

# Corporate Governance Report 2020



# Corporate Governance Report

This Corporate Governance Report has been prepared in accordance with the Swedish Companies Act (SFS 2005:551), the Annual Accounts Act (SFS 1995:1554) and the Swedish Corporate Governance Code and has been subject to a review by the Company's statutory auditor.

The Company is not aware of any deviations from the Code, Nasdaq Stockholm's rule book for issuers, recommendations from the Swedish Securities Council, decisions from Disciplinary Committee at Nasdaq Stockholm or statements from the Swedish Securities Council.

Maha Energy AB (publ), company registration number 559018-9543, has its corporate head office at Strandvägen 5A SE-114 51 Stockholm, SWEDEN and the registered seat of the Board of Directors is Stockholm, Sweden. The Company's website is [www.mahaenergy.ca](http://www.mahaenergy.ca).

This 2020 Corporate Governance Report is submitted in accordance with the Swedish Annual Accounts Act and the Code. It explains how Maha has conducted its corporate governance activities during 2020.

As a Swedish public company listed on Nasdaq Stockholm (under symbol MAHA-A) Maha Energy is subject to the Rule Book for Issuers of Nasdaq Stockholm which can be found on [www.nasdaqomxnordic.com](http://www.nasdaqomxnordic.com). In addition, the Company abides by principles of corporate governance found in several internal and external documents to build trust on how Maha responsibly conducts its business.

## External and Internal governance framework

The Company observes good corporate governance practices in accordance with the laws and regulations of Swedish legislation, the Company's own Articles of Association and policies. The Company issues Annual Consolidated Financial Statements and interim reports in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), as adopted by the EU, and Swedish Annual Accounts Act.

Maha adheres to both the internal and external rules for Corporate Governance principles; thus, decreasing potential risks associated with unclear individual and company responsibilities and avoiding conflicts of interests between its shareholders, managers, and board of directors.

### External Corporate Governance Rules

- The Annual Accounts Act
- The Exchange Rules for Issuers
- NASDAQ Rules and Regulations
- The Swedish Companies Act
- Swedish Code of Corporate Governance
- Statements of the Stock Market Committee



### Internal Corporate Governance Rules

- Anti-Corruption Policy
- Articles of Association
- Code of Conduct
- Company Policies, Guidelines, and Procedures
- Corporate Governance Policy
- Health, Safety, and Environment Policy
- Internal Control and Risk Management

Swedish Code of Corporate Governance ("the Code"). The Code is published on [www.bolagsstyrning.se](http://www.bolagsstyrning.se), where a description of the Swedish Corporate Governance model can be found.

### Swedish Corporate Governance Code

The Swedish Corporate Governance Code is based on the tradition of self-regulation and the principle of "comply or explain". It acts as a complement to the corporate governance rules contained in the Swedish Companies Act, the Annual Accounts Act, EU rules and other regulations such as the Rule Book for Issuers and good practice on the securities market. The Corporate Governance Code can be found on [www.bolagsstyrning.se](http://www.bolagsstyrning.se). A revised version of the Corporate Governance Code applies as of 1 January 2020.

### Shareholders

The Company's shares (MAHA-A) are listed on Nasdaq Stockholm. At year-end 2020 the share capital amounted to TSEK 1,117,930, represented by 101,630,051 shares, of which 101,146,685 were Class A shares and 483,366 were class B shares. All shares represent one vote each. At 31 December 2020, the number of shareholders was 11,207 (7,044). Of the total number of shares, foreign shareholders accounted for approximately 31.80 percent. Kvalitena

AB is the only shareholder with a holding in excess of 10 percent of shares and votes, with a holding of 21,288,327 shares representing approximately 20.95 percent of shares and votes. For further information on share, share capital development and shareholders, see page 44 and the Company's website.

