

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 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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Part I	Annual Report Identification Information
For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023	
A	This return/report is for: ☐ a multiemployer plan ☐ a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must provide participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.) ☒ a single-employer plan ☐ a DFE (specify) _____ ☐ the first return/report ☐ the final return/report ☐ an amended 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 ☐ automatic extension ☐ the DFVC program ☐ special extension (enter description)
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 THE MERCADIEN GROUP, LLC 401(K) PLAN
1b	Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001
1c	Effective date of plan 05/09/1994
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) THE MERCADIEN GROUP, LLC P.O. BOX 7648 PRINCETON, NJ 08543
2b	Employer Identification Number (EIN) 22-3693480
2c	Plan Sponsor's telephone number 609-689-9700
2d	Business code (see instructions) 541211

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.	10/04/2024	LEE BOSS
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE			
	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

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	5 221
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 a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e g(1) Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) g(2) Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested	6a(1) 153 6a(2) 144 6b 0 6c 54 6d 198 6e 0 6f 198 6g(1) 176 6g(2) 165 6h 3
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 2F 2G 2J 2K 2T 3D 3H

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
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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
- (4)** ☐ **DCG** (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached _____
- (5)** ☐ **MEP** (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)

b General Schedules

- (1)** ☒ **H** (Financial Information)
- (2)** ☐ **I** (Financial Information – Small Plan)
- (3)** ☒ **A** (Insurance Information) – Number Attached 1
- (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 2023 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2023 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 A (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Insurance 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. ▶ Insurance companies are required to provide the information pursuant to ERISA section 103(a)(2).	OMB No. 1210-0110 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan THE MERCADIEN GROUP, LLC 401(K) PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 THE MERCADIEN GROUP, LLC	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 22-3693480	

Part I	Information Concerning Insurance Contract Coverage, Fees, and Commissions	Provide information for each contract on a separate Schedule A. Individual contracts grouped as a unit in Parts II and III can be reported on a single Schedule A.
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1 Coverage Information:

(a) Name of insurance carrier
JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

(b) EIN	(c) NAIC code	(d) Contract or identification number	(e) Approximate number of persons covered at end of policy or contract year	Policy or contract year	
				(f) From	(g) To
01-0233346	65838	102490	165	01/01/2023	12/31/2023

2 Insurance fee and commission information. Enter the total fees and total commissions paid. List in line 3 the agents, brokers, and other persons in descending order of the amount paid.

(a) Total amount of commissions paid	(b) Total amount of fees paid
0	6020

3 Persons receiving commissions and fees. (Complete as many entries as needed to report all persons).

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid
RED BANK PENSION SERVICES, INC. 1161 BROAD STREET
SUITE 314
SHREWSBURY, NJ 07702

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	
	6020	SERVICING FEES	5

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

Part II Investment and Annuity Contract Information

Where individual contracts are provided, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

4 Current value of plan's interest under this contract in the general account at year end	4	0
5 Current value of plan's interest under this contract in separate accounts at year end.....	5	28090704

6 Contracts With Allocated Funds:**a** State the basis of premium rates ▶**b** Premiums paid to carrier**6b****c** Premiums due but unpaid at the end of the year.....**6c****d** If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, enter amount.**6d**

Specify nature of costs ▶

e Type of contract: (1) ☐ individual policies (2) ☐ group deferred annuity(3) ☐ other (specify) ▶**f** If contract purchased, in whole or in part, to distribute benefits from a terminating plan, check here ☐**7** Contracts With Unallocated Funds (Do not include portions of these contracts maintained in separate accounts)**a** Type of contract: (1) ☐ deposit administration (2) ☐ immediate participation guarantee(3) ☒ guaranteed investment (4) ☐ other ▶**b** Balance at the end of the previous year**7b****c** Additions: (1) Contributions deposited during the year**7c(1)**

(2) Dividends and credits

7c(2)

(3) Interest credited during the year

7c(3)

(4) Transferred from separate account.....

7c(4)

(5) Other (specify below)

7c(5)

▶

(6) Total additions.....

7c(6)**d** Total of balance and additions (add lines **7b** and **7c(6)**)**7d****e** Deductions:

(1) Disbursed from fund to pay benefits or purchase annuities during year

7e(1)

(2) Administration charge made by carrier

7e(2)

(3) Transferred to separate account.....

7e(3)

(4) Other (specify below)

7e(4)

▶

(5) Total deductions.....

