



**AFFINOR GROWERS INC.  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED NOVEMBER 30, 2023**

**INTRODUCTION**

This is Management's Discussion and Analysis ("MD&A") for Affinor Growers Inc. ("Affinor" or the "Company") and has been prepared based on information known to management as of January 29, 2024. This MD&A is intended to help the reader understand the condensed interim consolidated financial statements of Affinor.

The following information should be read in conjunction with the unaudited condensed interim consolidated financial statements for the six months ended November 30, 2023 and audited consolidated financial statements for the year ended May 31, 2023 and the related notes thereto, prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS"). The MD&A provides a review of the performance of the Company for the six months ended November 30, 2023. Additional information relating to the Company can be found on SEDAR+ [www.sedarplus.ca](http://www.sedarplus.ca).

Management is responsible for the preparation and integrity of the condensed interim consolidated financial statements, including the maintenance of appropriate information systems, procedures and internal controls. Management also ensures that information used internally or disclosed externally, including the consolidated financial statements and MD&A, is complete and reliable.

The Company's board of directors follows recommended corporate-governance guidelines for public companies to ensure transparency and accountability to shareholders. The board's audit committee meets with management regularly to review the condensed interim consolidated financial statements, including the MD&A, and to discuss other financial, operating and internal-control matters.

All currency amounts are expressed in Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted.

**FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS**

Certain sections of this MD&A provide, or may appear to provide, a forward-looking orientation with respect to the Company's activities and its future financial results. Consequently, certain statements contained in this MD&A constitute express or implied forward-looking statements. Terms including, but not limited to, "anticipate", "estimate", "believe" and "expect" may identify forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements, while they are based on the current knowledge and assumptions of the Company's management, are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause or contribute to the actual results being materially different than those expressed or implied. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on any forward-looking statement that may be in this MD&A.

The following forward-looking statements have been made in this MD&A:

- Impairment of intangible assets;
- The potential and uncertainties of the Company's sales; and
- Expectations regarding the ability to raise capital and to continue its development of the vertical farming technology.



## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Financial statements, MD&A's and additional information relevant to the Company and the Company's activities can be found on SEDAR+ at [www.sedarplus.ca](http://www.sedarplus.ca), and/or on the Company's website at [www.affinorgrowers.com](http://www.affinorgrowers.com).

## **SUMMARY AND OUTLOOK**

It is the mission of Affinor to be the world-wide technology and market leader in acquiring and commercializing innovative vertical farming technologies that use the least possible resources (e.g. land, water, and energy resources) to produce high quality, sustainable products.

Affinor's patented technologies position the Company well in the vertical farming industry. It is one of the only vertically integrated growing system that can offer automated mechanical pollination for fruiting crops and true vertical solutions for the vertical farming industry. Revenue models for the Company include income from licensing fees, royalties on production, and margin on the sale of the Company's patented technology.

The Company's goal is to become the leading technology developer and distributor of vertical farming to help solve food security problems by using our proprietary growing systems. To that end, the Company filed patents in Australia, the EU, India, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and United Arab Emirates.

### **Background**

The Company was incorporated under the Canadian Business Corporations Act on August 27, 1996. The Company is a diversified publicly traded company on the Canadian Securities Exchange under the symbol "AFI" and is also listed on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange under the symbol "1AF" as well as on the US OTCQB under the symbol "RSSFF".

### **Highlights Summary**

The following is a brief description of the activities incurred by the Company during this current fiscal period and to date. Additional information can be obtained from the Company's website ([www.affinorgrowers.com](http://www.affinorgrowers.com)).

#### *Definitive Agreement – Freshbay Inc.*

On June 20, 2023, the Company announced that it entered into an Agriculture Technology Agreement dated June 16, 2023 (the "Definitive Agreement") with Freshbay, Inc. ("Freshbay").

Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Definitive Agreement, Freshbay has engaged the Company to provide certain products and services for use at the Project Site to support Freshbay in its production and commercialization of strawberries. More specifically, the Company will:

- a) supply and arrange for the installation of 17,530 vertical hydroponic towers with self-pollinating capabilities at the Project Site (the "Towers").
- b) supply and arrange for the installation of 34 polycarbonate Atlantis greenhouses (the "Greenhouses") at the Project Site.
- c) arrange for the initial introduction between Freshbay and Berrymobile Fruit Distribution Inc. to explore the purchase of strawberries grown at the Project Site (the "Offtake Products").
- d) grant Freshbay certain licenses to use certain trademarks, intellectual property, and standard operating procedures of the Company.

As consideration for the products and services to be provided by the Company, and in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Definitive Agreement, Freshbay has agreed to pay the Company an aggregate payment of \$135,757,350 (the "Contract Price"). Prior to paying any portion of the Contract Price, it is a condition precedent that:

- a) Freshbay obtain adequate financing to pay the Contract Price.
- b) the parties agree to a work schedule for the project.



Assuming the conditions precedent are satisfied, \$20,000,000 of the Contract Price will be payable within two business days of the satisfaction of the conditions precedent, and \$47,878,675 will be payable on the date that is thirty days thereafter. The remaining portion of the Contract Price is payable in installments based on the delivery of the Equipment at the Project Site.

### **Risks and Uncertainties**

The Company is subject to a number of risks and uncertainty associated with the successful development of its vertical growing technology to help grow crop products, such as romaine lettuce and strawberries, and with the financing requirements of its operations. The attainment of profitable operations is dependent upon future events, including the successful completion of technology crop feasibility studies, energy saving strategies and crop modeling. Commercialization of its products and technology is dependent on obtaining adequate financing to complete its commercialization plans.

The Company's success depends on a number of factors, many of which are beyond its control. The primary risk factors affecting the Company include inherent risks in the agricultural industry, produce price fluctuations and currencies.

#### *Inherent risks within the agricultural industry*

The commercial viability of an agricultural facility depends on many factors, not all of which are within the control of management. Some of the factors that will affect the financial viability of a given produce include global demand and global supply. Other factors such as government subsidies, regulation and taxes could also have an impact on the economic viability of an agricultural facility.

#### *Prices for product*

Product prices are subject to price fluctuations and have a direct impact on the commercial viability of the Company's vertical growing technology. Price volatility results from a variety of factors, including global consumption and demand, international economic and political trends, fluctuations in the US dollar and other currencies, interest rates, and inflation. The Company has not hedged any of its potential future sales.

#### *Foreign currency risks*

The Company uses the Canadian dollar as its measurement and reporting currency, and therefore fluctuations in exchange rates between the Canadian dollar and other currencies may affect the results of operations and financial position of the Company. The Company does not currently have any foreign currency or commercial risk hedges in place.

The Company raises the majority of its equity financings in Canadian dollars while some of its operations are conducted in US dollars. Fluctuations in the exchange rates between the Canadian dollar and US dollar may impact the Company's financial condition.

### **Impairment of Intangible Assets**

The Company completed an impairment analysis as at November 30, 2023 and concluded that there was impairment of \$12,269 of the Company's intangible assets.



## Summary of Quarterly Results

The following is a summary of the Company's financial results for the last eight quarters:

	Three Months Ended			
	November 30, 2023	August 31, 2023	May 31, 2023	February 28, 2023
Total revenues	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Net income (loss)	(283,429)	(175,438)	(193,021)	(181,176)
Income (loss) per share	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)

	Three Months Ended			
	November 30, 2022	August 31, 2022	May 31, 2022	February 28, 2022
Total revenues	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Net income (loss)	(86,718)	(174,385)	(1,099,919)	(173,632)
Loss per share	(0.00)	(0.01)	(0.06)	(0.00)

## Review of Operations and Financial Results

### For the six months ended November 30, 2023 and six months ended November 30, 2022

During the six months ended November 30, 2023, the Company reported a loss of \$458,867 (\$0.02 loss per share) (2022 – \$261,103) (\$0.01 loss per share).

In general, the Company continues to focus on cost containment to ensure that all available resources are dedicated to becoming a company that produces high quality and quantity of food.

