

Form 5500 Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.	OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089 2021 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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Part I	Annual Report Identification Information
For calendar plan year 2021 or fiscal plan year beginning <u>01/01/2021</u> and ending <u>12/31/2021</u>	
A	This return/report is for: ☐ a multiemployer plan ☒ a single-employer plan ☐ a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must attach a list of participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.) ☐ a DFE (specify) _____
B	This return/report is: ☐ the first return/report ☐ an amended return/report ☐ the final return/report ☐ a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)
C	If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. ▶ ☐
D	Check box if filing under: ☒ Form 5558 ☐ special extension (enter description) ☐ automatic extension ☐ the DFVC program
E	If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here. ▶ ☐

Part II	Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information
1a	Name of plan <u>STERLING EMPLOYEE SAVINGS PLAN</u>
1b	Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ <u>001</u>
1c	Effective date of plan <u>04/01/1981</u>
2a	Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan) Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box) City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions) <u>STERLING CORPORATION</u> <u>27 STERLING ROAD</u> <u>BILLERICA, MA 01862-2518</u>
2b	Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>04-2890273</u>
2c	Plan Sponsor's telephone number <u>978-322-2707</u>
2d	Business code (see instructions) <u>484110</u>

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	10/10/2022	PETER LOATI
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	10/10/2022	GERALD MARKOW
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500.

Form 5500 (2021)
v. 210624

3a Plan administrator's name and address ☒ Same as Plan Sponsor		3b Administrator's EIN	
		3c Administrator's telephone number	
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report: a Sponsor's name c Plan Name		4b EIN 4d PN	
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year		5	107
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1) , 6a(2) , 6b , 6c , and 6d).			
a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year.....		6a(1)	69
a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year		6a(2)	83
b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits.....		6b	0
c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits		6c	48
d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c		6d	131
e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits.		6e	1
f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e		6f	132
g Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)		6g	119
h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested		6h	0
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item).....		7	
8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions: 2E 2G 2F 2J 2K 3H 3D			
b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:			
9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☐ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor		9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☐ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor	
10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)			
a Pension Schedules (1) ☒ R (Retirement Plan Information) (2) ☐ MB (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary (3) ☐ SB (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary		b General Schedules (1) ☒ H (Financial Information) (2) ☐ I (Financial Information – Small Plan) (3) ☐ A (Insurance Information) (4) ☒ C (Service Provider Information) (5) ☒ D (DFE/Participating Plan Information) (6) ☐ G (Financial Transaction Schedules)	

Part III Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)

11a If the plan provides welfare benefits, was the plan subject to the Form M-1 filing requirements during the plan year? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

11b Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2021 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2021 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code _____

SCHEDULE C (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Service Provider Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110
		2021
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
For calendar plan year 2021 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2021 and ending 12/31/2021		
A Name of plan STERLING EMPLOYEE SAVINGS PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 STERLING CORPORATION	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 04-2890273	

Part I	Service Provider Information (see instructions)
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You must complete this Part, in accordance with the instructions, to report the information required for **each person** who received, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of monetary value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or the person's position with the plan during the plan year. If a person received **only** eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures, you are required to answer line 1 but are not required to include that person when completing the remainder of this Part.

1 Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

- a** Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether you are excluding a person from the remainder of this Part because they received only eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures (see instructions for definitions and conditions)..... ☐ Yes ☒ No
- b** If you answered line 1a "Yes," enter the name and EIN or address of each person providing the required disclosures for the service providers who received only eligible indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed (see instructions).

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation
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2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

NEW ENGLAND PENSION PLAN SYSTEMS, L

05-0515232

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
13	0	29059	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

NEW ENGLAND PENSION PLAN SYSTEMS,L

05-0515232

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
15	0	17942	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

SERGIO DECURTIS

05-0515232

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
28	0	16821	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

NEW ENGLAND INVESTMENT CONSULTANTS

20-5493811

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
27	0	13457	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

MATRIX TRUST COMPANY

717 17TH STREET SUITE 1300
DENVER, CO 80202

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
19	0	7850	Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3. If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received \$1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

Part II Service Providers Who Fail or Refuse to Provide Information

4 Provide, to the extent possible, the following information for each service provider who failed or refused to provide the information necessary to complete this Schedule.