7e(5)**f** Balance at the end of the current year (subtract line **7e(5)** from line **7d**)**7f**

Part III Welfare Benefit Contract Information

If more than one contract covers the same group of employees of the same employer(s) or members of the same employee organizations(s), the information may be combined for reporting purposes if such contracts are experience-rated as a unit. Where contracts cover individual employees, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

8 Benefit and contract type (check all applicable boxes)

- a** ☐ Health (other than dental or vision)
b ☐ Dental
c ☐ Vision
d ☐ Life insurance
e ☐ Temporary disability (accident and sickness)
f ☐ Long-term disability
g ☐ Supplemental unemployment
h ☐ Prescription drug
i ☐ Stop loss (large deductible)
j ☐ HMO contract
k ☐ PPO contract
l ☐ Indemnity contract
m ☐ Other (specify) ▶

9 Experience-rated contracts:

a Premiums: (1) Amount received	9a(1)		
(2) Increase (decrease) in amount due but unpaid.....	9a(2)		
(3) Increase (decrease) in unearned premium reserve	9a(3)		
(4) Earned ((1) + (2) - (3)).....		9a(4)	0
b Benefit charges (1) Claims paid.....	9b(1)		
(2) Increase (decrease) in claim reserves	9b(2)		
(3) Incurred claims (add (1) and (2)).....		9b(3)	0
(4) Claims charged		9b(4)	
c Remainder of premium: (1) Retention charges (on an accrual basis) --			
(A) Commissions	9c(1)(A)		
(B) Administrative service or other fees	9c(1)(B)		
(C) Other specific acquisition costs	9c(1)(C)		
(D) Other expenses	9c(1)(D)		
(E) Taxes	9c(1)(E)		
(F) Charges for risks or other contingencies.....	9c(1)(F)		
(G) Other retention charges	9c(1)(G)		
(H) Total retention		9c(1)(H)	0
(2) Dividends or retroactive rate refunds. (These amounts were ☐ paid in cash, or ☐ credited.).....		9c(2)	
d Status of policyholder reserves at end of year: (1) Amount held to provide benefits after retirement		9d(1)	
(2) Claim reserves		9d(2)	
(3) Other reserves.....		9d(3)	
e Dividends or retroactive rate refunds due. (Do not include amount entered in line 9c(2).)		9e	

10 Nonexperience-rated contracts:

a Total premiums or subscription charges paid to carrier	10a	
b If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, other than reported in Part I, line 2 above, report amount	10b	

Specify nature of costs.

Part IV Provision of Information

11 Did the insurance company fail to provide any information necessary to complete Schedule A?..... ☐ Yes ☒ No

12 If the answer to line 11 is "Yes," specify the information not provided. ▶

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
		2023
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023

A Name of plan THE MERCADIEN GROUP, LLC 401(K) PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 THE MERCADIEN GROUP, LLC	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 22-3693480

Part I

Service Provider Information (see instructions)

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).....

No

Yes

☒
- 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

(b)

Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

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(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

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)

JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

01-0233346

(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	RECORD KEEPER	1726	Yes ☒ No ☐	Yes ☒ No ☐	0	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 ☐

(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
(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
(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:	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:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

SCHEDULE D (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration	DFE/Participating Plan 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 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023

A Name of plan <u>THE MERCADIEN GROUP, LLC 401(K) PLAN</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ <u>001</u>	
C Plan or DFE sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>THE MERCADIEN GROUP, LLC</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>22-3693480</u>	

Part I	Information on interests in MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs (to be completed by plans and DFEs)
(Complete as many entries as needed to report all interests in DFEs)	

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: VANGUARD TARGET RET 2050

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

c EIN-PN <u>01-0233346-000</u>	d Entity code <u>P</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>241078</u>
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: VANGUARD TARGET RET 2055

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

c EIN-PN <u>01-0233346-000</u>	d Entity code <u>P</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>38947</u>
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: VANGUARD TARGET RET 2060

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

c EIN-PN <u>01-0233346-000</u>	d Entity code <u>P</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>117934</u>
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: VANGUARD STRATEGIC EQUITY

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

c EIN-PN <u>01-0233346-000</u>	d Entity code <u>P</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>14284</u>
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: VANGUARD TARGET RET 2045

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

c EIN-PN <u>01-0233346-000</u>	d Entity code <u>P</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>11020</u>
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: VANGUARD TARGET RET 2065

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

c EIN-PN <u>01-0233346-000</u>	d Entity code <u>P</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>63829</u>
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: VANGUARD EQUITY-INCOME FUND