The main items of change for the six months ended November 30, 2023, compared with November 30, 2022 were:

- Consulting was \$Nil as compared with \$5,805 in 2022. The decrease was a result of Company having fewer employees and consultants.
- Gain on debt settlement was \$Nil as compared with \$11,468 in 2022. The decrease was a result of debt settlement with share issuance during the comparative period.
- Interest expense was \$8,323 as compared with \$2,573 in 2022. The increase was a result of interest incurred on loans received during the current period.
- Professional fees were \$195,827 as compared with \$9,759 in 2022. The increase was a result of additional legal services rendered related to the legal claims during the current period.
- Other operating expenses were \$8,835 compared with \$24,608 in 2022. The decrease was a result of decreased sale activities during the current period.
- Registration and information to shareholders were \$47,509 compared with \$21,101 in 2022. The decrease was a result of a reduction in activity in 2023.

### For the three months ended November 30, 2023 and three months ended November 30, 2022

During the three months ended November 30, 2023, the Company reported a loss of \$283,429 (\$0.01 loss per share) (2022 – \$174,385) (\$0.01 loss per share).

In general, the Company continues to focus on cost containment to ensure that all available resources are dedicated to becoming a company that produces high quality and quantity of food.



The main items of change for the three months ended November 30, 2023, compared with November 30, 2022 were:

- Interest expense was \$4,476 as compared with \$147 in 2022. The increase was a result of interest incurred on loans received during the current period.
- Professional fees were \$144,698 as compared with recovery of \$29,130 in 2022. The increase was a result of additional legal services rendered related to the legal claims during the current period.
- Registration and information to shareholders were \$5,845 compared with \$5,845 in 2022. The decrease was a result of a reduction in activity in 2023.

### **Liquidity and Capital Resources**

The Company continued to utilize its cash resources to fund its administrative requirements and product development.

In order to fund the Company's ongoing operational needs and expansion plans, the Company will need funding through equity or debt financing, joint venture arrangements or a combination thereof. The Company's operations to date have been financed by the issuance of its common shares, share options and warrants, debt instruments and government assistance. The Company continues to seek capital through various means including the issuance of equity and debt. While the Company has been successful in raising funds in the past, there is no assurance that it will continue to do so in the future or that it will be available on a timely basis or on terms acceptable to the Company.

The Company's business plan is dependent on raising additional funds to finance its commercial trial and development and its operations within and beyond the next 12 months. While the Company has managed to fund its operations in the past through equity financing, raising additional funds is dependent on a number of factors outside the Company's control, and as such there is no guarantee that it will be able to obtain additional financing in the future. If the Company is unable to obtain sufficient additional financing, it may have to delay, scale back or eliminate its development plans for its present or future facilities and curtail operations, which could harm the business, financial condition and results of operations. This could occur in the near term. Until such financing is secured and profitable operations are reached, there is a material uncertainty that may cast significant doubt about the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

The Company had working capital deficiency of \$1,623,736 as at November 30, 2023 (May 31, 2023 - \$1,251,870).

As at November 30, 2023, the Company had cash and cash equivalents of \$76 (May 31, 2023 - \$2,172).

Cash flows used in operating activities was \$82,096 (2022 - \$6,533) as at November 30, 2023, primarily because of change in non-working during the current period.

Cash flows provided by financing activities was \$80,000 (2022 - \$140,860) as at November 30, 2023 was due loans received during the current period.

### **Transactions with Related Parties**

Related party transactions were recorded at the exchange value, which is the consideration determined and agreed to by the related parties.

The Company's related parties include directors, key management and companies controlled by directors and key management, as described below.



The aggregate value of transactions and outstanding balances relating to key management personnel and entities over which they have control or significant influence were as follows:

	For the period ended November 30, 2023	For the period ended November 30, 2022
Management fees	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000

At November 30, 2023, the Company had the following amounts owing to related parties:

- i) accounts payable of \$213,103 (May 31, 2023 - \$157,167) owing to the CEO of the Company.
- ii) accounts payable of \$68,250 (May 31, 2023 - \$68,250) owing to a former director of the Company.
- iii) loan payable to the CEO of \$125,999 (May 31, 2023 - \$13,955). The amount is non-interest bearing with no fixed terms for repayment.