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
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(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

Part III Termination Information on Accountants and Enrolled Actuaries (see instructions)

(complete as many entries as needed)

a Name:	PARESKY FLITT & COMPANY	b EIN:	04-2965590
c Position:	AUDITOR		
d Address:	14 WEST PLAIN STREET WAYLAND, MA 01778	e Telephone:	508-650-1122

Explanation: AUDITOR RECOMMENDED USING NEW FIRM

a Name:		b EIN:	
c Position:			
d Address:		e Telephone:	

Explanation:

a Name:		b EIN:	
c Position:			
d Address:		e Telephone:	

Explanation:

a Name:		b EIN:	
c Position:			
d Address:		e Telephone:	

Explanation:

a Name:		b EIN:	
c Position:			
d Address:		e Telephone:	

Explanation:

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):**c** EIN-PN**d** Entity
code**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or
103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):**c** EIN-PN**d** Entity
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103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):**c** EIN-PN**d** Entity
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103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):**c** EIN-PN**d** Entity
code**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or
103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

Part II Information on Participating Plans (to be completed by DFEs)

(Complete as many entries as needed to report all participating plans)

a Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
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plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Financial Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ► File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2021 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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For calendar plan year 2021 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2021 and ending 12/31/2021		
A Name of plan STERLING EMPLOYEE SAVINGS PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ►	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 STERLING CORPORATION	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 04-2890273	

Part I	Asset and Liability Statement
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1 Current value of plan assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the plan year. Combine the value of plan assets held in more than one trust. Report the value of the plan's interest in a commingled fund containing the assets of more than one plan on a line-by-line basis unless the value is reportable on lines 1c(9) through 1c(14). Do not enter the value of that portion of an insurance contract which guarantees, during this plan year, to pay a specific dollar benefit at a future date. **Round off amounts to the nearest dollar.** MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 1b(1), 1b(2), 1c(8), 1g, 1h, and 1i. CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 1d and 1e. See instructions.

Assets		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
a Total noninterest-bearing cash.....	1a		
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)		
(2) Participant contributions.....	1b(2)	8632	
(3) Other	1b(3)		
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)	2939	10934
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)		
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)		
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)		
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)		
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)		
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)		
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)		
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)		
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	78567	75722
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts.....	1c(9)	453759	504026
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)		
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts.....	1c(11)		
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)		
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)	9439663	10699007
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts).....	1c(14)		
(15) Other.....	1c(15)		

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities.....	1d(1)		
(2) Employer real property.....	1d(2)		
e Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e		
f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	9983560	11289689

Liabilities

g Benefit claims payable	1g		
h Operating payables	1h		
i Acquisition indebtedness.....	1i		
j Other liabilities.....	1j		
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j)	1k	0	0

Net Assets

l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	9983560	11289689
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Part II Income and Expense Statement

2 Plan income, expenses, and changes in net assets for the year. Include all income and expenses of the plan, including any trust(s) or separately maintained fund(s) and any payments/receipts to/from insurance carriers. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 2a, 2b(1)(E), 2e, 2f, and 2g.

Income

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
a Contributions:			
(1) Received or receivable in cash from: (A) Employers	2a(1)(A)		
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	346008	
(C) Others (including rollovers).....	2a(1)(C)	36696	
(2) Noncash contributions.....	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		382704
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit).....	2b(1)(A)		
(B) U.S. Government securities	2b(1)(B)		
(C) Corporate debt instruments	2b(1)(C)		
(D) Loans (other than to participants)	2b(1)(D)		
(E) Participant loans.....	2b(1)(E)	2967	
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		2967
(2) Dividends: (A) Preferred stock.....	2b(2)(A)		
(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)		
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds).....	2b(2)(C)	456925	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		456925
(3) Rents	2b(3)		
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: (A) Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)		
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions).....	2b(4)(B)		
(C) Subtract line 2b(4)(B) from line 2b(4)(A) and enter result	2b(4)(C)		0
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: (A) Real estate	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other	2b(5)(B)		
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B)	2b(5)(C)		0