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

c EIN-PN <u>01-0233346-000</u>	d Entity code <u>P</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>654</u>
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: FIDELITY CONTRAFUND		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 1075069
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: AF THE GROWTH FUND OF AMERICA		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 320951
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: JOHN HANCOCK DISCIPLINED VALUE		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 1004193
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: MFS UTILITIES FUND		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 72963
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: JPM MIDCAP VALUE FUND		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 667907
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: CAPITAL WORLD GROWTH & INCOME		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 1236563
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: LORD ABBETT VALUE OPPS FUND		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 21312
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: T. ROWE PRICE DIVIDEND GROWTH		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 99712
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: JH MULTIMANAGER MODERATE		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 1229742
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: JH MULTIMANAGER AGGRESSIVE		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 1773514

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: PIMCO COMMODITY REAL RETURN		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 102136
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: JPM GLOBAL BOND OPPS		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 263869
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: ROYCE SMALL-CAP OPPORTUNITY		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 70566
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: DFA EMERGING MARKETS VALUE		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 575167
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: JH MULTIMANAGER GROWTH		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 4924858
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: JH MULTIMANAGER BALANCED		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 6638652
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: VANGUARD TOTAL WORLD STOCK INDX ETF		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 7714
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: FEDERATED HIGH YIELD BOND		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 85713
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: FIDELITY ADVISOR TOTAL BOND		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 581949
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: DODGE & COX STOCK FUND		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 204925

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: LORD ABBETT CORE FIXED INCOME		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 16274
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: VANGUARD GROWTH INDEX FUND		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 12280
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: VANGUARD VALUE INDEX FUND		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 14558
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: 500 INDEX FUND		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 42357
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: VANGUARD HIGH DIV. YIELD INDEX FUND		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 9318
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: VANGUARD TOTAL INT'L STOCK INDEX		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 9507
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: MID CAP INDEX FUND		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 69728
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: SMALL CAP VALUE FUND		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 128350
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: VANGUARD EXPLORER FUND		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 5122
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: JH MULTIMANAGER CONSERVATIVE		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 18849

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: JOHN HANCOCK STABLE VALUE			
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY			
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 1764063	

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: JP MORGAN US EQUITY FUND			
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY			
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 682528	

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: STRATEGIC INCOME OPP. FUND			
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY			
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 297382	

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: VANGUARD MID-CAP GROWTH ETF			
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY			
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 1778	

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: DFA INFLATION PROTECTION SEC			
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY			
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 289497	

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: PARNASSUS CORE EQUITY FUND			
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY			
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 116845	

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: T. ROWE PRICE SMALL CAP VAL			
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY			
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 584509	

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: ROYCE PENNSYLVANIA MUTUAL FUND			
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY			
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 61075	

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: AF NEW WORLD FUND			
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY			
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 1124467	

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: DODGE & COX INTERNATIONAL STOCK			
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY			
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 195585	

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: **VANGUARD SMALL CAP GROWTH INDEX**

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): **JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY**

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 159269
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: **CAPITAL APPRECIATION FUND**

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): **JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY**

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 111876
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: **PGIM JENNISON MID-CAP GROWTH FUND**

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): **JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY**

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 123369
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: **INVESCO OPP INT'L GROWTH FUND**

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): **JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY**

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 746940
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: **VANGUARD ENERGY**

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): **JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY**

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 52249
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: **VANGUARD BALANCED INDEX FUND**

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): **JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY**

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 7705
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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)
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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)
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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)
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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)
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Part II **Information on Participating Plans (to be completed by DFEs, other than DCGs)**

(Complete as many entries as needed to report all participating plans. DCGs must report each participating plan using Schedule DCG.)

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
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**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
		2023
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan THE MERCADIEN GROUP, LLC 401(K) PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ►	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 THE MERCADIEN GROUP, LLC	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 22-3693480	

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	14186	5692
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	41794	18714
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)	30	604
(3) Other	1b(3)	19753	15294
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)		
(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)	153348	240977
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)		
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)	1720984	1764063
(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)	21949938	26326641
(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	23900033	28371985
Liabilities			
g Benefit claims payable	1g		
h Operating payables	1h		
i Acquisition indebtedness	1i		
j Other liabilities	1j	14170	4020
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j)	1k	14170	4020
Net Assets			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	23885863	28367965

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)	385816	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	1302941	
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)	111240	
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		1799997
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)	8604	
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		8604
(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)		
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		0
(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)		
(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)		

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts.....	2b(6)		
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts.....	2b(7)		36691
(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)		3558551
c Other income	2c		127431
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		5531274