### Annual General Meeting

According to the Swedish Companies Act (2005:551), the general meeting is the Company's highest decision-making body. At the general meeting, the shareholders exercise their voting rights in key issues, such as changes to the articles of association, the election of the board of directors and auditors, adoption of the income statement and balance sheet, discharge from liability of the board of directors and the CEO and Managing Director, the appropriation of profit or loss and the principles for the appointment of the nomination committee. The Annual General Meeting ("AGM") must be held within six (6) months of the close of the fiscal year. The Company calls the meeting through announcements in the Swedish Official Gazette, the Svenska Dagbladet and published on the Company's website.

### **Right to attend AGMs**

All shareholders who are listed in the share registry on the record date, and who have notified the Company of their participation in due time, are entitled to participate in the AGM. Shareholders of Class A and B shares are entitled to exercise their respective voting rights in accordance with the description above (Shareholders).

### **Annual General Meeting 2020**

The 2020 AGM was held on 27 May 2020 at Setterwalls Advokatbyrå's offices at Sturegatan 10 in Stockholm, Sweden. The AGM was attended by 5 shareholders, personally or by proxy, representing 4.75 percent of the share capital. The Chairman of the Board, all Board members including the CEO and Managing Director were present, as well as the Company's auditor and the majority of the members of the Nomination Committee for the 2020 AGM. The members of the Nomination Committee for the 2020 AGM were also present. Under the Articles of Association and Swedish law, the AGM must address those matters listed below marked with "\*\*".

The submissions and resolutions passed by the 2020 AGM included the following:

- Submission of the annual report and the auditor's report and the consolidated financial statements and the auditor's report on the group\*;
- Approval of administrative matters concerning the AGM\*;
- Resolution in respect of adoption of the profit and loss statement and the balance sheet and the consolidated profit and loss statement and the consolidated balance sheet\*;
- Resolution in respect of Company's funds available shall be carried forward and no dividends shall be paid for the last financial year;
- Resolution in respect of the members of the Board and the Managing Director's discharge from liability\*;
- Resolution that the Board of Directors shall comprise of six (6) ordinary members and no deputy members;
- Determination of the fees payable to the members of the Board and the auditors\*;
- Election of members of the Board and auditors\*;
- Resolution on a policy for remuneration to the senior executive;
- Resolution regarding principles for the appointment of and instructions regarding a Nomination Committee (see below)\*;
- Resolution regarding an incentive program and issuance of warrants (LTIP) (see below);
- Resolution regarding authorisation for the Board to increase the share capital. The board of directors was authorized to resolve on issuance of new shares, warrants and/or convertible debentures during the period until the next annual general meeting and at one or more occasions;
- Resolution on changes to the articles of association regarding the removal of shares classes C1 and C2.

### **Annual General Meeting 2021**

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Maha Energy AB (publ) will be held on 27 May 2021 in Stockholm, Sweden.

### **Nomination Committee and its Function**

The duties of the nomination committee include the preparation and drafting of proposals regarding the election of members of the board of directors, the chairman of the board of directors, the chairman of the general meeting and auditors. The nomination committee shall also propose fees for board members and the auditor. The composition of the nomination committee is publicly announced at least six months ahead of the AGM.

In accordance with the Nomination Committee proposal approved by the 2020 AGM (proposal not to change the principles for the appointment of and instructions regarding a nomination committee adopted at the Annual General Meeting in 2019), the Nomination Committee for the 2021 AGM consists of members appointed by three (3) of the largest shareholders of the Company based on shareholdings as at 30 September 2020 and the Chairman of the Board. The names of the members of the Nomination Committee were announced and posted on the Company's website on 25 November 2020 (within the time frame of six (6) months before the AGM, as prescribed by the Code). Henrik Moren is the Chairman of the Nomination Committee.

The Nomination Committee for the 2021 AGM consists of:

- Jonas Vestin, appointed by Kvalitena AB
- Henrik Moren, appointed by Jonas Lindvall
- Ronald Panchuk, representing himself
- Harald Pousette, Chairman of the Company's Board

The Nomination Committee Report, including the final proposals to the 2021 AGM, is published on the Company's website at the same time the Notice of the AGM is given. During 2020, the Nomination Committee has met and conferred one (1) time during which all members attended or were in conference.