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts.....	2b(6)		4607
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts.....	2b(7)		
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts.....	2b(8)		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities.....	2b(9)		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds).....	2b(10)		817904
c Other income.....	2c		
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	2d		1665107
Expenses			
e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers.....	2e(1)	273317	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits.....	2e(2)		
(3) Other.....	2e(3)		
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines 2e(1) through (3).....	2e(4)		273317
f Corrective distributions (see instructions).....	2f		
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions).....	2g		
h Interest expense.....	2h		
i Administrative expenses: (1) Professional fees.....	2i(1)	38526	
(2) Contract administrator fees.....	2i(2)	29059	
(3) Investment advisory and management fees.....	2i(3)	16821	
(4) Other.....	2i(4)	1255	
(5) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (4).....	2i(5)		85661
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	2j		358978
Net Income and Reconciliation			
k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d.....	2k		1306129
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan.....	2l(1)		
(2) From this plan.....	2l(2)		

Part III Accountant's Opinion

3 Complete lines 3a through 3c if the opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is attached to this Form 5500. Complete line 3d if an opinion is not attached.

a The attached opinion of an independent qualified public accountant for this plan is (see instructions):

(1) ☒ Unmodified (2) ☐ Qualified (3) ☐ Disclaimer (4) ☐ Adverse

b Check the appropriate box(es) to indicate whether the IQPA performed an ERISA section 103(a)(3)(C) audit. Check both boxes (1) and (2) if the audit was performed pursuant to both 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and 29 CFR 2520.103-12(d). Check box (3) if pursuant to neither.

(1) ☒ DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 (2) ☐ DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d) (3) ☐ neither DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 nor DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d).

c Enter the name and EIN of the accountant (or accounting firm) below:

(1) Name: **CARON & BLETZER, PLLC**

(2) EIN: **04-3499945**

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** because:

(1) ☐ This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, or MTIA. (2) ☐ It will be attached to the next Form 5500 pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.104-50.

Part IV Compliance Questions

4 CCTs and PSAs do not complete Part IV. MTIAs, 103-12 IEs, and GIAs do not complete lines 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete line 4l.

During the plan year:

a Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.).....

	Yes	No	Amount
4a		X	

	Yes	No	Amount
b Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)			
4b		X	
c Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)			
4c		X	
d Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)			
4d		X	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	X		1000000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?		X	
4f		X	
g Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?			
4g		X	
h Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?			
4h		X	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	X		
4i	X		
j Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked and see instructions for format requirements.)			
4j		X	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?			
4k		X	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?			
4l		X	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)			
4m		X	
n If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.			
4n			
5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year?..... ☐ Yes ☒ No If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year _____.			
5b If, during this plan year, any assets or liabilities were transferred from this plan to another plan(s), identify the plan(s) to which assets or liabilities were transferred. (See instructions.)			
5b(1) Name of plan(s)	5b(2) EIN(s)	5b(3) PN(s)	
5c Was the plan a defined benefit plan covered under the PBGC insurance program at any time during this plan year? (See ERISA section 4021 and instructions.) ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not determined If "Yes" is checked, enter the My PAA confirmation number from the PBGC premium filing for this plan year _____.			

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Retirement Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ► File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2021 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
---	--	---

For calendar plan year 2021 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2021 and ending 12/31/2021

A Name of plan STERLING EMPLOYEE SAVINGS PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ► 001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 STERLING CORPORATION	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 04-2890273

Part I	Distributions
---------------	----------------------

All references to distributions relate only to payments of benefits during the plan year.

1 Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions.....	1
2 Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits): EIN(s): 75-3182674	
Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.	
3 Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year	3

Part II	Funding Information (If the plan is not subject to the minimum funding requirements of section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA section 302, skip this Part.)
----------------	---

4 Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A
If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.			
5 If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. Date: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.			
6 a Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived)	6a		
b Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year	6b		
c Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount)	6c		
If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.			
7 Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A
8 If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A

Part III	Amendments
-----------------	-------------------

9 If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box. If no, check the "No" box.....	☐ Increase	☐ Decrease	☐ Both	☐ No
--	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-------------------------------	-----------------------------

Part IV	ESOPs (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.
----------------	---

10 Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan?	☐ Yes	☐ No
11 a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock?	☐ Yes	☐ No
b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.)	☐ Yes	☐ No
12 Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market?	☐ Yes	☐ No

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500.

