

Form 5500

Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan

OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089

2024

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

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.

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024

- 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.) [x] a single-employer plan [ ] a DFE (specify) \_\_\_\_
B This return/report is: [ ] 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: [x] 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 AXIA CONSULTING EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
1b Three-digit plan number (PN) 002
1c Effective date of plan 01/01/2014
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) AXIA CONSULTING, INC. 375 N FRONT ST #125 COLUMBUS, OH 43215
2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) 20-3160292
2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number 866-937-5550
2d Business code (see instructions) 541600

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.

Table with 4 columns: SIGN HERE, Signature of plan administrator, Date, Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator. Includes rows for plan administrator, employer/plan sponsor, and DFE.

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

Form 5500 (2024) v. 240311

<b>3a</b> Plan administrator's name and address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same as Plan Sponsor	<b>3b</b> Administrator's EIN	
	<b>3c</b> Administrator's telephone number	
<b>4</b> 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: <b>a</b> Sponsor's name <b>c</b> Plan Name	<b>4b</b> EIN	
	<b>4d</b> PN	
<b>5</b> Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	<b>5</b>	118
<b>6</b> Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines <b>6a(1)</b> , <b>6a(2)</b> , <b>6b</b> , <b>6c</b> , and <b>6d</b> ). <b>a(1)</b> Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year ..... <b>a(2)</b> Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year ..... <b>b</b> Retired or separated participants receiving benefits..... <b>c</b> Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits ..... <b>d</b> Subtotal. Add lines <b>6a(2)</b> , <b>6b</b> , and <b>6c</b> ..... <b>e</b> Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits. .... <b>f</b> Total. Add lines <b>6d</b> and <b>6e</b> ..... <b>g(1)</b> Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) ..... <b>g(2)</b> Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) ..... <b>h</b> Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested.....	<b>6a(1)</b>	113
	<b>6a(2)</b>	134
	<b>6b</b>	0
	<b>6c</b>	11
	<b>6d</b>	145
	<b>6e</b>	0
	<b>6f</b>	145
	<b>6g(1)</b>	118
<b>6g(2)</b>	145	
<b>6h</b>	0	
<b>7</b> Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item) .....	<b>7</b>	

**8a** If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:  
2I 2P 2Q

**b** If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:

<b>9a</b> Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)	<b>9b</b> Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)
(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance	(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance
(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust	(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust
(4) <input type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor	(4) <input type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor

**10** Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)

**a Pension Schedules**

- (1)  **R** (Retirement Plan Information)
- (2)  **MB** (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- (3)  **SB** (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- (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 0
- (4)  **C** (Service Provider Information)
- (5)  **D** (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
- (6)  **G** (Financial Transaction Schedules)

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

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**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.

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**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 2024 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2024 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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<b>SCHEDULE H</b> <b>(Form 5500)</b>  <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small>  <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small>  <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	<b>Financial Information</b>  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).  ▶ <b>File as an attachment to Form 5500.</b>	OMB No. 1210-0110  <b>2024</b>  <b>This Form is Open to Public Inspection</b>
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning <b>01/01/2024</b> and ending <b>12/31/2024</b>	
<b>A</b> Name of plan <b>AXIA CONSULTING EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN</b>	<b>B</b> Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ <b>002</b>
<b>C</b> Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <b>AXIA CONSULTING, INC.</b>	<b>D</b> Employer Identification Number (EIN) <b>20-3160292</b>

<b>Part I</b>	<b>Asset and Liability Statement</b>
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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.