	Services	Transactions for the six months ended		Balance due	
		November 30, 2023	November 30, 2022	As at November 30, 2023	As at May 31, 2023
Softail Enterprises Inc.	Consulting fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 68,250	\$ 68,250
Nick Brusatore, Chief Executive Officer	Management fees	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 339,102	\$ 171,122

#### Industrial Lease

During the year ended May 31, 2021, the Company entered into an industrial lease with the CEO of the Company (the “Original Lease Agreement”), whereby the Company leased from the CEO the Greenhouse and compost buildings (the “Greenhouse”) and their equipment and fixtures on his property (the “Property”) in Abbotsford, BC (the “Lease”) (See Note 9(b)). Pursuant to the Lease, the CEO was responsible for the Landlord’s Work at the Company’s expense and the Company was responsible for the Tenant’s Work at its expense, to render the Greenhouse complete and suitable to open for business. During the year ended May 31, 2022, the Landlord’s work was completed, and the Greenhouse was made available to the Company. During the period ended November 30, 2023, the CEO sold the premises to a director and officer of the Company (the “Purchaser”) and entered into an assignment agreement whereby the rights and obligations granted to the CEO pursuant to the Original Lease Agreement have been assigned to and assumed by the Purchaser. The terms of the Original Lease Agreement remain unchanged.

All the costs associated with the Greenhouse improvements were transferred from work-in-progress to Greenhouse. All assets that are not attached to the Greenhouse, such as the lights and the towers and their respective watering system are included in the Vertical Growing Farms category.

## Right of Use asset/Lease Liability

IFRS 16 Leases requires that the Tenant, recognized a right-of-use asset and a lease liability on its consolidated statements of financial position at the commencement date of the lease. Accordingly, the asset and the liability have been appropriately reported.

The continuity of ROU assets is as follows:

May 31, 2022	\$	567,054
Amortization of ROU asset		(59,953)
May 31, 2023		507,101
Amortization of ROU asset		(24,980)
November 30, 2023	\$	482,121

The continuity of lease liabilities is as follows:

Lease liability, May 31, 2022	\$	588,121
Interest expense		589
Lease liability, May 31, 2023		588,710
Interest expense		294
Lease liability, November 30, 2023	\$	589,004
Current lease liability	\$	-
Long term lease liability	\$	589,004

The Company has not made any lease payments since inception and accrued interest expense in arrear of \$294 (2022 - \$294) during the period ended November 30, 2023. It was agreed by the Landlord that the lease will remain in good standing while maintaining the same terms.

## **Financial Instruments**

The fair values of the Company's cash, receivables, due from related party (excluding GST), and accounts payables and accrued liabilities approximate their carrying values because of the short-term nature of these instruments.

The Company's financial instruments are exposed to certain financial risks, including market risk, liquidity risk, credit risk and currency risk.

### (i) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market prices, such as foreign exchange rates and interest rates. The objectives of the Company are to ensure cash inflows in the short and medium term, while reducing exposure to capital markets. The Company does not trade in financial assets for speculative purposes.

### (ii) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Company will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities that are settled by delivering cash or other financial assets. As at November 30, 2023, the Company had current liabilities of \$1,623,736 (May 31, 2023 - \$1,269,067), the majority of which have contractual maturities of less than 30 days and are subject to normal trade terms. As at November 30, 2023, the Company has a working capital deficiency of \$1,623,736 (May 31, 2023 - \$1,251,870). The ability of the Company to continue its activities relies upon the support of its suppliers and obtaining additional financing.

(iii) Credit risk

Credit risk results from the possibility that a loss may occur from the failure of another party to perform according to the terms of the contract. The Company is exposed to credit risk on cash, receivables (excluding GST/sales taxes), deposits and due from related parties. Cash is held with a Canadian chartered bank and management considers this risk to be negligible. The amounts due from related parties are unsecured.

(iv) Currency risk

The Company is exposed to currency risk arising from exchange rate fluctuations against its reporting Canadian currency. Currency transaction risk is the impact of exchange rate fluctuations on the Company's consolidated statement of comprehensive loss, which is the effect of currency rates on expected future cash flows and investments.