Schedule R (Form 5500) 2021
v. 201209

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

13 Enter the following information for each employer that contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year (measured in dollars). See instructions. *Complete as many entries as needed to report all applicable employers.*

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

- 14** Enter the number of deferred vested and retired participants (inactive participants), as of the beginning of the plan year, whose contributing employer is no longer making contributions to the plan for:

a The current plan year. Check the box to indicate the counting method used to determine the number of inactive participants: ☐ last contributing employer ☐ alternative ☐ reasonable approximation (see instructions for required attachment).....

14a

b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment).....

14b

c The second preceding plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment).....

14c

- 15** Enter the ratio of the number of participants under the plan on whose behalf no employer had an obligation to make an employer contribution during the current plan year to:

a The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year.....

15a

b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year.....

15b

- 16** Information with respect to any employers who withdrew from the plan during the preceding plan year:

a Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year.....

16a

b If line 16a is greater than 0, enter the aggregate amount of withdrawal liability assessed or estimated to be assessed against such withdrawn employers.....

16b

- 17** If assets and liabilities from another plan have been transferred to or merged with this plan during the plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment..... ☐

Part VI Additional Information for Single-Employer and Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

- 18** If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment..... ☐

- 19** If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) through (c)

a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as:

Stock: _____% Investment-Grade Debt: _____% High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Estate: _____% Other: _____%

b Provide the average duration of the combined investment-grade and high-yield debt:

☐ 0-3 years ☐ 3-6 years ☐ 6-9 years ☐ 9-12 years ☐ 12-15 years ☐ 15-18 years ☐ 18-21 years ☐ 21 years or more

c What duration measure was used to calculate line 19(b)?

☐ Effective duration ☐ Macaulay duration ☐ Modified duration ☐ Other (specify): _____

- 20 PBGC missed contribution reporting requirements.** If this is a multiemployer plan or a single-employer plan that is not covered by PBGC, skip line 20.

a Is the amount of unpaid minimum required contributions for all years from Schedule SB (Form 5500) line 40 greater than zero? ☐ Yes ☐ No

b If line 20a is "Yes," has PBGC been notified as required by ERISA sections 4043(c)(5) and/or 303(k)(4)? Check the applicable box:

☐ Yes.

☐ No. Reporting was waived under 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) because contributions equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution were made by the 30th day after the due date.

☐ No. The 30-day period referenced in 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) has not yet ended, and the sponsor intends to make a contribution equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution by the 30th day after the due date.

☐ No. Other. Provide explanation _____

STERLING EMPLOYEE SAVINGS PLAN

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2021 and 2020 and
For the year ended December 31, 2021



CARON & BLETZER, PLLC

Certified Public Accountants and Business Consultants

STERLING EMPLOYEE SAVINGS PLAN
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Certain supplemental schedules have been omitted because they are either not required or not applicable.



Independent Auditor's Report

To the Plan Administrator of the Sterling Employee Savings Plan:

Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit

We have performed an audit of the financial statements of the Sterling Employee Savings Plan ("the Plan"), an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA"), as permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) (ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit). The financial statements comprise the statement of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2021, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management, having determined it is permissible in the circumstances, has elected to have the audit of the financial statements performed in accordance with ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's ("DOL") Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. As permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C), our audit need not extend to any statements or information related to assets held for investment of the plan (investment information) by a bank or similar institution or insurance carrier that is regulated, supervised, and subject to periodic examination by a state or federal agency, provided that the statements or information regarding assets so held are prepared and certified to by the bank or similar institution or insurance carrier in accordance with 29 CFR 2520.103-5 of the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA ("qualified institution").

Management has obtained a certification from a qualified institution as of and for the year ended December 31, 2021, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note F to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

Opinion

In our opinion, based on our audit and on the procedures performed as described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report:

- the amounts and disclosures in the accompanying financial statements, other than those agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP").
- the information in the accompanying financial statements related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

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 Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Plan 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 ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with GAAP, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. Management's election of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit does not affect management's responsibility for the financial statements.

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

Management is also responsible for maintaining a current plan instrument, including all plan amendments, administering the plan, and determining that the plan's transactions that are presented and disclosed in the financial statements are in conformity with the plan's provisions, including maintaining sufficient records with respect to each of the participants, to determine the benefits due or which may become due to such participants.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Except as described in the Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit section of our report, our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the 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 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 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 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 Plan'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 financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our audit did not extend to the certified investment information, except for obtaining and reading the certification, comparing the certified investment information with the related information presented and disclosed in the financial statements, and reading the disclosures relating to the certified investment information to assess whether they are in accordance with the presentation and disclosure requirements of GAAP.