	(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>a</b> Total noninterest-bearing cash .....	<b>1a</b>	
<b>b</b> Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):		
<b>(1)</b> Employer contributions .....	<b>1b(1)</b>	
<b>(2)</b> Participant contributions .....	<b>1b(2)</b>	
<b>(3)</b> Other .....	<b>1b(3)</b>	
<b>c</b> General investments:		
<b>(1)</b> Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit) .....	<b>1c(1)</b>	189264      198241
<b>(2)</b> U.S. Government securities .....	<b>1c(2)</b>	
<b>(3)</b> Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):		
<b>(A)</b> Preferred .....	<b>1c(3)(A)</b>	
<b>(B)</b> All other .....	<b>1c(3)(B)</b>	
<b>(4)</b> Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):		
<b>(A)</b> Preferred .....	<b>1c(4)(A)</b>	
<b>(B)</b> Common .....	<b>1c(4)(B)</b>	0      12196865
<b>(5)</b> Partnership/joint venture interests .....	<b>1c(5)</b>	
<b>(6)</b> Real estate (other than employer real property) .....	<b>1c(6)</b>	
<b>(7)</b> Loans (other than to participants) .....	<b>1c(7)</b>	
<b>(8)</b> Participant loans .....	<b>1c(8)</b>	
<b>(9)</b> Value of interest in common/collective trusts .....	<b>1c(9)</b>	
<b>(10)</b> Value of interest in pooled separate accounts .....	<b>1c(10)</b>	
<b>(11)</b> Value of interest in master trust investment accounts .....	<b>1c(11)</b>	
<b>(12)</b> Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities .....	<b>1c(12)</b>	
<b>(13)</b> Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds) .....	<b>1c(13)</b>	921397      33562728
<b>(14)</b> Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts).....	<b>1c(14)</b>	
<b>(15)</b> Other.....	<b>1c(15)</b>	

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities.....	1d(1)	34095320	0
(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	35205981	45957834
<b>Liabilities</b>			
g Benefit claims payable.....	1g		
h Operating payables.....	1h		
i Acquisition indebtedness.....	1i		
j Other liabilities.....	1j	12415350	0
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j).....	1k	12415350	0
<b>Net Assets</b>			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f).....	1l	22790631	45957834

**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.

<b>Income</b>		(a) Amount	(b) Total
<b>a Contributions:</b>			
(1) Received or receivable in cash from: (A) Employers.....	2a(1)(A)	1129746	
(B) Participants.....	2a(1)(B)		
(C) Others (including rollovers).....	2a(1)(C)		
(2) Noncash contributions.....	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A), (B), (C), and line 2a(2).....	2a(3)		1129746
<b>b Earnings on investments:</b>			
(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)		
(F) Other.....	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F).....	2b(1)(G)		0
(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)		0
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets:			
(A) Real estate.....	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other.....	2b(5)(B)	22659329	
(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 .....	<b>2b(6)</b>		
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts .....	<b>2b(7)</b>		
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts .....	<b>2b(8)</b>		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities .....	<b>2b(9)</b>		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds) .....	<b>2b(10)</b>		253506
<b>c</b> Other income .....	<b>2c</b>		
<b>d</b> Total income. Add all <b>income</b> amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	<b>2d</b>		24042581

**Expenses**

<b>e</b> Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers.....	<b>2e(1)</b>	426383	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits .....	<b>2e(2)</b>		
(3) Other.....	<b>2e(3)</b>		
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines <b>2e(1)</b> through <b>(3)</b> .....	<b>2e(4)</b>		426383
<b>f</b> Corrective distributions (see instructions) .....	<b>2f</b>		
<b>g</b> Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions).....	<b>2g</b>		
<b>h</b> Interest expense.....	<b>2h</b>		448995
<b>i</b> Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances .....	<b>2i(1)</b>		
(2) Contract administrator fees .....	<b>2i(2)</b>		
(3) Recordkeeping fees .....	<b>2i(3)</b>		
(4) IQPA audit fees .....	<b>2i(4)</b>		
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees .....	<b>2i(5)</b>		
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees .....	<b>2i(6)</b>		
(7) Actuarial fees .....	<b>2i(7)</b>		
(8) Legal fees .....	<b>2i(8)</b>		
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees .....	<b>2i(9)</b>		
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses .....	<b>2i(10)</b>		
(11) Other expenses.....	<b>2i(11)</b>		
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines <b>2i(1)</b> through <b>(11)</b> .....	<b>2i(12)</b>		0
<b>j</b> Total expenses. Add all <b>expense</b> amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	<b>2j</b>		875378

**Net Income and Reconciliation**

<b>k</b> Net income (loss). Subtract line <b>2j</b> from line <b>2d</b> .....	<b>2k</b>		23167203
<b>l</b> Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan.....	<b>2l(1)</b>		
(2) From this plan .....	<b>2l(2)</b>		

**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: **GBQ PARTNERS**

(2) EIN: **20-2022306**

**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
<b>a</b> 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.)		X	
<b>b</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.)		X	
<b>c</b> 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.)		X	
<b>d</b> 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.)		X	
<b>e</b> Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	X		1000000
<b>f</b> Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?		X	
<b>g</b> 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?		X	
<b>h</b> 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?		X	
<b>i</b> Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	X		
<b>j</b> 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.)	X		
<b>k</b> Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?		X	
<b>l</b> Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?		X	
<b>m</b> If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)		X	
<b>n</b> 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 0.