The Nomination Committee's purpose is to produce proposals for certain matters including, amongst others, the following (which will be presented to the 2021 AGM for consideration):

- Number of members of the Board of Directors
- Remuneration to the Chairman of the Board of Directors, the other members of the Board of Directors and auditors respectively
- Election of auditors
- Remuneration, if any, for committee work
- The composition of the Board of Directors
- Chairman of the Board

The work of the Nomination Committee includes evaluation of the Board's work, competence and composition, as well as the independence of the members. The Nomination Committee will also consider criteria such as the background and experience of the Board, and evaluate the ongoing work.

## The Board and its work

### Board composition

After the general meeting, the board of directors is the highest decision-making body. According to the Swedish Companies Act, the board of directors is responsible for the organisation and management of the company's affairs, which means that the board of directors is responsible for, among other things, establishing targets and strategies, securing procedures and systems for monitoring of set targets, continuously assessing the company's financial position and evaluating the operational management. Furthermore, the board of directors is responsible for ensuring that proper information is given to the company's shareholders, that the company complies with laws and regulations and that the company develops and implements internal policies and ethical guidelines. Moreover, the board of directors is responsible for ensuring that annual reports and interim reports are prepared in a timely matter. The board of directors also appoints the company's CEO and Managing Director and determines its salary and other compensation.

The members of the board of directors are elected annually at the annual general meeting for the period until the end of the next annual general meeting. Pursuant to the Company's Articles of Association, the Board shall consist of not less than three (3) and not more than seven (7) ordinary members, without any deputy members. There are no specific stipulations in the Company's Articles of Association on how the board members should be assigned or dismissed. The Company aims to promote diversity at all levels of the Company as such a Board seat was offered to a female candidate who turned it down. Currently, the Company's Board consists of 6 ordinary members, appointed until the end of the next annual shareholders' meeting. The composition of the Board of the Company changed at the 2020 AGM. The current Board is as follows: Mr. Harald Pousette (Chairman), Mr. Jonas Lindvall, Mr. Anders Ehrenblad, Mr. Fredrik Cappelen, Mr. Nick Walker and Mr. Seth Lieberman (see bios in section "The Board of Directors and Management").

During 2020, the Board convened regularly. All members of the Board participated in each Board meeting.

Member	Elected	Position	Year of Birth	Nationality	Independent in Relation to Company	Independent in relation to the Company's major shareholders
Harald Pousette	2017	Chairman	1965	Swedish	Yes	No
Anders Ehrenblad <sup>1</sup>	2013	Member	1965	Swedish	No	Yes
Jonas Lindvall <sup>2</sup>	2013	Member	1967	Swedish	No	Yes
Nick Walker	2019	Member	1962	British	Yes	Yes
Fredrik Cappelen	2020	Member	1962	Norwegian	Yes	Yes
Seth Lieberman	2020	Member	1961	United States	Yes	No

### Rules of Procedure

The Board's work is governed by the approved Rules of Procedure. The Board supervises the work of the Managing Director by monitoring the Company's operational and financial activities. The Board ensures that the Company's organisation, administration, and controls are properly managed. The Board adopts strategies and goals and provides review and approval of larger investments, acquisitions and disposals of business activities or assets. The

Board also appoints the Managing Director and determines the Managing Director's salary and other compensation. The Chairman of the Board supervises the Board and is responsible for it functioning well. The Chairman, among other things, is regularly updated on the Company's operations, meets with the Managing Director and is responsible to ensure information and documentation is provided by the Company to ensure high quality discussions and proper consideration of matters.

<sup>1</sup> Anders Ehrenblad was until 2019 the deputy Managing Director of Maha for Swedish law purposes, but performed no formal and informal management roles and received no compensation ties to this position. Currently, Anders holds position in multiple subsidiary entities of Maha and receives limited yearly compensation from Maha tied to these positions.