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	1031577	
(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)		1031577
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		
h Interest expense	2h		
i Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees.....	2i(2)	3575	
(3) Recordkeeping fees.....	2i(3)	4020	
(4) IQPA audit fees.....	2i(4)	10000	
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)		
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees	2i(6)		
(7) Actuarial fees	2i(7)		
(8) Legal fees	2i(8)		
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees	2i(9)		
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses	2i(10)		
(11) Other expenses	2i(11)		
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (11)	2i(12)		17595
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		1049172

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		4482102
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: **ROSENBERG RICH BAKER BERMAN, PA**

(2) EIN: **22-3271252**

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** as part of Schedule H because:

(1) ☐ This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, DCG 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. DCGs do not complete lines 4e, 4f, 4k, 4l, and 5, and DCGs generally complete the rest of Part IV collectively for all plans in the DCG, except as otherwise provided (see instructions).

During the plan year:

	Yes	No	Amount
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.)	☒	☐	72845
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.)	☐	☒	
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.)	☐	☒	
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.)	☐	☒	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	☒	☐	500000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?	☐	☒	
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?	☐	☒	
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?	☐	☒	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	☒	☐	
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.)	☐	☒	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?	☐	☒	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?	☐	☒	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)	☐	☒	
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.	☐	☐	

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 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan THE MERCADIEN GROUP, LLC 401(K) PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) 001	
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 THE MERCADIEN GROUP, LLC	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 22-3693480	

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	0
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): 01-0233346 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)? If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
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
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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

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

13 Enter the following information for each employer that (1) contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year or (2) was one of the top-ten highest contributors (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
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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) and (b):	
a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as: Public Equity: _____% Private Equity: _____% Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: _____% High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Assets: _____% Cash or Cash Equivalents: _____% Other: _____%	
b Provide the average duration of the Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: ☐ 0-5 years ☐ 5-10 years ☐ 10-15 years ☐ 15 years or more	
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: _____	

Part VII	IRS Compliance Questions
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21a Does the plan satisfy the coverage and nondiscrimination tests of Code sections 410(b) and 401(a)(4) by combining this plan with any other plans under the permissive aggregation rules? ☐ Yes ☒ No	
21b If this is a Code section 401(k) plan, check all boxes that apply to indicate how the plan is intended to satisfy the nondiscrimination requirements for employee deferrals and employer matching contributions (as applicable) under Code sections 401(k)(3) and 401(m)(2).	
☐ Design-based safe harbor method	
☒ "Prior year" ADP test	
☐ "Current year" ADP test	
☐ N/A	
22 If the plan sponsor is an adopter of a pre-approved plan that received a favorable IRS Opinion Letter, enter the date of the Opinion Letter <u>06 / 30 / 2020</u> (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number <u>Q702896A</u> .	

THE MERCADIEN GROUP, LLC 401(k) PLAN

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AND
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

DECEMBER 31, 2023

**The Mercadien Group, LLC 401(k) Plan
Table of Contents
December 31, 2023**

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Plan Administrator of
The Mercadien Group, LLC

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

We have performed an audit of the accompanying financial statements of The Mercadien Group, LLC 401(k) 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, 2023 and 2022, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements (2021 Financial Statements).

Management, having determined it is permissible in the circumstances, has elected to have the audits of the The Mercadien Group, LLC 401(k) Plan 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 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 Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA (qualified institution).

Management has obtained a certifications from a qualified institution as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and for the year ended December 31, 2023, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note C to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

Opinion

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

- the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements referred to above, 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.
- the information in the financial statements referred to above 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 audits 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 Mercadien Group, LLC 401(k) 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.



ROSENBERG RICH BAKER BERMAN, P.A.

To the Plan Administrator of
The Mercadien Group, LLC

Responsibilities of Management

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, 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, which raise substantial doubt about The Mercadien Group, LLC 401(k) Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date the financial statements are 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 Mercadien Group, LLC 401(k) 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, which raise substantial doubt about The Mercadien Group, LLC 401(k) Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.



ROSENBERG RICH BAKER BERMAN, P.A.

To the Plan Administrator of
The Mercaden Group, LLC

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 accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

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 accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

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.

Supplemental Schedules Required by ERISA

The supplemental schedules of assets held at year end and delinquent participant contributions are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor'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 schedules, other than that agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audits 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 generally accepted auditing standards. For information included in the supplemental schedules 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 schedules, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedules, other than the information agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, including its form and content, are presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

In our opinion—

- the form and content of the supplemental schedules, other than the information in the supplemental schedules that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, is presented, in all material respects, in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.
- the information in the supplemental schedules relates 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).