IFRS 7 establishes a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the input to valuation techniques used to measure fair value as follows:

Level 1 – quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities;

Level 2 – inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly (i.e., as prices) or indirectly (i.e., derived from prices); and

Level 3 – inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

### **Commitments And Contingencies**

The Company determines whether an estimated loss from a contingency should be accrued by assessing whether a loss is deemed probable and can be reasonably estimated. The Company assesses our potential liability by analyzing our litigation and regulatory matters using available information. The Company develops our views on estimated losses in consultation with outside counsel handling our defense in these matters, which involves an analysis of potential results, assuming a combination of litigation and settlement strategies. Should developments in any of these matters cause a change in our determination as to an unfavorable outcome and result in the need to recognize a material accrual or should any of these matters result in a final adverse judgment or be settled for significant amounts, they could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, cash flows and financial position in the period or periods in which such change in determination, judgment or settlement occurs.

#### Temporary Order and Notice of Hearing

On March 8, 2018, the Company completed a non-brokered private placement by issuing 24,997,916 units ("Unit") at a price of \$0.16 per Unit for gross proceeds of \$3,999,667, all of which was raised under the Consultant Exemption under National Instrument 45-106. A large portion of the funds was paid out in the form of consulting fees as the Company had entered into 14 three-month contracts for consulting services totaling \$3,500,000 for accounting, corporate and administrative services, internet marketing, investor relations, merger and acquisition consulting and cannabis consulting. As at May 31, 2018, \$175,000 in GST paid on the consulting fees was included in receivables. Of this amount, \$47,500 has been recovered from four consultants.

On November 26, 2018, the British Columbia Securities Commission (the "BCSC") issued a Temporary Order and Notice of Hearing (the "Order") to respondents, including the Company, pursuant to Section 161 of the Securities Act (the "Act") advising that a hearing would be held under section 161 (3) of the Act to determine whether to extend the temporary order under Section 161. The BCSC's concern is that the named issuers paid the majority of the private placement proceeds received, including those noted above, back when little or no consulting services had been or were intended to be performed and that this conduct is abusive to the capital markets. Considering the length





of time to hold a hearing under section 161 (a) of the Act, the BCSC issued the following temporary orders under section 161 (1)(c): (i) that the exemption under section 2.24 of National Instrument 45-106 does not apply to the named issuers for a distribution to a consultant; and (ii) it does not apply to any issuer listed on the Canadian Securities Exchange for distribution to named respondents.

At a hearing held on December 7, 2018, the BCSC executive director asked the BCSC to extend the temporary orders, which were to expire on December 11, 2018, until a hearing was held and a decision rendered. The temporary orders were extended at the completion of the hearing until a decision was issued on this application.

On January 15, 2019, the BCSC issued its decision with respect to the temporary orders. With respect to the Company, it found that the executive director had not provided prima facie evidence of having engaged in conduct contrary to the public interest and, accordingly, the temporary orders were not extended. It was also concluded that it is in the public interest to not proceed with the hearing until the BCSC investigation has concluded.

During the year ended May 31, 2021, the Notice of Hearing was amended to remove the Company as a respondent and there is no current proceeding against the Company from the 2019 proceeding. However, the BCSC held the right to re-institute proceedings in the future and the Company received notice of the re-institution on January 26, 2022 when the BCSC issued a new Notice of Hearing. An enforcement hearing commenced in March 2023 and resumed in October 2023 and has not yet concluded.

The Company has made an assessment and, at this time, the Company has only disclosed information that will not prejudice the position of the Company in this dispute.

The Company has made an assessment and, at this time, the estimated financial effect is unknown. As such no contingency has been made.

#### Notice of Civil Claim

In relation to the above noted issue, the Company was served with a notice of civil claim (the "Claim") filed on July 11, 2019 with the Supreme Court of British Columbia by Michael Tietz and Duane Lowen under the Class Proceedings Act, RSBC 1996, c 50, naming the Company, its CEO and former CFO as defendants along with 86 additional defendants. The Claim relates to allegations of conspiracy, secondary market misrepresentations and fraudulent/negligent misrepresentations arising out of certain agreements entered into with consultants by the Company and other reporting issuers.

