSURE QUESTIONNAIRE

You are preparing to enter into a Master Franchise Agreement for the establishment and operation of a SBS Master Franchise. The purpose of this Questionnaire is to determine whether any statements or promises were made to you that SBS Franchising, LLC (herein “SBS”) has not authorized and that may be untrue, inaccurate, or misleading. **IF YOU ARE A MARYLAND OWNER/RESIDENT OR A FRANCHISEE OPERATING IN MARYLAND, YOU MUST NOT SIGN THIS DOCUMENT. IF ANY MARYLAND FRANCHISEE COMPLETES THIS QUESTIONNAIRE/ACKNOWLEDGMENT, IT WILL BE VOID AND UNENFORCEABLE.**

**Please review each of the following questions carefully and provide honest and complete responses to each question:**

1. Have you personally reviewed the Master Franchise Agreement and the SBS Disclosure Document?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

2. Do you understand all of the information contained in the Master Franchise Agreement and the Disclosure Document?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If “No”, what parts of the Master Franchise Agreement and/or the Disclosure Document do you not understand? (Attach additional pages, if necessary)

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3. Do you understand that the success or failure of your SBS Master Franchise will depend in large part upon your skills and abilities, competition from other businesses, interest rates, inflation and other economic and business factors?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

4. Has any employee speaking on behalf of SBS made any statement or promise concerning the revenues, profits, or operating costs of a SBS Master Franchise operated by SBS?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

5. Has any employee speaking on behalf of SBS made any statement or promise regarding the total amount of revenue you might achieve or operating profit you might realize

from a SBS Master Franchise other than what is specifically described in Item 19 of the Disclosure Document?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

6. Has any employee speaking on behalf of SBS made any statement or promise regarding the costs you may incur in operating a SBS Master Franchise that is contrary to or different from the information contained in the Disclosure Document?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

7. Has any employee speaking on behalf of SBS made any statement, promise, or agreement concerning the advertising, marketing, training, support service, or assistance that SBS will furnish to you that is contrary to, or different from, the information contained in the Disclosure Document?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

8. Do you understand that your initial franchise fee is non-refundable upon entering into a Master Franchise Agreement?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

**If you have answered “Yes” to any one of questions 4-7, please provide a full explanation of each answer in the following blank lines. (Attach additional pages, if necessary, and refer to them below). If you have answered “No” to each of questions 4-7, please leave the following lines blank.**

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**[Signature page follows]**

By signing this Questionnaire, you are representing that you have responded truthfully to the above questions.

No statement, questionnaire, or acknowledgement signed or agreed to by a franchisee in connection with the commencement of the franchise relationship shall have the effect of (i) waiving any claims under any applicable state franchise law, including fraud in the inducement, or (ii) disclaiming reliance on any statement made by any franchisor, franchise seller, or other person acting on behalf of the franchisor. This provision supersedes any other term of any document executed in connection with the franchise.

Any release, estoppel or waiver of liability are not intended to nor shall they act as a release, estoppel or waiver of any liability incurred under the Maryland Franchise Registration and Disclosure Law.

**MASTER FRANCHISE LOCATION:**  
(City and State)

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**MASTER FRANCHISE APPLICANT:**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**MASTER FRANCHISEE:**  
(Name and Address)

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By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**STRATUS BUILDING SOLUTIONS  
MASTER FRANCHISE AGREEMENT – EXHIBIT E  
STATE ADDENDA**

**ADDENDUM TO THE SBS FRANCHISING, LLC  
MASTER FRANCHISE AGREEMENT  
FOR HAWAII MASTER FRANCHISEES**

This Addendum to the SBS Franchising, LLC a/k/a Stratus Building Solutions Master Franchise Agreement (“Agreement”) dated \_\_, 20\_\_ between SBS Franchising, LLC (“Franchisor”) and \_\_\_\_\_ (“Master Franchisee,”) is entered into simultaneously with the execution of the Agreement. The Agreement is amended consistent with the following:

1. The Agreement contains a provision requiring a general release as a condition of renewal of the franchise. Such release will exclude claims arising under the Hawaii Franchise Investment Law.
2. Any provisions of the Agreement that relate to non-renewal, termination, and transfer are only applicable if they are not inconsistent with the Hawaii Franchise Investment Law. Otherwise, the Hawaii Franchise Investment Law will control.
3. The Master Franchise Agreement permits us to terminate the Agreement on the bankruptcy of you and/or your affiliates. This Article may not be enforceable under federal bankruptcy law. (11 U.S.C. § 101, et seq.).
4. The following paragraph is added to the end of Section XX:

L. No statement, questionnaire, or acknowledgement signed or agreed to by a franchisee in connection with the commencement of the franchise relationship shall have the effect of (i) waiving any claims under any applicable state franchise law, including fraud in the inducement, or (ii) disclaiming reliance on any statement made by any franchisor, franchise seller, or other person acting on behalf of the franchisor. This provision supersedes any other term of any document executed in connection with the franchise.
5. Each provision of this Addendum will be effective only to the extent, with respect to such provision, that the jurisdictional requirements of the Hawaii Franchise Investment Law are met independently without reference to this Addendum.

**FRANCHISOR:**  
**SBS FRANCHISING, LLC**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**MASTER FRANCHISEE:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Print name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDENDUM TO THE SBS FRANCHISING, LLC  
MASTER FRANCHISE AGREEMENT  
FOR MARYLAND MASTER FRANCHISEES**

This Addendum to the SBS Franchising, LLC a/k/a Stratus Building Solutions Master Franchise Agreement (“Agreement”) dated \_\_, 20\_\_ between SBS Franchising, LLC (“Franchisor”) and \_\_\_\_\_ (“Master Franchisee,”) is entered into simultaneously with the execution of the Agreement. The Agreement is amended consistent with the following:

1. The provisions of this Addendum form an integral part of, and are incorporated into the Agreement. This Addendum is being executed because: (A) the offer or sale of a franchise to Master Franchisee was made in the State of Maryland; (B) Master Franchisee is a resident of the State of Maryland; and/or (C) part or all of the Territory is located in the State of Maryland.

2. The following sentence is added to the end of Section I:

Representations in the Agreement are not intended to, nor shall they act as a release, estoppel, or waiver of any liability incurred under the Maryland Franchise Registration and Disclosure Law.

3. The following sentences are added to the end of Section IV:

Based upon Franchisor’s financial condition, the Maryland Securities Commissioner has required a financial assurance. Therefore, all initial fees and payments owed by master franchisees shall be deferred until Franchisor completes its pre-opening obligations under the Agreement.

4. The following paragraphs are added to the end of Section XX:

L. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Agreement, Franchisor and Master Franchisee may file suit in a court in the State of Maryland for claims arising under the Maryland Franchise Registration and Disclosure Law. Any claims arising under the Maryland Franchise Registration and Disclosure Law must be brought within three years after the grant of the Master Franchise.

M. No statement, questionnaire, or acknowledgement signed or agreed to by a franchisee in connection with the commencement of the franchise relationship shall have the effect of (i) waiving any claims under any applicable state franchise law, including fraud in the inducement, or (ii) disclaiming reliance on any statement made by any franchisor, franchise seller, or other person acting on behalf of the franchisor. This provision supersedes any other term of any document executed in connection with the franchise.

4. Any capitalized terms that are not defined in this Addendum shall have the meaning given them in the Agreement.

**FRANCHISOR:  
SBS FRANCHISING, LLC**

**MASTER FRANCHISEE:**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Print name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDENDUM TO THE SBS FRANCHISING, LLC  
MASTER FRANCHISE AGREEMENT  
FOR MINNESOTA MASTER FRANCHISEES**

This Addendum to the SBS Franchising, LLC a/k/a Stratus Building Solutions Master Franchise Agreement (“Agreement”) dated \_\_, 20\_\_ between SBS Franchising, LLC (“Franchisor”) and \_\_\_\_\_ (“Master Franchisee,”) is entered into simultaneously with the execution of the Agreement. The Agreement is amended consistent with the following:

1. The provisions of this Addendum form an integral part of, and are incorporated into the Agreement. This Addendum is being executed because: (a) the offer or sale of the franchise to Franchisee was made in the State of Minnesota; (b) Master Franchisee is a resident of the State of Minnesota; and/or (c) the Franchised Business will be located or operated in the State of Minnesota.

2. The following sentence is added to the end of Section III.6:

Notwithstanding the foregoing, you will not be required to assent to a release, assignment, novation, or waiver that would relieve any person from liability imposed by Minnesota Statute §§ 80C.01 - 80C.22.

3. The following sentence is added to the end of Section III.B and XVII:

With respect to franchises governed by Minnesota law, we will comply with Minnesota Statute § 80C.14, Subdivision 3, 4, and 5 which requires, except in certain cases, that you be given 90 days notice of termination (with 60 days to cure) and 180 days notice for non-renewal of franchise agreements.

4. The following sentences are added to the end of Section XIX:

Minnesota Statute § 80C.21 and Minnesota Rule 2860.4400J prohibit us from requiring litigation to be conducted outside Minnesota. In addition, nothing in the disclosure document or agreements can abrogate or reduce any of your rights as provided for in Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 80C, or your rights to any procedure, forum, or remedies provided for by the laws of the jurisdiction.

5. The following sentence is added to the end of Section XX:

Minnesota Statute § 80C.17, Subdivision 5, provides that no action may be commenced pursuant to that Section more than three years after the cause of action accrues.

6. No statement, questionnaire or acknowledgment signed or agreed to by a franchisee in connection with the commencement of the franchise relationship will have the effect of: (a) waiving any claims under any applicable state franchise law, including fraud in the inducement; or (b) disclaiming reliance on any statement made by any franchisor, franchise seller or other person acting on behalf of the franchisor. This provision supersedes any other term of any document executed in connection with the franchise.

7. The provisions of this Addendum will be effective only to the extent that the jurisdictional requirements of the Minnesota Franchise Act and the Rules and Regulation promulgated thereunder are met independently of this Addendum.

8. Any capitalized terms that are not defined in this Addendum shall have the meaning given them in the Agreement.

9. Except as expressly modified by this Addendum, the Agreement remains unmodified and in full force and effect.

**FRANCHISOR:**  
**SBS FRANCHISING, LLC**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**MASTER FRANCHISEE:**

\_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Print name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**ADDENDUM TO THE SBS FRANCHISING, LLC  
MASTER FRANCHISE AGREEMENT  
FOR NORTH DAKOTA MASTER FRANCHISEES**

This Addendum to the SBS Franchising, LLC a/k/a Stratus Building Solutions Master Franchise Agreement (“Agreement”) dated \_\_, 20\_\_ between SBS Franchising, LLC (“Franchisor”) and \_\_\_\_\_ (“Master Franchisee,”) is entered into simultaneously with the execution of the Agreement. The Agreement is amended consistent with the following:

1. The Agreement contains a covenant not to compete which extends beyond the termination of your franchise. This provision may not be enforceable under North Dakota law.
2. Although the Agreement provides that the place of arbitration will be located at the office of the American Arbitration Association in or nearest the city where our principal business address is then located, we agree that the place of arbitration will be a location that is in close proximity to the site of your Stratus Building Solutions Master Franchise.
3. A contractual requirement that you sign a general release may be unenforceable under the laws of North Dakota.
4. Although the Agreement requires the franchisee to consent to a waiver of trial by jury, the Commissioner has determined that a requirement requiring the waiver of a trial by jury to be unfair, unjust and inequitable within the intent of Section 51-19-09 of the North Dakota Franchise Investment Law. This provision is not enforceable in North Dakota.
5. Although the Agreement requires the franchisee to consent to a waiver of exemplary and punitive damages, the Commissioner had determined these types of provisions to be unfair, unjust and inequitable within the intent of Section 51-19-09 of the North Dakota Franchise Investment Law. This provision is not enforceable in North Dakota.
6. The requirement of liquidated damages in Section XVIII of the Agreement may be unenforceable under the laws of North Dakota.
7. Although the Agreement requires the franchisee to consent to a limitation of claims period within one year, the Commissioner had determined this to be unfair, unjust and inequitable within the intent of Section 51-19-09 of the North Dakota Franchise Investment Law. The limitation of claims period is therefore governed by North Dakota law.
8. The following paragraph is added to the end of Section XX:
  - L. No statement, questionnaire, or acknowledgement signed or agreed to by a franchisee in connection with the commencement of the franchise relationship shall have the effect of (i) waiving any claims under any applicable state franchise law, including fraud in the inducement, or (ii) disclaiming reliance on any statement made by any franchisor, franchise seller, or other person acting on behalf of the franchisor. This provision supersedes any other term of any document executed in connection with the franchise.
9. Each provision of this Addendum will be effective only to the extent, with respect to such provision, that the jurisdictional requirements of the North Dakota Franchise Investment Law, N.D. Cent. Code §§ 51-19-01 through 51-19-17, are met independently without reference to this Addendum.

**FRANCHISOR:**  
**SBS FRANCHISING, LLC**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**MASTER FRANCHISEE:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Print name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDENDUM TO THE SBS FRANCHISING, LLC  
MASTER FRANCHISE AGREEMENT  
FOR OHIO MASTER FRANCHISEES**

In recognition of the requirements of the Ohio Business Opportunity Purchasers Protection Act, Ohio Revised Code §1334.01 et seq., the parties to the attached SBS Franchising, LLC Master Franchise Agreement (“Master Franchise Agreement”) agree as follows:

1. Section XVII of the Master Franchise Agreement, entitled “Default and Termination,” shall be amended by adding the following subsection at the end of the Section:

**D. You, the purchaser, may cancel this transaction at any time prior to midnight of the fifth business day after the date you sign this Agreement. See the attached notice of cancellation for an explanation of this right.**

2. Each provision of this Addendum shall be effective only to the extent that the jurisdictional requirements of the Ohio Business Opportunity Purchasers Protection Act, with respect to each such provision, are met independent of the Addendum. This Addendum shall have no force or effect if such jurisdictional requirements are not met.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have duly executed, sealed, and delivered this Addendum to the Master Franchise Agreement on the same date as that on which the Master Franchise Agreement was executed.

**SBS FRANCHISING, LLC**

**MASTER FRANCHISEE**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**[Notice of Cancellation form (in duplicate) follows]**

### Notice of Cancellation

\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

**You may cancel this transaction, without penalty or obligation, within five business days from the above date. If you cancel, any payments made by you under the Agreement, and any negotiable instrument executed by you will be returned within ten business days following the seller's receipt of your cancellation notice, and any security interest arising out of the transaction will be cancelled. If you cancel, you must make available to the seller at your business address all goods delivered to you under this Agreement; or you may if you wish, comply with the instructions of the seller regarding the return shipment of the goods at the seller's expense and risk. If you do make the goods available to the seller and the seller does not pick them up within twenty days of the date of your notice of cancellation, you may retain or dispose of them without further obligation. If you fail to make the goods available to the seller, or if you agree to return them to the seller and fail to do so, then you remain liable for the performance of all obligations under this Agreement. To cancel this transaction, mail or deliver a signed and dated copy of this cancellation notice or any other written notice, or send a telegram, to SBS Franchising, LLC at 10530 Victory Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91606, or send a fax to SBS Franchising, LLC at \_\_\_\_\_, or an e-mail to SBS Franchising, LLC at \_\_\_\_\_, not later than midnight of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.**

**I hereby cancel this transaction.**

\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Purchaser's signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print name)

### Notice of Cancellation

\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

**You may cancel this transaction, without penalty or obligation, within five business days from the above date. If you cancel, any payments made by you under the Agreement, and any negotiable instrument executed by you will be returned within ten business days following the seller's receipt of your cancellation notice, and any security interest arising out of the transaction will be cancelled. If you cancel, you must make available to the seller at your business address all goods delivered to you under this Agreement; or you may if you wish, comply with the instructions of the seller regarding the return shipment of the goods at the seller's expense and risk. If you do make the goods available to the seller and the seller does not pick them up within twenty days of the date of your notice of cancellation, you may retain or dispose of them without further obligation. If you fail to make the goods available to the seller, or if you agree to return them to the seller and fail to do so, then you remain liable for the performance of all obligations under this Agreement. To cancel this transaction, mail or deliver a signed and dated copy of this cancellation notice or any other written notice, or send a telegram, to SBS Franchising, LLC at 10530 Victory Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91606, or send a fax to SBS Franchising, LLC at \_\_\_\_\_, or an e-mail to SBS Franchising, LLC at \_\_\_\_\_, not later than midnight of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.**

**I hereby cancel this transaction.**

\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Purchaser's signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print name)

**ADDENDUM TO THE SBS FRANCHISING, LLC  
MASTER FRANCHISE AGREEMENT  
FOR RHODE ISLAND MASTER FRANCHISEES**

This Addendum to the SBS Franchising, LLC a/k/a Stratus Building Solutions Master Franchise Agreement (“Agreement”) dated \_\_, 20\_\_ between SBS Franchising, LLC (“Franchisor”) and \_\_\_\_\_ (“Master Franchisee,”) is entered into simultaneously with the execution of the Agreement. The Agreement is amended consistent with the following:

1. Section III of the Agreement contains a provision requiring a general release as a condition of renewal of the franchise. Such release will exclude claims arising under the Rhode Island Franchise Investment Act.

2. The following paragraphs are added to the end of Section XX:

L. Section 19-28.1-14 of the Rhode Island Franchise Investment Act provides that:

"A provision in a franchise agreement restricting jurisdiction or venue to a forum outside of this state or requiring the application of the laws of another state is void with respect to a claim otherwise enforceable under this Act."

M. No statement, questionnaire, or acknowledgement signed or agreed to by a franchisee in connection with the commencement of the franchise relationship shall have the effect of (i) waiving any claims under any applicable state franchise law, including fraud in the inducement, or (ii) disclaiming reliance on any statement made by any franchisor, franchise seller, or other person acting on behalf of the franchisor. This provision supersedes any other term of any document executed in connection with the franchise.

3. Each provision of this Addendum will be effective only to the extent, with respect to such provision, that the jurisdictional requirements of Rhode Island Franchise Investment Act, §§ 19- 28-1.1 through 19-28.1-34, are met independently without reference to this Addendum.

**FRANCHISOR:**  
**SBS FRANCHISING, LLC**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**MASTER FRANCHISEE:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Print name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDENDUM TO THE SBS FRANCHISING, LLC  
MASTER FRANCHISE AGREEMENT  
FOR SOUTH DAKOTA MASTER FRANCHISEES**

This Addendum to the SBS Franchising, LLC a/k/a Stratus Building Solutions Master Franchise Agreement (“Agreement”) dated \_\_, 20\_\_ between SBS Franchising, LLC (“Franchisor”) and \_\_\_\_\_ (“Master Franchisee,”) is entered into simultaneously with the execution of the Agreement. The Agreement is amended consistent with the following:

1. The following paragraph is added to the end of Section XX:

L. No statement, questionnaire, or acknowledgement signed or agreed to by a franchisee in connection with the commencement of the franchise relationship shall have the effect of (i) waiving any claims under any applicable state franchise law, including fraud in the inducement, or (ii) disclaiming reliance on any statement made by any franchisor, franchise seller, or other person acting on behalf of the franchisor. This provision supersedes any other term of any document executed in connection with the franchise.

