

# GLG LIFE TECH CORPORATION REPORTS 2024 FIRST QUARTER FINANCIAL RESULTS

Vancouver, B.C. July 23, 2024 - GLG Life Tech Corporation (TSX: GLG) ("GLG" or the "Company"), a global leader in the agricultural and commercial development of high-quality zero-calorie natural sweeteners, announces financial results for the three months ended March 31, 2024. The complete set of financial statements and management discussion and analysis are available on SEDAR and on the Company's website at www.glglifetech.com.

## **FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

The Company reported revenues of \$3.5 million in the first quarter of 2024, compared to \$1.6 million in revenue for the first quarter of 2023. This 123% increase was attributable to an increase in international stevia revenues, deriving in part from a base effect from a temporary slow-down in orders from one of the Company's largest customers in early 2023 and in part from success in the Company's efforts to increase revenues.

The Company continues its efforts to closely manage its SG&A expenses, reducing SG&A by \$0.2 million in the first quarter of 2024, compared to the first quarter of 2023.

For the three months ended March 31, 2024, the Company had a net loss attributable to the Company's shareholders from continuing operations of \$4.4 million, an increase of \$1.0 million over the comparable period in 2023 (\$3.4 million). The Company reported a net loss per share from continuing operations of \$0.11 for the first quarter of 2024, compared to a net loss per share of \$0.09 for the first quarter of 2023.

## **CORPORATE DEVELOPMENTS**

## **Subsidiary Transfer Agreement and Special Shareholder Meeting**

On February 20, 2024, the Company announced that it had signed an agreement, which, once fully approved, would result in the transfer of its Qingdao Runde Biotechnology Company, Ltd. ("Runde") production facility to Fengyang Xiaogang Hongzhang Health Industrial Park Co. Ltd ("Xiaogang"). This transfer, at the time contingent on necessary shareholder approval, and still contingent on regulatory approval, would eliminate significant bank debt from GLG's balance sheet.

Under the terms of the agreement, for the sale price of one Chinese RMB, one hundred percent of the equity in Runde, currently held by the Company's Anhui Runhai Biotechnology Joint Stock Company, Ltd. ("Runhai") subsidiary, will be transferred to Xiaogang. Xiaogang will thereafter own Runde's tangible assets and will have sole liability for Runde's bank debts. The Company will retain its intellectual property rights, including its proprietary technology and know-how in agriculture and natural sweetener production.

Under supplemental agreements then expected to be signed by Runhai and Xiaogang in the coming weeks (and subsequently signed), Xiaogang will utilize Runde for the benefit of GLG and GLG's customers.

Xiaogang will partner with Qingdao Honghongyuan Health Industry Technology Co., Ltd. ("HHY") – the operating entity previously formed to manage Runde's production operations – such that Runde's production continues unchanged under HHY's processes and management. Xiaogang, via HHY, will produce goods at Runde exclusively for GLG, except for domestic China sales. In this manner, GLG's customers will be able to rely on the same production expertise, processes, and highest quality standards remaining in place after this asset transfer becomes fully effective.

The agreement concerning Runde provides that the equity transfer will only become effective upon completion of the Company's regulatory obligations, including putting the agreement forth to the Company's shareholders for a shareholder vote and additional securities-/exchange-related obligations. This agreement was put to shareholder vote at a special shareholder meeting and approved by the shareholders with over 99% of votes cast in favor of the transaction on May 16, 2024. The Company is working on securing any further necessary regulatory approvals.

The Company continues to own and oversee its Runhai stevia and monk fruit manufacturing facility, located in Anhui province. The Company currently centers its stevia and monk fruit production operations at the Runde facility and plans to continue doing so, via Xiaogang and HHY, after the transaction is made fully effective, with the ability to later augment Runde's operations with production operations at Runhai.

# **Delisting Review**

On April 3, 2024, the Company announced that the Toronto Stock Exchange had commenced a delisting review, effective April 2, 2024. The TSX is providing the Company a 120-day window in which to remedy several long-standing deficiencies, including the Company's financial condition and/or operating results and the Company's share price and market capitalization.