**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.)

<b>5b(1)</b> Name of plan(s)	<b>5b(2)</b> EIN(s)	<b>5b(3)</b> 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

<b>SCHEDULE R</b> <b>(Form 5500)</b>  <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small>  <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small>  <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	<b>Retirement Plan Information</b>  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).  <b>▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.</b>	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small>  <b>2024</b>  <b>This Form is Open to Public Inspection.</b>
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024

<b>A</b> Name of plan <u>AXIA CONSULTING EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN</u>	<b>B</b> Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	<u>002</u>
<b>C</b> Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>AXIA CONSULTING, INC.</u>	<b>D</b> Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>20-3160292</u>	

<b>Part I</b>	<b>Distributions</b>
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**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
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**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): 58-1428634

**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	
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<b>Part II</b>	<b>Funding Information</b> (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.)
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**4** Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)? .....  Yes  No  N/A  
**If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.**

**5** If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. **Date:** Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_  
**If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.**

<b>6 a</b> Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived) .....	<b>6a</b>	
<b>b</b> Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year .....	<b>6b</b>	
<b>c</b> 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).....	<b>6c</b>	

**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

<b>Part III</b>	<b>Amendments</b>
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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

<b>Part IV</b>	<b>ESOPs</b> (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.
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**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:

<b>a</b> The current plan year. Check the box to indicate the counting method used to determine the number of inactive participants: <input type="checkbox"/> last contributing employer <input type="checkbox"/> alternative <input type="checkbox"/> reasonable approximation (see instructions for required attachment).....	<b>14a</b>	
<b>b</b> The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year. <input type="checkbox"/> Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment).....	<b>14b</b>	
<b>c</b> The second preceding plan year. <input type="checkbox"/> Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment).....	<b>14c</b>	

**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:

<b>a</b> The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year .....	<b>15a</b>	
<b>b</b> The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year .....	<b>15b</b>	

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

<b>a</b> Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year .....	<b>16a</b>	
<b>b</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.....	<b>16b</b>	

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

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

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

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

**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 \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number \_\_\_\_\_.

• **Financial Statements**  
• with Supplementary Information

• **Axia Consulting**  
• **Employee Stock**  
• **Ownership Plan**

• December 31, 2024 and 2023



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To the Plan Administrator  
Axia Consulting Employee  
Stock Ownership Plan  
Columbus, Ohio

## **Independent Auditor's Report**

### ***Opinion on the 2024 Financial Statements***

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Axia Consulting Employee Stock Ownership Plan (the Plan), an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). The financial statements comprise the statement of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2024, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan as of December 31, 2024, and the changes in its net assets available for benefits for the year then ended, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

### ***Basis for Opinion***

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Plan and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### ***Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with GAAP, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Management is responsible for maintaining a current plan instrument, including all plan amendments. Management is also responsible for 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***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if, there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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.

To the Plan Administrator  
Axia Consulting Employee  
Stock Ownership Plan  
Page 3

***Other Matter - Supplemental Schedules Required by ERISA***

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The supplemental Schedule H, Line 4i – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) and Schedule H, Line 4j – Schedule of Reportable Transactions as of December 31, 2024, 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 has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS.

In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedules, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedules, including their 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 information in the accompanying supplemental schedules is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole, and the form and content is presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

***Other Matter – 2023 Financial Statements***

We have compiled the accompanying statement of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2023. We have not audited or reviewed the accompanying financial statement and, accordingly, do not express an opinion or provide any assurance about whether the financial statement is in accordance with GAAP.