<sup>2</sup> Jonas Lindvall is also Managing Director of the Company.

## Board's Yearly Work Cycle

### Q1 / Q2 Activities:

- Approval of the year end report
- Approval of the Annual Report
- Review of the auditor's report
- Approval of the Policy on Remuneration for submission to the AGM
- Determination of the AGM details and approval of the AGM materials
- Audit Committee report regarding the first quarter report
- Annual business development report and performance assessment
- Meeting with the auditor without management present to discuss the audit process, risk management and internal controls
- Review of the Rules of Procedure

### Q3 / Q4 Activities:

- Executive session with Group management
- Adoption of the budget and work programme
- Consideration of the Board self-evaluation to be submitted to the Nomination Committee
- Audit Committee report regarding the second and third quarter report
- Performance assessment of the CEO and Managing Director
- Consideration of the performance review of Group management and Compensation Committee remuneration proposals
- Detailed discussion of strategy issues
- In-depth analysis of the Company's business
- Adoption of the half year report
- Evaluation of systems for internal controls
- Insurance for Board

## The Board's work in 2020

During 2020, the Board held 5 meetings Attendance at the meetings are shown in the table below. Board secretary was the Company's CFO. Prior to each meeting, Board members were provided with an agenda and written information

on the matters to be covered. Each meeting has included the possibility to discuss without management representatives being present. The Company's Auditor also met at least once with the board or respective board committee.

### Pre 27 May 2020 AGM

Board Member	Board	Attend	Audit Committee	Attend	Compensation Committee	Attend	Reserves Committee	Attend
Harald Pousette	*	3/3	*	2/2				
*Anders Ehrenblad	*	3/3	*	2/2				
Jonas Lindvall	*	3/3					*	1/1
Nick Walker	*	3/3	*	2/2			*	1/1

### Post 27 May 2020 AGM

Board Member	Board	Attend	Audit Committee	Attend	Compensation Committee	Attend	Reserves Committee	Attend
*Harald Pousette	*	2/2	*	2/2				
Anders Ehrenblad	*	2/2	*	2/2	*	1/1		
Jonas Lindvall	*	2/2					*	1/1
Nick Walker	*	2/2			*	1/1	*	1/1
Fredrik Cappelen	*	2/2	*	2/2			*	1/1
Seth Liberman	*	2/2	*	2/2	*	1/1		

## Board Committees

In order to increase the efficiency of its work and enable a more detailed analysis of certain matters, the Board has formed three (3) committees: Audit Committee; Remuneration Committee; and Reserves/HSE Committee. Committee members are appointed by the Board within the Board members up to the next AGM. The Committee's duties and authorities are governed by those Mandates, Policies and Terms of Reference described below.

### Audit Committee

The Board established an Audit Committee just after the 2020 AGM for the period up to and including the 2021 AGM, consisting of Harald Pousette as Chairman, Anders Ehrenblad, Seth Lieberman and Fredrik Cappelen as members. The Committee convened four (4) times during 2020.

The Audit Committee is a supervisory body within the Board of Maha. The Audit Committee shall ensure compliance with the Board's monitoring responsibilities pertaining to financial reporting, risk management and assessing the

efficiency of the Company's internal controls over financial reporting. The Audit Committee shall thereby, in particular, contribute to sound and regular financial reporting to ensure the market's trust in Maha. The Audit Committee shall furthermore regularly liaise with the Company's external auditors as part of the annual audit process and review their fees, as well as the auditors' qualifications, independence and impartiality. The Audit Committee shall also ensure that good communication is maintained between the Board and the external auditor(s).

#### **Remuneration Committee**

The Board established a remuneration Committee for the period up to and including the 2021 AGM, consisting of Anders Ehrenblad as Chairman, Nick Walker and Seth Lieberman as members. The Committee convened one (1) times during 2020.