Accordingly, the objective of an ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit is not to express an opinion about whether the financial statements as a whole are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with GAAP.

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.

Other Matters

Supplemental Schedule Required by ERISA

The supplemental Schedule H, Line 4(i) - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) as of December 31, 2021, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information included in the supplemental schedule, other than that agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS. For information included in the supplemental schedule that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, we compared such information to the related certified investment information.

In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedule, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedule, other than the information agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

In our opinion:

- the form and content of the supplemental schedule, other than the information in the supplemental schedule that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, are presented, in all material respects, in conformity with the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.
- the certified information in the supplemental schedule related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

Auditor's Report on the 2020 Financial Statements

The 2020 financial statements of the Plan were audited by predecessor auditors. As permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA, the plan administrator instructed the predecessor auditor not to perform, and they did not perform, any auditing procedures with respect to the information certified by qualified institutions. Their report dated September 30, 2021, indicated that (a) because of the significance of the information that they did not audit, they were not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion and accordingly, they did not express an opinion on the financial statements and supplemental schedule, and (b) the form and content of the information included in the financial statements and supplemental schedule other than that derived from the certified information, were presented in compliance with the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

Caron & Bleger, PLLC

Kingston, NH
August 30, 2022

STERLING EMPLOYEE SAVINGS PLAN
STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
December 31, 2021 and 2020

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Cash	\$ 10,934	\$ 2,939
Investments, at fair value:		
Common collective trust	504,026	453,759
Mutual funds	<u>10,699,007</u>	<u>9,439,663</u>
Total investments at fair value	11,203,033	9,893,422
Receivables:		
Participant contributions	-	8,632
Notes receivable from participants	<u>75,722</u>	<u>78,567</u>
Total receivables	<u>75,722</u>	<u>87,199</u>
Net assets available for benefits	<u>\$ 11,289,689</u>	<u>\$ 9,983,560</u>

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

STERLING EMPLOYEE SAVINGS PLAN
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
For the year ended December 31, 2021

	<u>2021</u>
Additions:	
Investment income:	
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$ 822,511
Dividends and interest income	<u>459,892</u>
	1,282,403
Contributions:	
Participant contributions	346,008
Rollover contributions	<u>36,696</u>
	<u>382,704</u>
Total additions	1,665,107
Deductions:	
Benefits paid to participants	273,317
Administrative expenses	<u>85,661</u>
Total deductions	<u>358,978</u>
Net increase	1,306,129
Net assets available for benefits:	
Beginning of year	<u>9,983,560</u>
End of year	<u><u>\$ 11,289,689</u></u>

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

STERLING EMPLOYEE SAVINGS PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

A. DESCRIPTION OF PLAN:

The following description of the Sterling Employee Savings Plan (the "Plan") provides only general information. Participants should refer to the plan document for a complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan covering substantially all employees of Sterling Corporation and their affiliates (collectively the "Company") who have attained age 21. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA").

Contributions

Upon meeting eligibility requirements participants may contribute up to 90% of their plan compensation on a pre-tax basis, subject to Internal Revenue Code ("IRC") limitations. Participants who are at least 50 may make an additional "catch up" contribution subject to IRC limitations. Participants may also contribute funds from another qualified plan ("rollover contributions"), subject to certain requirements. All new participants are automatically enrolled at a contribution rate of 1% of plan compensation, unless they opt out.

Participant contributions may be matched by the Company at a percentage of the participants' contributions, as determined by the Company. The Company may also elect to make a discretionary non-elective contribution. Employees must have completed 501 hours of service during the plan year or be employed on the last day of the plan year to be eligible for company contributions. The Company did not make a discretionary matching or non-elective contribution for the 2021 plan year.

Participant Accounts

Each participant's account is credited or charged with contributions, investment income, and administrative expenses. Investment income, including realized and unrealized gains and losses, and expenses are allocated to participants' accounts based on each participant's account balance within each fund. Participants determine the percentage in which contributions are to be invested in each fund. Participants may change their investment options as set forth in the plan document. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is equal to the value of the participant's vested interest in their account.

