

# COGNIZANT TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS CORPORATION

## Audit Committee Charter

*Updated December 2009*

### A. Purpose

The purpose of the Audit Committee is to assist the Board of Directors' oversight of the Company's accounting and financial reporting processes and the audits of the Company's financial statements including, but not limited to, the oversight of:

- The integrity of the Company's financial information reported to the public and the adequacy of the Company's internal controls;
- The qualifications, independence and performance of the Company's independent auditors;
- The performance of the Company's internal audit function; and
- The review and evaluation of enterprise risk management.

### B. Structure and Membership

1. Number. The Audit Committee shall consist of at least three members of the Board of Directors.
2. Independence. Except as otherwise permitted by the applicable NASDAQ rules, each member of the Audit Committee shall be independent as defined by NASDAQ rules, meet the criteria for independence set forth in Rule 10A-3(b)(1) under the Exchange Act (subject to the exemptions provided in Rule 10A-3(c)), and not have participated in the preparation of the financial statements of the Company or any current subsidiary of the Company at any time during the past three years.
3. Financial Literacy. Each member of the Audit Committee must be able to read and understand fundamental financial statements, including the Company's balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow statement, at the time of his or her appointment to the Audit Committee. In addition, at least one member must have past employment experience in finance or accounting, requisite professional certification in accounting, or any other comparable experience or background which results in the individual's financial sophistication, including being or having been a chief executive officer, chief financial officer or other senior officer with financial oversight responsibilities. Unless otherwise determined by the Board of Directors (in which case disclosure of such determination shall be made in the Company's annual report filed with the SEC), at least one member of the Audit Committee shall be an "audit committee financial expert" (as defined by applicable SEC rules).
4. Chair. Unless the Board of Directors elects a Chair of the Audit Committee, the Audit Committee shall elect a Chair by majority vote.

5. Compensation. The compensation of Audit Committee members shall be as determined by the Board of Directors. No member of the Audit Committee may receive, directly or indirectly, any consulting, advisory or other compensatory fee from the Company or any of its subsidiaries, other than fees paid in his or her capacity as a member of the Board of Directors or a committee of the Board.
6. Selection and Removal. Members of the Audit Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors, upon the recommendation of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. The Board of Directors may remove members of the Audit Committee from such committee, with or without cause.

## C. **Authority and Responsibilities**

### **General**

The Audit Committee shall discharge its responsibilities, and shall assess the information provided by the Company's management and the independent auditor, in accordance with its business judgment. Management is responsible for the preparation, presentation, and integrity of the Company's financial statements and for the appropriateness of the accounting principles and reporting policies that are used by the Company. The independent auditors are responsible for auditing the Company's financial statements and for reviewing the Company's unaudited interim financial statements. The authority and responsibilities set forth in this Charter do not reflect or create any duty or obligation of the Audit Committee to plan or conduct any audit, to determine or certify that the Company's financial statements are complete, accurate, fairly presented, or in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles or applicable law, or to guarantee the independent auditor's report.

### **Oversight of Independent Auditors**

1. Selection. The Audit Committee shall be solely and directly responsible for appointing, evaluating, retaining and, when necessary, terminating the engagement of the independent auditor. The Audit Committee may, in its discretion, seek stockholder ratification of the independent auditor it appoints.
2. Independence. The Audit Committee shall take, or recommend that the full Board of Directors take, appropriate action to oversee the independence of the independent auditor. In connection with this responsibility, the Audit Committee shall obtain and review a formal written statement from the independent auditor describing all relationships between the auditor and the Company, including the disclosures required by the applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding the independent auditor's communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence. The Audit Committee shall actively engage in dialogue with the auditor concerning any disclosed relationships or services that might impact the objectivity and independence of the auditor.
3. Compensation. The Audit Committee shall have sole and direct responsibility for setting the compensation of the independent auditor. The Audit Committee is empowered, without further action by the Board of Directors, to cause the Company to pay the compensation of the independent auditor established by the Audit Committee.

4. Preapproval of Services. The Audit Committee shall preapprove all audit services to be provided to the Company, whether provided by the principal auditor or other firms, and all other services (review, attest and non-audit) to be provided to the Company by the independent auditor; provided, however, that de minimis non-audit services may instead be approved in accordance with applicable SEC rules.
5. Oversight. The independent auditor shall report directly to the Audit Committee, and the Audit Committee shall have sole and direct responsibility for overseeing the work of the independent auditor, including resolution of disagreements between Company management and the independent auditor regarding financial reporting. In connection with its oversight role, the Audit Committee shall, from time to time as appropriate, receive and consider the reports required to be made by the independent auditor regarding:
  - (i) critical accounting policies and practices;
  - (ii) alternative treatments within generally accepted accounting principles for policies and practices related to material items that have been discussed with Company management, including ramifications of the use of such alternative disclosures and treatments, and the treatment preferred by the independent auditor; and
  - (iii) other material written communications between the independent auditor and Company management.

In connection with its oversight role, the Audit Committee should also review with the independent auditors, from time to time as appropriate:

- (i) significant risks and uncertainties with respect to the quality, accuracy or fairness of presentation of the Company's financial statements;
- (ii) any accounting adjustments that were noted or proposed by the auditor but were "passed" (as immaterial or otherwise);
- (iii) any "management" or "internal control" letter issued, or proposed to be issued, by the audit firm to the Company;
- (iv) accounting for unusual transactions;
- (v) adjustments arising from audits that could have a significant impact on the Company's financial reporting process; and
- (vi) any recent SEC comments on the Company's SEC reports, including in particular any unresolved or future-compliance comments.