Remuneration Committee is a preparatory body within the board of directors with the main duties to prepare resolutions to be adopted by the board of directors pertaining to matters regarding remuneration principles, remuneration and other terms of employment for executive management; monitor and evaluate current and during the year finalized programs for variable compensations for the executive management, and monitor and evaluate the compliance with the guidelines for remuneration for the executive management which the general meeting by law shall adopt, and applicable remuneration structures and remuneration levels in the Company. The work of the Remuneration Committee is governed by established rules of procedures that have been set by the Board of Directors.

#### **Reserves/HSE Committee**

The Board established a Reserves/HSE Committee after the 2020 AGM for the period up to and including the 2021 AGM, consisting of Nick Walker, Chairman, Fredrik Cappelen and Jonas Lindvall. The Committee convened two (2) times during 2020.

The Reserves & HSE Committee is responsible for the following functions:

- assist the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities generally with respect to the oil and natural gas reserves evaluation process of the Corporation and public disclosure of reserves data and related information in connection with the Corporation's oil and gas activities;
- evaluation of and recommendation on appointment of independent qualified reserve auditor, oversight of the reserves audit process,
- developing, implementing and monitoring policies, standards and practices of the Company with respect to matters concerning health, safety and environment, including public disclosures

#### **Remuneration of Board members**

The remuneration of the Chairman and other Board members follows the resolution adopted by the AGM. The Board members, except for the CEO and Managing Director, are not employed by the Company, do not receive any

salary from the Company and are not eligible for participation in the Company's incentive programmes. The Policy on Remuneration approved by the AGM also comprises remuneration paid to Board members for work performed outside their directorships.

The 2020 AGM resolved that remuneration of the chairman of the Board of Directors shall be TSEK415 per annum and of the other members TSEK 300 per member per annum. Remuneration is not paid for service of the Boards or directors of subsidiaries. Jonas Lindvall, who is employed by Maha, does not receive any remuneration for his service on the Board of Directors. Annual fee for committee members is TSEK 40 per committee assignment. The annual fee for the chairman of the audit committee, chairman remuneration committee and reserve and health, safety and environment committee is TSEK 60. Further, if a member of the Board of Directors, following a resolution by the Board of Directors, performs tasks which are outside the regular Board work, separate remuneration will apply.

#### **Management**

The executive management in Maha throughout 2020 has consisted of the Managing Director and Chief Operating Officer (Jonas Lindvall), the Chief Financial Officer (Andres Modarelli), the Vice President of Operations (Alan Johnson), the Vice President of Exploration and Production (Jamie McKeown) and the Manager of Investor Relations and Deputy Managing Director (Victoria Berg). The Board of Directors has adopted an instruction for the Managing Director which clarifies the responsibilities and authority of the Managing Director. According to the instruction, the Managing Director shall provide the Board of Directors with decision data to enable the Board to make well-founded decisions and with documents to enable it to continually monitor the activities for the year. The Managing Director is responsible for the day-to-day business of the Company and shall take the decisions needed for developing the business – within the legal framework, the business plan, the budget and the instruction for the Managing Director adopted by the Board of Directors as well as in accordance with other guidelines and instructions communicated by the Board of Directors.

#### **Remuneration for Management**

Salary and other terms and conditions shall enable Maha to attract and retain competent Management Persons. The remuneration for Management Persons may consist of fixed salary, variable remuneration, pension, other benefits and share related incentive programs. Variable remuneration is to be linked to predetermined and measurable performance criteria, formulated with the objective to promote Maha's long-term value creation.

Remuneration policy to the executive management includes five elements:

#### **Fixed salary**

Management Persons employed by Maha shall be offered a market level fixed salary, commensurate with the international oil and gas sector, based on responsibilities,

sector and time experience and performances. Salary shall be determined per calendar year with salary revision on 1 January each year. Management Persons, if active in Maha on a consultancy basis will be paid a market level consultancy fee, commensurate with the international oil and gas sector, based on responsibilities and performances for time spent.