**FRANCHISOR:**  
**SBS FRANCHISING, LLC**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**MASTER FRANCHISEE:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Print name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**EXHIBIT E**  
**LIST OF MASTER FRANCHISEES**

**Open and Operating as of December 31, 2024**

State	Phone Numbers	Master Franchisee Contact	Address
AR	(479) 223-5757	Chris Green	900 S. Walton Blvd #B27 Bentonville, AR 72712
CA	(818) 981-1700	Jim Smith (3 Territories)	10530 Victory Blvd. North Hollywood, CA 91606
CA	(707) 658-4405	Chris Wegner Charles Holmstrom	755 Baywood Drive, Suite 235 Petaluma, CA 94954
CA	(916) 945-8448	Chris Wegner	919 Reserve Dr., Suite 123 Roseville, CA 95678
FL	(954) 623-8433	Max & Boris Rimeris	2700 North 29 Ave #203B Hollywood, FL 33020
FL	(407) 915-3900	Matt and Amy McCartney	543 Wymore Rd., Suite 103 Maitland, FL 32751
FL	(305) 323-6940	Jennifer Poulos	7700 North Kendall Dr., Suite 507 Miami, FL 33156
FL	(561) 469-8795	Robert McKeown (2 Territories)	9100 Belvedere Rd., Suite 106 Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411
FL	(813) 442-1502	Kevin Martinez	4302 Henderson Blvd. Suite 102 Tampa, FL 33629
GA	(770) 672-0318	Gary Graves (2 Territories)	1480 Shiloh Rd. NW Kennesaw, GA 30144
GA	(770) 672-0318	Lee Cantres Amy Racksasouk	4571 Best Road #477 Atlanta, GA 30337
IL	(502) 417-6969	Lee Varon (2 Territories)	100 N. Waukegan Road Lake Bluff, IL 60044
IN	(317) 758-3440	Lee Putman	7753 E. 88th Street Indianapolis, IN 46256
KY	(502) 817-5376	Derrick Riddle Lee Putman	300 Todds Point Road Simpsonville, KY 40067
LA	(504) 308-3460	Michael Seiler	4430 S 1-10 Service Road W., Suite 101 Metairie, LA 70001
MD	(301) 615-0202	Steve Turner (2 Territories)	7869 Belle Point Dr. Greenbelt, MD 20770
MI	(313) 960-4737	Jeff and Angela Kelosky	40950 Woodward Ave., Suite 360 Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304



State	Phone Numbers	Master Franchisee Contact	Address
MI	(989) 574-6359	Craig Nichols Lee Putman	120 54th Street SW Wyoming, MI 49548
MN	(651) 728-4489	Ricardo Bonifaz	442 Hayward Ave. North Oakdale, MN 55128
NV	(775) 799-5490	Michael Boniello Pooya Boniello	1575 Delucchi Lane #116B Reno, NV 89502
NV	(702) 338-1866	Darren Robertson Ryan Robertson Cody Millsap	2785 E Desert Inn Rd., Suite 265 Las Vegas, NV 89121
NJ	(973) 204-5997	Donald Gartner	208 Passaic Ave, Suite 4 Fairfield, NJ 07004
NY	(631) 807-5799	Rick Baran	510 Broadhollow Road, Suite 306 Melville, NY 17747
NC	(704) 594-5941	Thomas Henning	10926 S. Tryon Street, Suite G Charlotte, NC 28273
OH	(440) 627-6200	Tim Tilton	7976 Broadview Road Suite 100 Broadview Heights, OH 44147
OH	(513) 260-0804	Mark Stocker	11260 Cornell Park Drive, Suite 708 Cincinnati, OH 45242
OH	(614) 500-4141	Adam Limbach	659 Lakeview Plaza Blvd., Suite J Worthington, OH 43085
OK	(405) 359-2920	Chris and Danny Green (2 Territories)	7700 N. Hudson Ave., Suite 9 Oklahoma City, OK 73116
OR	(503) 468-5274	Joshua Lay (2 Territories)	10373 NE Hancock St., Suite 132 Portland, OR 97220
PA	(215) 272-5536	Robin Bansal	120 Gibraltar Road, Suite 109 Horsham, PA 19044
PA	(412) 314-1900	David Erimias	110 VIP Drive, Suite 203 Wexford, PA 15090
SC	(864) 380-9098	Ralph Sizemore Thomas Henning	104 Corporate Blvd., Suite 410 West Columbia, SC 29169
SC	(864) 380-9098	Ralph Sizemore	420 E Park Avenue, Suite 302 Greenville, SC 29601
TN	(404) 402-8415	David Smith	One Vantage Way, Suite B100 Nashville, TN 37228
TX	(512) 271-4594	Greg Fishman Steven Sherriff	7719 Wood Hollow Drive, Suite 156 Austin, TX 78731
TX	(703) 424-4863	Shaun Butterworth	888 S. Greenville Ave., Suite 304

State	Phone Numbers	Master Franchisee Contact	Address
			Richardson, TX 75081
TX	(512) 271-4594	Greg Fishman	2537 S. Gessner, Suite 121 Houston, TX 77063
UT	(801) 440-4636	Shauna Sharpsteen Emily Thomas	5258 South Pinemont Drive, Suite B-280 Salt Lake City, UT 84123
VA	(703) 673-2869	Steve Turner	1727 King St, Ste 300 Alexandria, VA 22314
VA	(804) 799-0003	MacGregor Gould	9601 Gayton Road, Suite 100 Richmond, VA 23238
VA	(757) 904-1668	Mike Thompson	5269 Greenwich Road, Suite 200 Virginia Beach, VA 23462
WA	(206) 957-8360	Joshua Lay	14400 Bel-Red Road, Suite 201 Bellevue, WA 98007
WI	(262) 417-7285	Ty Redmond Darrel McNeal	1100 Commerce Dr. Suite 113 Mount Pleasant, WI 53406
WI	(608) 817-5411	Paul and Jessica King	2801 W. Beltline Hwy #206 Madison, WI 53713
WI	(920) 641-5182	Charles & Stacy Butler Joshua Butler	47 Park Place #260 Appleton, WI 54914

**Signed Franchise Agreement but Not Yet Open and Operating as of December 31, 2024**

State	City	Master Franchisee Contact	Phone#
FL	Fort Meyers	Taylor Watson	603-395-8116
NH	Nashua	Burnie Leggette	603-401-1850
MI	Ann Arbor	Peng Theng	317-908-7084
MD	Fredrick	Bert Boelens	443-272-9770
VA	Dulles	Ed & Mary Grinnell	916-337-5613

**LIST OF FORMER MASTER FRANCHISEES  
as of December 31, 2024**

None.

**EXHIBIT F**  
**STATE ADDENDA TO DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT**

The following states have statutes which may supersede the Master Franchise Agreement in your relationship with SBS including the areas of termination and renewal of your franchise: ARKANSAS [Stat. Section 70-807], CALIFORNIA [Bus. & Prof. Code Sections 20000-20043], CONNECTICUT [Gen. Stat. Section 42-133e, *et seq.*], DELAWARE [Code Section 2552], HAWAII [Rev. Stat. Section 482E-1], ILLINOIS [Rev. Stat. Chapter 121 1/2 par 1719-1720], INDIANA [Stat. Section 23-2-2.7], IOWA [Code Sections 523H.1-523H.17], MICHIGAN [Stat. Section 19.854(27)], MINNESOTA [Stat. Section 80C.14], MISSISSIPPI [Code Section 75-24-51], MISSOURI [Stat. Section 407.400], NEBRASKA [Rev. Stat. Section 87-401], NEW JERSEY [Stat. Section 56:10-1], SOUTH DAKOTA [Codified Laws Section 37-5B], VIRGINIA [Code 13.1-557-574-13.1-564], WASHINGTON [Code Section 19.100.180], WISCONSIN [Stat. Section 135.03]. These and other states may have court decisions which may supersede the provisions of the Master Franchise Agreement in your relationship with SBS including the areas of termination and renewal of your franchise.

The Master Franchise Agreement provides for termination upon bankruptcy. This provision may not be enforceable under current U.S. Bankruptcy Laws.

**ADDENDUM TO THE SBS FRANCHISING, LLC  
FRANCHISE DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT  
FOR HAWAII MASTER FRANCHISEES**

THESE FRANCHISES WILL BE/HAVE BEEN FILED UNDER THE FRANCHISE INVESTMENT LAW OF THE STATE OF HAWAII. FILING DOES NOT CONSTITUTE APPROVAL, RECOMMENDATION OR ENDORSEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS OR A FINDING BY THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED HEREIN IS TRUE, COMPLETE AND NOT MISLEADING.

THE FRANCHISE INVESTMENT LAW MAKES IT UNLAWFUL TO OFFER OR SELL ANY FRANCHISE IN THIS STATE WITHOUT FIRST PROVIDING TO THE PROSPECTIVE FRANCHISEE, OR SUBFRANCHISOR, AT LEAST SEVEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE EXECUTION BY THE PROSPECTIVE FRANCHISEE OF ANY BINDING FRANCHISE OR OTHER AGREEMENT, OR AT LEAST SEVEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE PAYMENT OF ANY CONSIDERATION BY THE FRANCHISEE, OR SUBFRANCHISOR, WHICHEVER OCCURS FIRST, A COPY OF THE DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT, TOGETHER WITH A COPY OF ALL PROPOSED AGREEMENTS RELATING TO THE SALE OF THE FRANCHISE.

THIS DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT CONTAINS A SUMMARY ONLY OF CERTAIN MATERIAL PROVISIONS OF THE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT. THE CONTRACT OR AGREEMENT SHOULD BE REFERRED TO FOR A STATEMENT OF ALL RIGHTS, CONDITIONS, RESTRICTIONS AND OBLIGATIONS OF BOTH THE FRANCHISOR AND THE FRANCHISEE.

**Item 20, Additional Disclosures.** The following paragraphs are added to Item 20:

As of the dates listed in Exhibit J, this franchise offering is or will be effective in Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, New York, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Virginia and Wisconsin. No states have refused, by order or otherwise, to register these franchises. No states have revoked or suspended the right to offer these franchises. The proposed registration of these franchises has not been involuntarily withdrawn in any state.

**ADDENDUM TO THE SBS FRANCHISING, LLC  
FRANCHISE DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT  
FOR ILLINOIS MASTER FRANCHISEES**

**The Disclosure Document is amended consistent with the following:**

Illinois law governs the agreements between the parties to this franchise.

Section 4 of the Illinois Franchise Disclosure Act provides that any provision in a franchise agreement that designates jurisdiction or venue outside the State of Illinois is void. However, a franchise agreement may provide for arbitration outside of Illinois.

Section 41 of the Illinois Franchise Disclosure Act provides that any condition, stipulation of provision purporting to bind any person acquiring any franchise to waive compliance with the Illinois Franchise Disclosure Act or any other law of Illinois is void.

Your right upon termination and non-renewal of a franchise agreement are set forth in sections 19 and 20 of the Illinois Franchise Disclosure Act.

Item 17 is amended as follows:

No statement, questionnaire, or acknowledgement signed or agreed to by a franchisee in connection with the commencement of the franchise relationship shall have the effect of (i) waiving any claims under any applicable state franchise law, including fraud in the inducement, or (ii) disclaiming reliance on any statement made by any franchisor, franchise seller, or other person acting on behalf of the franchisor. This provision supersedes any other term of any document executed in connection with the franchise.

**ADDENDUM TO THE SBS FRANCHISING, LLC  
FRANCHISE DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT  
FOR MARYLAND MASTER FRANCHISEES**

**Item 1, The Franchisor, Its Predecessors And Affiliates.** The following statement is added to Item 1:

The agent for service of process on Stratus in Maryland is the Maryland Securities Commissioner, 200 St. Paul Place, Baltimore, Maryland 21202-2020.

**Item 5, Initial Fees.** The following statements are added to Item 5:

Based upon the franchisor's financial condition, the Maryland Securities Commissioner has required a financial assurance. Therefore, all initial fees and payments owed by franchisees shall be deferred until the franchisor completes its pre-opening obligations under the Master Franchise Agreement.

**Item 16, Restrictions On What The Franchisee May Sell.** The following statement is added to Item 16:

Please note that it will be necessary to file the Unit Franchise Compliance Documents with the Maryland Office of the Attorney General Securities Division prior to selling, advertising or offering for sale any franchise within the state of Maryland.

**Item 17, Additional Disclosures.** The following statements are added to Item 17:

Any provision in the Master Franchise Agreement requiring you to sign a general release of claims against us, including upon the signing of the Master Franchise Agreement or upon transfer, does not release any claim you may have under the Maryland Franchise Registration and Disclosure Law. You need not sign a general release at any time.

The provisions in the Master Franchise Agreement which provide for termination upon your bankruptcy may not be enforceable under federal bankruptcy law (11 U.S.C. Section 101 et seq.).

Under Maryland Law, any provision in the Master Franchise Agreement which designates jurisdiction or venue in a forum outside of Maryland is void, provided that the Master Franchise Agreement may provide for arbitration in a forum outside of Maryland.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Master Franchise Agreement, Stratus and you may file suit in a court in the State of Maryland for claims arising under the Maryland Franchise Registration and Disclosure Law. Any claims arising under the Maryland Franchise Registration and Disclosure Law must be brought within three years after the grant of the Master Franchise.

No statement, questionnaire, or acknowledgement signed or agreed to by a franchisee in connection with the commencement of the franchise relationship shall have the effect of (i) waiving any claims under any applicable state franchise law, including fraud in the inducement, or (ii) disclaiming reliance on any statement made by any franchisor, franchise seller, or other person acting on behalf of the franchisor. This provision supersedes any other term of any document executed in connection with the franchise.

**Item 22, Contracts.** The following statement is added to Item 22:

If any Maryland franchisee completes the Franchisee Disclosure Questionnaire attached as Exhibit D to the Master Franchise Agreement, it will be void and unenforceable.

**ADDENDUM TO THE SBS FRANCHISING, LLC  
FRANCHISE DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT  
FOR MINNESOTA MASTER FRANCHISEES**

1. The following statement is added to Item 17:

With respect to franchises governed by Minnesota law, we will comply with Minnesota Statute § 80C.14, subdivisions 3, 4, and 5, which require, except in certain specified cases, that a franchisee be given 90 days notice of termination (with 60 days to cure) and 180 days notice for non-renewal of the franchise agreements.

2. The following statement is added to the State Cover page and Item 17:

Minnesota Statute § 80C.21 and Minnesota Rule 2860.4400J prohibit us from requiring litigation to be conducted outside Minnesota. In addition, nothing in the disclosure document or agreements can abrogate or reduce any of your rights as provided for in Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 80C, or your rights to any procedure, forum, or remedies provided for by the laws of the jurisdiction.

3. The following statement is added to Item 17:

Minnesota Rule 2860.4400D prohibits us from requiring you to assent to a release, assignment, novation, or waiver that would relieve any person from liability imposed by Minnesota Statute §§ 80C.01 - 80C.22.

4. The following statement is added to Item 17:

Minnesota Rule 2860.4400J, among other things, prohibits us from requiring you to waive your rights to a jury trial.

5. No statement, questionnaire or acknowledgment signed or agreed to by a franchisee in connection with the commencement of the franchise relationship will have the effect of: (i) waiving any claims under any applicable state franchise law, including fraud in the inducement; or (ii) disclaiming reliance on any statement made by any franchisor, franchise seller or other person acting on behalf of the franchisor. This provision supersedes any other term of any document executed in connection with the franchise.

6. Each provision of this Addendum will be effective only to the extent, with respect to such provision, that the jurisdictional requirements of the Minnesota Franchise Act are met independently without reference to this Addendum.

**ADDENDUM TO THE SBS FRANCHISING, LLC  
FRANCHISE DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT  
FOR MICHIGAN MASTER FRANCHISEES**

**NOTICE REQUIRED BY THE STATE OF MICHIGAN**

**The state of Michigan prohibits certain unfair provisions that are sometimes in franchise documents. If any of the following provisions are in the franchise documents, the provisions are void and cannot be enforced against you.**

Each of the following provisions are void and unenforceable if contained in any document relating to a franchise:

- (a) A prohibition on the right of a franchisee to join an association of franchisees.
- (b) A requirement that a franchisee assent to a release, assignment, novation, waiver, or estoppel which deprives a franchisee of rights and protections provided in this act. This shall not preclude a franchisee, after entering into a franchise agreement, from settling any and all claims.
- (c) A provision that permits a franchisor terminate a franchise agreement prior to the expiration of its term except for good cause. Good cause shall include the failure of the franchisee to comply with any lawful provision of the franchise agreement and to cure such failure after being given written notice thereof and a reasonable opportunity, which in no event need be more than 30 days, to cure such failure.
- (d) A provision that permits a franchisor to refuse to renew a franchise without fairly compensating the franchisee by repurchase or other means for the fair market value at the time of expiration of the franchisee's inventory, supplies, equipment, fixtures, and furnishings. Personalized materials which have no value to the franchisor and inventory, supplies, equipment, fixtures, and furnishings not reasonably required in the conduct of the franchise business are not subject to compensation. This subsection applies only if: (i) The term of the franchise is less than 5 years and (ii) the franchisee is prohibited by the franchise or other agreement from continuing to conduct substantially the same business under another trademark, service mark, trade name, logotype, advertising, or other commercial symbol in the same area subsequent to the expiration of the franchise, or the franchisee does not receive at least 6 months advance notice of franchisor's intent not to renew the franchise.
- (e) A provision that permits the franchisor to refuse to renew a franchise on terms generally available to other franchisees of the same class or type under similar circumstances. This section does not require a renewal provision.
- (f) A provision requiring that arbitration or litigation be conducted outside this state. This shall not preclude the franchisee from entering into an agreement, at the time of arbitration, to conduct arbitration at a location outside this state.



- (g) A provision which permits a franchisor to refuse to permit a transfer of ownership of a franchise, except for good cause. This subdivision does not prevent a franchisor from exercising a right of first refusal to purchase the franchise. Good cause shall include, but is not limited to:
  - (i) The failure of the proposed transferee to meet the franchisor's then current reasonable qualifications or standards.
  - (ii) The fact that the proposed transferee is a competitor of the franchisor or subfranchisor.
  - (iii) The unwillingness of the proposed transferee to agree in writing to comply with all lawful obligations.
  - (iv) The failure of the franchisee or proposed transferee to pay any sums owing to the franchisor or to cure any default in the franchise agreement existing at the time of the proposed transfer.
- (h) A provision that requires the franchisee to resell to the franchisor items that are not uniquely identified with the franchisor. This subdivision does not prohibit a provision that grants to a franchisor a right of first refusal to purchase the assets of a franchise on the same terms and conditions as a bona fide third party willing and able to purchase those assets, nor does this subdivision prohibit a provision that grants the franchisor the right to acquire the assets of a franchise for the market or appraised value of such assets if the franchisee has breached the lawful provisions of the franchise agreement and has failed to cure the breach in the manner provided in subdivision (c).
- (i) A provision which permits the franchisor to directly or indirectly convey, assign, or otherwise transfer its obligation to fulfill contractual obligations to the franchisee unless provision has been made for providing the required contractual services.

**The fact that there is a notice of this offering on file with the attorney general does not constitute approval, recommendation, or endorsement by the attorney general.**

Any questions regarding this Notice should be directed to the Michigan Department of Attorney General, 670 Law Building, Lansing, Michigan 48913, (517) 373-7117.

**ADDENDUM TO THE SBS FRANCHISING, LLC  
FRANCHISE DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT  
FOR NEW YORK MASTER FRANCHISEES**

In recognition of the requirements of the New York General Business Law, Article 33, Section 680 through 695, and of the Codes, Rules, and Regulations of the State of New York, Title 13, Chapter VII, Section 200.1 through 201.16, the Franchise Disclosure Document for SBS Franchising, LLC for use in the State of New York shall be amended as follows:

1. The following information is added to the cover page of the Franchise Disclosure Document:

**INFORMATION COMPARING FRANCHISORS IS AVAILABLE. CALL THE STATE ADMINISTRATORS LISTED IN EXHIBIT A OR YOUR PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR SERVICES OR INFORMATION. REGISTRATION OF THIS FRANCHISE BY NEW YORK STATE DOES NOT MEAN THAT NEW YORK STATE RECOMMENDS IT OR HAS VERIFIED THE INFORMATION IN THIS FRANCHISE DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT. IF YOU LEARN THAT ANYTHING IN THIS FRANCHISE DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT IS UNTRUE, CONTACT THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION AND THE APPROPRIATE STATE OR PROVINCIAL AUTHORITY. THE FRANCHISOR MAY, IF IT CHOOSES, NEGOTIATE WITH YOU ABOUT ITEMS COVERED IN THE FRANCHISE DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT. HOWEVER, THE FRANCHISOR CANNOT USE THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS TO PREVAIL UPON A PROSPECTIVE FRANCHISEE TO ACCEPT TERMS WHICH ARE LESS FAVORABLE THAN THOSE SET FORTH IN THIS FRANCHISE DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT.**

2. The following is added at the end of Item 3:

Except as provided above, with regard to the franchisor, its predecessor, a person identified in Item 2, or an affiliate offering franchises under the franchisor's principal trademark:

- A. No such party has an administrative, criminal or civil action pending against that person alleging: a felony, a violation of a franchise, antitrust, or securities law, fraud, embezzlement, fraudulent conversion, misappropriation of property, unfair or deceptive practices, or comparable civil or misdemeanor allegations.
- B. No such party has pending actions, other than routine litigation incidental to the business, which are significant in the context of the number of franchisees and the size, nature or financial condition of the franchise system or its business operations.
- C. No such party has been convicted of a felony or pleaded nolo contendere to a felony charge or, within the 10-year period immediately preceding the application for registration, has been convicted of or pleaded nolo contendere to a misdemeanor charge or has been the subject of a civil action alleging: violation of a franchise, antifraud, or securities law; fraud; embezzlement; fraudulent conversion or misappropriation of property; or unfair or deceptive practices or comparable allegations.
- D. No such party is subject to a currently effective injunctive or restrictive order or decree relating to the franchise, or under a Federal, State, or Canadian franchise, securities, antitrust, trade regulation or trade practice law, resulting from a concluded or pending action or proceeding brought by a public agency; or is subject to any currently effective

order of any national securities association or national securities exchange, as defined in the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, suspending or expelling such person from membership in such association or exchange; or is subject to a currently effective injunctive or restrictive order relating to any other business activity as a result of an action brought by a public agency or department, including, without limitation, actions affecting a license as a real estate broker or sales agent.

3. The following is added to the end of the “Summary” sections of Item 17(c), titled “**Requirements for franchisee to renew or extend**,” and Item 17(m), entitled “**Conditions for franchisor approval of transfer**”:

However, to the extent required by applicable law, all rights you enjoy and any causes of action arising in your favor from the provisions of Article 33 of the General Business Law of the State of New York and the regulations issued thereunder shall remain in force; it being the intent of this proviso that the non-waiver provisions of General Business Law Sections 687.4 and 687.5 be satisfied.