Rosenberg Rich Baker Berman, P.A.

Somerset, New Jersey
September 26, 2024

The Mercadien Group, LLC 401(k) Plan
Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits

	<u>December 31,</u>	
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
ASSETS		
Investments, at fair value	\$ 28,090,704	\$ 23,670,922
Cash	5,692	14,186
Receivables:		
Employer contributions	18,714	41,794
Employee contributions	604	30
Plan expense reduction receivable	15,294	19,753
Notes receivable from participants	<u>240,977</u>	<u>153,348</u>
Total Receivables	275,589	214,895
Total Assets	<u>28,371,985</u>	<u>23,900,033</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	<u>4,020</u>	<u>14,170</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>4,020</u>	<u>14,170</u>
Net assets available for benefits	<u>\$ 28,367,965</u>	<u>\$ 23,885,863</u>

The Mercadien Group, LLC 401(k) Plan
Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits
Year Ended December 31, 2023

Additions to net assets attributed to:

Investment income:

Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$ 3,595,242
Other investment income	<u>127,431</u>
Net investment income	<u>3,722,673</u>

Interest from participants' notes receivable	<u>8,604</u>
--	--------------

Contributions:

Employer	385,816
Participants	1,302,941
Rollovers	<u>111,240</u>
Total contributions	<u>1,799,997</u>

Total additions	<u>5,531,274</u>
-----------------	------------------

Deductions from net assets attributed to:

Benefits paid to participants	1,031,577
Other expenses	<u>17,595</u>

Total deductions	<u>1,049,172</u>
------------------	------------------

Net increase	4,482,102
--------------	-----------

Net assets available for benefits, beginning of year	<u>23,885,863</u>
--	-------------------

Net assets available for benefits, end year	<u><u>\$ 28,367,965</u></u>
---	-----------------------------

**The Mercadien Group, LLC 401(k) Plan
Notes to Financial Statements**

A. DESCRIPTION OF PLAN

The following description of The Mercadien Group, LLC 401(k) Plan (the "Plan") provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan document for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan covering all eligible employees of The Mercadien Group, LLC (the "Company"). All employees are eligible to participate in the salary deferral portion of the Plan. Employees age 21 and older are eligible to participate in the discretionary matching or profit sharing features of the Plan after one year of service. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA").

The Plan's sponsor appointed John Hancock ("JH") as the custodian of the Plan's assets. Under the terms of the agreement between JH and the Plan, JH has the primary duty and responsibility to administer, manage and control the assets of the Plan. The record keeping function of the Plan is the responsibility of Red Bank Pension Services, Inc.

Contributions

Each year, participants may elect to defer a percentage of their annual compensation to be contributed directly to the Plan; subject to Internal Revenue Service Code ("IRC") specified limits. Participants may also contribute amounts representing distributions from other qualified plans. Participants direct the investment of their contributions into various investment options offered by the Plan. The Company has provided a matching contribution of fifty percent (50%) of eligible participant deferrals up to a maximum of six percent (6%) of the employee's compensation for the year ended December 31, 2023. The matching contribution per participant was not to exceed \$9,900 for the Plan year ending 2023.

The Company may also elect to make discretionary nonelective contributions. The Company did not make nonelective contributions in 2023.

Participant's Accounts

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contribution and allocations of (a) the Company's matching and nonelective contributions, and (b) Plan earnings and charged with an allocation of administrative expenses. Allocations are based on participant earnings or account balances, as defined. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

Vesting

Participants are immediately vested in their own contributions, all rollovers and transfers from qualified plans and actual earnings or losses thereon. Vesting in the Company's matching and nonelective contribution portions of their accounts is based on years of service. A participant becomes vested as follows:

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Vested Percentage</u>
Less than two years	0%
Two years	20%
Three years	40%
Four years	60%
Five years	80%
Six years	100%

**The Mercadien Group, LLC 401(k) Plan
Notes to Financial Statements**

A. DESCRIPTION OF PLAN (continued)

Forfeited Accounts

At December 31, 2023 and 2022, forfeited nonvested accounts totaled \$5,692 and \$14,186, respectively. These amounts will be used either to reduce future employer contributions or to pay Plan expenses. For the year ended December 31, 2023, \$19,991 was used to reduce employer contributions.

If a participant receives a distribution as the result of termination and subsequently returns to employment as an active participant within five years from the date of the break in service, the forfeited amount will be restored. The participant must repay to the Plan the full amount of the distribution attributable to his or her employer contribution.