*GBQ Partners LLC*

Columbus, Ohio  
October 14, 2025

# AXIA CONSULTING EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

## Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits December 31, 2024 and 2023

	2024			2023 (compiled)		
	Allocated	Unallocated	Total	Allocated	Unallocated	Total
<b>Assets</b>						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 198,241	\$ -	\$ 198,241	\$ 189,264	\$ -	\$ 189,264
Investments, at fair value:						
Money market funds	33,562,728	-	33,562,728	8,620	-	8,620
U.S Government and government agency securities	-	-	-	436,425	-	436,425
Corporate bonds and asset backed securities	-	-	-	476,352	-	476,352
Investment in Huron Consulting Group, Inc. common stock at estimated fair value	12,196,865	-	12,196,865	-	-	-
Investment in Axia Consulting, Inc. common stock at estimated fair value	-	-	-	14,300,790	19,794,530	34,095,320
Total investments	45,759,593	-	45,759,593	15,222,187	19,794,530	35,016,717
Total assets	45,957,834	-	45,957,834	15,411,451	19,794,530	35,205,981
<b>Liabilities</b>						
Loan payable - related party	-	-	-	-	12,415,350	12,415,350
Total liabilities	-	-	-	-	12,415,350	12,415,350
<b>NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS</b>	<b>\$ 45,957,834</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 45,957,834</b>	<b>\$ 15,411,451</b>	<b>\$ 7,379,180</b>	<b>\$ 22,790,631</b>

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

# AXIA CONSULTING EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

## Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

	Allocated	Unallocated	Total
<b>Additions to Net Assets Attributed to</b>			
Investment income:			
Interest	\$ 56,641	\$ -	\$ 56,641
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	7,576,045	-	7,576,045
Proceeds from sale of investments	22,659,329	-	22,659,329
Total investment income	30,292,015	-	30,292,015
Contributions:			
Employer contributions	1,129,746	-	1,129,746
Total contributions	1,129,746	-	1,129,746
Total additions	31,421,761	-	31,421,761
<b>Deductions from Net Assets Attributed to</b>			
Net depreciation in fair value of investments	-	7,379,180	7,379,180
Interest expense	448,995	-	448,995
Benefits paid to participants	426,383	-	426,383
Total deductions	875,378	7,379,180	8,254,558
Net increase (decrease)	30,546,383	(7,379,180)	23,167,203
<b>Net Assets Available for Benefits</b>			
Beginning of year	15,411,451	7,379,180	22,790,631
End of year	\$ 45,957,834	\$ -	\$ 45,957,834

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

# AXIA CONSULTING EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

## Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2024 and 2023



### Plan Description

The following brief description of the Axia Consulting Employee Stock Ownership Plan (the Plan) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the plan agreement for a complete description of the Plan's provisions.

Axia Consulting, Inc. (the Company or Axia) established the Plan effective January 1, 2014. The Plan is designed as a leveraged employee stock ownership plan (ESOP) and is designed to comply with Section 4975(e)(7) and the regulations thereunder of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code) and is subject to the applicable provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (ERISA).

During 2014, the Plan purchased Company shares using borrowings from the Company. The borrowings are to be repaid by Company contributions to the trust. See *Loan Payable – Related Party* footnote herein for further information on the terms of the loan. The stock is held in a trust established under the Plan. As the Plan makes each payment of principal and interest, an appropriate percentage of stock will be allocated to eligible employees' accounts in accordance with applicable regulations under the Code.

The borrowing is collateralized by the unallocated shares of stock. As the lender, the Company has no rights against shares once they are allocated under the ESOP. Accordingly, the financial statements of the Plan for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023 present separately the assets and liabilities and changes therein pertaining to:

- (a) the accounts of employees with vested rights in allocated stock (Allocated), and
- (b) stock not yet allocated to employees (Unallocated)

Effective December 1, 2024, the Plan was amended and approved for termination following the acquisition of Axia Consulting, Inc. by Huron Consulting Group, Inc. (Huron), and the Plan was converted into a profit-sharing plan that is intended to satisfy the requirements of Section 401(a) of the Code.

#### General

The ESOP is a non-contributory plan covering substantially all employees of the Company. Employees become eligible after completing 6 months of service, obtaining age 21, and being employed on the last day of the plan year.