4. The following language replaces the “Summary” section of Item 17(d), titled “**Termination by franchisee**”:

You may terminate the Master Franchise Agreement on any grounds available by law.

5. The following is added to the end of the “Summary” sections of Item 17(v), titled “**Choice of forum**”, and Item 17(w), titled “**Choice of law**”:

The foregoing choice of law should not be considered a waiver of any right conferred upon the franchisor or upon the franchisee by Article 33 of the General Business Law of the State of New York.

Each provision of this Addendum to the Disclosure Document will be effective only to the extent, with respect to such provision, that the jurisdictional requirements of New York General Business Law, Article 33, Section 680 through 695, and of the Codes, Rules, and Regulations of the State of New York, Title 13, Chapter VII, Section 200.1 through 201.16 are met independently without reference to this Addendum to the Disclosure Document.

**ADDENDUM TO THE SBS FRANCHISING, LLC  
FRANCHISE DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT  
FOR NORTH DAKOTA MASTER FRANCHISEES**

**Item 17, Additional Disclosures.** The following statements are added to Item 17:

Item 17(c) is hereby amended to indicate that a franchisee shall not be required to sign a general release.

Covenants not to compete are generally considered unenforceable in the State of North Dakota, in accordance with Section 51-19-09 of the North Dakota Franchise Investment Law. Item 17(r) is amended accordingly.

Apart from civil liability as set forth in Section 51-19-12 N.D.C.C., which is limited to violations of the North Dakota Franchise Investment Law (registration and fraud), the liability of the franchisor to a franchisee is based largely on contract law. Despite the fact that those provisions are not contained in the franchise investment law, those provisions contain substantive rights intended to be afforded to North Dakota residents. Therefore, North Dakota franchisees will not be required to waive their rights under North Dakota law.

No statement, questionnaire, or acknowledgement signed or agreed to by a franchisee in connection with the commencement of the franchise relationship shall have the effect of (i) waiving any claims under any applicable state franchise law, including fraud in the inducement, or (ii) disclaiming reliance on any statement made by any franchisor, franchise seller, or other person acting on behalf of the franchisor. This provision supersedes any other term of any document executed in connection with the franchise.

**ADDENDUM TO THE SBS FRANCHISING, LLC  
FRANCHISE DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT  
FOR RHODE ISLAND MASTER FRANCHISEES**

**Item 17, Additional Disclosures.** The following statements are added to Item 17:

Section 19-28.1-14 of the Rhode Island Franchise Investment Act provides that:

"A provision in a franchise agreement restricting jurisdiction or venue to a forum outside of this state or requiring the application of the laws of another state is void with respect to a claim otherwise enforceable under this Act."

No statement, questionnaire, or acknowledgement signed or agreed to by a franchisee in connection with the commencement of the franchise relationship shall have the effect of (i) waiving any claims under any applicable state franchise law, including fraud in the inducement, or (ii) disclaiming reliance on any statement made by any franchisor, franchise seller, or other person acting on behalf of the franchisor. This provision supersedes any other term of any document executed in connection with the franchise.

**ADDENDUM TO THE SBS FRANCHISING, LLC  
FRANCHISE DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT  
FOR SOUTH DAKOTA MASTER FRANCHISEES**

**Item 17, Additional Disclosures.** The following statement is added to Item 17:

No statement, questionnaire, or acknowledgement signed or agreed to by a franchisee in connection with the commencement of the franchise relationship shall have the effect of (i) waiving any claims under any applicable state franchise law, including fraud in the inducement, or (ii) disclaiming reliance on any statement made by any franchisor, franchise seller, or other person acting on behalf of the franchisor. This provision supersedes any other term of any document executed in connection with the franchise.

**ADDENDUM TO THE SBS FRANCHISING, LLC  
FRANCHISE DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT  
FOR VIRGINIA FRANCHISEES**

In recognition of the restrictions contained in Section 13.1-564 of the Virginia Retail Franchising Act, the Franchise Disclosure Document for SBS Franchising, LLC for use in the Commonwealth of Virginia shall be amended as follows:

2. Item 17 of the Disclosure Document shall be amended as follows:

No statement, questionnaire, or acknowledgement signed or agreed to by a franchisee in connection with the commencement of the franchise relationship shall have the effect of (i) waiving any claims under any applicable state franchise law, including fraud in the inducement, or (ii) disclaiming reliance on any statement made by any franchisor, franchise seller, or other person acting on behalf of the franchisor. This provision supersedes any other term of any document executed in connection with the franchise.

Each provision of this Addendum shall be effective only to the extent, with respect to such provision, that the jurisdictional requirements of the Virginia Retail Franchising Act are met independently without reference to this Addendum.

**ADDENDUM TO THE SBS FRANCHISING, LLC  
FRANCHISE DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT  
FOR WISCONSIN MASTER FRANCHISEES**

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth in the Disclosure Document, the following provisions shall supersede and apply to all franchises offered and sold in the State of Wisconsin:

1. REGISTRATION DOES NOT CONSTITUTE APPROVAL, RECOMMENDATION OR ENDORSEMENT BY THE COMMISSIONER OF SECURITIES OF THE STATE OF WISCONSIN.
2. The following shall apply to Franchise Agreements in the State of Wisconsin:
  - a. The Wisconsin Fair Dealership Act, Wisconsin Statutes, Chapter 135 (the “Act”), shall apply to and govern the provisions of Franchise Agreements issued in the State of Wisconsin.
  - b. The Act’s requirements, including that in certain circumstances a Franchisee receive ninety (90) days’ notice of termination, cancellation, non-renewal or substantial change in competitive circumstances, and sixty (60) days to remedy claimed deficiencies, shall supersede the provisions of Section XVII of the Franchise Agreement to the extent they may be inconsistent with the Act’s requirements.



**EXHIBIT G**  
**FORM OF UNIT FRANCHISE AGREEMENT FORM**  
**(Example for Information Only)**

**THIS IS A SAMPLE OF THE UNIT FRANCHISE AGREEMENT THAT  
THE MASTER FRANCHISEE WILL OFFER TO ITS UNIT FRANCHISEES.**

**MASTER FRANCHISEE WILL NOT SIGN THIS AGREEMENT,  
AND IT IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY.**

**NOTHING IN THIS FRANCHISE DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT  
IS INTENDED AS AN OFFER OF A UNIT FRANCHISE.**

**STRATUS BUILDING SOLUTIONS**  
**UNIT FRANCHISE AGREEMENT**

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Exhibit A – The Marks

Exhibit B – Promissory Note

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## STRATUS BUILDING SOLUTIONS

### UNIT FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

THIS FRANCHISE AGREEMENT (this “Agreement”) is being entered into this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_, by and between **YOUR COMPANY NAME**, a \_\_\_\_\_ state [corporation][limited liability company][partnership], d/b/a Stratus Building Solutions of **AREA** with its principal office located at: **ADDRESS, CITY, STATE ZIP** (hereinafter referred to as “we,” “us,” “our,” or “Master Franchisee”) and the following independent business:

Entity Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(hereinafter referred to as “you,” “your,” or “Franchisee”).

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### RECITALS

- A. We are a master franchisee operating under a master franchise agreement with SBS Franchising, LLC (“SBS” or “SBS Franchising”) within the Territory (defined below).
- B. We are in the business of offering franchises for independent businesses to operate a commercial cleaning and maintenance business, under the Stratus system of specifications and operating procedures (“System”) and the service marks “Stratus” and “Stratus Building Solutions,” and such other marks and logos as we may prescribe from time to time (“Marks”). Franchisees provide commercial cleaning and maintenance services to interior and exterior environments of business and residential locations.
- C. The Marks are owned by Diversified Royalty Corporation (“Trademark Owner”) and are licensed to SBS in accordance with a License and Royalty Agreement; SBS has granted us the right to offer franchises under the System and the Marks in the Territory (defined below).
- D. You wish to acquire the right to operate a franchise under the System and the Marks and in connection therewith to avail yourself of various other services provided by us as described in this Agreement.
- E. We will, during the course of our relationship with you, provide you certain information relating to the System, including, without limitation, a brand standards manual (“Brand Standards Manual”), which includes content about franchise operations, cleaning operations, evaluations, business operations, office care, restroom care, trade names, trademarks, product designs and plans and other proprietary business concepts and plans (collectively, the “Confidential Information”).

- F. You acknowledge that you have read this Agreement and the Franchise Disclosure Document for prospective franchisees and have been given at least fourteen (14) days to obtain clarification of any provision that you may not understand.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises, covenants, and agreements contained herein, you and we agree as follows:

## **1. GRANT OF FRANCHISE RIGHTS AND INITIAL CUSTOMER CONTRACTS**

### **1.1 Grant**

We grant you the right, and you accept the obligation, to operate a commercial cleaning and maintenance business under the System and Marks on the terms described in this Agreement (“Franchised Business”). You agree to operate your Franchised Business only in the Territory described in Section 1.2 below.

### **1.2 Franchise Plan**

We will furnish to you a franchise plan that will consist of one (1) or more customer contract(s) (“Customer Contracts”) for customers (“Customers”) located in CITY, STATE MSA (the “Territory”) with a value of \$\_\_\_\_\_ in gross annual billings (as it may be modified hereunder from time to time, the “Franchise Plan”).

We will use our reasonable commercial efforts, to the extent practicable, to permit you to provide your input regarding service specifics (estimate, cost assessments, ordering supplies, and Clean Schedule (described below) in connection with each Customer Contract. In such cases where we permit you to provide your input, you may provide your input regarding specific details related to the Customer Contract or Franchise Plan, including, without limitation, regarding the estimate, time and personnel necessary to complete such plan, cost assessments, ordering supplies, etc. and we shall take such input into account in bidding Contracts and developing the Franchise Plan.

You shall have complete discretion to determine your own hours and the manner in which you complete all work for Customers; provided however, that the work completed for the Customer complies with the Customer’s requirements as identified in the “Clean Schedule” provided to you prior to conducting work for the customer. The “Clean Schedule” describes the work required by the Customer and is a guide to the performance of your services to the Customer.

**1.3 Non-exclusive Rights.** You acknowledge and agree that your rights in the Territory are not exclusive to the you and we may grant other franchises to other parties to operate in the Territory. You may not service outside of the Territory any Customers or Customer Contracts acquired under this Agreement.

### **1.4 Timing of Acquisition of Initial Customer Contracts**

We have the following time periods to offer initial Customer Contracts to you from the date of your completion of the Brand Certification Program (described in Section 3.1 below):

- (i) One hundred and twenty (120) business days, for any initial Franchise Plan with a value of up to \$36,000 in gross annual billings; or

- (ii) One hundred and twenty (120) business days plus an additional thirty (30) business days, for each additional \$12,000 of in gross annual billings in the Franchise Plan, over the initial \$36,000 in gross annual billings.

The time periods described above may be extended upon your and our mutual agreement or for the following amount of time in the following circumstances:

- (i) Your Re-certification. If any Customer Contract offered to you in fulfillment of the initial Franchise Plan cancels your services for faulty workmanship, or other default under such Customer Contract, or we discontinue your service to such Customer, we may require re-certification of your representative and the time within which to offer Customer Contracts with the value of gross annual billings in the Franchise Plan will be suspended until your representative completes re-certification to our satisfaction.
- (ii) Your Material Breach of the Agreement. If you are in breach of any material provision of this Agreement, any Customer Contract or any other Agreement with us, the time in which to offer Customer Contracts with the value of gross annual billings in the Franchise Plan will be suspended until all material breaches are cured.

#### 1.5 Your Acceptance and/or Refusal of Customer Contracts

After our offer of Customer Contracts to you, within seven (7) calendar days, you must either notify us in writing of your acceptance or refusal to accept the Customer Contract(s). If you fail to accept or refuse such Customer Contract(s), you will be deemed to have accepted such Customer Contract(s).

Upon your acceptance of such account(s), you will own the Customer Contract(s). Your Customer Contract(s) will remain your property, unless any Customer Contract is returned to us as provided in Section 6.2 of this Agreement. Your refusal to accept any Customer Contract will in no manner be construed as a breach of our obligations under this Section 1.

We make no representations with respect to the profitability or the amount of labor required to fulfill the initial Customer Contract(s) other than it will comply, at the time the Franchise Agreement is granted, with the Franchise Plan as defined in Section 1.2, or of any additional Customer Contracts that are offered to you. You acknowledge that (1) you may be involved in the bidding of Customer Contract(s), to the extent described in Section 1.2 above, and (2) the means by which your obligations to the customer are fulfilled during the term of this Agreement are solely within your control.

In the event that you reject any Customer Contracts provided as part of this Franchise Plan or subsequently discontinue servicing such Customer, then we will be deemed to have fulfilled our obligations hereunder. However, if within one (1) year from the starting date of your services, a Customer should terminate the services of yours for any reason except faulty workmanship, lack of trustworthiness, or other claimed defaults on the part of you or if you should cease servicing a Customer because of the Customer's failure to pay for services rendered, we will offer to replace these terminated Customer Contract(s) with other janitorial Customer Contract(s) within a reasonable time, prorated based upon the original gross annual billings. If the new Customer Contract(s) total more than the prorated original Customer Contract(s), an Account Acquisition Fee will be assessed on the overage as if such overage was an additional Customer Contract offered pursuant to Section 2.1.

## 1.6 Additional Business Services

In addition to your performance of the Franchise Plan, we encourage and expect you to develop your own business, independent of the Franchise Plan that would be an independent source of revenue for you, (1) by obtaining your own Customer Contracts (as further described in Section 2.3 below) and (2) by offering and providing services to customers of the Franchised Business and other customers that are Additional Business Services (as further described in Section 2.4 below).

## **2. ADDITIONAL CONTRACTS**

### 2.1 Contract Acquisition Program

During the Term of this Agreement, we may offer to you, and you may accept, additional Customer Contracts if we determine, in our reasonable business judgment, that you can satisfactorily service such additional accounts. To obtain additional Customer Contracts, you must pay us an Account Acquisition Fee based on the Franchise Plan level selected (see Section 7.2 of this Agreement) and/or your current annualized Gross Billings, and, at our option, sign a general release. These additional Customer Contracts will be subject to the terms of this Agreement.

Upon your acceptance of such additional Customer Contract(s), you will own the Customer Contract(s). Your Customer Contract(s) will remain your property unless it returned to us as provided in Section 6.2 of this Agreement.

### 2.2 Stratus Referral Program

You may obtain additional Customer Contracts by referring a potential franchisee to us through a written notice to us. When the potential franchisee enters into a franchise agreement with us, you will receive additional Customer Contract(s) with an annual value equal to ten percent (10%) of the amount of the gross annual billings in the Franchise Plan purchased by such potential franchisee. These additional Customer Contracts will be subject to the terms of this Agreement as if purchased hereunder.

### 2.3 Your Obtained Customer Contracts

Because you are operating your own business, to expand your business you may (1) bring your own clients with you that you have previously serviced prior to the Term or (2) identify potential new clients within the Territory and solicit the potential client to become your Customer by entering into a Customer Contract. Further, if you see benefit and at your request, we will utilize our best efforts to assist you in soliciting the potential customer to become your Customer by entering into a Customer Contract.

If you bill and collect such Customer Contracts on your own and service such a Customer without use of the Stratus Marks and/or System, you will not pay us a royalty fee or administration fee on such Customer Contracts. However, if we perform billing and collection for such Customer Contracts or you solicit or service such Customers using the Stratus Marks and/or System, you must pay us a royalty fee and an administration fee as provided in Sections 7.3 and 7.4 below.

If you bring your own Customer(s) with you or you obtain your own Customer Contracts, you will own those Customer Contracts, and those Customer Contracts will remain your property unless they are transferred to us as provided in Section 6.2 of this Agreement.

## 2.4 Your Additional Business Services

We encourage you to offer and provide additional business services separate from those offered by the Franchised Business to generate separate revenue streams (the “Additional Business Services”). Such Additional Business Services may include, but are not limited to, residential cleaning services, waste removal, snow removal, and recycling services. You shall have the right to offer the Additional Business Services to existing Customers that were originally introduced to you by us and new Customers. You shall have no right to use the Stratus Marks and System Standards (defined in Section 5.2 below) in providing the Additional Business Services; provided, however, that any isolated cleaning services described in Section 7.6 hereof shall be subject to the terms and conditions of such provision. Your Additional Business Services shall not include any activities prohibited by the non-solicitation provisions in Section 16 hereof.

## 2.5 Insurance for Your Obtained Customer Contracts and Additional Business Services

You acknowledge and agree that you will be obligated to obtain, at your own expense, your own insurance coverage for any work you perform for Customers as described in Section 2.3 or 2.4 hereof, including, without limitation, general liability insurance and workers’ compensation insurance.

# **3. ADMINISTRATION SERVICES**

## 3.1 Brand Certification Program, Customer Relations and Accounting

We provide a comprehensive Brand certification program (“Brand Certification Program”) for you, which includes video, classroom and on-site components that cover the actual work that will be performed by your Franchised Business. Personal consultations can also be scheduled at your request. You are required to have your representative complete the Brand Certification Program to our satisfaction. Group seminars will be available from time to time at our sole discretion, which seminars may be mandatory. There are no costs to you for personal consultations and group seminars. Your employees will fulfill the obligations of the customer agreements in accordance with the System Standards (defined in Section 5.2) and within the terms of the contract. Your employees must be properly trained and capable of performing their duties in accordance with System Standards. You must conduct a thorough Brand certification class for your employees as described in the Unit Franchise Brand Standards Manual and as otherwise required by us. After your completion of the Brand Certification Program we will loan you one (1) copy of the Brand Standards Manual, or otherwise make it available to you, for your use during the term of this Agreement.

## 3.2 Customer Relations Assistance

You and your employees are responsible for providing courteous service to your customers and respond to any concerns, comments or complaints promptly. We may assist you with your customer service efforts and will use our best efforts to assist in customer relations. We may send a representative to visit customers during normal business hours in an effort to insure compliance with the System’s brand standards and customer satisfaction. Results of these site inspections will be made known to you by mail, phone, or other manner. Regularity of these visits is determined solely by us and should in no way replace customer service efforts that you are required to employ.



### 3.3 Billing, Collections and Records

We will regularly (i) provide billing and invoicing services for your Customer Contracts and accept and process payments from all customers for your Customer Contracts and (ii) collect monies in your name and with your authority from your Customer Contracts, except as described in Section 2.3 above. We will invoice your Customer Contracts on a monthly basis, unless your customer requests an alternate payment arrangement or a service contract requires a different procedure. You must maintain revenue records. We reserve the right to maintain revenue records on all of your Customer Contract(s).

### 3.4 Accounting

- 3.4.1 We will deduct royalties, administrative fees, insurance fees, any supplies, any advertising fees, any Brand certification fees, any transfer fees, that month's payment on any promissory note, or any other monies then owed by you, and uncollected accounts receivable in accordance with this Section 3.4. If you approve our attempts to enforce any payments of accounts by Customers, in accordance with this Section 3, or if you are in default of any monies owed to us or is otherwise in breach of this Agreement, we will deduct any out-of-pocket costs (including, but not limited to, reasonable attorney's fees and court costs) which may be incurred by us in enforcing payments of accounts by Customers.
- 3.4.2 We will pay you each month (on the last business day of the month following the month in which service was provided) from the amount paid by the customer(s) you serviced during the previous month net of the amounts described in the previous paragraph. We will pay you for services provided no earlier than the thirtieth (30<sup>th</sup>) day following the month the services were rendered and will not exceed the sum total due to you (after all deductions set forth above) from all accounts you are currently servicing.
- 3.4.3 We will make our best efforts to collect monies due pursuant to each Customer Contract. If we determine that a Customer is a bad risk, you may, in your sole discretion, cease providing services to pursuant to that Customer Contract. We may engage attorneys, commence litigation or do any acts in order to enforce payment of the accounts by the Customers, upon your consent. We shall notify you before taking such action and you agree to cooperate with us in any such action and to pay the reasonable attorney's fees, court costs and other expenses incurred in connection with such action. If after collection action has begun, and the Customer pays the previously uncollected account receivable, we shall add such fees, costs and expenses to the calculation of the monthly amount owed to you at the end of the month in which the customer paid such previously uncollected amount.

## 4. **USE OF MARKS**

### 4.1 License

We hereby grant to you a non-exclusive license, upon the terms and conditions contained herein, to use the Marks. The current Marks are attached hereto as **Exhibit A**. You will use the trademarks, service marks, trade names and logos and the labels and designs pertaining thereto, but only in connection with the rendering of your services in the janitorial and building maintenance service business, and only

on those items and in the form approved by us. Nothing contained herein may be construed so as to permit the use by you of the Marks in any other manner or for any other purpose (including, without limitation, no use of the Marks in connection with the Additional Business Services), except as expressly provided for herein. Nothing herein gives you any right, title or interest in or to the Marks, trade secrets, processes, methods of operation or good will of us, SBS, or Trademark Owner, except as a privilege and license, during the term hereof, to display and utilize the same according to the limitations and upon the terms, covenants and conditions contained herein, or as may be hereafter adopted by us from time to time. We expressly reserve all rights with respect to the Marks and with respect to any trade secrets, processes, methods of operation and goodwill except as may be expressly granted to you herein.

