# Environmental Policy

Version 1.5 (28 February 2023)

Spherical Origins GmbH & Co. KG (Spherical) is a software company specializing in software solutions that help achieve Sustainable Development Goals. With sustainable development being the reason for its existence, Spherical is strongly committed to protecting the Earth's environment.

Spherical will comply with all applicable legal requirements and environmental regulations; prevent pollution, reduce waste and minimize consumption of resources; educate, train and motivate employees to carry out tasks in an environmentally responsible manner; encourage environmentally sound practices among suppliers and subcontractors.

Particular initiatives under this policy that are already practiced by Spherical and will be monitored for the upcoming annual period include:

- **Minimization of the use of premises.** Office buildings are major polluters. Spherical will minimize its use of office space and arrange for flexibility whereby temporary, environmentally sound venues will be used when Spherical needs to organize larger meetings.
- **Minimization of travel.** Spherical will continue to excel in organizing remote work and collaboration arrangements to maximize collaboration and synergy while minimizing the need for physical meetings. Spherical will continue advocating for advanced online collaboration tools among its partners and customers.
- **Minimum impact travel.** Where travel is unavoidable, efforts will be made to select the most environmentally sound means of transportation. In particular, Spherical will travel Economy by air and prefer travel by train to air travel. Use of dwelling sharing services that occupy otherwise vacant dwellings will be preferred to dealing with highly polluting hotel business.
- **Sustainable software**. Big data processing and other computation-intensive software significantly increases the energy consumption of hardware on which it is executed.

Spherical will pay particular attention to the optimization of algorithms to reduce and optimize energy consumption by host environments. Spherical will also review any new computation-intensive technology (such as blockchain) proposed for its technological stack and look for possibilities to use more environmentally sound technologies.

- **Minimum physical servers**. Physical servers with less than 100% load are a major source of energy waste in the IT industry. Unless legally, operationally, or contractually unavoidable, Spherical will not own, rent or use physical servers for its operations. Highly condensed cloud environments and advanced resource-sharing technologies produce the best result in energy consumed by infrastructure per unit of work it does. Spherical will prefer such technologies in its solutions.
- **Use of "Software as a Service" (SaaS) solutions**. Individual hosting of business support systems leads to uneven load levels and energy waste. Spherical will prefer environmentally sound SaaS providers for sourcing of its business support systems.
- **Open-source/community-developed software**. Corporate software development environments are often organized in an environmentally irresponsible way. Spherical will prefer high-quality community-developed software, which tends to have a lower environmental impact, in its architectures.
- **Paperless office**. Unless legally, operationally, or contractually required, Spherical will not print out documents or require its employees, contractors, partners, or clients to produce paper documents.

Spherical is, presently, a small business. As the company grows and the profile of its operations changes, it is important to reassess environmental impact from time to time and find new ways to improve environmental performance. Spherical's management will review the company's current environmental impact and performance on an annual basis and invite inputs on additional measures to improve environmental performance from all employees, contractors and partners around the year.

This Policy will be communicated to all staff, contractors, and suppliers, and be available to the public.

Michael Vartanyan
Managing Director, Spherical