#### Employer Contributions

The Company is obligated to make contributions in cash to the Plan which equal the amount necessary to enable the Plan to make its regularly scheduled payments of principal and interest due on its loans.

# AXIA CONSULTING EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024 and 2023



## Plan Description (continued)

### Voting Rights

Shares of employer stock held in the Trust shall be voted by the Trustee in most instances. In certain extraordinary situations, such as a corporate merger, Treasury Regulations may require pass-through of voting rights in employer stock which has been fully paid for to Plan participants and beneficiaries.

### Vesting

Following the amendment to terminate the Plan all participants became 100% vested in the Plan.

### Participant Accounts

Each participant's account is credited with an allocation of shares of the Company's common stock released by the Trustee from the unallocated account and forfeitures of terminated participants' non-vested accounts. Allocations are based on a participant's eligible compensation, relative to total eligible compensation, as defined in the plan agreement.

### Payment of Benefits

Upon termination of service due to death, disability, retirement or other reasons, distributions of the balance in a participant's account will be distributed either in whole shares of employer stock, in cash or in any combination thereof, as decided by the Trustee after the loan agreement with the Company has been fulfilled. Distributions may be made in a lump sum, in equal installments not to exceed five years, or in any combination thereof.

### Forfeitures

During 2024, 85.7875 shares of employer stock as well as \$229.65 of cash were forfeited and reallocated to participants' accounts. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

### Put Option

Under the terms of the Plan and federal income tax regulations, any employer stock that is distributed and held by participants will include a put option. The put option is a right to demand that the employer buy any shares of its stock distributed to participants. The put price is representative of the fair value of the stock. The employer can, at its discretion, pay for the purchase of the employer stock in a single sum or in installments with interest over a period not to exceed five years.

# AXIA CONSULTING EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

## Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2024 and 2023



### Plan Description (continued)

#### Diversification

Diversification is offered to participants close to retirement so that they may have the opportunity to move part of the value of their investment in employer stock into investments that are more diversified. Participants who are at least age 55 with at least 10 years of participation in the Plan may elect to diversify a portion of their account. Diversification is offered to each eligible participant at the end of each plan year in which the participant may distribute the portion of his Eligible Account Balance covered by the election or direct transfer the portion of his Eligible Account Balance covered by the election to another qualified plan of the Employer which accepts such transfers.

#### SECURE Act 2.0

On December 23, 2022, Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, which included SECURE Act 2.0. SECURE Act 2.0 contains over 90 new retirement provisions, with varying effective dates through 2027. Since SECURE Act 2.0 provisions include both required and optional elements, the plan administrator will determine the optional provisions to elect and amend the Plan document accordingly. Most of the significant provisions will become effective in 2024 and thereafter. However, there was no material impact on the Plan's 2024 and 2023 financial statements.

### Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### Basis of Accounting

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

#### Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP) requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and changes therein and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

#### Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are maintained at one financial institution, and at times, balances may exceed federally insured levels.

# AXIA CONSULTING EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024 and 2023



## Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

### Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

The Plan's 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.

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

### Contributions

Contributions from the employer are recorded in the year in which the regularly scheduled payment is required to be made.

### Payment of Benefits

Benefits are recorded when paid.

### Administrative Expenses

The employer pays the majority of the administrative expenses and professional fees related to the Plan.

## Administration of Plan Assets

The Plan's assets are held by the Trustee of the Plan.

Employer contributions are held and managed by the Trustee, which invests cash received, interest, and dividend income and makes distributions to participants. The Trustee also administers the payment of interest and principal on the loans.

Certain administrative functions are performed by officers or employees of the employer. No such officer or employee receives compensation from the Plan. Administrative expenses for the Trustee's fees are paid directly by the employer.

# AXIA CONSULTING EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

## Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2024 and 2023

### Investment in Common Stock of Plan Sponsor

At December 31, 2024 and 2023, the Plan was allocated shares of Huron and Axia common stock, respectively, with a fair value of \$124.26 and \$231.50 per share, respectively.