#### 4.2 Expiration or Termination of License

Upon the expiration or termination of this Agreement, as provided under the terms of this Agreement, you will lose all rights to use the name and mark “Stratus”, “Stratus Building Solutions” and/or any other licensed names or marks, business systems, Confidential Information and trade secrets, and must cease to be an authorized Stratus Franchisee. You have no further rights to any Customer Contracts, proceeds of any account, nor will you have any further interest in this Agreement or any benefits provided herein. You agree to discontinue the use of the Marks, deliver and surrender every Mark, label, promotional item, and any physical object bearing or containing any of said Marks, the Brand Standards Manual, and any other items that may be set forth herein; and you will not, directly or indirectly, thereafter operate or do business under any name or in any manner, whether as an individual, partner, agent, shareholder, officer, director, or spouse, that might tend to give the public the impression that you are operating a business operated, owned, licensed by or affiliated with the us or SBS.

#### 4.3 Marks

You agree that the Marks are the sole and exclusive property of Trademark Owner, that the Marks have been licensed by Trademark Owner to SBS, and that SBS has granted us the right to use and sublicense the Marks in the Territory pursuant to our agreement with SBS; and you assert no claim and will hereafter assert no claim to any goodwill, reputation or ownership thereof by virtue of your licensed use hereof. You will use the Marks only for the uses and in the manner permitted in this Agreement. You agree that we may, at our sole discretion, revoke the license to use the name Stratus and/or design and direct the use of a different, substitute name and/or design, and that, in such event, you will cease use of the name and/or design so revoked and commence immediately to use the substitute name and/or design at your expense. You further agree that you will immediately cease use of the Marks should our license with SBS to use the Marks expire, terminate or fail to renew, except as otherwise specified in Section 14 hereof.

#### 4.4 Use of Marks

You may not establish a presence on, or market using, the Internet, any website, Social Media (such as Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube, blogs and other online social networks, wikis, forums, content sharing communities, etc.), mobile app, or any other technology platform that may be developed in the future, in connection with the Franchised Business without our prior written consent. We have the right to require you to contribute to or prepare pages or content in accordance with our guidelines and subject to our approval for any Internet, social media, or other advertising platforms operated by us or SBS. We retain the sole right to approve any linking to, or other use of, Stratus or Stratus Building Solutions website.

#### 4.5 Notification of Infringements and Claims

You will only take such actions as we consider important in our judgment to protect the Marks. You will not take any action that jeopardizes Trademark Owner's, our, or SBS' interests in, or the validity or enforceability of, the Marks. You agree to immediately notify us of any apparent or actual infringement of, or of any challenge to your use of, the Marks. You will not communicate with any third party with respect to such a claim unless we consent to such communication. We will take such action as we deem appropriate in our sole judgment. Trademark Owner or SBS has the exclusive right to control any settlement, litigation or proceeding arising out of or related to any such matters.

### **5. BUSINESS OPERATIONS**

#### 5.1 Franchisee's Representative to Attend Brand Certification Program

You agree that your representative will attend the initial mandatory Brand Certification Program provided to all new franchisees, as well as any other specialized Brand certification courses that we may deem necessary with regard to the needs of a particular customer serviced by you. We may elect to provide a Brand certification for the account you are servicing or in other accounts. You further agree to operate the Franchised Business and provide service to your Customers in a manner consistent with the procedures, methods and standards established in such Brand Certification Programs, the Brand Standards Manual and directives, as they may be adjusted from time to time. You also agree to permit us to observe and record the performance and methods of services provided by you and your employees.

#### 5.2 Quality Control Standards

You are responsible for ensuring that your business meets the customer's performance requirements and the System Standards (defined below). Accordingly, you agree to devote sufficient time and effort to your business in order to (i) comply with the provisions of this Agreement and (ii) ensure that all work and services performed by you and by your authorized agents/employees in the Franchised Business will be performed to meet, and in accordance with, the customer's performance requirements. You will determine your staffing, the number of hours an account requires, including whether your employees will work full time or part time, the time for doing the work, and the manner in which the work is completed, provided however, that all terms of the customer contract as described in the "Clean Schedule" are met. You will advise us what your hours of operation will be in order to allow us the right to inspect in accordance with this Section 5.2. We reserve the right to establish standards, methods and procedures' pertaining to the operation of your Franchised Business or this Franchise Agreement (the "System Standards"). You agree that you will be bound by the System Standards. We shall keep a current updated Brand Standards Manual of the System Standards at our company office. In the event that the System Standards kept by us differ from those kept by you, the System Standards in our company office Brand Standards Manual will be controlling. You will follow current established Stratus System Standards, as they may be amended from time to time, and agrees not to deviate there from without our prior written consent.

Realizing that quality control and uniformity are important in the Stratus System, you agree to use only such equipment, supplies, products, control forms and other business forms that we prescribe or permit, including using "Stratus" brand chemicals. We have the right to change the authorized goods and services that you may offer, but such goods and services will be related to the business of building and property maintenance, decoration, refurbishment and renovation. We will not provide you with equipment, tools, supplies, products, or forms. You will purchase and use your own equipment, tools, and will purchase your own supplies, products and forms for the operation of your Franchised Business.

In hiring your employees, you must use your best efforts to hire qualified and competent employees and must operate your business by following and maintaining the System Standards established by us through our Brand Certification Programs, Brand Standards Manual, periodic directives and updates. We are not responsible for supervising either your performance or your obligations to the Customer Contracts nor are we responsible for supervising you employees. You are solely responsible for the supervision of your employees. You acknowledge that we provide certain assistance to enable you to conduct your independent business and that your employees are not employees of ours or SBS, and shall, upon request by us, require each of your employees to sign a statement (in a form provided by us) acknowledging such fact.

You understand and agree that we may inspect any premises serviced by you at any time during regular business hours or hours when the you are providing services to your customers and upon reasonable advance notice to ensure that the quality of service being performed is in accordance with System Standards. Such inspection may not interfere with the regular business activities of you or your customers.

### 5.3 Business Records; Taxes

You further agree to keep true and accurate business records and books of accounts, which will be open to inspection by us or our duly authorized representative during regular business hours. We have the right to examine same, including any other business records as they may request. You agree to pay all personal property, sales, excise, use and other taxes, regardless of type or nature which may be imposed, levied or assessed by any federal, state, municipality, county or other government agency, which may have jurisdiction over such products, services and equipment.

### 5.4 Confidential Information

You acknowledge that the information and materials which we provide to you contain valuable Confidential Information of ours, and you agree not to make any reproductions thereof without our prior written permission. You further agree not to disclose any information you receive from us to any third party without our prior written approval and not to disclose such information to your employees except those who have a need to know and who have agreed not to make any use of the information disclosed by signing a confidentiality agreement, attached hereto as **Exhibit D**. Said information and materials at all times remain the exclusive property of ours and will be delivered to us, including all copies thereof in your possession, at our request. You agree to use the contents in strict confidence pursuant to this Franchise Agreement, and only during the effective term of this Agreement.

You acknowledge that a violation of the terms of this Section 5.4 would result in irreparable injury to us for which no adequate remedy at law may be available and you accordingly consent to the issuance of an injunction prohibiting any such conduct of you or other equitable remedies. This Section 5.4 shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

### 5.5 Managing Owner

The individual signing this Agreement for you and designated on the signature page of this agreement as the Managing Owner (which individual must have at least a fifty percent (50%) ownership), is the “Managing Owner” for the purposes of this Agreement. You acknowledge that the “Managing Owner” must be named and have your authority to bind you in any dealings with us and to direct any action necessary to ensure compliance with this Agreement and any other agreements relating to the

Franchised Business. The Managing Owner will be in charge of directing the operations of your Franchised Business. No change in the Managing Owner may be made without our prior, written consent.

#### 5.6 New Concepts, Processes or Improvements.

You agree that if you or any of your employees develop any new concept, process or improvement in the operation or promotion of the Franchised Business, except those developed during your conduct of your Additional Business Services, you will promptly notify us and provide us with all necessary information concerning same, without compensation. You acknowledge that any such concept, process or improvement shall become our property, and you shall take all actions necessary, at our expense, to assign such property to us or, at our request, SBS. You agree that we may utilize or disclose such information to other franchisees or SBS as it determines to be appropriate.

### **6. CUSTOMER SERVICE REQUIREMENTS**

#### 6.1 Equipment and Supplies

You will be responsible for acquiring and providing your own equipment and supplies for the Franchised Business. You must replace such equipment and supplies as needed and will provide all labor, other equipment, materials, tools and other supplies necessary to fulfill your Customer Contract(s), including all janitorial services called for in each customer contract. You must perform all such services in a good and professional manner, satisfactorily to the customer for whom you are performing such services. You agree to maintain a safe place of business in accordance with OSHA and other governmental and industry standards and to conduct your business in a manner that would bring goodwill to yourself, us and SBS.

#### 6.2 Discontinuing Your Services to Customer

We may transfer ownership of a Customer Contract to ourselves or to another franchisee and require you discontinue your service under such Customer Contract in the event that:

- 6.2.1 You have failed to perform your obligations to the Customer's satisfaction, or the Customer has lodged a complaint with us, and we have given you written notice of your failure to perform or of such complaint, and:
  - 1. The Customer is not satisfied within three (3) business days from the date of delivery of such notice, or
  - 2. The Customer is dissatisfied on two (2) occasions within a period of one hundred and twenty (120) consecutive days; or
- 6.2.2 We receive a request either written or verbal from a customer that the Customer's contract(s) be terminated or be served by a different franchisee; or
- 6.2.3 You fail to service any Customer in a prompt manner in accordance with System Standards;
- 6.2.4 You desire to cease servicing a customer and has received our written consent to such cessation;

- 6.2.5 You sell cleaning or similar supplies to a customer outside of this Agreement, service the Customer in a capacity other than as our System franchisee (except as permitted under this Agreement), or fail to notify us of all services performed for your Customer as required in this Agreement;
- 6.2.6 This Agreement is terminated, you violate this Agreement or any other agreement with us, you stop being our franchisee or otherwise no longer want to service the Customer.

If you believe that we have transferred a Customer Contract from you unfairly, you have the right to submit a written request to us that we consider special circumstances. We will consider your request in good faith.

We will have no obligation to provide additional replacement customers if you reject the customer offered. Nothing contained in this Section 6 will limit any other rights held by us under this Agreement, including termination of this Agreement.

You hereby waive any and all claims, demands, or rights to payments for any services performed after the date that a Customer Contract is transferred away from you and your services to a customer are discontinued, and you further agree that you will not be entitled to any refund, rebate or reduction of any fees previously paid or promised to us in connection with your relationship with, or services to, any customer that has been discontinued pursuant to the provisions of this Section. Furthermore, we do not have any obligation to replace such customer with a new Customer Contract, except as provided above.

Multiple franchisees of the Stratus System will operate in the Territory where you do business, and you acknowledge that the consistent satisfaction of all Customers of the Stratus brand in the Territory is critical to your own success and the success of all franchisees in the Territory. Your employees and other franchisees operating in the Territory work daily in close contact with Customers and their employees in their personal work spaces and in the immediate proximity of Customers' important business equipment and confidential business records. You acknowledge that this intimate contact between your employees and your Customers makes the prompt and definitive action to address Customer dissatisfaction permitted by this Section 6.2 essential to creating and maintaining long term Customer relationships and has an impact on the goodwill associated with the Stratus Marks.

### 6.3 Protection of Customer Information

You shall use your best efforts to protect customers against a cyber-event, identity theft, or theft of personal information. You must at all times be in compliance with (a) the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standards ("PCI DSS") (as they may be modified from time to time or as successor standards are adopted), (b) the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act ("FACTA"); (c) regional, national, and local laws and regulations relating to data and personal privacy, data security, security breaches, and electronic payments, (d) the operating rules and regulations of all credit card, debit card and/or ACH processors and networks that are utilized in the Franchised Business, and (e) security policies and guidelines of ours, all as may be amended from time to time.

## 7. FRANCHISE FEE AND OTHER FEES

You agree to pay us as follows:

### 7.1 Franchise Fee

A “Franchise Fee” of \$\_\_\_\_\_, payable in cash, certified check or wire transfer, upon the execution of this Agreement and the balance of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to be paid in thirty-six equal monthly installments of \$\_\_\_\_\_ each, including interest on the unpaid principal amount at the rate of fifteen percent (15%) per annum. The first installment of principal and interest will be paid out of the first collection made by us from your account(s). Installments will thereafter be paid on the thirtieth (30th) day of each consecutive month out of the monthly collection made by us from your accounts until full payment is received. The obligation to pay the balance is evidenced by a Promissory Note, in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit B**.

### 7.2 Additional Account Fee (Account Acquisition Fee)

7.2.1 An additional account fee (“Account Acquisition Fee”) for additional janitorial Customer Contracts purchased pursuant to Section 2 of this Agreement is payable at the time such additional contract is assigned to you in accordance with the option selected by you and consented to in writing by us on the Account Acquisition Agreement in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit C** (the “Account Acquisition Agreement”). Our consent will be evidenced by our signature on the Account Acquisition Agreement. The options set forth in such Account Acquisition Agreement are as follows:

7.2.1.1 A cash payment in full (less a ten percent (10%) discount), or

7.2.2.1 A sweat equity option providing for monthly payments over a time period of less than six (6) months, as determined by us, or

7.2.3.1 A down payment of said fee at the time said account is assigned to you. The balance, with interest on the unpaid principal at the rate of fifteen percent (15%) per annum, paid in up to twelve (12) equal successive monthly installments commencing on the thirtieth (30<sup>th</sup>) day of the first month following the month you begin servicing the new account.

The obligation to pay the balance will be evidenced by an Account Acquisition Agreement and/or a Promissory Note.

7.2.2 The Account Acquisition Fee will be the greater of the following:

7.2.1.2 If you purchased below the SBS-12 level, or your existing business is generating less than \$12,000 in annualized Gross Billings, the Account Acquisition Fee shall be five (5) times one month’s gross billings for such additional Customer Contract;

7.2.2.2 If you purchased at least the SBS-12 level, but lower than the SBS-24 level, or your existing business is generating less than \$24,000 in annualized Gross Billings, the additional account fee shall be four (4) times one month's gross billings for such additional Customer Contract;

7.2.3.2 If you purchased at the SBS-24 level or higher, or if your existing business is generating \$24,000 or more in annualized Gross Billings, the Account Acquisition Fee shall be three (3) times one month's gross billings for such additional Customer Contract;

7.2.4.2 Because you are operating your own business, we encourage you to identify potential new clients within the Territory to expand your business. If you identify a potential new client located within our Territory, you may solicit the potential client to become your Customer. If you successfully sign up the potential client as a Customer, there will be no Account Acquisition Fee due to us.

7.2.5.2 If you identify a potential new client located within the Territory to us, and you request that we assist you in signing up the potential client as a Customer, we will utilize our best efforts to solicit the potential client to become a Customer for your benefit, and you must pay us an Account Acquisition Fee up to 50% of the amount due as determined above.

We will also require you to sign the General Release attached hereto as **Exhibit F** when you sign the Account Acquisition Agreement.

### 7.3 Royalty

You agree to pay us a monthly royalty equal to five percent (5%) of the monthly Gross Billings for the preceding month, provided that the minimum monthly royalty payment will be Fifty Dollars (\$50). "Gross Billings" is defined as the total amount of all bills and invoices sent by us to each account serviced by you during a calendar month, whether the bills and invoices represent janitorial services, goods, supplies or any other services or products related to the Franchised Business. Any sales taxes paid to appropriate tax authorities, any monies billed but uncollected, and any revenue from Additional Business Services shall be excluded from Gross Billings.

### 7.4 Administration Fee

You agree to pay us a monthly administration fee of ten percent (10%) of your Gross Billings for the preceding month. There is no refund or rebate of any portion of the administration fee.

### 7.5 Business Insurance Fee

If you elect to participate in our optional Business Insurance Program, a fee will be deducted from your monthly Gross Billings for the preceding month. Although this fee may fluctuate based upon the costs of insurance to us and other factors, it is currently five percent (5%) of gross monthly revenues.

### 7.6 Isolated Cleaning Services

Special or isolated cleaning services are one-time non-recurring contracts such as carpet cleaning and extraction, floor stripping and refinishing or initial cleaning, etc. These services will not be included in your monthly Gross Billings; instead they will be reported and invoiced separately. Each time you perform an isolated or special service, we are entitled to deduct a ten percent (10%) fee from the Gross Billings for such services in addition to the normal royalty, administration, advertising and insurance fees; provided, however, that you shall not be required to pay such ten percent (10%) fee for such services, if your provision of such services is the direct result of your solicitation of the customer for providing such



isolated or special services. In each case, you will be responsible for providing all equipment, supplies and labor for special and isolated services. If you acquire such work on your own and work is done in an account that is not already our account, or is an account already serviced by you, this fee is waived; however, royalties, administration, advertising and insurance fees still apply. Isolated cleaning services shall not be Additional Business Services hereunder.

#### 7.7 Bid and Negotiation Fee

You may request our services to help bid and negotiate a contract for cleaning services with a prospective customer. If a contract is secured after we have helped bid and/or negotiate the contract, an Account Acquisition Fee (or a partial fee) will be due to us.

#### 7.8 Customer Contract Transfer Fee

You may request to transfer out of a Customer Contract at any time. Because the transfer of a Customer Contract destabilizes the Customer relationship, you will be charged a Fifty Dollar (\$50) administration fee to us to handle the administrative costs related to transferring the Customer Contract, in addition to a Customer Contract transfer fee equal to ten percent (10%) of the monthly billing under such Customer Contract, or a minimum of One Hundred Dollars (\$100).

#### 7.9 Customer Contract Cancellation Fee

If a Customer cancels a Customer Contract after experiencing performance issues, such as service problems, theft, failure to service on scheduled service dates, or a Customer-requested change in franchisee, we and you both suffer a financial loss, and there is damage to image to the reputation of the Stratus System. Accordingly, you will be charged a "Cancellation Fee" equivalent to fifty percent (50%) of one month's gross billing on the first Customer Contract lost, seventy five percent (75%) of one month's gross billing on the second Customer Contract lost, and one full month's gross billing on every Customer Contract lost thereafter in a 12-month period of time, in addition to any other fees that may apply hereunder.

#### 7.10 Refunds

We have no obligation to refund any portion of any payment made under this Agreement, unless and to the extent that, within the period of time allowed by Section 2 hereof, we fail to offer initial Customer Contracts with a value of \$\_\_\_\_\_ in gross annual billings, in which event we will refund a portion of the initial franchise fee equal to the difference between the Franchise Fee for the Franchise Plan originally contracted for in Section 2 of this Agreement and the Franchise Fee for the actual Franchise Plan that is provided.

If at the time of the refund, you are indebted to us pursuant to a promissory note given in payment of all or a portion of the initial franchise fee, the refund will be applied to payment of the note, up to the whole thereof, before the balance (if any) of the refund is paid to you.

### **8. ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION**

#### 8.1 Advertising Fee

No advertising fee is assessed currently, although we reserve the right to charge such a fee. If we, in our sole discretion, decides to charge an advertising fee, we may do so upon thirty (30) days written notice to you. In no event will an advertising fee exceed 1% of your Gross Billings. Any proceeds of

such a fee will be used for marketing, advertising and promotional activities in the Territory, as well as to pay the administrative costs relating to the collecting and accounting of the fee and such activities. You are encouraged however to independently advertise and promote the Franchised Business and the Additional Business Services.

## **8.2 Promotional Items**

You shall prepare and distribute to Customers business cards and badges, displaying the Marks, in promotion of your Franchised Business. All business cards and badges must prominently display, in bold, that you are an “Independent franchisee of Stratus Building Solutions” or that your employee is “Employed by an independent franchisee of Stratus Building Solutions.” If you obtain, bill, and collect Customer Contracts on your own and/or provide Additional Business Services, you shall also prepare and distribute to customers your own business cards and badges (without use of the Marks, and indicating that you are an independent business) to promote such services.

## **9. KEYS AND SECURITY**

You are responsible for all keys to customer's premises and shall observe all security systems and precautions necessary or required at the customer's premises. If services to a customer are discontinued for any reason, or if this Agreement is terminated for any reason, you agree to return all keys and security codes and cards immediately. Failure to return any such item for any reason or failure to comply with any of the provisions of a customer's contract for janitorial or maintenance services will constitute a breach of this Agreement by you.

## **10. INDEPENDENCE OF YOUR BUSINESS**

You must be a business entity (not an individual) that has your own employees. You must hire all employees used in the operation of the Franchised Business (including without limitation any of your owners working in the Franchised Business) and must comply with all federal, state and local laws and regulations related to the operation of an entity.