At the time of the announcement, the Company stated that it could not provide any assurance that it would be able to remedy the deficiencies identified by the TSX within the 120-day window or thereafter. Even if the Company were successful in its debt restructuring plans, there is no guarantee that this would be sufficient to address the TSX's financial concerns. Further, even if those concerns were adequately addressed, there is no guarantee that the Company's share price, trading activity, or market capitalization would improve sufficiently to avoid continued TSX concern in those areas.

The Company also confirmed that it has been in contact with the TSX Venture Exchange ("TSX-V") regarding an application for a listing on the TSX-V to maintain trading continuity in the event that the Company is delisted from the TSX. While the Company has been in discussions for a listing on the TSX-V, there is no guarantee that such a listing application will be successful, or that another market for the Company's securities will be available if the Company is delisted from the TSX.

#### **Delay in Filing Financials and Cease Trade Order**

As a result of the Company's failure to file its 2023 financials (consisting of annual financial statements, its management discussion and analysis relating to its annual financial statements, and its Annual Information Form and CEO and CFO certifications, all in respect of its year ended December 31, 2023) by March 31, 2024, the British Columbia Securities Commission ("BCSC") issued a failure-to-file cease trade order ("FFCTO"). The failure to file timely resulted from the late-coming court orders regarding Runyang's bankruptcy proceedings and the additional financial and audit work necessitated by those orders.

## **Final Disposition of Runyang Operations**

In the course of the bankruptcy proceedings concerning Runyang, the Chinese court ultimately declared Runyang bankrupt, having liquidated all of its assets. In the fourth quarter of 2023, with Runyang's

obligations thereby terminated, the Company realized a significant reduction in its liabilities, substantially outweighing the book value of the liquidated assets.

## **2024 AGM Voting Results**

The Company held its Annual General Meeting on June 28, 2024. The shareholders voted in all four nominated directors, with favorable votes for each exceeding 99%. Dr. Luke Zhang continues as Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer and Mr. Brian Palmieri continues as Vice Chairman of the Board. Madame Liu Yingchun and Mr. Simon Springett continue as directors of the Company.

## **Company Outlook**

In recent quarters, management has placed, and continues to place, particular focus on mitigating the losses that the Company has suffered over the last several years and to ameliorate the Company's financial position. As a result of those sustained losses, the Company lacks the cash necessary to fully fund the business operations and its strategic product initiatives. The Company continues to manage its cash flows carefully to mitigate risk of insolvency. As a result of these efforts, management has been successful in improving the Company's cash flows. Nevertheless, without an infusion of cash in the months ahead, the Company may not be able to realize its strategic plans and could eventually cease to be a going concern.

To address that cash need, management previously negotiated revolving loan facilities with a third party for working capital purposes. In 2020, management also realized the sale of one of its two idle assets; the sale of the "Runhao" facility resulted in significant debt reduction. In 2023, the Company also realized significant debt reduction through the bankruptcy liquidation of its other long-idled asset, "Runyang".

A factor that continues to contribute to the Company's financial situation is the competitive price pressure in the stevia market over the last few years that has reduced mainstream "Reb A" products (such as Reb A 80 and Reb A 97) to the lowest price levels in years. Monk fruit prices have also become highly competitive in the marketplace. To maintain margins at sustainable levels, the Company focused on improving production efficiencies, and continues to strive for a mix of products that is weighted more heavily on higher margin, specialty products, and has focused more on higher margin direct sales.

The Company's focus on maintaining positive cash flow led the Company to take decisive steps in 2021, 2022 and 2023 to reduce its SG&A costs as well as its production costs. Both its North American operations and Chinese operations significantly reduced SG&A costs. For many years, the Company's production capacity had been far greater than its projected order levels, as it had then sought rapid increases in orders for Reb A products. The Company's aim has since been to "right-size" its Chinese operations — i.e., to optimize its staffing and production planning to meet the Company's projected production requirements while retaining the ability to accommodate growth in future order volumes — and management made significant progress in this area. These efforts have enabled the Company to sell its goods at more competitive and/or more profitable prices, although the competitive price pressures remain strong.