Vesting

Participants are fully vested in that portion of their account which represents their contributions and the income earned thereon. Participants become 100% vested in the Company's contributions and earnings thereon upon death, total and permanent disability, or attainment of normal retirement age. Otherwise, a participant's interest in the Company's contributions and earnings thereon vests according to the following schedule:

STERLING EMPLOYEE SAVINGS PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

<u>Completed Years of Service</u>	<u>Percent Vested</u>
Less than 2 years	0%
2 years	20%
3 years	40%
4 years	60%
5 years	80%
6 or more years	100%

Forfeitures

When certain terminations of participation in the Plan occur, the nonvested portion of the participant's account represents a forfeiture, as defined by the Plan. Forfeited balances are first used to restore re-employed participants' accounts. Any remaining forfeitures may be used to pay plan expenses or to reduce company contributions. During 2021, \$1,000 of forfeitures were used to pay plan expenses. Unallocated forfeitures at December 31, 2021 and 2020 were \$8,919 and \$6,772, respectively.

Distribution of Benefits

Benefits may be distributed to participants upon termination of employment by reason of retirement, disability, death or other separation from service. Distributions under the Plan may be made in lump sums or installment payments.

A participant may also request a withdrawal upon attainment of age 60 or upon demonstration by the participant to the plan administrator that the participant is suffering from "hardship", as defined in the plan document.

Notes Receivable from Participants

Participants may borrow from their fund accounts a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum equal to the lesser of \$50,000 or 50 percent of their vested account balance. The loans are secured by the balance in the participant's account. Loans must bear a reasonable rate of interest. All loans must be repaid within five years unless the proceeds are used to acquire a principal residence, in which case a longer repayment period is allowed. No more than one loan may be outstanding at any time. Principal and interest is generally paid ratably through payroll deductions each pay period.

B. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES:

Basis of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared using the accrual basis of accounting.

STERLING EMPLOYEE SAVINGS PLAN NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and changes therein, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Cash

Cash includes cash on hand and demand deposit accounts.

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

Investments are reported at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date. See Note C for discussion of fair value measurements.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Net appreciation (depreciation) includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

Notes Receivable from Participants

Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. No allowance for credit losses has been recorded as of December 31, 2021 or 2020. Delinquent participant loans are reclassified as distributions based upon the terms of the plan document.

Expenses of the Plan

Substantially all the administrative expenses incurred by the Plan are paid by the plan participants. Expenses that are paid by the Company are excluded from these financial statements. Investment related expenses are included in net appreciation in fair value of investments.

Payment of Benefits

Benefits are recorded when paid.

C. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS:

The framework for measuring fair value provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (level 3). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy under FASB ASC 820 are described as follows:

STERLING EMPLOYEE SAVINGS PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Level 1 - Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the Plan has the ability to access.

Level 2 - Inputs to the valuation methodology include quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets; inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability; inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means. If the asset or liability has a specified (contractual) term, the level 2 input must be observable for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.

Level 3 - Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

The asset or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used by the Plan. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2021 and 2020.

Mutual funds – Valued at the daily closing price as reported by the fund. Mutual funds held by the Plan are open-end mutual funds that are registered with the SEC. These funds are required to publish their daily net asset value (NAV) and to transact at that price. The mutual funds held by the Plan are deemed to be actively traded.

Common collective trust – Valued at the net asset value of units of a collective trust. The net asset value, as provided by the fund manager, is used as a practical expedient to estimate fair value. The net asset value is based on the fair value of the underlying investments held by the fund less its liabilities. This practical expedient would not be used if it is determined to be probable that the fund will sell the investment for an amount different from the reported net asset value.

The following tables set forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's assets at fair value as of December 31:

<u>Description:</u>	2021			
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Level 2</u>	<u>Level 3</u>
Mutual funds	\$ 10,699,007	\$ 10,699,007	\$ -	\$ -
Total investments in the fair value hierarchy	10,699,007	\$ 10,699,007	\$ -	\$ -
Investments measured at net asset value(1):				
Common collective trust	504,026			
Total investments at fair value	\$ 11,203,033			

STERLING EMPLOYEE SAVINGS PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

<u>Description:</u>	2020			
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Level 2</u>	<u>Level 3</u>
Mutual funds	\$ 9,439,663	\$ 9,439,663	\$ -	\$ -
Total investments in the fair value hierarchy	9,439,663	<u>\$ 9,439,663</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Investments measured at net asset value(1):				
Common collective trust	<u>453,759</u>			
Total investments at fair value	<u>\$ 9,893,422</u>			

(1) In accordance with Subtopic 820-10, certain investments that were measured at net asset value per share (or its equivalent) have not been classified in the fair value hierarchy. The fair value amounts presented in this table are intended to permit reconciliation of the fair value hierarchy to the line items presented in the statements of net assets available for benefits.