You acknowledge and agree we and you are independent businesses, and you have day-to-day control over your business activities, and must make operational, strategic and other business decisions, subject to your compliance with the terms of this Agreement and applicable law. You are an independent contractor in business for yourself, and have no right or interest in, or authority over us or any of our property or business. You are free to conduct your business as you may deem best in providing the services to the customer, independently of the supervision, management and control of us, provided that you agree to abide by all the terms of this Agreement (including protection of the Marks and compliance with the System Standards) and all federal, state and local laws and regulations of all government agencies having jurisdiction over the customer's premises or the activities conducted by you. You acknowledge and agree, and will never claim otherwise, that the various restrictions, prohibitions, specifications, and procedures of the System Standards which you are required to comply with under this Agreement do not directly or indirectly constitute, suggest, infer or imply that we or SBS control any aspect or element of the day-to-day operations of your Franchised Business, which you alone control, but only constitute standards to which you must adhere when exercising control of the day-to-day operations of your Franchised Business. You must at all times have at least one person actively involved in the management of your Franchised Business, which must be your majority owner.

You shall be solely responsible for all, and neither we nor SBS have any authority to control, either directly or indirectly any, employment decisions and employment functions related to the Franchised

Business and any Additional Business Services, including, without limitation, those related to hiring, firing, scheduling (subject to customer preferences or requirements), establishing remuneration, personnel policies, benefits, disciplining, supervising, and recordkeeping, regardless of whether you received advice from us on these subjects. You acknowledge and agree that you have sole control over which Customer Contracts you wish to accept and the strategy and method of business expansion and acquisition (if any) of any additional Customer Contracts or other Customers. If ever it is asserted that we or SBS is the employer, joint employer or co-employer of any of your employees in any private or government investigation, action, proceeding, arbitration or other setting, you irrevocably agrees to assist us and/or SBS in defending said allegation, appearing at any venue requested by us and/or SBS to testify on us and/or SBS's behalf, participate in depositions, other appearances or preparing affidavits rejecting any assertion that we and/or SBS is the employer, joint employer or co-employer of you or any of your employees.

You are not, and will not hold yourself out as, an agent, representative, employee, officer, director, partner, owner, or affiliate of ours or SBS. Except as expressly provided herein, it is further agreed that you have no authority to create or assume in our or SBS' name, or on behalf of us or SBS, any obligation, express or implied, or to act or purport to act as agent or representative on behalf of us or SBS for any purpose whatsoever. In no event will either party be deemed to be fiduciaries of the other.

You shall be responsible for all income and other taxes to all federal, state, municipal and other authorities required to be paid for all persons employed in your operation (including the owners thereof) including the employer's portion of any social security, unemployment taxes, other payroll taxes, FICA, FUTA, and SECA payments, and any other taxes required to be paid, by deducting such expenses from the pay of all your employees including your owners. You shall also withhold from employees' pay, and pay when due, taxes and premiums for unemployment and workman's compensation insurance for yourself and all your employees, as required by state, federal or other law.

Neither we nor SBS will be obligated for any damages to any person or property which directly or indirectly arise from or relate to your operation of your Franchised Business. Pursuant to the above, you agree to indemnify, defend and hold harmless us and SBS from any and all liability, loss, attorneys' fees, or damage we or SBS may suffer as a result of claims, demands, taxes, costs, or judgments arising out of any allegation of an agent, partner, or employment relationship.

**YOU ACKNOWLEDGE THAT YOU ARE AN INDEPENDENT BUSINESS AND NEITHER YOU NOR ANY OF YOUR OWNERS, MEMBERS, SHAREHOLDERS, OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES, OR OTHER AFFILIATED INDIVIDUALS ARE EMPLOYEES OF OURS OR SBS, AND HAVE NO RIGHT TO THE BENEFITS OF EMPLOYMENT FROM US OR SBS.**

## **11. INSURANCE**

You are responsible for all losses, damages to property, or injuries to persons arising out of or connected with the performance or non-performance of your services to customers, including any claimed damages for breach of security. You must obtain Fidelity bonding theft insurance in an amount not less than \$50,000. You further agree that you will acquire and properly maintain workers' compensation insurance for yourself and/or all of your employees and comply with all state and federal laws to maintain a proper unemployment insurance account. You further agree to maintain comprehensive liability and property damage insurance covering property damage, loss and personal injury in amounts not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence, \$2,000,000 in the aggregate. All such policies must name us and SBS Franchising as additional insured and contain a Grantor of Franchise endorsement. You also agree that

your comprehensive liability insurance will not contain exclusion for property in our care, custody, and control.

You must maintain comprehensive automobile insurance including, personal injury protection and uninsured motorist on all vehicles operated for your business.

You further agree that all such insurance policies maintained by you be written by an insurance company (companies) in good standing and in compliance with all state and federal insurance laws and insurance regulatory agencies with an A.M. Best rating of A or higher. You shall provide us with thirty (30) days' written notice prior to the cancellation or termination of any insurance policy as defined herein.

You shall provide us with proof of coverage prior to you commencing work on any Customer Contract. If you fail to obtain any or all insurance as specified herein and approved by us, we may (but are not required to) purchase such insurance for the benefit of you and you agree to forthwith reimburse us for the cost thereof. Types and amounts of insurance required to be procured by you may be modified from time to time by us, in our sole discretion, by written notice to you through modification of System Standards, policies and procedures or other reasonable manner.

You may participate in the optional Business Insurance Program which provides general liability insurance and bonding to us and our participating franchisees. The cost of such liability insurance and janitorial bonding plan provided will include, in addition to the premium, a management fee, service charge, and profit as determined by us.

You are responsible for obtaining all insurance required by this Agreement whether or not you choose to participate in the optional Business Insurance Program. All policies of insurance, whether obtained through the Business Insurance Program or not, must name us and SBS as additional insureds or additional loss payee as appropriate and must contain a Grantor of Franchise endorsement.

## **12. BUSINESS RISK**

You acknowledge and agree that you want to acquire rights in a franchised business and to operate as a franchisee and not as an employee of ours or of SBS. You accept the risks of owning an independent business.

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Initials

You, as an independent business entity, recognizes that there are economic and other hazards in connection with the operation of any business, including the type contemplated pursuant to this Agreement. Success, whether financial or otherwise, is not guaranteed by us, even though you may follow or rely on our advice, recommendations, programs or policies.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Initials

You acknowledge that you have made an independent investigation of this business. You acknowledge that we have not made any representation, warranty, or other claim regarding the operation of any Franchised Business opportunity, other than those made in this Agreement and our Franchise Disclosure Document, and that you have independently evaluated this opportunity, including by using

your business professionals and advisors, and have relied solely on those evaluations in deciding to enter into this Agreement.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Initials

You acknowledge that you have read this Agreement and our Franchise Disclosure Document and understands and accepts that this Agreement's terms and covenants are reasonably necessary for us to maintain its high standards of quality and service, as well as the uniformity of those standards for each franchised business, and to protect and preserve the good will of the Marks.

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Initials

You acknowledge that you have not received from us or SBS, and are not relying upon, any representations or guarantees, express or implied, as to the potential volume, sales, income or profits of a Franchised Business.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Initials

### **13. INDEMNITY**

You are responsible for all losses, damages, judgments, liabilities, claims, injuries, costs and expenses arising directly or indirectly, out of or connected with the performance or non-performance of your services to your customers, including any claimed damages for breach of security.

You agree to defend, hold harmless and unconditionally indemnify Trademark Owner, SBS, and us, and our and their shareholders, directors, officers, employees, affiliates, agents and assignees, and other Stratus franchisees (each, an "Indemnified Party") from all loss or damage arising from any liability, demands, claims, costs, obligations, suits, damages, and expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees and related expenses (including without limitation appellate, post-judgment legal proceedings), which such Indemnified Party may at any time suffer or sustain, or become liable for any reason, or any loss, damage or injury to persons or property of any Indemnified Party or both, arising out of, or related to your ownership or operation of your Franchised Business, any act or failure to act, or as a result of failure to perform services, or negligence or misconduct in the performance of services, or violation of the provisions of this Agreement, by you or any of your agents, employees, contractors, representatives, partners, officers, directors, and shareholders. Examples of claims covered by this indemnity include claims relating to your maintenance or operation of motor vehicles; your being characterized as an employee of us or SBS by you or by any federal, state, or local court or agency; and your failing to act as an independent business owner or failing to pay any income, unemployment, or payroll tax or file any related return, or otherwise defaulting under Section 11 hereof. You will not have to indemnify us to the extent that such loss or damage directly result from the gross negligence or willful misconduct of us. This indemnity will continue in full force and effect notwithstanding any expiration or termination of this Agreement.

## 14. TERMINATION

### 14.1 Termination By Us

This Agreement may be terminated by us upon any default of you. In no event will such termination relieve you from any of your obligations already incurred by this Agreement. A default includes, without limitation, any of the following:

- 14.1.1 Failure of you to perform your obligations pursuant to this Agreement or any breach by you of this Agreement or any other agreement between us and you, including without limitation payments under any promissory note issued hereunder.
- 14.1.2 One or more discontinuances of a Customer Contract pursuant to Section 7 of this Agreement.
- 14.1.3 Your insolvency, the adjudication of you as bankrupt, your Franchised Business coming into possession or control, even temporarily, of any trustee in bankruptcy or appointed receiver, the making of a general assignment for the benefit of creditors or the inability of you to pay your debts as they become due.
- 14.1.4 Your attempt to assign this Agreement, or any right or obligation hereunder, or make any transfer or assignment in violation of Section 17 hereunder without first securing our written consent upon thirty (30) days written notice to us.
- 14.1.5 Your abandonment of your Franchised Business.
- 14.1.6 Your use of abusive, violent, threatening, or harassing language or behavior toward clients or regional office staff and any behavior that is considered detrimental toward the Stratus brand.
- 14.1.7 Your conviction of a felony or of any other crime that impairs the goodwill associated with the Marks.
- 14.1.8 Your theft from any account serviced.

If a default results from an event described in Sections 14.1.1, 14.1.2, or 14.1.4 of this Section 14, termination shall occur ten (10) days following written notice of said default from us to you if you have failed to cure said default by then, except as may otherwise be required by applicable law. If the default results from an event described in Sections 14.1.3, 14.1.5, 14.1.6, 14.1.7, or 14.1.8, termination shall occur immediately without notice or opportunity to cure, except as may otherwise be required by applicable law.

Upon expiration or termination of this Agreement for any reason (including without limitation Section 14.2 hereof), you shall immediately pay to us in full all amounts due thereunder through the date of termination, cease use of the Marks and other property as provided in Section 4.2 of this Agreement, comply with Section 5.4 hereof, return to us the copy of the Brand Standards Manual we loaned you for use during the term of this Agreement and not retain any copy thereof, and cease doing business as required by this Agreement. The termination of this Agreement will be without prejudice to any remedy or cause of action which we may have against you for the recovery of any monies due to us or equipment or property of ours, or any other right of us to recover damages for any breach hereof.

If you fail to comply with the provisions of this Section 14 or of Section 4, we may execute, in your name and on your behalf, any and all documents necessary to cause the discontinuance of your use of the names and Marks granted you under this Agreement. You hereby irrevocably appoint us as your attorney-in-fact to do so.

All of your rights and entitlements under this Agreement survive your termination or expiration, and we do not waive or release any rights we have to enforce this Agreement by acknowledging or accepting such termination or expiration. The termination or expiration of this Agreement does not relieve you from any of your obligations under this Agreement, whether incurred, discovered or vested before or after such termination or expiration. Similarly, your obligations under this Agreement survive any termination or expiration of this Agreement.

#### 14.2 Termination By You

You may terminate this Agreement, upon written notice to us, if you are in compliance with the Franchise Agreement and we fail to substantially perform our material obligations pursuant to this Agreement after you have provided written notice to us of the nature of any alleged breach of such material obligations hereunder and provided us at least sixty (60) days to cure any such breach (or such longer period of time as necessary if such breach cannot reasonably be cured in such sixty-day period). Termination shall occur sixty (60) days following written notice of said default from you to us upon your written notice of such termination to us, if we have failed to cure said default by then. You acknowledge and agree that, in the event of any such termination, you shall not be entitled to any refund of any monies paid to us and shall not have any claim for money damages against us. We agree to comply with all post-termination obligations, including but not limited to those post-termination obligations described in Sections 4.2, 5.4, 13, and 16 hereof. Your termination of this Agreement for any other reason or without such notice will be deemed null and void.

#### 14.3 Termination or Expiration of Master Franchise Agreement

You acknowledge and agree that, on any termination for cause or expiration of the Master Franchise Agreement between us and SBS, SBS has the right, but not the obligation, to assume the rights and obligations of any or all unit franchise agreements. If the Master Franchise Agreement between us and SBS is terminated, for any reason, and SBS does not assume the rights or obligations under this Agreement or designate a new franchisor to be responsible for the Territory (with such franchisor assuming our rights and obligations hereunder), this Agreement is subject to immediate termination, and neither we nor SBS will have any obligation or liability to you with respect to such termination, provided that we may elect to continue to service existing franchisees under outstanding agreements at its sole option.

### **15. TERM**

This Agreement remains in full force and effect for a period of twelve (12) years from the date of execution unless sooner terminated as hereunder provided (the “Initial Term”). Upon the expiration of the Initial Term of this Agreement, you will have no further rights in the franchise or the Agreement unless we and you execute a written renewal agreement for a period of twelve (12) years (the “Extended Term”), which agreement will be on the same terms and conditions as we are then granting renewal of new franchises in the Territory, except that there will be no payment of any additional franchise fee or renewal fee for such Extended Term. The franchise rights will be renewed if you:

- 15.1.1 Gives us written notice of intent to renew at least one hundred and eighty (180), but not less than sixty (60) days prior to the date of expiration of the Initial Term or any Extended Term,
- 15.1.2 Execute the renewal Agreement at least thirty (30) days prior to date of expiration,
- 15.1.3 Execute the General Release, attached hereto as **Exhibit F**, upon execution of the renewal agreement.
- 15.1.4 Are not in default of this Agreement on the date of giving notice, the date of execution of the renewal agreement, or the date of expiration of the Initial Term or any Extended Term, and
- 15.1.5 Update all equipment and supplies to then-current system standards for new franchisees.

Whenever the word “term” is used in this Agreement, the word means the Initial Term, the Extended Term, or both, as the context requires. Upon termination, for any reason, of the Initial Term or the Extended Term, we will have no obligation to repurchase the franchise from you.

## **16. NON-SOLICITATION OF CUSTOMERS**

You acknowledge and agree that, if you were to solicit or otherwise induce your Customers serviced under the Marks and the System to be serviced by you or a third party (other than as a franchisee operating under the Marks and the System), we would be unable to protect the System and our Confidential Information against unauthorized disclosure and use, and could not protect the other franchisees operating under the System.

Accordingly, during the term of this Agreement and for a period of two (2) years from the date of expiration or termination of this Agreement for any reason and within (a) the Territory and (b) a distance of twenty (20) miles from the Territory, you agree that neither you, your affiliates nor any of your owners will:

- 16.1.1 divert, solicit, or attempt to divert or solicit, any business or customer of us, your Franchised Business, or any other franchisee of ours, or
- 16.1.2 provide commercial cleaning and maintenance services to any business or Customer (a) who is currently serviced by you, any other franchisee, or other person under the System and the Marks under this Agreement or (b) who has been serviced by you, any other franchisee, or other person under the System and the Marks under this Agreement within the previous eighteen (18) month period prior to such expiration or termination; or
- 16.1.3 perform any act injurious or prejudicial to the goodwill associated with the Marks.

This Section 16 does not prevent you from otherwise engaging in competitive activities, such as (1) providing cleaning or related services to customers who have not been serviced by you, any other franchisee, or any other person under the System and the Marks in the previous 12 months or (2) offering to any customers, including customers otherwise serviced by you, any other franchisee, or any third party under the System and the Marks, services other than janitorial, cleaning, or maintenance services;



provided, however, that in performing these other services, you will not represent yourself as a franchisee under the System and the Marks.

Notwithstanding any other provision hereof, we and you agree, for purposes of promoting your Additional Business Services, you shall have the right, during the term of this Agreement to solicit customers of the Franchised Business in accordance with Section 2.4 of this Agreement.

You acknowledge that a violation of the terms of this Section would result in irreparable injury to us for which no adequate remedy at law may be available and you accordingly consent to the issuance of an injunction prohibiting any such conduct of you or other equitable remedies. If any provision of this Agreement (including any sentences, clauses, or any part thereof) shall be held contrary to law or incomplete or unenforceable in any respect, the remaining provisions shall not be affected but shall remain in full force and effect; any invalidated provisions shall be severed and this Agreement modified to the extent necessary to render it valid and enforceable.

## **17. ASSIGNMENT**

### **17.1 Our Right to Assign Our Rights**

We may, without your consent, assign our rights and duties under this Agreement to another party, provided that the party to whom the rights and obligations are assigned, at the sole discretion of ours, is capable of performing, and agrees in writing to perform the obligations and duties of ours.

### **17.2 Your Right to Assign Your Rights**

17.2.1 This Agreement will inure to the benefit of the successors and assigns of you. The interests of you in this Agreement are personal and may not be sold, assigned, transferred, shared or divided in any manner by you, and any ownership interest in you may not be transferred, and no assets of you relating to the Franchised Business may be sold or transferred, without the written consent of ours, which consent will not be unreasonably withheld and be given or refused within thirty (30) days of receipt by us of written notice of such proposed transfer.

17.2.2 You shall provide to us, prior to the sale or transfer, a copy of any additional information which we may require in order to determine if we will grant our consent to the proposed sale or transfer, which consent may be withheld in our sole discretion if the proposed transferee does not meet the qualifications then established by you for new franchisees. In addition to the requirements of this Section 17.2.2 below, it is agreed that consent for sale, transfer or assignment will be granted only when all obligations of you, including all of your debts, are paid at the time of the sale or transfer, you pay a transfer fee to us equal to five percent (5%) of your yearly Gross Billings of the Customer Contract(s) being transferred/sold (with a minimum transfer fee of \$750), the buyer agrees to undergo the Brand Certification Program required of a new Franchisee and the transferee agrees to execute a Unit Franchise Agreement of the type then being used by us, however, the new agreement with the transferee will have the same expiration date as the original franchise agreement and not require the transferee to make greater payments to us than those required of you under this Agreement. If such conditions are fulfilled and the thirty (30) day notice period has passed, our consent will be deemed to have been granted for the proposed transfer. There is

no transfer fee if you transfer your franchise rights to an immediate family member or to a corporation or company which such family member wholly owns. We may withhold written consent in the event that you are in default under the terms of this Agreement or any other agreement with us until said default is cured.

17.2.3 If your owners transfer or sell ten percent (10%) or more of the stock, if it is a corporation, limited liability company, or partnership, or a ten percent (10%) or greater interest in the ownership of you (except to immediate family members), then you agree to pay us a transfer fee based on the sales price of such ownership interest. The sale price will be defined as monies received, monies to be received, stock, real estate or any other form of redeemable or hard assets received in consideration for the transfer or sale of the ownership interest in you. This transfer fee shall be equal to ten percent (10%) of all amounts received from the sale. The transfer fee is due and payable upon the sale or transfer. You also agree to provide, as a condition of our approving the sale or transfer, as a personal covenant to the purchaser, in addition to the covenant contained in this Agreement, an agreement for the seller not to provide any commercial cleaning and maintenance services to any business or Customer as described in Section 16.1.2 of this Agreement, nor to seek to divert business from us or our other franchisees for a period of one (1) year after the transfer or sale. Any transaction or series of transactions which would have the effect of transferring ten percent (10%) or more of the ownership of you must be approved by us on the same basis as any other sale or transfer as set forth herein.

17.2.4 Prior to the transfer, the transferor you must also execute a general release, attached hereto as **Exhibit F**, of any and all claims against us and SBS Franchising, and their parent corporation and affiliated corporations, and the officers, directors, shareholders and employees of ours and SBS Franchising, and each parent and affiliate corporation in their corporate and individual capacities, including, without limitation, claims arising under this Unit Franchise Agreement and federal, state and local laws, rules and ordinances.

### 17.3 Effect of the Death or Disability of an Owner

17.3.1 Upon the death of any person with an ownership interest in you (the “Deceased”), the executor, administrator or other personal representative of the Deceased must transfer such interest to a third party approved in writing by us within six (6) months after the death of the deceased. If no personal representative is designated or appointed by will or trust, or no probate proceedings are instituted with respect to the estate of the Deceased, then the distributee of such interest must be approved by us. If the distributee is not approved by us, then the distributee shall transfer such interest to a third party approved by us within six (6) months after the death of the Deceased. The exception would be the transfer to a spouse or immediate descendant of the Deceased, which would be deemed to be approved by us. However, any Managing Owner must be approved by us whether or not such Managing Owner is a spouse or immediate descendant of the Deceased.

17.3.2 Upon the permanent disability of any person with an ownership interest in you, we may, in our sole discretion, require such interest to be transferred to a third party approved by us within six (6) months after notice to you. “Permanent disability”

means any physical, emotional or mental injury, illness or incapacity which would prevent a person from performing the obligations set forth in this Franchise Agreement for at least ninety (90) consecutive days and from which condition recovery within ninety (90) days from the date of determination of disability is unlikely. Permanent disability will be determined by a licensed practicing physician selected by us upon examination of the person; or, if the person refuses to submit to an examination, then such person will be automatically deemed permanently disabled as of the date of such refusal for the purpose of this Subsection.