#### **Audited Financial Statements**

6. Review and Discussion. The Audit Committee shall review and discuss with the Company's management and independent auditor the Company's audited financial

statements, including the matters about which Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61 (Codification of Statements on Auditing Standards, AU §380) requires discussion.

7. Recommendation to Board Regarding Financial Statements. The Audit Committee shall consider whether it will recommend to the Board of Directors that the Company's audited financial statements be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K.
8. Audit Committee Report. The Audit Committee shall prepare an annual committee report for inclusion where necessary in the proxy statement of the Company relating to its annual meeting of security holders.

#### **Review of Interim Financial Statements, Earnings Releases and Guidance**

9. Independent Auditor Review of Interim Financial Statements. The Audit Committee shall direct the independent auditor to use its best efforts to perform all reviews of interim financial information prior to disclosure by the Company of such information and to discuss promptly with the Audit Committee and the Chief Financial Officer any matters identified in connection with the auditor's review of interim financial information which are required to be discussed by applicable auditing standards. The Audit Committee shall direct management to advise the Audit Committee in the event that the Company proposes to disclose interim financial information prior to completion of the independent auditor's review of interim financial information.
10. Press Releases and Guidance. The Audit Committee shall:
  - (i) Review with management and independent auditors the earnings press releases; and
  - (ii) Periodically discuss with management, policies regarding earnings releases, financial information and earnings guidance provided to analysts.

#### **Matters Pertaining to the Internal Auditors, Risk Assessment and Risk Management**

11. Internal Auditors. The Audit Committee shall review with the internal auditors the internal audit process and scope and the results of internal audit activities, including any significant findings of audits and special investigations.
12. Risk Assessment and Oversight. The Audit Committee shall:
  - (i) Review and discuss with management the Company's enterprise risk and management framework and process for identifying, assessing, and monitoring key business risks; and
  - (ii) Report to the entire Board of Directors, at least annually, with respect to matters related to enterprise risks and risk management.

### **Controls and Procedures**

13. Oversight. The Audit Committee shall coordinate the Board of Directors' oversight of the Company's internal control over financial reporting, disclosure controls and procedures and code of conduct. The Audit Committee shall receive and review the reports of the CEO and CFO required by Rule 13a-14 of the Exchange Act. The Audit Committee shall periodically review the complaint procedures to confirm that they are effectively operating.
14. Procedures for Complaints. The Audit Committee shall establish procedures for (i) the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Company regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters; and (ii) the confidential, anonymous submission by employees of the Company of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.
15. Related-Party Transactions. The Audit Committee shall review all "related party transactions" (defined as transactions required to be disclosed pursuant to Item 404 of Regulation S-K) on an ongoing basis, and all such transactions must be approved by the Audit Committee.
16. Legal Matters. The Audit Committee shall review, with the Company's General Counsel, any legal matter that could have a significant impact on the Company, its operations or its financial position or results of operation.
17. Additional Powers. The Audit Committee shall have such other duties as may be delegated from time to time by the Board of Directors.

### **D. Procedures and Administration**

1. Meetings. The Audit Committee shall meet as often as it deems necessary in order to perform its responsibilities. The Audit Committee may also act by unanimous written consent in lieu of a meeting. The Audit Committee shall periodically meet separately with: (i) the independent auditor; (ii) Company management and (iii) the Company's internal auditors. The Audit Committee shall keep such records of its meetings as it shall deem appropriate.
2. Subcommittees. The Audit Committee may form and delegate authority to one or more subcommittees (including a subcommittee consisting of a single member), as it deems appropriate from time to time under the circumstances. Any decision of a subcommittee to preapprove audit, review, attest or non-audit services shall be presented to the full Audit Committee at its next scheduled meeting.
3. Reports to Board. The Audit Committee shall report regularly to the Board of Directors.
4. Charter. At least annually, the Audit Committee shall review and reassess the adequacy of this Charter and recommend any proposed changes to the Board of Directors for approval.

5. Independent Advisors. The Audit Committee is authorized, without further action by the Board of Directors, to engage such independent legal, accounting and other advisors as it deems necessary or appropriate to carry out its responsibilities. Such independent advisors may be the regular advisors to the Company. The Audit Committee is empowered, without further action by the Board of Directors, to cause the Company to pay the compensation of such advisors as established by the Audit Committee.
6. Investigations. The Audit Committee shall have the authority to conduct or authorize investigations into any matters within the scope of its responsibilities as it shall deem appropriate, including the authority to request any officer, employee or advisor of the Company to meet with the Audit Committee or any advisors engaged by the Audit Committee.
7. Funding. The Audit Committee is empowered, without further action by the Board of Directors, to cause the Company to pay the ordinary administrative expenses of the Audit Committee that are necessary or appropriate in carrying out its duties.
8. Additional Parties. The Audit Committee may invite to its meetings any member of management, other personnel of the Company, any other member of the Board of Directors, or any third-parties, as it deems, in its sole discretion, appropriate to carry out its responsibilities.
9. Annual Self-Evaluation. At least annually, the Audit Committee shall evaluate its own performance.