Upon Plan termination, after forfeitures have been restored and all Plan expenses incurred in connection therewith which may permissibly be charged to the Plan under ERISA have been paid by the Plan, any unallocated forfeitures will be reallocated among the remaining Plan participants on a per capita basis.

Plan Expense Reduction Account ("PERA")

The Plan is party to an expense reduction agreement as part of its custodial arrangement with John Hancock. Under this agreement, the Plan receives credits based on its asset value and average deposits per year. The credits may be used to pay plan expenses. Any credits remaining at the year-end are allocated to the accounts of plan Participants as additional earnings.

For the year ended December 31, 2023, the Plan earned \$25,294 in credits. Of this amount, \$10,000 was used to pay Plan expenses, and \$15,294 was allocated to the participants as additional earnings.

Investment Expense Ratio Credit

As part of its agreement with John Hancock the Plan may receive credits against administrative fees charged for managing the investment funds available to participants. These amounts are credited back to participants. For the year ended December 31, 2023, \$102,138 was allocated to the participants as additional earnings.

Payment of Benefits

Upon termination of service due to death, disability, or normal retirement, a participant or beneficiary will receive 100% of his or her vested account balance as a lump sum distribution, in a series of periodic payments or have the amount deposited directly into another qualified retirement account.

Notes Receivable from Participants

Employees may borrow against their vested account balances as provided by the Plan provisions. Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Delinquent notes receivable are treated as distributions based upon the terms of the plan document. The notes receivable are secured by the vested balance in the participants' accounts and must bear a reasonable rate of interest at the time of the borrowing. Principal and interest are paid over a period of up to five years, with equal installments no less frequently than quarterly. Loans up to 30 years are permitted for the purchase of a principal residence. The interest rates on participant loans were 4.25 to 9.50% at December 31, 2023.

B. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

**The Mercadien Group, LLC 401(k) Plan
Notes to Financial Statements**

B. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of net assets available for benefits and changes therein. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

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 at the measurement date. See Note D 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 or depreciation includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

Payment of Benefits

Benefit payments to participants are recorded upon distribution.

C. INFORMATION CERTIFIED BY JOHN HANCOCK

Certain information related to investments and notes receivable from participants disclosed in the accompanying financial statements and supplemental schedule, including investments and notes receivable from participants held at December 31, 2023 and 2022, net appreciation in fair value of investments, and interest and dividends for the year ended December 31, 2023, was obtained or derived from information supplied to the plan administrator and certified as complete and accurate by John Hancock Life Insurance Company (the investment custodian).

D. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

ASC 820, Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures, establishes a framework for measuring fair value. That framework 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 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy under ASC 820 are described below:

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; and
- 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.

The Mercadien Group, LLC 401(k) Plan
Notes to Financial Statements

D. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (continued)

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

The asset's 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. Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2023 and 2022.

Mutual funds: valued at the net asset value ("NAV") of shares held by the Plan at year end.

Stable Value Fund: valued at fair value as determined by the value of the market prices of similar contracts.

The methods described above may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, while the Plan believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the assets at fair value as of December 31, 2023 and 2022:

Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2023				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Mutual Funds	\$ 26,326,641	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,326,641
Stable Value Fund	-	1,764,063	-	1,764,063
Total	<u>\$ 26,326,641</u>	<u>\$ 1,764,063</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 28,090,704</u>

Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2022				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Mutual Funds	\$ 21,949,938	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 21,949,938
Stable Value Fund	-	1,720,984	-	1,720,984
Total	<u>\$ 21,949,938</u>	<u>\$ 1,720,984</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 23,670,922</u>

Changes in Fair Value and Related Gains and Losses

During 2023, the Plan's investments (including gains and losses on investments bought and sold, as well as held during the year) appreciated in value by \$3,595,242 as follows:

Stable Value Fund	\$ 36,691
Mutual funds	<u>3,558,551</u>
Total	<u>\$ 3,595,242</u>

**The Mercadien Group, LLC 401(k) Plan
Notes to Financial Statements**

D. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (continued)

Stable Value Fund

The Plan has an investment in the John Hancock Stable Value Fund. The Fund is one investment option that the participants may choose. The Fund is invested primarily in diversified fixed income funds and separately managed bond accounts run by sub-managers selected by John Hancock. The account is designed to provide a stable asset value. Withdrawals from the Fund may be subject to certain restrictions and may be subject to a market value adjustment. The Plan administrator believes the occurrence of such events that would limit the Plan's ability to transact at contract value with Plan participants is not probable. At December 31, 2023, the contract value of the Fund exceeded the fair value by approximately \$99,909.