17.3.3 In the event of the death or permanent disability of any person with an ownership interest in you, we at our option may elect to operate the Franchised Business during the interim six (6) months following such death or the interim six (6) months following such permanent disability, as applicable, until the interest of you is transferred in accordance with this Subsection or until the applicable interim period expires, whichever comes first. We shall account for all proceeds from you less all costs of operation. As compensation for managing your Franchised Business, we will charge a reasonable monthly management fee which will be in addition to the royalty fees, advertising fees and any other fees or payments due and owing to us. We shall utilize our best efforts in managing your Franchised Business, but will not be liable for any losses incurred.

17.3.4 Upon the death or claim of permanent disability of any person with an ownership interest in you, you or a representative of yours must promptly notify us in writing of such death or claim of permanent disability. Any transfer upon death or permanent disability will be subject to the same terms and condition as described in this Section, provided, however, that in the event of the death or permanent disability of any individual with an ownership interest in you, no fee will be imposed for a transfer to the spouse or direct descendent of that individual. Transfer fees will be imposed if the transfer is to a non-related third party. If an interest is not transferred upon death or permanent disability as required in this Subsection and in accordance with the terms and condition of this Section, we may terminate this Franchise Agreement.

## **18. GUARANTEE**

You acknowledge that all partners, owners and shareholders of yours are listed on the signature pages hereto and are obligated to execute this Agreement to guarantee the payment of all sums which may from time to time become due to us under this Agreement and to agree to be bound by all of the terms, covenants and conditions of this Agreement hereof. Such partners, owners or shareholders also agree to execute any Promissory Notes and Personal Guarantees as requested by us.

## **19. AMENDMENT**

This Agreement may not be modified, altered or amended except in writing, and executed by all the parties hereto. No failure to act by us will be considered a waiver or amendment to any provision of this Franchise Agreement.

## **20. CAPTIONS**

The captions used in this Agreement are inserted as a matter of convenience. The text of any Section of this Agreement controls its interpretation.

## **21. SEVERABILITY**

If any provision hereof is found by a trier of fact, for any reason, to be illegal or unenforceable, then the validity of the remaining portions, terms, or provisions will not be affected; the illegal portion, term or provision will be deemed not to be part of this Agreement, and this Agreement will be construed as if such provision had never been part of the Agreement.

## **22. SUCCESSORS**

This Agreement will bind, and inure to the benefit of the executor, personal representative, administrator, heirs, successors and assigns of each of the parties.

## **23. ENTIRE AGREEMENT**

This Agreement and all exhibits to this Agreement constitute the entire agreement between the parties and supersede any and all prior negotiations, understandings, representations, and agreements. Nothing in this or in any related agreement, however, is intended to disclaim the representations we have made in the franchise disclosure document that we furnished to you.

We acknowledge that you are entering into this Agreement as a result of your own independent investigation of the franchised business offered under this Agreement and not as a result of any representations about us made by our shareholders, officers, directors, employees, agents, representatives, independent contractors, or franchisees that are contrary to the terms set forth in this Agreement, or in any disclosure document, prospectus, or other similar document required or permitted to be given to you pursuant to applicable law.

## **24. NOTICE**

Except as otherwise expressly provided herein, all written notices and reports permitted or required to be delivered by the parties pursuant hereto shall be deemed so delivered at the time delivered by hand or confirmed email, one (1) business day after transmission by facsimile, telegraph or other electronic system; three (3) days after deposit in the United States mail, via registered or certified mail, return receipt requested; or one (1) business day after placement with Federal Express, or other reputable

air courier service, requesting delivery on the most expedited basis available, postage prepaid and addressed as follows:

**If to Master Franchisee:**

MASTER FRANCHISEE NAME

d/b/a Stratus Building Solutions of AREA

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_stratusclean.com

**If notice is to be given to you, such notice shall be sent to:**

YOUR COMPANY NAME

Attn: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

The address hereby given for the service of notice may be changed at any time by either party through written notice to be given to the other as provided herein, and the manner in which notice required or permitted hereto may be changed at any time upon mutual written agreement.

## **25. DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

### **25.1 Dispute Resolution by Mediation**

The parties have reached this Agreement in good faith and in the belief that it is mutually advantageous to them. In the same spirit of cooperation, we agree to try to resolve, first through mediation, any and all disputes, controversies or claims that may arise between them concerning or relating to this Agreement, its performance, and the relationship between us and you. Except as provided in Section 5.4 and Section 16 hereof or relating to controversies arising from the Marks, either party shall submit any such, dispute, controversy or claim to non-binding mediation before the American Arbitration Association, or other mutually agreeable mediator, within twenty (20) days after such dispute, controversy or claim has arisen. Both parties shall execute a confidentiality agreement not to disclose the fact of mediation, its procedures, information discovered or results to anyone other than its professional advisors who shall also agree to maintain such confidentiality reasonably satisfactory to us. Upon submission, the obligation to attend mediation will be binding on both parties, and a condition of mediation is that it shall be held and concluded within thirty (30) days after it has been requested. Each party will bear its own attorney fees and costs with respect to the mediation, except the fees for the mediation will be split equally. Good faith participation in these procedures to the greatest extent reasonably possible, despite lack of cooperation by one or more of the other parties, is a precondition to maintaining any legal action under this Agreement to interpret or enforce this Agreement.

### **25.2 Arbitration**

The parties hereto agree that, except for disputes, controversies, or claims related to or based on improper use of the Marks or in connection with Sections 4.4 or 16, and except for mediation otherwise

required in Section 25.1 hereof, all controversies, disputes, or claims between you and our affiliates, and our and their respective members, officers, managers, agents, and/or employees, and you (and/or your owners, managers, guarantors, affiliates, and/or employees) arising out of or related to (1) this Agreement or any other agreement between you and us; (2) our relationship with you; (3) the validity of this Agreement or any other agreement between you and us or the validity of the parties actual agreement to arbitrate under this Agreement; or (4) any Stratus System Standard must be submitted for binding arbitration, on demand of either party, to the American Arbitration Association. The arbitration proceedings will be conducted by one arbitrator and, except as this Subsection otherwise provides, according to the then current commercial arbitration rules of the American Arbitration Association. Any questions regarding the arbitrability of any claim is to be determined by the arbitrator and is binding upon the parties. All proceedings will be conducted at a suitable location chosen by the arbitrator in or nearest the city where our principal business address is then located. All matters relating to arbitration will be governed by the Federal Arbitration Act (9 U.S.C. §§ 1 et seq.). Judgment upon the arbitrator's award may be entered in any court of competent jurisdiction.

- 25.2.1 The arbitrator has the right to award or include in his or her award any relief which he or she deems proper, including, without limitation, money damages (with interest on unpaid amounts from the date due), specific performance, injunctive relief, and attorneys' fees and costs, provided that the arbitrator may not declare any Mark generic or otherwise invalid or, except as expressly provided in Subsection 25.5 below, award any damages against either party.
- 25.2.2 You and we agree that any such dispute, controversy or claim between us and you must be submitted to arbitration no later than one (1) year after it has arisen, and that if it is not so submitted, the parties shall both regard it as time-barred under law. Us and you further agree that, in any arbitration proceeding, each must submit or file any claim which would constitute a compulsory counterclaim (as defined by Rule 13 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure) within the same proceeding as the claim to which it relates. Any claim which is not submitted or filed as required is forever barred. The arbitrator may not consider any settlement discussions or offers that might have been made by either you or us.
- 25.2.3 We and you agree that any mediation or arbitration will be conducted on an individual, not a class-wide, basis and that a mediation and/or arbitration proceeding between us and your affiliates, and your and their respective members, officers, managers, agents, and/or employees, and you (and/or your owners, managers, guarantors, affiliates, and/or employees) may not be consolidated with any other mediation and/or arbitration proceeding between us and any other person. No party shall initiate or participate in any class action litigation claim against any other party bound hereby.
- 25.2.4 Despite our and your agreement to arbitrate, we and you each have the right in a proper case to seek temporary restraining orders and temporary or preliminary injunctive relief from a court of competent jurisdiction.
- 25.2.5 The provisions of this Section 25 are intended to benefit and bind certain third party non-signatories and will continue in full force and effect subsequent to and notwithstanding this Agreement's expiration or termination.

25.2.6 Limitation of Parties. We, you and your principals may only seek damages or any remedy under law or equity for any claim against each other or their successors, assigns or guarantors arising out of or relating to the Agreement or the relationships of the parties. We and you agree that affiliates, shareholders, members, directors, officers, employees, agents and representatives will not be personally liable or named as a party in any litigation proceeding arising out of or relating to this Agreement or the relationship among the parties.

### 25.3 Governing Law and Venue

This Agreement is governed by [STATE] law, except to the extent this agreement or any dispute is governed by the Lanham Act or other federal law. Except as described in Sections 25.1, 25.2 and 26 hereof, in the event of a dispute that cannot be resolved between any of the parties hereto or otherwise arising in connection with this Agreement or the franchise relationship created pursuant to this Agreement, exclusive venue for any action or legal proceeding shall be in the federal or state courts situated in the [STATE] county located closest to Franchisor's headquarters, and you (and your principals) hereby consents irrevocably to the exclusive jurisdiction of such courts.

### 25.4 Attorney's Fee and Costs

If we incur legal fees or other expenses as a result of any breach by you of your obligations under this Agreement, then we will be entitled to recover from you the amount of all such legal fees and other expenses. Except as otherwise provided in this Section, if either party is required to enforce this Agreement in a judicial or other legal proceeding, the party prevailing in such proceeding will be entitled to reimbursement of its costs and expenses, including reasonable accounting fees, expert witness fees and legal fees.

### 25.5 WAIVER OF CERTAIN DAMAGES

**THE PARTIES HEREBY WAIVE, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, ANY RIGHT TO OR CLAIM FOR ANY PUNITIVE, EXEMPLARY, INCIDENTAL, INDIRECT, SPECIAL, CONSEQUENTIAL OR OTHER DAMAGES (INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, LOSS OF PROFITS) AGAINST US, SBS, OUR AND THEIR AFFILIATES, AND OUR AND THEIR RESPECTIVE OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, SHAREHOLDERS, PARTNERS, AGENTS, REPRESENTATIVES, LICENSORS, INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS, SERVANTS AND EMPLOYEES, IN THEIR CORPORATE AND INDIVIDUAL CAPACITIES, ARISING OUT OF ANY CAUSE WHATSOEVER. EACH OF YOU AND PRINCIPALS, IF ANY, AGREE THAT IN THE EVENT OF A DISPUTE, YOU AND EACH PRINCIPAL IS LIMITED TO THE RECOVERY OF ANY ACTUAL DAMAGES SUSTAINED.**

### 25.6 LIMITATIONS OF CLAIMS

**ANY AND ALL CLAIMS ARISING OUT OF OR RELATING TO THIS AGREEMENT OR THE RELATIONSHIP AMONG THE PARTIES WILL BE BARRED UNLESS A PROCEEDING FOR RELIEF IS COMMENCED WITHIN ONE (1) YEAR FROM THE DATE ON WHICH THE PARTY ASSERTING SUCH CLAIM KNEW OR SHOULD HAVE KNOWN OF THE FACTS GIVING RISE TO SUCH CLAIMS.**

25.7 WAIVER OF JURY TRIAL

**IN THE EVENT ANY PARTY INITIATES LITIGATION FOR ANY CLAIMS ARISING OUT OF OR RELATING TO THIS AGREEMENT OR THE RELATIONSHIP AMONG THE PARTIES, INCLUDING THOSE THAT INCLUDE OTHER PARTIES OR CLAIMS, ALL PARTIES WAIVE THEIR RIGHT TO A TRIAL BY JURY. THIS WAIVER APPLIES TO ALL CAUSES OF ACTION THAT ARE OR MIGHT BE INCLUDED IN SUCH LITIGATION, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO CLAIMS RELATED TO THE ENFORCEMENT OR INTERPRETATION OF THIS AGREEMENT, ALLEGATIONS OF STATE OR FEDERAL STATUTORY VIOLATIONS, FRAUD, MISREPRESENTATION, OR SIMILAR CAUSES OF ACTION, AND IN CONNECTION WITH ANY LEGAL ACTION INITIATED FOR THE RECOVERY OF DAMAGES BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR PRINCIPALS ON THE ONE HAND, AND US AND OUR PRINCIPALS AND SBS AND ITS PRINCIPALS ON THE OTHER HAND.**

25.8 Third-Party Beneficiary

We and you agree that SBS Franchising is a third-party beneficiary of this Agreement, including all dispute resolution provisions of this Section 25, and any claims arising from this Agreement and relationship between us and you against SBS Franchising will be conducted in accordance with the terms of this Section 25. SBS Franchising has right to enforce the terms and provisions of this Agreement; notwithstanding the foregoing, SBS Franchising is not a party to this Agreement and SBS Franchising is not responsible for any of the duties, obligations or requirements imposed on us or you by this Agreement or any liabilities of you associated with this Agreement, and as a consequence. You must covenant never to commence any action or proceeding against SBS Franchising, file any complaint with any regulatory authority concerning SBS Franchising or otherwise assert any claim against SBS Franchising or in any way seek to hold SBS Franchising liable for any performance or non-performance under this Agreement.

25.9 Survival

All provisions of this Section 25 shall survive termination or expiration of this Agreement.

**26. INJUNCTION**

You explicitly affirm and recognize the unique value and secondary meaning attached to the Stratus Building Solution franchise system and the Marks. Accordingly, you agree that any non-compliance by you with the terms of this Agreement, or any unauthorized or improper use of the Stratus Building Solution franchise system or the Marks by you, will cause irreparable damage to us, Stratus and other Stratus Building Solutions franchisees. You therefore agree that if you engage in this non-compliance, or unauthorized and/or improper use of the Stratus Building Solution franchise system or the Marks, during or after the period of this Agreement, we will be entitled to both temporary and permanent injunctive relief against you from any court of competent jurisdiction, in addition to all other remedies which we may have at law. You consent to the entry of these temporary and permanent injunctions. No bond is required for the issuance of a temporary restraining order or preliminary injunction, and you expressly waive the imposition of any bond for that purpose.



## **27. YOUR REPRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

### **27.1 Your Representations**

You represent and warrant to us, with the intention that we are relying thereon in entering into this Agreement, that:

1. You are organized under the laws of the state of its principal place of business (or another state which you have identified to us) and is in good standing with and qualified to do business in each state and political/ governmental subdivision having jurisdiction over the Franchised Business.

2. You have all corporate power and authority to execute, deliver, consummate and perform this Agreement, and it will be binding upon you and your successors and assigns when executed.

3. You do not have any material liabilities, adverse claims, commitments or obligations of any nature as of the date of execution of this Agreement, whether accrued, unliquidated, absolute, contingent or otherwise which are not reflected as liabilities on the balance sheets of your current financial statements, which you have furnished to us before the execution of this Agreement.

4. As of the date of execution of this Agreement, there are no actions, suits, proceedings or investigations pending or, to your knowledge or the knowledge any of your officers, directors, principal shareholders, proprietors, partners or owners (as applicable) after due inquiry, threatened, in any court or arbitral forum, or before any governmental agency or instrumentality, nor to the best of your knowledge or the knowledge of any such persons or entities (after due inquiry) is there any basis for any claim, action, suit, proceeding or investigation which affects or could affect, directly or indirectly, any of your assets, properties, rights or business; your right to operate and use its assets, properties or rights to carry on its business; and/or which affects or could affect your right to assume and carry out in all respects the duties, obligations and responsibilities specified in this Agreement.

5. Neither you nor any of your owners are a party to any contract, agreement, covenant not to compete or other restriction of any type which may conflict with, or be breached by, the execution, delivery, consummation and/or performance of this Agreement.

6. All your representations and warranties contained in this Agreement are complete, correct and accurate as of the date of execution of this Agreement and will survive any termination or expiration of this Agreement.

### **27.2 Your Acknowledgments**

You acknowledge, warrant and represent to us that:

1. No representation has been made by us (or any of our employees, agents or salespersons) and relied on by you as to the future or past income, expenses, sales volume or potential profitability, earnings or income of the Franchised Business, or any other Stratus enterprise.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
(Initial Here)

2. No representation or statement has been made by us (or any of our employees, agents or salespersons) and relied on by you regarding our anticipated income, earnings and growth or that of the Stratus Building Solutions franchise system, or the viability of the business opportunity being offered under this Agreement.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
(Initial Here)

3. Before executing this Agreement, you have had the opportunity to contact any and all the our existing franchisees.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
(Initial Here)

4. You have had the opportunity to independently investigate, analyze and construe both the business opportunity being offered under this Agreement, and the terms and provisions of this Agreement, using the services of legal counsel, accountants or other advisers (if you so elect) of your choosing. You have been advised to consult with your advisers with respect to the legal, financial and other aspects of this Agreement, the Franchised Business, and the prospects for that Franchised Business. You have either consulted with these advisors or has deliberately declined to do so.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
(Initial Here)

5. You have received from us a copy of our Franchise Disclosure Document, together with a copy of all proposed agreements relating to the sale of the franchise, at least ten business days (and fourteen calendar days) before the execution of this Agreement or at least ten (10) business days (and fourteen (14) calendar days) before the payment by you to us of any consideration in connection with the sale or proposed sale of the franchise granted by this Agreement.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
(Initial Here)

6. No representation or statement has been made by us (or any of our employees, agents or salespersons) and relied on by you regarding your ability to procure any required license or permit that may be necessary to the offering of one or more of the services contemplated to be offered by the Franchised Business.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
(Initial Here)

7. You affirm that all information set forth in all applications, financial statements and submissions to us are true, complete and accurate in all respects, and you expressly acknowledge that we are relying on the truthfulness, completeness and accuracy of this information.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
(Initial Here)

8. Attached hereto as **Exhibit E** is a Franchise Compliance Certificate. You shall have received and answer the questions thereon, relating to representations that have or have not been made to you. You have initialed and executed the Certificate voluntarily and attached it hereto.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
(Initial Here)

9. You understand and agree that we may operate and change the Stratus Building Solutions franchise system and our business in any manner that is not expressly prohibited by this Agreement. Whenever we have the right within this Agreement to take or withhold action or to grant or decline to you the right to take or withhold action, we may make such a decision on the basis of our business judgment of what is in our best interests and those of the System and the franchise network, without regard to whether other reasonable alternative decisions exist or whether our decision adversely affects you. Absent applicable statute, we shall have no liability for such a decision, and you agree that our decision will not be subject to limitation or review. If applicable law implies a covenant of good faith and fair dealing in this Agreement, you agree that such a covenant shall not imply any rights or obligations that are inconsistent with a fair construction of the terms of this Agreement and that this Agreement grants to us the right to make decisions, take actions and/or refrain from taking actions not inconsistent with your rights and obligations hereunder.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
(Initial Here)

[SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have hereunto set their hands the day and year first written above.

MASTER FRANCHISEE COMPANY NAME d/b/a  
Stratus Building Solutions of AREA

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

FRANCHISEE: YOUR COMPANY NAME      SHAREHOLDERS, OWNERS OR PARTNERS

By: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Social Security Number or Federal  
Employer Identification Number

By: \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_  
Social Security Number or Federal  
Employer Identification Number

Name of Managing Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

# FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

## EXHIBIT A THE MARKS

### Registered Marks

<u>Trademark</u>	<u>Registration Number</u>	<u>Registration Date</u>
<b>STRATUS BUILDING SOLUTIONS</b>	3,230,289	April 17, 2007 (renewed)
<b>STRATUS BUILDING SOLUTIONS</b>	5,811,443	July 23, 2019
<b>STRATUS</b>	5,296,290 5,296,293	September 26, 2017
<b>STRATUS (&amp; Design)</b> 	5,441,491 5,441,492	April 10, 2018
<b>STRATUS BUILDING SOLUTIONS (&amp; Design)</b> 	6,128,579	August 18, 2020
<b>STRATUS CLEAN</b>	6,853,352	September 20, 2022

# FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

## EXHIBIT B PROMISSORY NOTE

City                     

\$ \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_

FOR VALUE RECEIVED, the undersigned \_\_\_\_\_ (“Franchisee”) and the owners of Franchisee executing this Note (“Owners”), jointly and severally, promise to pay to the order of COMPANY d/b/a Stratus Building Solutions AREA (“Franchisor”) or at such other place or to such other party or parties as a holder of this Note may from time to time designate, in lawful money of the United States of America, the principal sum of \_\_\_\_\_ Dollars (\$ \_\_\_\_\_) with interest from the date hereof at the rate of Fifteen Percent (15%) per annum on the unpaid balance of said principal sum until paid.

The undersigned further promise to pay that principal sum and interest in installments as follows:

\_\_\_\_\_ Dollars on \_\_\_\_\_ or on the first collection from Franchisee's Customer Contract(s) and \_\_\_\_\_ successive monthly installments of (\$ \_\_\_\_\_) Dollars, each on the same day of each succeeding calendar month until all such payments have been made, on which date the entire balance of principal and interest unpaid shall be due and payable.

This note may be prepaid without penalty.