Redemptions of investments in the common collective trust are allowed daily for participants; however, the Plan is subject to a twelve-month notification period. There are no unfunded commitments.

D. PARTIES-IN-INTEREST:

Section 3(14) of ERISA defines a party-in-interest to include, among others, fiduciaries or employees of the Plan, any person who provides services to the Plan or an employer whose employees are covered by the Plan. Accordingly, loans to participants and the management of investments held by the custodian are considered party-in-interest transactions.

E. TAX STATUS:

The Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") has determined and informed the sponsor of the volume submitter plan document adopted by the Company by a letter dated March 31, 2014, that the volume submitter plan document and related trust are designed in accordance with applicable sections of the IRC. Although the Plan has been amended since receiving the opinion letter, the plan administrator believes that the Plan is designed and is currently being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC and therefore believes that the Plan is qualified, and the related trust is tax-exempt. Effective January 1, 2022, the Company adopted a restated pre-approved plan document of DATAIR, and the IRS has determined and informed the sponsor of the pre-approved plan document by a letter dated June 30, 2020, that the pre-approved plan document is designed in accordance with applicable sections of the IRC.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability if the Plan has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the IRS. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress.

STERLING EMPLOYEE SAVINGS PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

F. CERTIFIED INVESTMENTS:

Certain information related to investments disclosed in the accompanying financial statements and ERISA-required supplemental schedule, including investments held at December 31, 2021 and 2020, and net appreciation in fair value of investments and interest and dividends, for the year ended December 31, 2021, was obtained by management and agreed to or derived from information certified as complete and accurate by Matrix Trust Company, the custodian of the Plan.

G. PLAN TERMINATION:

Although the Plan was established with the intention that it will continue indefinitely, the Company retains the right to discontinue its contributions at any time or to terminate the Plan, subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of plan termination, all participants will become 100% vested in their accounts.

H. RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES:

The Plan invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, market, and credit risks. Market risks include global events which could impact the value of investment securities. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the value of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statements of net assets available for benefits.

I. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS:

The Company has evaluated subsequent events through August 30, 2022, the date these financial statements were available for issuance.

Effective January 1, 2022, the Board of Directors of the Company approved resolutions to have the J&M Installations, Inc. 401(k) Retirement Savings Plan merged with and into the Plan. The total value of assets subsequently merged into the Plan in 2022 were \$4,608,833. The employees of J&M Installations, Inc. became eligible to participate in the Plan on January 1, 2022.

STERLING EMPLOYEE SAVINGS PLAN

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SCHEDULE H, LINE 4(i) - SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR)