The Stable Value Fund is included in the statements of net asset available for benefits at fair value as determined using the market approach based on market prices of the underlying investments.

The approximate return on the Stable Value Fund was 1.7% for the year ended 2023. The crediting interest rate is based on a formula agreed upon with the issuer. Such interest rates are reviewed periodically for resetting.

E. PLAN TERMINATION

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Plan sponsor may terminate, amend, modify or suspend the Plan in whole or in part at any time. In any such event, the participants' rights to their accrued benefits are non-forfeitable.

F. TAX STATUS

The Plan has been restated as of January 1, 2022 by adopting a Volume Submitter Profit Sharing Plan with CODA (Cash or Deferred Arrangement), which received a favorable opinion letter from the Internal Revenue Service on June 30, 2020, which stated that the plan and related trust were designed in accordance with the applicable sections of the Internal Revenue Code ("IRC"). The Plan administrator believes that the Plan is currently designed and being operated in compliance with the applicable provisions of the IRC. The Plan administrator believes the Plan is no longer subject to income tax examinations for years prior to 2020.

G. ACCOUNTING FOR UNCERTAINTY IN INCOME TAXES

Management evaluated the Plan's tax positions and concluded that the Plan had maintained its tax exempt status and had taken no uncertain tax positions that require adjustment to the financial statements. Therefore, no provision or liability for income taxes has been included in the financial statements.

H. RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The Plan provides for investments in various investment securities. Investment securities in general are exposed to various risks, such as those involving interest rates, credit and overall market volatility. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investments, it is reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the statements of net assets available for benefits.

The Mercadien Group, LLC 401(k) Plan
Notes to Financial Statements

I. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Plan's management has evaluated subsequent events through September 26, 2024, the date the financial statements were available to be issued, and there were no subsequent events requiring adjustments to the financial statements or disclosures.

J. PARTY-IN-INTEREST TRANSACTIONS

The John Hancock Life Insurance Company, the plan custodian, thus party-in interest, holds the Plan's investments. No related party transactions or party-in-interest transactions have occurred that are prohibited by ERISA regulations. Red Bank Pension Services, Inc., also party-in-interest, provides third-party administrative services.

K. PROHIBITED TRANSACTIONS

The Plan sponsor noted certain employee contributions from prior years in the amount of \$604 were not remitted within the prescribed period. Management estimated \$133 of lost earnings and the full correction was made in September 2024.

During 2023, the Plan sponsor failed to remit certain participant contributions into the Plan, in the amount of \$72,241, within the period prescribed by the U.S. Department of Labor regulations. Management estimated lost earnings of \$80 and the full correction will be made in 2024.

The Mercadien Group, LLC 401(k) Plan
Schedule H, Line 4(i) Schedule of Assets (Held at Year End)
December 31, 2023