It is agreed that each installment, when paid, shall be credited first to interest then due and the remainder to principal, and interest shall cease upon the principal when so credited. Should the interest not be so paid, it shall, at the sole option of the holder of this Note, become a part of the principal and thereafter bear like interest as the principal.

Should default be made in the payment of any installment of principal or interest when due, then the whole sum of principal and interest shall become immediately due and payable at the option of the holder of this Note, with interest from the date of such default at the rate of eighteen percent (18%) per annum until paid on the entire unpaid principal and interest.

Furthermore, this Note and all other obligations, direct or contingent, of Franchisee or any endorser hereof to Franchisor, shall become due and payable immediately at the option of the holder of this Note, without demand or notice upon the happening of any of the following events:

1. The failure to pay when due any installment of the principal and interest of this Note.
2. The failure to timely keep or properly perform any of the recitals, covenants, conditions, representations, warranties, obligations or guarantees contained in any agreement between the Franchisor and Franchisee.
3. The levy of any attachment, execution, or any other process against all or any part of the assets of Franchisee.
4. The failure to pay, withhold, collect, remit any tax or tax deficiency when assessed or due.
5. The suspension of the business of Franchisee, or the making of a general assignment for the benefit of creditors, or the commencement of proceeding for dissolution or liquidation, or the commencement of proceeding under any bankruptcy, insolvency, readjustment, or debt or liquidation under law of any statute of the federal or state governments, or the adjudication as bankrupt or insolvent, or the involuntary

appointment of a receiver, or applications therefore, or the making of a bulk sale or the giving of notice of intention to do so.

6. At any time when, in the sole opinion of the holder hereof, Franchisee's financial responsibility shall become impaired or unsatisfactory.

In the event an attorney and/or a collection company is employed by the holder of this Note to enforce any of its terms, Franchisee and Owners, jointly and severally, shall pay reasonable costs and attorneys'/collection fees in connection therewith, and such amount shall be secured hereby.

This Note is to be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of                     .

Name of Franchisee:

Owner of Franchise:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name:  
Title:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name:  
Title:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Social Security Number or EIN

\_\_\_\_\_  
Social Security Number

Owner of Franchise:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name:  
Title:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Social Security Number

**FRANCHISE AGREEMENT**  
**EXHIBIT C**  
**ACCOUNT ACQUISITION AGREEMENT**





## ACCOUNT ACQUISITION AGREEMENT

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Acquisition Type: ☐ New ☐ TT ☐ FR ☐ OR Monthly Billing: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

CUSTOMER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Days of Service: ☐ S ☐ M ☐ T ☐ W ☐ T ☐ F ☐ S

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

FORMER FRANCHISEE: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Day of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW FRANCHISEE: \_\_\_\_\_ First Day of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

The undersigned Franchisee acknowledges receipt of and accepts responsibility for all duties, services and keys for the above-named Customer account and the related cleaning contract. Franchisee agrees to adhere to the cleaning schedule and all other parts of the cleaning agreement and to perform services to STRATUS standards. Franchisee is responsible for the safekeeping of the Customer's keys and alarm codes. Should any keys or codes be lost or not returned upon request, replacement charges will be the responsibility of the Franchisee. Additional penalties may apply as outlined in the Stratus Procedures Manual. These charges will be withheld from the next Franchisee Monthly Statement. Franchisee acknowledges that Franchisee has not received representations or claims from any source regarding the profitability or propriety of the above-named Customer. Franchisee has engaged in its own due diligence with respect to the pricing, general terms, parties, duties, and proposed services related to the above-named Customer. Based on such due diligence alone, Franchisee has determined that accepting such Customer Contract is in the best interest of its business.

Keys transferred from: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Keys: \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ - \$ \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ - \$ \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Additional Monthly Billing Provided - Monthly Business Owed = Billing Volume Difference x Multiplier - Down Payment = Total \$ Amount Due

### PAYMENT OPTIONS

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. PAYMENT IN FULL - \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Has been paid in complete payment of the Account Acquisition Fee (less 10% for cash payment). No interest assessed.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. SWEAT EQUITY OPTION - \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is to be deducted in 4 or 5 consecutive, equal installments from the Franchisee monthly statement until complete payment of the Account Acquisition Fee has been achieved. No interest will be assessed. Payment amounts applied to this note, equals the amount of money left after Royalties, Management Fees, Insurance and any other fees that may apply, are deducted.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. LOAN OPTION - The balance of the amount due from above (\$ \_\_\_\_\_) will be paid in \_\_\_\_\_ equal monthly installments based upon the gross monthly billing volume difference of the account, with interest on the balance at \_\_\_\_\_% per annum.

For value received, Franchisee agrees to pay the above principal amount plus interest at the rate of \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_%) per annum on the balance of said principle. Franchisee agrees to allow STRATUS to deduct a monthly payment directly from their accumulated total gross billings. Franchisee agrees that any payments not made in accordance with this Account Acquisition Agreement may be deducted in full by STRATUS from Franchisee's next Franchise Statement or Statements as may be necessary. STRATUS may call this note immediately due and payable, without notice, for performance cancellations, abandonment of the account, violations of the Franchise Agreement and/or Procedures Manual, or at any time in the sole opinion of STRATUS, the franchisee's financial ability to pay this note shall become impaired or unsatisfactory. Franchisee agrees to pay all non-compliance fees that apply as described in the STRATUS Procedures Manual. All payments are in addition to Royalties, Administration Fee's, Insurance and other fees that may apply. There is no penalty for pre-payment of this note. In the event a collection agency or attorney is employed by STRATUS to enforce any of its terms, Franchisee shall pay reasonable costs and collection/attorney fees in connection herewith, and such amount shall be secured hereby. This note shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the state listed above.

The dollar value of accounts, which are additional business, is guaranteed for up to one (1) year, when paid in full upon signing this Account Acquisition Agreement. Accounts that cancel for performance reasons will not be replaced and no credit or refund will be given. Accounts financed with installment payments (options 2 & 3) are not guaranteed. Franchisee acknowledges that no refunds will be made or credits given on any payments made when using the installment payment option. Payment fees will remain due and payable if the franchisee was a contributing factor to the cancellation of the account, abandons the account, or was in non-compliance with STRATUS Systems.

Franchisee certifies that sufficient capital has been maintained to purchase all needed supplies and equipment and to meet all expected payroll expenses for the first 60 days of service.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

FRANCHISEE NAME (Print)

FRANCHISEE NAME (Signature)

Stratus Representative

## FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

### EXHIBIT D CONFIDENTIALITY, NON-USE AND NON-COMPETITION AGREEMENT

AGREEMENT, dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, by and between **COMPANY** d/b/a Stratus Building Solutions **AREA** (“Franchisor”) having an address at \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ having an address at \_\_\_\_\_ (“Franchisee”).

#### WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, **Franchisor** is principally engaged in the business of developing the sale of franchises in the business of providing comprehensive building maintenance care services, including, but not limited to, commercial cleaning and maintenance services for interior and exterior environments of business and residential locations in a specified geographic area (“Territory”); and

WHEREAS, **Franchisee** is an independent business entity which has entered into a Franchise Agreement with **Franchisor** in the Territory (“Franchise Agreement”) to operate a franchised business offering such cleaning services (“Franchised Business”); and

WHEREAS, during the course of the relationship between **Franchisor** and **Franchisee** **Franchisor** provides certain information to **Franchisee** relating to **Franchisor**, including, without limitation, a Brand Standards Manual, which includes content about franchise operations, cleaning operations, evaluations, business operations, office care, restroom care, trade names, trademarks, product designs and plans and other proprietary business concepts and plans (collectively, the “Confidential Information”) which **Franchisor** considers proprietary, but which Confidential Information does not include that information which was otherwise known to **Franchisee** prior to the date hereof, or which is or enters into the public domain.

NOW, THEREFORE, for One Dollar (\$1.00) and other good and valuable consideration, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. **Franchisee** on behalf of its officers, directors, shareholders, employees, agents, subsidiaries and affiliates, pledges and agrees that for a period commencing on the date of this Agreement and continuing thereafter, in the absence of prior written consent by **Franchisor** (a) it will keep all Confidential Information in strict confidence, (b) it will not disclose Confidential Information to any individual or entity, (c) it will not use the Confidential Information for any purpose other than as directed by and needed for **Franchisor’s** use, (d) it will inform its subsidiaries and affiliates and the professional and financial advisors of **Franchisee** and its subsidiaries and affiliates of the confidential nature of the Confidential Information, (e) it will not reproduce or use the Confidential Information, and (f) at the request

of **Franchisor** it will cause its employees to execute Confidentiality, Non-use and Non-disclosure Agreements consistent with the terms of this Agreement.

2. Confidential Information provided to **Franchisee**, his, her or its professional and financial advisors, or to any of its subsidiaries or affiliates and their respective professional and financial advisors, by **Franchisor** in the course of the parties' relationship shall be delivered promptly to **Franchisor** upon termination of the same, and its subsidiaries and affiliates, and professional and financial advisors and/or its subsidiaries and affiliates shall not retain any copy, note, or extract of such Confidential Information, except as the parties hereto may agree.

3. **Franchisor** makes no representations or warranties as to the accuracy or completeness of the Confidential Information provided to **Franchisee** and shall not be liable, directly or indirectly, to or any of **Franchisee's** subsidiaries or affiliates as a result of any use of the Confidential Information by or on behalf of any of its subsidiaries or affiliates, except as may be provided in a definitive agreement between **Franchisor** and **Franchisee**. **Franchisee** specifically waives any and all claims for any loss or damage suffered by it due to its use of the Confidential Information and agrees to indemnify and hold **Franchisor** harmless for any claims made against **Franchisor** based upon **Franchisee's** providing the Confidential Information to third parties.

4. **Franchisee** agrees that the registered trademark "Stratus Building Solutions" among other names and marks, is a proprietary trade name licensed to **Franchisee** by the **Franchisor** and that the use and any financial benefit derived from it is strictly prohibited. **Franchisee** further agrees that during the term of its Franchise Agreement or any successor Franchise Agreement, and for a period of two (2) years after the termination or expiration of the Franchise Agreement, and within the Territory or a distance of twenty (20) miles from the Territory, Franchisee agrees that neither it, its affiliates nor any of Franchisee's partners, shareholders or members, will (i) divert, solicit, or attempt to divert or solicit, any business or customer of us, the Franchised Business, or any other franchisee of Franchisor, or (ii) provide commercial cleaning and maintenance services to any business or Customer (a) who is currently serviced by Franchisee, any other franchisee, or other person under the System and the Marks under the Franchise Agreement or (b) who has been serviced by Franchisee, any other franchisee, or other person under the System and the Marks under this Agreement within the previous eighteen (18) month period prior to such expiration or termination; or (iii) perform any act injurious or prejudicial to the goodwill associated with the Marks.

5. **Franchisee** acknowledges that violation of the covenants not to compete contained in this Agreement would result in immediate and irreparable injury to **Franchisor** for which no adequate remedy at law will be available. Accordingly, **Franchisee** hereby consents to the entry of an injunction procured by **Franchisor** prohibiting any conduct by **Franchisee** in violation of the terms of those covenants not to compete and/or restrictions on the use of confidential information set forth in this agreement. **Franchisee** expressly agrees that it may conclusively be presumed in any legal action that any violation of the terms of these

covenants not to compete was accomplished by and through my unlawful utilization of **Franchisor's** Confidential Information, know-how, methods and procedures. Further, **Franchisee** expressly agrees that any claims it may have against **Franchisor** will not constitute a defense to **Franchisor's** enforcement of the covenants not to compete set forth in this Agreement. **Franchisee** further agrees to pay all costs and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' and experts' fees) incurred by Franchisor in connection with the enforcement of those covenants not to compete set forth in this Agreement.

6. As used herein, "subsidiaries" means with respect to **Franchisee** any and all corporations, partnerships, trusts or other entities controlling, controlled by or under common control with **Franchisee**. "Affiliates" means with respect to a corporation (i) any employee, agent, officer, director, shareholder, or (ii) any corporation, partnership, trust or other entity controlling, controlled by or under common control with such corporation or any person described in (i) above, or (iii) any employee, agent, officer, director, trustee, general partner, or ten percent (10%) shareholder of any person or entity described in (ii) above, or (iv) any person who is a member, other than as a limited partner with any person described in (i) and (ii) above in a relationship of joint venture, general partnership or similar form of unincorporated business association. For purposes of these definitions, the term "control" shall mean the control or ownership of ten percent (10%) or more of the beneficial interest in the person or entity referred to.

7. If any provision of this Agreement (including any sentences, clauses, or any part thereof) shall be held contrary to law or incomplete or unenforceable in any respect, the remaining provisions shall not be affected but shall remain in full force and effect; any invalidated provisions shall be severed and this Agreement modified to the extent necessary to render it valid and enforceable.

8. This Agreement shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of **Franchisor** and **Franchisee** and their respective Subsidiaries and Affiliates, and its and their successors and assigns.

9. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the [STATE].

10. This Agreement contains the complete understanding of **Franchisee** and **Franchisor** with respect to the Confidential Information, and this Agreement shall not be amended without the prior written consent of the parties.

[SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement on the date first above written.

Franchisee: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Its: \_\_\_\_\_

[COMPANY]

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Its: \_\_\_\_\_

## FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

### EXHIBIT E FRANCHISEE COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION\*

As Franchisee knows, **COMPANY** d/b/a Stratus Building Solutions **AREA** (the “**Franchisor**”) and Franchisee are preparing to enter into a Franchise Agreement for the establishment and operation of a “Stratus” franchised business (the “**BUSINESS**”). The purpose of this Questionnaire is to confirm that Franchisee understands and accepts its obligations under the Franchise Agreement, and to determine whether any statements or promises were made to Franchisee that the Franchisor has not authorized and that may be untrue, inaccurate or misleading. Please review each of the following questions and statements carefully and provide honest and complete responses to each. **IF YOU ARE A MARYLAND OWNER/RESIDENT OR A FRANCHISEE OPERATING IN MARYLAND, YOU MUST NOT SIGN THIS DOCUMENT. IF ANY MARYLAND FRANCHISEE COMPLETES THIS FRANCHISEE COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION, IT WILL BE VOID AND UNENFORCEABLE.**

1. I had my first face-to-face meeting with one of the Franchisor’s representatives on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.
2. I have formed a corporation, limited liability company or partnership to act as an independent business entity that will be the Franchisee and will establish and operate the BUSINESS under a Franchise Agreement with Franchisor?  
  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
3. Does the Franchisee understand that neither it nor its employees will be employees of Franchisor or of SBS Franchising, LLC?  
  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
4. Has the Franchisee explained to its employees that they will not be employees of Franchisor or of SBS Franchising, LLC and will it do so?  
  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
5. Has the Franchisee received and personally reviewed the Franchise Agreement, and, if applicable, each Addendum and related agreement attached to them?  
  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
6. Does the Franchisee understand all of the information contained in the Franchise Agreement and each Addendum and related agreement provided to the Franchisee?  
  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If no, what parts of the Franchise Agreement Addendum, and/or related agreement does the Franchisee not understand? (Attach additional pages, as needed.)  
\_\_\_\_\_

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- 
7. Has the Franchisee received and personally reviewed the Franchisor's Franchise Disclosure Document ("FDD") that was provided to the Franchisee?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

8. Did the Franchisee sign a receipt for the FDD indicating the date the Franchisee received it?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

9. Does the Franchisee understand all of the information contained in the FDD and any state-specific Addendum to the FDD?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If No, what parts of the FDD and/or Addendum does the Franchisee not understand?  
(Attach additional pages, as needed.)

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10. Has the Franchisee discussed with an attorney, accountant, or other professional advisor the benefits and risks of establishing and operating a BUSINESS as a Franchised Business, including the business and employment laws that will be applicable to the Franchisee?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If No, does the Franchisee wish to have more time to do so?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

11. Does the Franchisee understand that the success or failure of the Franchisee's Franchised Business will depend in large part upon the Franchisee's skills and abilities, competition from other businesses, interest rates, inflation, labor and supply costs, lease terms and other economic and business factors?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

12. Has any employee or other person speaking on behalf of the Franchisor made any statement or promise to the Franchisee (or, to the best of the Franchisee's knowledge, information and belief, to any person or entity or the Franchisee's behalf) concerning the actual or possible revenues, profits or operating costs of a Stratus franchised business operated by the Franchisor or any of its franchisees, that is contrary to the information contained in the FDD?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

13. Has any employee or other person speaking on behalf of the Franchisor made any statement or promise to the Franchisee (or, to the best of Franchisee's knowledge, information and belief, to any person or entity or Franchisee's behalf) regarding the amount of money the Franchisee may earn in operating the BUSINESS as a Stratus franchised business, that is contrary to the information contained in the FDD?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

14. Has any employee or other person speaking on behalf of the Franchisor made any statement or promise to the Franchisee (or, to the best of the Franchisee's knowledge, information and belief, to any person or entity or the Franchisee's behalf) concerning the total amount of revenue the BUSINESS as a Stratus franchised business will or may generate, that is contrary to the information contained in the FDD?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

15. Has any employee or other person speaking on behalf of the Franchisor made any statement or promise to the Franchisee (or, to the best of the Franchisee's knowledge, information and belief, to any person or entity on the Franchisee's behalf) regarding the costs the Franchisee may incur in operating the BUSINESS as a Stratus franchised business, that is contrary to or different from, the information contained in the FDD?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

16. Has any employee or other person speaking on behalf of the Franchisor made any statement or promise to the Franchisee (or, to the best of Franchisee's knowledge, information and belief, to any person or entity on the Franchisee's behalf) concerning the likelihood of success that the Franchisee should or might expect to achieve from operating the BUSINESS as a Stratus franchised business?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

17. Has any employee or other person speaking on behalf of the Franchisor made any statement, agreement or promise to the Franchisee (or, to the best of the Franchisee's knowledge, information and belief, to any person or entity on the Franchisee's behalf) concerning the advertising, marketing, training, support service or assistance that the Franchisor will furnish to the Franchisee that is contrary to, or different from, the information contained in the FDD?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

18. Has the Franchisee entered into any binding agreement with the Franchisor concerning the purchase of this franchise prior to today?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_



19. Has the Franchisee paid any money to the Franchisor concerning the purchase of this franchise prior to today?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

20. Does the Franchisee understand that the Franchise Agreement does not grant the Franchisee an exclusive territory and any territorial rights granted to the Franchisee are subject to limitations and exceptions?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

21. Does the Franchisee understand that Franchisor and its affiliates and subsidiaries retain the right, directly or through others, to develop and franchise other similar franchises or different franchise systems inside or outside of the Territory within which the Franchisee will operate?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

22. Does the Franchisee understand that the Franchise Agreement contain the entire agreement between the Franchisee and the Franchisor concerning the franchise, meaning that any prior oral or written statements not set out in the Franchise Agreement will not be binding?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

23. If the Franchisee have answered “Yes” to any of questions 12-19, please provide a full explanation of each “yes” answer in the following blank lines. (Attach additional pages, as needed, and refer to them below.) If Franchisee has answered “no” to each of questions 12-19, then please leave the following lines blank.

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24. I signed the Franchise Agreement and Addenda (if any) on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, and acknowledge that no Agreement or Addendum is effective until signed and dated by the Franchisor.

**FRANCHISEE UNDERSTANDS THAT FRANCHISEE'S ANSWERS ARE IMPORTANT TO US AND THAT WE WILL RELY ON THEM. BY SIGNING THIS QUESTIONNAIRE, FRANCHISEE IS REPRESENTING THAT FRANCHISEE HAS CONSIDERED EACH QUESTION CAREFULLY AND RESPONDED TRUTHFULLY TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS.**

FRANCHISE APPLICANT

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_

\* No statement, questionnaire, or acknowledgement signed or agreed to by a franchisee in connection with the commencement of the franchise relationship shall have the effect of (i) waiving any claims under any applicable state franchise law, including fraud in the inducement, or (ii) disclaiming reliance on any statement made by any franchisor, franchise seller, or other person acting on behalf of the franchisor. This provision supersedes any other term of any document executed in connection with the franchise.

## FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

### EXHIBIT F GENERAL RELEASE

To all to whom these Presents shall come or may Concern, Know That:

on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, the undersigned individuals and entities, for each of them and their respective corporate parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, successors, predecessors, and the respective assigns, beneficiaries, executors, trustees, agents, representatives, employees, officers, directors, shareholders, partners, members, of each of those entities (in their corporate and individual capacities) (collectively, "RELEASORS"), in consideration of the consent of **COMPANY** d/b/a Stratus Building Solutions **AREA**, to the Assignment or Renewal of the Franchise Agreement between RELEASOR and Stratus Building Solutions **AREA** (the "Franchise Agreement"), for the offer of additional customer contracts under the Franchise Agreement, and/or for other good and valuable consideration, hereby irrevocably and absolutely release and forever discharge Stratus Building Solutions **AREA** and SBS Franchising, LLC, and their respective corporate parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, successors, predecessors, and the respective assigns, beneficiaries, executors, trustees, agents, representatives, employees, officers, directors, shareholders, partners, members, of each of those entities (in their corporate and individual capacities) (jointly and severally, the "RELEASEES"), of and from all claims, obligations, actions or causes of action (however denominated), whether in law or in equity, and whether known or unknown, present or contingent, for any injury, damage, or loss whatsoever arising from any acts or occurrences occurring as of or prior to the date of this General Release. The RELEASORS, and each of them, also covenant not to sue or otherwise bring a claim against any of the RELEASEES regarding any of the claims being released under this General Release. RELEASORS hereby acknowledge that this release is intended to be a full and unconditional general release, as that phrase is used and commonly interpreted, extending to all claims of any nature, whether or not known, expected or anticipated to exist. Each of the RELEASORS expressly acknowledges that they are familiar with the provisions of Section 1542 of the California Civil Code which provides as follows:

**A general release does not extend to claims that the creditor or releasing party does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release and that, if known by him or her, would have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor or released party.**

Each of the RELEASORS hereby specifically and expressly waives all rights that it may have under Section 1542 of the California Civil Code and any similar provision of law in any other jurisdiction.