December 31, 2021

(a)	(b)	(c) Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par or maturity value	(d)	(e)
	Identity of issue, borrower, lessor or similar party		Cost	Current value
	Morley Stable Value Fund Class 75-I	Common collective trust	**	\$ 504,026
	American Funds American High-Income Trust Class A	Mutual fund	**	34,882
	American Funds EuroPacific Growth Fund Class A	"	**	271,327
	American Funds The Growth Fund of America Class A	"	**	273,452
	American Funds The Income Fund of America Class A	"	**	136,667
	American Funds Investment Company of America Class A	"	**	289
	American Funds New Perspective Fund Class A	"	**	88,745
	American Funds New World Fund Class A	"	**	313,825
	American Funds U.S. Government Securities Fund Class A	"	**	6,804
	American Funds Washington Mutual Fund Class A	"	**	110,111
	AMG Yacktmann Fund Class I	"	**	80,333
	BlackRock Advantage Large Cap Growth Fund Investor A Shares	"	**	70,370
	BlackRock High Yield Bond Portfolio Institutional Shares	"	**	569,959
	Davis New York Venture Fund Class A	"	**	628
	DFA Emerging Markets Portfolio Institutional Class	"	**	38,831
	DFA Emerging Markets Small Cap Portfolio Institutional Class	"	**	55,048
	DFA Emerging Markets Value Portfolio Institutional Class	"	**	38,887
	DFA Five-Year Global Fixed Income Portfolio Institutional Class	"	**	256,474
	DFA International Small Cap Value Portfolio Institutional Class	"	**	85,072
	DFA International Small Company Portfolio Institutional Class	"	**	70,368
	DFA International Value Portfolio Institutional Class	"	**	131,364
	DFA One-Year Fixed Income Portfolio Institutional Class	"	**	256,205
	DFA Real Estate Securities Portfolio Institutional Class	"	**	164,899
	DFA Short-Term Government Portfolio Institutional Class	"	**	256,401
	DFA Two Year Global Fixed Income Portfolio Institutional Class	"	**	256,407
	DFA U.S. Large Cap Value Portfolio Institutional Class	"	**	264,357
	DFA U.S. Large Company Portfolio	"	**	265,104
	DFA U.S. Micro Cap Portfolio Institutional Class	"	**	130,922
	DFA U.S. Small Cap Value Portfolio Institutional Class	"	**	166,064
	Dodge & Cox Income Fund Class I	"	**	525,033
	Dodge & Cox International Stock Fund	"	**	316,573
	DWS CROCI Equity Dividend Fund - Class A	"	**	3,069
	DWS CROCI International Fund - Class A	"	**	1,194
	DWS Science and Technology Fund Class A	"	**	452,143
	DWS Small Cap Core Fund - Class A	"	**	21,283
	Fairholme Fund	"	**	55,867
	Fidelity Advisor® Equity Growth Fund Class A	"	**	28
	Fidelity® Low-Priced Stock Fund	"	**	47,774
	Franklin Real Estate Securities Fund Class A	"	**	27,946
	Franklin U.S. Government Securities Fund Class R	"	**	29,051
	Glenmede Small Cap Equity Fund Advisor Class	"	**	15
	Harbor Core Bond Fund Institutional Class	"	**	10,709
	John Hancock Funds Disciplined Value Fund Class R6	"	**	1,667
	Loomis Sayles Strategic Income Fund Class A	"	**	66,127
	Lord Abbett Bond Debenture Fund Class R6	"	**	536,339
	Mairs & Power Growth Fund Investor Class	"	**	48,529
	MFS Massachusetts Investors Growth Stock Fund Class A	"	**	4
	MFS Value Fund Class A	"	**	2,781
	PIMCO Total Return Fund Class A	"	**	2,600
	PRIMECAP Odyssey Stock Fund	"	**	7,506

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December 31, 2021

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	Identity of issue, borrower, lessor or similar party	Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par or maturity value	Cost	Current value
	Royce Small-Cap Opportunity Fund Institutional Class	"	**	10,431
	Vanguard 500 Index Fund Admiral Shares	"	**	205,603
	Vanguard Dividend Growth Fund Investor Shares	"	**	784,607
	Vanguard GNMA Fund Admiral Shares	"	**	391,316
	Vanguard Health Care Fund Investor Shares	"	**	74,157
	Vanguard Inflation-Protected Securities Fund Admiral Shares	"	**	431,715
	Vanguard Intermediate-Term Treasury Fund Admiral Shares	"	**	407,356
	Vanguard Mid-Cap Index Fund Admiral Shares	"	**	262,460
	Vanguard PRIMECAP Fund Admiral Shares	"	**	398,610
	Vanguard Short-Term Investment-Grade Fund Admiral Shares	"	**	104,562
	Vanguard Small-Cap Index Fund Admiral Shares	"	**	239,520
	Vanguard Small Cap Value Index Fund Admiral Shares	"	**	180,093
	Vanguard Value Index Fund Admiral Shares	"	**	658,075
	Vanguard Windsor™ Fund Admiral™ Shares	"	**	469
	Total investments on the statement of net assets available for benefits			11,203,033
*	Participant Loans	(4.25-6.50%)	-	75,722
	Total investments on the Form 5500			\$ 11,278,755

** Cost omitted for participant directed investments.

* Denotes a party-in-interest to the Plan.



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	Total investments on the Form 5500			\$ 11,278,755

** Cost omitted for participant directed investments.

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