EIN #22-3693480 PLAN #001

(a)	(b) Identity of issuer, borrower, lessor, or similar part	(c) Description of investment, including maturity date and rate of interest	(d) Cost **	(e) Current Value
*	John Hancock Disciplined Value	Mutual Fund	**	\$ 1,004,193
	Jennison Mid Growth Fund	Mutual Fund	**	123,369
	Dodge & Cox Stock Fund	Mutual Fund	**	204,925
	VS Capital Appreciation	Mutual Fund	**	111,876
	The Growth Fund of America	Mutual Fund	**	320,951
	Fidelity Contrafund	Mutual Fund	**	1,075,069
	JPM MidCap Value Fund	Mutual Fund	**	667,907
	JPM Global Bond Fund	Mutual Fund	**	263,869
	Lord Abbett Core Fixed Income Fund	Mutual Fund	**	16,274
	Royce Opportunity	Mutual Fund	**	70,566
	Royce Pennsylvania Mutual Fund	Mutual Fund	**	61,075
	JPM US Equity Fund	Mutual Fund	**	682,528
	Small Cap Value	Mutual Fund	**	128,350
	DFA Emerging Markets Value	Mutual Fund	**	575,167
	Dodge & Cox International St	Mutual Fund	**	195,585
	Capital World Growth & Income	Mutual Fund	**	1,236,563
	Mid Cap Index	Mutual Fund	**	69,728
	New World Fund	Mutual Fund	**	1,124,467
	Invesco Intl Growth Fund	Mutual Fund	**	746,940
	PIMCO Commodity Real Return	Mutual Fund	**	102,136
	MFS Utilities	Mutual Fund	**	72,963
	Vanguard Total World Stock Indx EFT	Mutual Fund	**	7,714
*	John Hancock Stable Val	Stable Value Fund	**	1,764,063
	Fidelity Total Bond	Mutual Fund	**	581,949
	TRP Small Cap Value	Mutual Fund	**	584,509
*	Vanguard Growth Index Fund	Mutual Fund	**	159,269
	DFA Inflation-Protected Sec	Mutual Fund	**	289,497
	Strategic Income Opp Fund	Mutual Fund	**	297,382
	Federated High Yield Bond	Mutual Fund	**	85,713
	Vanguard High Div Yield Index Fund	Mutual Fund	**	9,318
	Vanguard Energy	Mutual Fund	**	52,249
	Vanguard Value Index Fund	Mutual Fund	**	14,558
	Vanguard Strategic Equity	Mutual Fund	**	14,284
	Vanguard Target Ret 2045	Mutual Fund	**	11,020
	Vanguard Target Ret 2050	Mutual Fund	**	241,078
	Vanguard Target Ret 2055	Mutual Fund	**	38,947
	Vanguard Target Ret 2060	Mutual Fund	**	117,934
	Vanguard Target Ret 2065	Mutual Fund	**	63,829
	Vanguard Equity Income Fund	Mutual Fund	**	654
	Lord Abbott Core Fixed Income	Mutual Fund	**	21,312
	T. Rowe Price Dividend Growth	Mutual Fund	**	99,712
	Vanguard Balanced Index Fund	Mutual Fund	**	7,705
	500 Index Fund	Mutual Fund	**	42,357
	Parnassus Core Equity Fund	Mutual Fund	**	116,845
	Vanguard Mid-Cap Growth EFT	Mutual Fund	**	1,778
	Vanguard Growth Index Fund	Mutual Fund	**	12,280
	Vanguard Total Int'l Stock Fund	Mutual Fund	**	9,507
	Vanguard Explorer Fund	Mutual Fund	**	5,112
*	Lifestyle Aggressive	Mutual Fund	**	1,773,514
	Lifestyle Growth	Mutual Fund	**	4,924,858
	Lifestyle Balanced	Mutual Fund	**	6,638,652
	Lifestyle Conservative	Mutual Fund	**	18,849
	Lifestyle Moderate	Mutual Fund	**	1,229,755
*	Notes receivable from participants	Loans (interest rate of 4.25-9.5%)		240,977
				<u>\$ 28,331,681</u>

* Indicates a party-in-interest as defined by the Employee Security Act of 1974.

** Cost information is not presented for participant directed investments.

The Mercadien Group, LLC 401(k) Plan
Schedule H, Line 4(a) of Form 5500
Schedule of Delinquent Participant Contributions
Year Ended December 31, 2023

2023 Form 5500
 EIN# 22-3693480
 Plan# 001

Participant Contributions Transferred Late to Plan	Total that Constitute Nonexempt Prohibited Transactions			Total Fully Corrected Under Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program (VFCP) and Prohibited Transaction Exemption 2002-51
	Contributions Not Corrected	Contributions Corrected Outside of VFCP	Contributions Pending Correction in VFCP	
Check here if Late Participant Loan Repayments are included:		* \$ 604 ** \$72,241		

* This represents adjustments on remittances for 2020, 2021 and 2022. Associated lost earnings were approximately \$133 and the full correction was made in September 2024.

** This represents one late remittance for the year ended December 31, 2023. Associated lost earnings were approximately \$80 and the full correction will be made in 2024.

The Mercadien Group, LLC 401(k) Plan
Schedule H, Line 4(a) of Form 5500
Schedule of Delinquent Participant Contributions
Year Ended December 31, 2023

2023 Form 5500
 EIN# 22-3693480
 Plan# 001

Participant Contributions Transferred Late to Plan	Total that Constitute Nonexempt Prohibited Transactions			Total Fully Corrected Under Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program (VFCP) and Prohibited Transaction Exemption 2002-51
	Contributions Not Corrected	Contributions Corrected Outside of VFCP	Contributions Pending Correction in VFCP	
Check here if Late Participant Loan Repayments are included:		* \$ 604 ** \$72,241		

* This represents adjustments on remittances for 2020, 2021 and 2022. Associated lost earnings were approximately \$133 and the full correction was made in September 2024.

** This represents one late remittance for the year ended December 31, 2023. Associated lost earnings were approximately \$80 and the full correction will be made in 2024.

The Mercadien Group, LLC 401(k) Plan
Schedule H, Line 4(i) Schedule of Assets (Held at Year End)
December 31, 2023

EIN #22-3693480 PLAN #001

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