The investment in the employers' common stock at December 31, 2024 and 2023 is presented in the following table:

	2024 Huron Consulting Group, Inc.		2023 (compiled) Axia Consulting, Inc.	
	Allocated	Unallocated	Allocated	Unallocated
Number of shares	<b>98,156</b>	-	61,774	85,506
Common stock - fair value	<b>\$ 12,196,865</b>	\$ -	\$ 14,300,790	\$ 19,794,530
Common stock - cost	<b>\$ 12,500,000</b>	\$ -	\$ 7,676,037	\$ 10,624,976

### Loan Payable – Related Party

On January 1, 2014, the Plan entered into a loan agreement with the Company and used the proceeds to purchase 147,280 shares of the Company's common stock. The original amount of the loan with the Company was for \$17,902,000. The agreement provided for the loan to be repaid over 30 years. Annual principal and interest payments of \$859,437 were due on December 31. Interest was fixed at 2.74%. Unallocated shares were collateral for the loan.

On October 31, 2023, the Plan entered into a second loan agreement with the Company and used the proceeds to purchase 22,070 shares of the Company's common stock. The original amount of the loan with the Company was for \$4,391,965. The agreement provided for the loan to be repaid over 30 years. Annual principal and interest payments of \$270,308 were due on December 31. Interest was fixed at 4.46%. Unallocated shares are collateral for the loan. Following entering into the agreement, the Plan distributed 22,070 allocated shares from the Plan.

Following the amendment to terminate the Plan, all outstanding loans were forgiven in total as approved by the Board of Directors of the Company.

### Fair Value Measurements

U.S. GAAP established a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to measure the fair value of the assets or liabilities being measured. Fair value is defined as the exchange value that would be received on the measurement date to sell an asset or to value the amount paid to transfer a liability in the principal or most advantageous market available to the entity in an orderly transaction between market participants. The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are as follows:

- Level 1 Inputs are unadjusted quoted market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Plan has the ability to access at the measurement date. Level 1 inputs provide the most reliable measure of fair value as of the measurement date.

# AXIA CONSULTING EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

## Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2024 and 2023

### Fair Value Measurements (continued)

Level 2 Inputs are based on significant observable inputs, including unadjusted quoted market prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets, unadjusted quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active, or inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability.

Level 3 Inputs are significant unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

The level of the fair value hierarchy within which a fair value measurement in its entirety falls is based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety.

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, 2024 and 2023.

*Interest-bearing cash*

Valued at cost which approximates fair value

*Money market funds:*

Valued at the daily closing price as reported by the fund

*U.S. Government and government agency securities:*

Valued using evaluated prices based on a compilation of primarily observable market information or a broker quote in a non-active market. Inputs include benchmark yields, base spreads, spread adjustments, yield to maturity, adjustments for corporate actions, treasury feeds, broker feeds and CPI.

*Corporate bonds and asset backed securities:*

Valued using pricing models maximizing the use of observable inputs for similar securities. This includes basing the value on yields currently available on comparable securities of issuers with similar credit ratings. When quoted prices are not available for identical or similar bonds, the bond is valued under a discounted cash flows approach that maximizes observable inputs, such as current yields of similar instruments, but includes adjustments for certain risks that may not be observable, such as credit and liquidity risks or a broker quote, if applicable.

# AXIA CONSULTING EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

## Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2024 and 2023

### Fair Value Measurements (continued)

*Axia Consulting, Inc. common stock:*

Valued at estimated fair value based upon an independent appraisal. This appraisal was based upon a combination of market, asset and income valuation techniques consistent with prior years. The appraiser took into account historical and projected cash flow and net income, return on assets, return on equity, market comparable and estimated fair value of Company assets and liabilities.

*Huron Consulting Group, Inc. common stock:*

Valued at the closing price reported on the active market on which they are traded.