#### **Variable remuneration**

The managing director and other Management Persons employed by Maha may from time to time be offered variable remuneration. Such variable remuneration eligibility shall be set forth in each Management Person's employment agreement. Maha's maximum cost of variable remuneration to Management Persons, including social security contributions, is to be accounted for in the Annual Report which shall be available prior to the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders.

Variable remuneration for the Management Persons shall primarily be based on Maha's result and the individual's performance. The Company's remuneration committee shall propose and evaluate goals for variable remuneration for Management Persons each year. The evaluation made by the remuneration committee shall be reported to the board of directors.

#### **Share related incentive programs**

The share related incentive program is designed to retain and attract long term qualified and committed personnel in a global oil and gas market setting. The program is available to select employees and is meant to re-occur annually. The number of share related options shall be in the middle range of listed companies in Sweden. Some Management Persons and Maha employees (including some of Maha's consultants) may participate in share related option programs in Maha. The programs is described in the annual report. The remuneration committee and the board of directors shall annually evaluate whether to propose share related incentive programs at the Annual General Meeting.

#### **Pension**

The Pension benefits comprise of a defined contribution scheme with premiums calculated on the full basic salary. The Pension contributions shall be in relation to the basic salary and is set on an individual basis but shall not be higher than what is tax deductible. The Company will, at the minimum, follow statutory requirements for Pension contributions in each applicable jurisdiction it operates.

#### **Termination and severance payment**

The Company are bound by individual employment agreements where severance obligations are common for Management Persons. Additionally, the Company abides by statutory severance obligations in the countries it operates. Redundancy payment, apart from salary, during the period of termination notice is not allowed.

For additional information on Board member and senior management compensation please refer to Note 28 to the Financial Statements.

#### **External Auditors**

At the 2020 AGM and for the period until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting the accounting firm Deloitte AB was elected as Maha's independent auditor. The Auditor in charge is Fredrik Jonsson.

#### **Financial Reporting and Internal Controls**

The Board of Directors has the ultimate responsibility of the internal controls over financial reporting. Maha's systems of internal control, with regard to financials reporting, is designed to minimize risks involved in financial reporting process and ensure a high level of reliability in the financial reporting. Furthermore, the system of internal control ensures compliance with applicable accounting requirements and other disclosure requirements that Maha is required to meet as a publicly listed company.

#### **Internal Controls**

While the Board (with assistance from the Audit Committee), in accordance with the Swedish Companies Act, has the ultimate responsibility for the internal controls over the Company's financial reporting; front line responsibility for such is with the CEO and Managing Director and CFO under the approved Instructions for Financial Reporting and the Instructions to Managing Director. In line with listed companies of similar size in the oil and gas sector, Maha maintains a system of internal controls for its financial reporting that is designed to minimize risks of error and ensure a high level of reliability and compliance with applicable accounting principles. The Company's CFO and Managing Director continually work on improving the financial reporting process through evaluating the risk of errors in the financial reporting and related control activities. Control activities include close monitoring and approval by the Company's executive team, in line with the authorization guidelines of: invoices, other payables, contracts and legal commitments, and other financial and treasury activities in relation to the oil and gas operations of the Company in the United States and Brazil. The purpose of these activities is to ensure and monitor that control activities are in place for the areas of identified risks related to financial reporting and potentially fraudulent activities. The Audit Committee, the CFO, and the Managing Director follow up on the compliance and effectiveness of the Company's internal controls to ensure the quality of internal processes is appropriate and develop controls as considered necessary.

#### **Information and Communication**

The Board has adopted an Information and Communication Policy for the purpose of ensuring that the external information is correct and complete. There are also instructions regarding information security and how to communicate financial information.

#### **Monitoring**

Both the Board and the management follow up on the compliance and effectiveness of the company's internal controls to ensure the quality of internal processes. The audit committee ensures and monitors that adequate controls are in place for the identified areas of risk related to financial reporting activities.



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