Revenue trends have been and remain encouraging, as Management's efforts to increase sales have brought increased revenues in the last two quarters (Q1 2024 and Q4 2023) relative to the several prior quarters. While the remainder of the year is impossible to predict with any reasonable certainty, Management currently expects 2024 full-year revenues to meaningfully exceed full-year 2023 revenues. This revenue growth is important to the Company's goals of maintaining positive cash flow and positive EBITDA.

Against this backdrop of sales growth, the Company faces significant regulatory hurdles. It is currently cease-traded, as a result of its delay in filing its 2023 full-year financials (since filed, on June 28, 2024),

pursuant to a British Columbia Securities Commission order (the failure-to-file cease trade order or "FFCTO"). As a result of that filing delay, the Company was also delayed in filing its interim first quarter financials for 2024 (filed today). Further, the Company is under a delisting review initiated by the Toronto Stock Exchange ("TSE"), on the basis of the Company's share price and market capitalization remaining lower than the TSE's requirements, as well as the Company's sustained losses over the years and negative working capital situation.

As has been previously announced by the Company, the financial filing delays resulted from late-coming court orders in China related to proceedings concerning the Runyang; the court proceedings resulted in the disposal of the Runyang business, including elimination of significant debts previously carried by the Company, such debt elimination far greater than the carried value of the disposed assets. With today's filing of the Company's first quarter 2024 financials, Management has brought the Company current in its financial reporting requirements. Further, Management expects to timely file its second quarter 2024 financial reporting on or before the prescribed deadline of August 14, 2024. Accordingly, Management is seeking to have the FFCTO rescinded, but cannot at present provide a timeline or any measure of certainty in having the FFCTO rescinded in the near future.

Regarding the TSE's delisting review, the Company is nearing the end of that review period (which extends through August 1, 2024), which could give rise to a delisting thirty days after the end of the review period. While the Company has been successful in improving its working capital situation, Management cannot presently foresee a likelihood of the Company's share price and market capitalization gaining sufficiently to meet the TSE's requirements in the required timeframe. In the event of a delisting from the TSE, which Management understands could happen as soon as August 31, 2024, Management is pursuing its options to maintain trading continuity. While the Company has previously announced that it is applying for a listing on the TSX-V, there is no guarantee that such a listing application will be successful, or that another market for the Company's securities will be available if the Company is delisted from the TSX.

Although the regulatory hurdles are substantial, Management continues to have a positive outlook on the Company's revenue growth in at least the near term. As Management works to have the Company's stock trading again, Management continues to focus on that revenue growth, as well as on maintaining and improving margins and increase cash flows. Management also continues to work on the Company's negative working capital situation, and in particular, on options to restructure or otherwise resolve some or all of the remainder of the Company's long-standing bank debt.

## **SELECTED FINANCIALS**

As noted above, the complete set of financial statements and management discussion and analysis for the three months ended March 31, 2024, are available on SEDAR and on the Company's website at www.glglifetech.com.

# **Results from Operations**

The following results from operations have been derived from and should be read in conjunction with the Company's annual consolidated financial statements for 2023 and the condensed interim consolidated financial statements for the three-month period ended March 31, 2024.