During the year ended May 31, 2022, the Court denied the Plaintiffs' application for leave to bring the Claim. The Plaintiffs filed an appeal. The Court of Appeal overturned the earlier court decision and granted leave to the Plaintiff to bring the Claim. The Company filed for leave to the Supreme Court of Canada to appeal the Court of Appeal's ruling granting leave to bring the secondary market claims. The certification hearing for the putative class action occurred on October 6, 2023.

During October 2023, the B.C. Supreme Court certified the claims against the Company for settlement purposes only and approved the settlement agreement (with the class plaintiffs of the putative class proceedings, Tietz and others v. Bridgemark Financial and others, filed against it and two officers of the Company in 2019). The settlement was made without any admission of liability by the Company. The Company and other settling parties have agreed to pay an aggregate of \$1,340,000 for the benefit of the class members.

The Company anticipates recovery of legal fees pertaining to this matter from its insurance carrier.

#### Claim

During July 2022, the Company filed a claim against Bridgemark Financial Group in the British Columbia Supreme Court for contribution and/or indemnity in connection with the above civil claim. No accrual for potential recovery has been recorded in respect of this claim.



## Management of Capital Risk

The Company manages its cash and cash equivalents and shareholders' equity as capital (in the comparative year the Company managed shareholders' equity as capital). The Company's objectives when managing capital are to safeguard its ability to continue as a going concern and to maintain a flexible capital structure which optimizes the costs of capital at an acceptable risk. This objective will be achieved by identifying the right agriculture projects, adding value to these projects and ultimately taking them through to production or sale and cash flow, either with partners or by the Company's own means.

The Company manages the capital structure and makes adjustments to it in light of changes in economic conditions and the risk characteristics of the underlying assets. To maintain or adjust the capital structure, the Company may attempt to issue new shares, acquire or dispose of assets or adjust the amount of cash and cash equivalents held.

In order to maximize ongoing operating efforts, the Company does not pay out dividends. The Company's investment policy is to invest its short-term excess cash in highly liquid short-term interest-bearing investments with maturities of 90 days or less from the original date of acquisition, selected with regards to the expected timing of expenditures from continuing operations.

When financing conditions are not optimal, the Company may enter into option agreements or other solutions to continue its activities or may slow its activities until conditions improve. The Company is not subject to external capital requirements. There were no changes in the Company's approach to capital management during the period.

## Policies and Controls

### Significant Accounting Policies, Estimates and Critical Judgements

Please refer to the condensed interim consolidated financial statements for the period ended November 30, 2023.

### Disclosure of Outstanding Share Data

As of the date of this MD&A, the Company's share structure is as follows:

#### Common shares

The Company had 25,989,915 common shares outstanding at January 29, 2024.

#### Stock options

The Company had the following stock options outstanding at January 29, 2024.

<u>Expiry date</u>	<u>Exercise price</u>	<u>Options Outstanding</u>
May 10, 2025	\$ 0.50	200,000
December 29, 2025	\$ 0.10	1,190,000
July 25, 2031	\$ 0.40	450,000
August 10, 2031	\$ 0.50	100,000
November 2, 2031	\$ 0.50	100,000
November 2, 2031	\$ 0.30	400,000
December 7, 2031	\$ 0.50	100,000
February 22, 2032	\$ 0.40	50,000
		<u>2,590,000</u>



**Warrants:**

The Company had the following warrants outstanding at January 29, 2024.

Expiry date	Exercise price	Warrants Outstanding
October 12, 2024	\$ 0.10	1,550,000
		1,550,000

**Information on the Board of Directors and Management**

**Directors:**

*Nick Brusatore*  
*Alan Boyco*  
*Rick Easthom*  
*Ben Hogervorst*

**Audit Committee members:**

*Alan Boyco*  
*Nick Brusatore*  
*Rick Easthom*

**Management:**

*Nick Brusatore, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer*