



## **Independent auditor's report pursuant to Section 2:328, subsection 1 of the Dutch Civil Code**

To: the management boards of Koninklijke DSM N.V, Solaia NewCo II B.V. and of Solaia Newco B.V.

### **Our opinion**

We have read the proposal for legal merger dated 22 November 2022 of the following companies:

- 1 Koninklijke DSM N.V. based in Heerlen ('the disappearing company'),
- 2 Solaia Newco B.V. based in Heerlen ('the issuing company'), and
- 3 Solaia Newco II B.V. based in Heerlen ('the acquiring company').

We have audited the proposed share exchange ratio and the shareholders' equity of the disappearing company as included in the proposal for legal merger.

In our opinion:

- 1 having considered the attached proposal for legal merger including the explanatory notes to this proposal, the proposed share exchange ratio as at 22 November 2022, as referred to in Section 2:326 of the Dutch Civil Code, is reasonable; and
- 2 the shareholders' equity of the disappearing company, as at the date of its 2021 consolidated financial statements, 31 December 2021, on the basis of valuation methods generally accepted in the Netherlands as specified in the proposal for legal merger, was at least equal to the nominal paid-up amount on the aggregate number of shares to be acquired by its shareholders under the legal merger.

### **Basis for our opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Dutch law, including the Dutch Standards on Auditing. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Our responsibilities for the audit of the proposed share exchange ratio and the shareholders' equity of the company ceasing to exist' section of our report.

We are independent of the abovementioned entities in accordance with the Verordening inzake de onafhankelijkheid van accountants bij assurance-opdrachten (ViO, Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, a regulation with respect to independence) and other relevant independence regulations in the Netherlands. Furthermore, we have complied with the Verordening gedrags- en beroepsregels accountants (VGBA, Dutch Code of Ethics).

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## **Restrictions on use**

This auditor's report is solely issued in connection with the aforementioned proposal for legal merger and therefore cannot be used for other purposes.

## **Responsibilities of managements for the proposal for legal merger**

Management of each of the aforementioned companies is responsible for the preparation of the proposal for legal merger in accordance with Part 7 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code.

Furthermore, management of each of the aforementioned companies is responsible for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the proposal for legal merger that is free from material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud.

As part of the preparation of the proposal for legal merger, management of each of the aforementioned companies is responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern. Based on the applicable financial reporting framework, management of each of the aforementioned companies should prepare the proposal for legal merger using the going concern basis of accounting unless management of each of the aforementioned companies either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations or have no realistic alternative but to do so. Management of each of the aforementioned companies should disclose events and circumstances that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern in the proposal for legal merger.

## **Our responsibilities for the audit of the proposed share exchange ratio and the shareholders' equity of the company ceasing to exist**

Our objective is to plan and perform the audit engagement in a manner that allows us to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence for our opinion. Our audit has been performed with a high, but not absolute, level of assurance, which means we may not detect all material errors and fraud during our audit.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this proposal for legal merger. The materiality affects the nature, timing and extent of our audit procedures and the evaluation of the effect of identified misstatements on our opinion.

We have exercised professional judgement and have maintained professional scepticism throughout the audit, in accordance with Dutch Standards on Auditing, ethical requirements and independence requirements.

Our audit included among others:

- identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement of the proposed share exchange ratio and the shareholders' equity of the company ceasing to exist, whether due to error or fraud, designing and performing audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. 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;

- obtaining 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;
- evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management of each of the aforementioned companies ;
- concluding on the appropriateness of management of each of the aforementioned companies's use of the going concern basis of accounting, and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the proposal for legal merger or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause a company to cease to continue as a going concern.

We communicate with management and those charge with governance of each of the aforementioned companies regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant findings in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Amstelveen, 22 November 2022

KPMG Accountants N.V.

P.J. Groenland - van der Linden RA