In thousands Canadian \$, except per share amounts	3 Months Ended March 31		% Change
	2024	2023-Restated	
Results from Continuing Operations			
Revenue	\$3,457	\$1,550	123%
Cost of Sales	(\$2,862)	(\$1,252)	(129%)
% of Revenue	(83%)	(81%)	(2%)
Gross Profit	\$594	\$299	99%
% of Revenue	17%	19%	(2%)
Expenses	(\$528)	(\$754)	(30%)
% of Revenue	(15%)	(49%)	34%
Income/(Loss) from Operations	\$66	(\$455)	115%
% of Revenue	2%	(29%)	31%
Other Income/(Expenses)	(\$4,471)	(\$2,933)	(52%)
% of Revenue	(129%)	(189%)	60%
Net Income/(Loss)	(\$4,405)	(\$3,388)	(30%)
% of Revenue	(127%)	(219%)	91%
Net Income/(Loss) Attributable to GLG	(\$4,397)	(\$3,382)	(30%)
% of Revenue	(127%)	(218%)	91%
Net Earnings/(Loss) Per Share Attributable to GLG	(\$0.11)	(\$0.09)	(30%)
Consolidated Results (Consolidating Continued and Discontinued O	perations)		
Net Income/(Loss) - Continuing Operations	(\$4,405)	(\$3,388)	(30%)
Net Income/(Loss) - Discontinued Operations	(\$2,620)	(\$10,865)	76%
Net Income/(Loss)	(\$7,025)	(\$14,253)	51%
Net Income/(Loss) Attributable to GLG	(\$6,988)	(\$14,122)	51%
Net Earnings/(Loss) Per Share Attributable to GLG	(\$0.18)	(\$0.37)	51%
Other Comprehensive Income/(Loss)	(\$326)	\$47	(794%)
Comprehensive Net Income/(Loss)	(\$7,351)	(\$14,207)	48%
Comprehensive Net Income/(Loss) Attributable to GLG	(\$7,304)	(\$14,074)	48%

## Revenue

Revenue for the three months ended March 31, 2024, increased by 123% to \$3.5 million, a \$1.9 million increase compared to \$1.6 million for the same period in 2023. This 123% increase was attributable to an increase in international stevia revenues, deriving in part from a base effect from a temporary slow-down

in orders from one of the Company's largest customers in early 2023; this inventory-related order slow-down eased and ceased in the second and third quarters of 2023. International monk fruit sales decreased in the first quarter of 2024, relative to the comparable period in 2023, but the decrease was slight relative to the increase in international stevia revenues. The Company's revenues consisted wholly of international sales in the first quarters of both 2024 and 2023.

#### **Cost of Sales**

For the three months ended March 31, 2024, the cost of sales increased to \$2.9 million, compared to a cost of sales of \$1.3 million for the same period last year (an increase in cost of sales of 129%). Cost of sales as a percentage of revenues was 83% for the first quarter, a two-percentage point increase compared to the first quarter of 2023 (81%). This two-percentage point increase in cost of sales as a percentage of revenues is driven in part by higher costs of raw materials in the first quarter of 2024 relative to the first quarter of 2023 for much of the Company's product portfolio, with product pricing often constrained either contractually or by the competitive marketplace. This two-percentage point increase would have been larger, but for the reclassification effects for 2023 discontinued operations effectively increasing the cost of sales for continuing operations in the first quarter of 2023.

## **Gross Profit (Loss)**

Gross profit for the three months ended March 31, 2024, increased by 99% to \$0.6 million, compared to \$0.3 million in gross profit for the same period last year. This 99% increase in gross profit was driven by the increase in revenues for the first quarter of 2024 compared to the first quarter of 2023. The gross profit margin was 17% for the first quarter of 2024, compared to 19% in the first quarter of 2023, for the same reasons as described above for the year-over-year comparison of cost of sales as a percentage of revenues.

## **Selling, General and Administration Expenses**

Selling, General and Administration ("SG&A") expenses include sales, marketing, general and administration costs ("G&A"), stock-based compensation, and depreciation and amortization expenses on G&A fixed assets. A breakdown of SG&A expenses into these components is presented below:

In thousands Canadian \$	3 Months E	3 Months Ended March 31	
	2024	2023-Restated	
Results from Continuing Operations			
G&A Expenses	\$515	\$641	(20%)
Depreciation Expenses	\$13	\$113	(88%)
Total	\$528	\$754	(30%)

G&A expenses for the three months ended March 31, 2024, decreased by \$0.1 million to \$0.5 million, compared to \$0.6 million in the same period in 2023. The \$0.1 million decrease in G&A expenses for the first quarter of 2024 was driven by a reduction in salaries and wages, with other contributions to the decrease from professional fees, rental expenses and business taxes and licences. G&A-related depreciation and amortization expenses for the three months ended March 31, 2024, were \$nil million compared with \$0.1 million for the first quarter of 2023.