Without in any way limiting the foregoing, and to the greatest extent permitted by law, RELEASORS acknowledge and agree that their release includes all claims under local, state, or federal law that the RELEASEES, collectively or individually: (1) employed RELEASORS, misclassified RELEASORS as independent contractors, or wrongfully failed to treat RELEASORS as employed by the RELEASEES; (2) failed to pay wages, tips, or other compensation, including but not limited to minimum wage or overtime compensation, or to provide leaves of absence or time off; (3) discriminated or retaliated against RELEASORS on any

basis; (4) violated any protection afforded to whistleblowers; or (5) violated public policy when terminating a business relationship with RELEASORS. **[This paragraph to be supplemented as necessary to identify claims under specific statutes or regulations if applicable state law so requires, and to include any language necessary to release unknown claims.]**

This Release shall not apply to any liability under the Maryland Franchise Registration and Disclosure Law. Additionally, any liabilities arising under any other applicable state law that may not be released in this context shall not be released and shall be excluded from this release without otherwise affecting the validity of the Release. Each of the undersigned acknowledge and agree that they have read the terms of this General Release, they fully understand and accept the terms, and that they have entered into this General Release intending to be legally bound, voluntarily, and without any coercion.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties hereto have executed this General Release as of the date first above written.

<b>WITNESS:</b>  By: _____ Print Name: _____ Date: _____	<b>FRANCHISEE:</b> Entity name (if any): _____  By: _____ Print Name: _____ Title: _____ Date: _____
<b>WITNESS:</b>  By: _____ Print Name: _____ Date: _____	<b>INDIVIDUAL OWNER:</b>  By: _____ Print Name: _____ Date: _____
<b>WITNESS:</b>  By: _____ Print Name: _____ Date: _____	<b>INDIVIDUAL OWNER:</b>  By: _____ Print Name: _____ Date: _____
<b>WITNESS:</b>  By: _____ Print Name: _____ Date: _____	<b>INDIVIDUAL OWNER:</b>  By: _____ Print Name: _____ Date: _____

**FRANCHISE AGREEMENT**

**EXHIBIT G  
STATE ADDENDA**

**ADDENDUM TO THE  
UNIT FRANCHISE AGREEMENT  
FOR MARYLAND FRANCHISEES**

This Addendum to the SBS Franchising, LLC a/k/a Stratus Building Solutions Unit Franchise Agreement (“Agreement”) dated \_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ between \_\_\_\_\_ (“Franchisor”) and \_\_\_\_\_ (“Franchisee”) is entered into simultaneously with the execution of the Agreement. The Agreement is amended consistent with the following:

1. The provisions of this Addendum form an integral part of, and are incorporated into the Agreement. This Addendum is being executed because: (A) the offer or sale of a franchise to Franchisee was made in the State of Maryland; (B) Franchisee is a resident of the State of Maryland; and/or (C) part or all of the Territory is located in the State of Maryland.

2. The following sentence is added to the end of the Recitals:

Representations in the Agreement are not intended to, nor shall they act as a release, estoppel, or waiver of any liability incurred under the Maryland Franchise Registration and Disclosure Law.

3. Section 12 ("Business Risk") of the Agreement is deleted in its entirety.

4. Section 27 ("Your Representations and Acknowledgments") of the Agreement is deleted in its entirety.

5. The following paragraphs are added to the end of Section 23 of the Agreement:

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Agreement, Franchisor and Master Franchisee may file suit in a court in the State of Maryland for claims arising under the Maryland Franchise Registration and Disclosure Law. Any claims arising under the Maryland Franchise Registration and Disclosure Law must be brought within three years after the grant of the Master Franchise.

No statement, questionnaire, or acknowledgement signed or agreed to by a franchisee in connection with the commencement of the franchise relationship shall have the effect of (i) waiving any claims under any applicable state franchise law, including fraud in the inducement, or (ii) disclaiming reliance on any statement made by any franchisor, franchise seller, or other person acting on behalf of the franchisor. This provision supersedes any other term of any document executed in connection with the franchise.

6. If any Maryland franchisee completes the Franchisee Compliance Certification, attached as Exhibit E to the Agreement, it will be void and unenforceable.

7. Any capitalized terms that are not defined in this Addendum shall have the meaning given them in the Agreement.

**FRANCHISOR:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**FRANCHISEE:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Print name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## EXHIBIT H

### GENERAL RELEASE

This General Release is made effective this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_. In consideration for the grant by SBS Franchising, LLC ("SBS"), to the undersigned of certain rights in connection with the operation of a Stratus master franchise and/or the transfer or renewal thereof, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the undersigned, individually and collectively, hereby unconditionally release, discharge, and acquit SBS, its past and present subsidiaries and affiliates, and its and their shareholders, owners, directors, officers, managers, members, partners, employees, agents, representatives, successors and assigns, from any and all liabilities, damages, claims, demands, costs, expenses, debts, indemnities, suits, disputes, controversies, actions and causes of action of any kind whatsoever, whether known or unknown, fixed or contingent, regarding or arising out of any prior or existing franchise relationship, development agreement, franchise agreement or any other agreement executed by any of the undersigned and SBS (or any subsidiary or affiliate of SBS), any SBS franchise (whether currently or previously owned or operated by the undersigned or any of them), or any other prior or existing business relationship between any of the undersigned and SBS (or any subsidiary or affiliate of SBS), which the undersigned or any of them individually or collectively has asserted, may have asserted or could have asserted against SBS (or any of the aforementioned related parties) at any time up to the date of this General Release, including specifically, without limitation, claims arising from contract, written or oral communications, alleged misrepresentations, and acts of negligence, whether active or passive. In making this voluntary express waiver, the undersigned acknowledges that claims or facts in addition to or different from those which are now known to exist may later be discovered and that it is the undersigned's intention to hereby fully and forever settle and release any and all matters, regardless of the possibility of later discovered claims or facts. Each of the undersigned expressly acknowledges that they are familiar with the provisions of Section 1542 of the California Civil Code which provides as follows:

**A general release does not extend to claims that the creditor or releasing party does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release and that, if known by him or her, would have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor or released party.**

Each of the undersigned hereby specifically and expressly waives all rights that it may have under Section 1542 of the California Civil Code or any similar provision of law in any other jurisdiction. This General Release is and shall be and remain a full, complete and unconditional general release. This General Release will survive the assignment or termination of any of the franchise agreements or other documents entered into by and between SBS and any of the undersigned. This General Release is not intended as a waiver of those rights of the undersigned which cannot be waived under applicable state franchise laws nor is it intended to relieve SBS or any other person, directly or indirectly, from liability imposed by the Maryland Franchise Registration and Disclosure Law. This General Release will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California without regard to its conflicts of law provisions.

**[SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]**



**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties hereto have executed this General Release as of the date first above written.

<b>WITNESS:</b>  By: _____ Print Name: _____ Date: _____	<b>MASTER FRANCHISEE:</b> Entity name (if any): _____  By: _____ Print Name: _____ Title: _____ Date: _____
<b>WITNESS:</b>  By: _____ Print Name: _____ Date: _____	<b>INDIVIDUAL OWNER:</b>  By: _____ Print Name: _____ Date: _____
<b>WITNESS:</b>  By: _____ Print Name: _____ Date: _____	<b>INDIVIDUAL OWNER:</b>  By: _____ Print Name: _____ Date: _____
<b>WITNESS:</b>  By: _____ Print Name: _____ Date: _____	<b>INDIVIDUAL OWNER:</b>  By: _____ Print Name: _____ Date: _____

**EXHIBIT I**  
**RENEWAL ADDENDUM**

**SBS FRANCHISING, LLC  
MASTER FRANCHISE AGREEMENT  
RENEWAL ADDENDUM**

THIS RENEWAL ADDENDUM (this “Addendum”) is being entered into this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, by and between **SBS Franchising, LLC**, a Delaware limited liability company with its principal office located at 10530 Victory Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91606 (hereinafter referred to as “we,” “us,” “our,” “SBS” or “Franchisor”) and the following independent business:

Entity Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(hereinafter referred to collectively as “you,” “your,” or “Master Franchisee”).

---

**WITNESSETH:**

**WHEREAS**, Master Franchisee currently operates a Stratus Building Solutions Master Franchise (the “Master Franchise Business”) pursuant to a master franchise agreement entered into between a predecessor of Franchisor and Master Franchisee dated \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ (the “Prior Agreement”);

**WHEREAS**, Franchisor and Master Franchisee have entered into a new master franchise agreement dated \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ (the “Master Franchise Agreement”) for the purpose of extending Master Franchisee’s rights and obligations to operate the Master Franchised Business for an additional term; and

**WHEREAS**, Franchisor and Master Franchisee desire to amend the terms of the Master Franchise Agreement as set forth herein.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the parties agree as follows:

1. Master Franchisee’s Investigation & Application. Section I of the Master Franchise Agreement is hereby amended by deleting the final paragraph of the Section in its entirety and replacing it with the following language:

Master Franchisee has operated a Master Franchise business under the Stratus System and Stratus Marks pursuant to a prior master franchise agreement and now wishes to enter into this renewal Agreement with us to continue operating the Master Franchise for an additional term (as specified in Section III.A.).

2. License Granted. Section II.A. of the Master Franchise Agreement is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following language:

License Granted – The Marks and other intellectual property related to the System are owned by Diversified Royalty Corp., a Canadian public company (“Trademark Owner”); and Trademark Owner has licensed to SBS the right to use and sublicense the Marks and other intellectual property. Subject to the terms and conditions described below, SBS grants to the Master Franchisee the exclusive right to operate a Stratus Building Solutions Master Franchise and a license to use the Marks and Stratus System in the business of selling and servicing comprehensive cleaning and maintenance service franchises, as well as the sale, leasing or distribution of related supplies and equipment, in the territory described as (the “Territory”): \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Principal Office Must Be Located In Territory. Section II.B. of the Master Franchise Agreement is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following language:

Master Franchisee must maintain its principal office within the Territory.

4. Opening Date. Section II.C. of the Master Franchise Agreement is hereby deleted in its entirety.

5. Term. Section III.A. of the Master Franchise Agreement is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following language:

Term. The term of this Agreement begins on the Effective Date and ends fifteen (15) years from that date.

6. Renewal. The first sentence of Section III.B. and subsections 1, 2, and 3 of Section III.B. of the Master Franchise Agreement are hereby deleted in their entirety and replaced with the following language:

Renewal – At Master Franchisee’s option, this Agreement may be renewed for one (1) successor period of fifteen (15) years (hereinafter referred to as the “Renewal Term”), provided that all of the following conditions are met on the renewal date:

1. Master Franchisee gives SBS written notice of the election to renew no less than six (6) months and no more than twelve (12) months prior to the end of the term of this Agreement.

2. Master Franchisee is not in default of any provision of:

(a) this Agreement, including any amendment or restatement or successor agreement, or

(b) any other agreement between Master Franchisee and SBS, its subsidiaries and affiliates,

and has substantially complied with all the terms and conditions of such agreements during the term of this Agreement.

3. Master Franchisee has satisfied all of its monetary obligations owed to SBS, and its subsidiaries and affiliates, and has timely met these obligations throughout the term of this Agreement; and

7. Initial Franchise Fee. Section IV.A. of the Master Franchise Agreement is hereby deleted in its entirety.

8. Minimum Monthly Revenues. The first paragraph of Section V.A. of the Master Franchise Agreement is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following language:

During the term hereof, you must generate not less than \$80,000 in monthly gross revenues on an annual basis (the “Minimum Monthly Revenues”). In addition to generating the Minimum Monthly Revenues, your monthly gross revenues must increase each year during the term hereof, all as a condition to the continuation of your franchise.

9. Minimum Number of Unit Franchisees. The first sentence of Section V.B. of the Master Franchise Agreement is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following language:

At all times during the term hereof, Master Franchisee must (i) have at least thirty-six (36) operating and active (i.e., not in default) Unit Franchises, (ii) continue to maintain an updated and valid FDD, and (iii) continue to actively offer and sell new Unit Franchises each year, as SBS may determine in its sole discretion.

10. Insurance. The last sentence in the first paragraph of Section XIII of the Master Franchise Agreement is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following language:

Master Franchisee must provide SBS with proof of coverage at the following times:

1. Prior to the Effective Date, and this Agreement is not in effect until proof of coverage is received by SBS;
2. Annually on the anniversary date of the policy; and
3. At any other time requested by SBS.

11. Franchisor Obligation & Master Franchisee Training. The first two (2) paragraphs in Section XVI.A. of the Master Franchise Agreement are hereby deleted in their entirety.

12. Release. Master Franchisee and its owners, for themselves and their respective assigns, beneficiaries, executors, trustees, administrators, subrogees, agents, representatives, employees, officers, directors, shareholders, members, partners, parent corporations, subsidiaries and affiliates (collectively, “Releasors”), do hereby irrevocably and absolutely release and forever discharge Franchisor and its successors, predecessors, assigns, beneficiaries, executors, trustees, administrators, subrogees, agents, representatives, employees, officers, directors, shareholders, members, partners, parent corporations, subsidiaries and affiliates (collectively, “Released Parties”), of and from any and all claims, demands, obligations, debts, actions, and causes of action of every nature, character, and description, known or unknown, pursuant to, arising out of, or related to, the Prior Agreement and the Master Franchise Business, which Releasors now own or hold, or have at any time heretofore owned

or held, or may at any time own or hold against the Released Parties, arising prior to and including the date of this Addendum. Each of the Releasors expressly acknowledges that it is familiar with the provisions of Section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which provides as follows:

**A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS THAT THE CREDITOR OR RELEASING PARTY DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE AND THAT, IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER, WOULD HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR OR RELEASED PARTY.**

Each of the Releasors hereby specifically and expressly waive all rights that it may have under Section 1542 of the California Civil Code or any similar provision of law in any other jurisdiction. This release is and shall be and remain a full, complete, and unconditional general release.

Without in any way limiting the foregoing, and to the greatest extent permitted by law, Releasors acknowledge and agree that their release includes all claims under local, state, or federal law that the Released Parties, collectively or individually: (1) employed Releasors, misclassified Releasors as independent contractors, or wrongfully failed to treat Released Parties as employed by the Released Parties; (2) failed to pay wages, tips, or other compensation, including but not limited to minimum wage or overtime compensation, or to provide leaves of absence or time off; (3) discriminated or retaliated against Releasors on any basis; (4) violated any protection afforded to whistleblowers; or (5) violated public policy when terminating a business relationship with Releasors.

13. Miscellaneous. This Addendum constitutes an integral part of the Master Franchise Agreement between the parties hereto, and the terms of this Addendum shall be controlling with respect to inconsistent provisions and the subject matter hereof. Except as modified or supplemented by this Addendum, the terms of the Master Franchise Agreement are hereby ratified and confirmed. The section numbering in the Master Franchise Agreement shall remain the same and shall not be adjusted based on the deletion of any sections as set forth in this Addendum. This Addendum may be executed in counterparts such that such counterparts when executed by the parties hereto shall constitute a single binding and executed Addendum.

**[Signature page follows]**

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties hereto have duly executed this Addendum in duplicate on the date first above written.

**SBS Franchising, LLC:**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**Master Franchisee:**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Owner, Partner, or Authorized Officer)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Partner, Spouse, or Authorized Officer)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Partner, Spouse, or Authorized Officer)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**COMPLETE IF FOR CORPORATION:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Corporate Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Title of Authorized Officer)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Federal Tax ID#)

**EXHIBIT J**  
**STATE EFFECTIVE DATES**

The following states have franchise laws that require that the Franchise Disclosure Document be registered or filed with the state, or be exempt from registration: California, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin.

This document is effective and may be used in the following states, where the document is filed, registered or exempt from registration, as of the Effective Date stated below:

<b>State</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
California	
Hawaii	
Illinois	
Indiana	
Maryland	
Michigan	March 10, 2025
Minnesota	
New York	
North Dakota	
Rhode Island	
South Dakota	
Virginia	
Washington	
Wisconsin	

Other states may require registration, filing, or exemption of a franchise under other laws, such as those that regulate the offer and sale of business opportunities or seller-assisted marketing plans.



## **EXHIBIT K RECEIPT**

This disclosure document summarizes certain provisions of the franchise agreement and other information in plain language. Read this disclosure document and all agreements carefully.

If SBS Franchising, LLC offers you a franchise, it must provide this disclosure document to you 14 calendar-days before you sign a binding agreement with, or make a payment to, the franchisor or an affiliate in connection with the proposed franchise sale. New York requires that we give you the Disclosure Document at the earlier of the first personal meeting or 10 business days before the execution of the franchise or other agreement or the payment of any considerations that relates to the franchise relationship.

If SBS Franchising, LLC does not deliver this disclosure document on time or if it contains a false or misleading statement, or a material omission, a violation of federal and state law may have occurred and should be reported to the Federal Trade Commission, Washington, D.C., 20580, and the agency in your state indicated in Exhibit A.

SBS Franchising, LLC authorizes the respective state agencies identified in Exhibit A to receive service of process for it in the particular state.

Date of Issuance: March 10, 2025

The franchise seller(s) offering this franchise is/are checked off below:

\_\_\_\_ Doug Flaig, 10530 Victory Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91606, (888) 981-1555  
\_\_\_\_ Rob Lancit, 10530 Victory Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91606, (888) 981-1555  
\_\_\_\_ Stuart Erskine, 10530 Victory Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91606, (888) 981-1555  
\_\_\_\_ David Earl, 10530 Victory Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91606, (888) 981-1555  
\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

I have received a disclosure document dated March 10, 2025 that included the following Exhibits:

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| A. List of State Administrators                  | G. Form of Unit Franchise Agreement |
| B. Table of Contents of Brand Standards Manuals  | H. Form of General Release          |
| C. Financial Statements                          | I. Form of Renewal Addendum         |
| D. Master Franchise Agreement (with attachments) | J. State Effective Dates            |
| E. List of Master Franchisees                    | K. Receipt                          |
| F. State Addenda to Disclosure Document          |                                     |

### **PROSPECTIVE MASTER FRANCHISEE:**

**If a business entity:**

Name of Business: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Officer Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**If an individual:**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return the signed Receipt by signing, dating, and mailing it to SBS Franchising, LLC  
at 10530 Victory Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91606.

## RECEIPT

This disclosure document summarizes certain provisions of the franchise agreement and other information in plain language. Read this disclosure document and all agreements carefully.

If SBS Franchising, LLC offers you a franchise, it must provide this disclosure document to you 14 calendar-days before you sign a binding agreement with, or make a payment to, the franchisor or an affiliate in connection with the proposed franchise sale. New York requires that we give you the Disclosure Document at the earlier of the first personal meeting or 10 business days before the execution of the franchise or other agreement or the payment of any considerations that relates to the franchise relationship.

If SBS Franchising, LLC does not deliver this disclosure document on time or if it contains a false or misleading statement, or a material omission, a violation of federal and state law may have occurred and should be reported to the Federal Trade Commission, Washington, D.C., 20580, and the agency in your state indicated in Exhibit A.

SBS Franchising, LLC authorizes the respective state agencies identified in Exhibit A to receive service of process for it in the particular state.

Date of Issuance: March 10, 2025

The franchise seller(s) offering this franchise is/are checked off below:

\_\_\_\_ Doug Flaig, 10530 Victory Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91606, (888) 981-1555  
\_\_\_\_ Rob Lancit, 10530 Victory Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91606, (888) 981-1555  
\_\_\_\_ Stuart Erskine, 10530 Victory Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91606, (888) 981-1555  
\_\_\_\_ David Earl, 10530 Victory Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91606, (888) 981-1555  
\_\_\_\_

I have received a disclosure document dated March 10, 2025 that included the following Exhibits:

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| A. List of State Administrators                  | G. Form of Unit Franchise Agreement |
| B. Table of Contents of Brand Standards Manuals  | H. Form of General Release          |
| C. Financial Statements                          | I. Form of Renewal Addendum         |
| D. Master Franchise Agreement (with attachments) | J. State Effective Dates            |
| E. List of Master Franchisees                    | K. Receipt                          |
| F. State Addenda to Disclosure Document          |                                     |

### PROSPECTIVE MASTER FRANCHISEE:

#### If a business entity:

Name of Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Officer Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### If an individual:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please keep a copy of this receipt for your files.