The preceding method described may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, although 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 Plan's net assets at fair value as of December 31, 2024 and 2023. Classification within the fair value hierarchy table is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2024				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 198,241	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 198,241
Money market funds	33,562,728	-	-	33,562,728
Huron Consulting Group, Inc. common stock	12,196,865	-	-	12,196,865
<b>Total assets at fair value</b>	<b>\$ 45,957,834</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 45,957,834</b>

  

Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2023 (compiled)				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 189,264	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 189,264
Money market funds	8,620	-	-	8,620
U.S Government and government agency securities	-	436,425	-	436,425
Corporate bonds and asset backed securities	-	476,352	-	476,352
Axia Consulting, Inc. common stock	-	-	34,095,320	34,095,320
<b>Total assets at fair value</b>	<b>\$ 197,884</b>	<b>\$ 912,777</b>	<b>\$ 34,095,320</b>	<b>\$ 35,205,981</b>

# AXIA CONSULTING EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

## Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2024 and 2023

### Fair Value Measurements (continued)

#### Changes in Fair Value of Level 3 Assets

The availability of observable market data is monitored to assess the appropriate classification of financial instruments within the fair value hierarchy. Changes in economic conditions or model-based valuation techniques may require the transfer of financial instruments from one fair value level to another.

The Plan evaluates the significance of transfers between levels based upon the nature of the financial instrument and size of the transfer relative to the total net assets available for benefits.

The following table sets forth a summary of changes in the fair value of the Plan's Level 3 assets for the years ended December 31:

	2024 Axia Consulting, Inc.
Balance - beginning of year	\$ 34,095,320
Proceeds from sale of shares	(22,659,329)
Redemption of unallocated shares by Axia	(11,734,600)
Gain on sale	298,609
Balance - end of year	\$ -

Gains and losses (realized and unrealized) included in changes in net assets for the period above are reported in net (depreciation) appreciation in fair value of investments.

### Plan Termination

The Company was acquired by Huron Consulting Group, Inc. and the Plan was amended and approved for termination.

### Tax Status

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has determined that the Plan is qualified and the trust established under the Plan is tax-exempt, under the appropriate sections of the Code.

U.S. GAAP requires plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability (or asset) if the Plan has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the IRS. The plan administrator has analyzed the tax positions taken by the Plan, and has concluded that as of December 31, 2024, there are no uncertain tax positions taken or expected to be taken that would require recognition of a liability (or asset) or disclosure in the financial statements. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress.

# AXIA CONSULTING EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024 and 2023



## Parties-in-Interest Transactions

Parties-in-interest are defined under Department of Labor Regulations as any fiduciary of the Plan, any party rendering service to the Plan, the employer, and certain others.

## Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the accompanying 2024 statement of net assets available for benefits.

## Subsequent Events – Date of Management's Evaluation

The Plan has evaluated subsequent events through the date of the Independent Auditor's Report, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

# AXIA CONSULTING EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

EIN #20-3160292 - PLAN #002

## Schedule H, Line 4j – Schedule of Reportable Transactions

December 31, 2024

(a) Identity of Party Involved	(b) Description of Asset	(c) Purchase Price	(d) Selling Price*	(g) Cost of Asset	(h) Current Value of Asset	(i) Net Gain or (Loss)
<i>Category (i) - single transaction in excess of 5% of plan assets</i>						
Axia Consulting, Inc.	Common stock, 1 sale	\$ -	\$ 45,520,050	\$ 18,301,013	\$ -	\$ 27,219,037
Axia Consulting, Inc.	Loan payable - related party, forgiveness	-	11,734,600	11,734,600	-	-
Huron Consulting Group, Inc.	Common stock, 1 purchase	-	12,500,000	-	12,196,865	(303,135)

*\*Of the \$45,520,050 total proceeds received for the sale of 116,765.7048 shares of Axia Consulting, Inc. common stock to Huron Consulting Group, Inc., \$33,020,050 was received in cash and \$12,500,000 in the form of 98,156 shares of Huron common stock (valued at transaction closing).*

*See Independent Auditor's Report.*

# AXIA CONSULTING EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

EIN #20-3160292 - PLAN #002

Schedule H, Line 4i – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)

December 31, 2024



(a)	Identity of Issuer, Borrower, Lessor or Similar Party	Description of Investment including Maturity Date, Rate of Interest, Collateral, Par or Maturity Value	(d) Cost	(e) Current Value
*	Huron Consulting Group, Inc.	Company Stock	\$ 12,500,000	\$ 12,196,865
	Federated Hermes	Treasury Obligations Fund	33,562,728	33,562,728
	Texas Exchange Bank	Crowley Certificate of Deposit	198,241	198,241
				<u>\$ 45,957,834</u>

\* denotes party-in-interest

See Independent Auditor's Report.