#### **Net Loss Attributable to the Company**

In thousands Canadian \$	3 Months E	3 Months Ended March 31	
	2024	2023-Restated	
Net Income/(Loss) - Continuing Operations			
Net Income/(Loss)	(\$4,405)	(\$3,388)	(30%)
% of Revenue	(127%)	(219%)	91%
Net Income/(Loss) Attributable to NCI	(\$7)	(\$6)	(17%)
Net Income/(Loss) Attributable to GLG	(\$4,397)	(\$3,382)	(30%)
% of Revenue	(127%)	(218%)	91%
Net Earnings/(Loss) Per Share Attributable to GLG	(\$0.11)	(\$0.09)	(30%)

For the three months ended March 31, 2024, the Company had net loss attributable to the Company from continuing operations of \$4.4 million, an increase of \$1.0 million over the comparable period in 2023. This \$1.0 million increase is attributable to (1) an increase in other expenses (\$1.5 million), which was offset by (2) an increase in gross profit (\$0.3 million) and (3) a decrease in SG&A expenses (\$0.2 million).

## **Quarterly Basic and Diluted Loss per Share**

The basic and diluted loss per share from continuing operations was \$0.11 for the three months ended March 31, 2024, compared with a basic and diluted net loss per share from continuing operations of \$0.09 for the comparable period in 2023.

# **Additional Information**

Additional information relating to the Company, including our Annual Information Form, is available on SEDAR (<a href="www.sedar.com">www.sedar.com</a>). Additional information relating to the Company is also available on our website (<a href="www.glglifetech.com">www.glglifetech.com</a>).

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#### **About GLG Life Tech Corporation**

GLG Life Tech Corporation is a global leader in the supply of high-purity zero calorie natural sweeteners including stevia and monk fruit extracts used in food and beverages. GLG's vertically integrated operations, which incorporate our Fairness to Farmers program and emphasize sustainability throughout, cover each step in the stevia and monk fruit supply chains including non-GMO seed and seedling breeding, natural propagation, growth and harvest, proprietary extraction and refining, marketing and distribution of the finished products. Additionally, to further meet the varied needs of the food and beverage industry, GLG, through its Naturals+ product line, supplies a host of complementary ingredients reliably sourced through its supplier network in China. For further information, please visit www.glglifetech.com.

**Forward-looking statements:** This press release may contain certain information that may constitute "forward-looking statements" and "forward looking information" (collectively, "forward-looking statements") within the meaning of applicable securities laws. Often, but not always, forward-looking statements can be identified by the use of words such as "plans", "expects" or "does not expect", "is expected", "budget", "scheduled", "estimates", "forecasts", "intends", "anticipates" or "does not anticipate", or "believes" or variations of such words and phrases or words and phrases that state or indicate that certain actions, events or results "may", "could", "would", "might" or "will" be taken, occur or be achieved.

While the Company has based these forward-looking statements on its current expectations about future events, the statements are not guarantees of the Company's future performance and are subject to risks, uncertainties, assumptions and other factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from future results expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Such factors include amongst others the effects of general economic conditions, consumer demand for our products and new orders from our customers and distributors, changing foreign exchange rates and actions by government authorities, uncertainties associated with legal proceedings and negotiations, industry supply levels, competitive pricing pressures and misjudgments in the course of preparing forward-looking statements. Specific reference is made to the risks set forth under the heading "Risk Factors" in the Company's Annual Information Form for the financial year ended December 31, 2023. In light of these factors, the forward-looking events discussed in this press release might not occur.

Further, although the Company has attempted to identify factors that could cause actual actions, events or results to differ materially from those described in forward-looking statements, there may be other factors that cause actions, events or results not to be as anticipated, estimated or intended. The Company undertakes no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

As there can be no assurance that forward-looking statements will prove to be accurate, as actual results and future events could differ materially from those anticipated in such statements, readers should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements.