
**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549**

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): February 19, 2019 (February 18, 2019)

WORKHORSE GROUP INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Nevada (State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)	000-53704 (Commission File Number)	26-1394771 (IRS Employer Identification No.)
100 Commerce Drive, Loveland, Ohio (Address of Principal Executive Offices)		45140 (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (513) 297-3640

N/A

(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (17 CFR §230.405) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (17 CFR §240.12b-2).

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements with Certain Officers.

On February 19, 2019, the Company announced the appointment of Robert Willison as Chief Operating Officer effective February 18, 2019. Mr. Willison previously served as Director of Fleet Technology for Sysco Corporation. Prior to joining Sysco, Mr. Willison served as the Company's Director of Research and Development from 2016 until 2018. Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Willison served as a Partner and Chief Technology Officer for Räv Technology LLC from 2014 until 2016. Prior to joining Räv Technology, Mr. Willison served as Director of International Operations and New Business Development for PDi Communication Systems.

Mr. Willison does not have any family relationship with any director, executive officer or person nominated or chosen by us to become a director or an executive officer. Since January 1, 2018, Mr. Willison has not had a direct or indirect material interest in any transaction or proposed transaction, in which the Company was or is a proposed participant exceeding \$120,000.

In connection with his appointment as Chief Operating Officer, the Company entered into a retention agreement (the "Retention Agreement") with Mr. Willison effective February 18, 2019. Pursuant to the Retention Agreement, Mr. Willison will receive a base salary of \$250,000 per year and will be eligible to receive a target performance bonus equal to 50% of his base salary with the potential to increase to 100% or 150% of his base salary assuming pre-determined milestones are met as determined by the Board. Subject to the approval by the Company's shareholders of the Company's 2019 Stock Incentive Plan, the Company will grant an option to purchase 400,000 shares of the Company's common stock that will vest over a four-year period. The stock option award will be granted under the Company's 2019 Incentive Stock Plan with an exercise price equal to the closing price of the Company's common stock on the date of shareholder approval of the 2019 Incentive Stock Plan. The shares subject to such options will vest over four years in equal quarterly installments commencing at the end of the calendar quarter in which the 2019 Incentive Stock Plan is approved.

In the event Mr. Willison is terminated without cause or resigns for good reason (as such terms are defined in the Retention Agreement), he will be entitled to severance payments in an amount equal to his base salary plus a prorated portion of his target performance bonus. In addition, any outstanding equity awards will immediately accelerate and vest. The Company will also continue to pay the employer portion of the COBRA premium cost for up to twelve months. In the event Mr. Willison is terminated without cause or resigns for good reason within twelve months following a change in control of the Company (as such term is defined in the Retention Agreement) he shall be entitled to severance benefits described above.

The foregoing summary description of the Retention Agreement does not purport to be complete and is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by, the full text of the agreement, a copy of which is filed as Exhibit 10.1 hereto and incorporated by reference herein.

On February 19, 2019 the Company issued a press release regarding Mr. Willison's appointment. The press release is filed with this report on Form 8-K as Exhibit 99.1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits:

10.1 [Retention Agreement between Robert Willison and Workhorse Group Inc. dated February 18, 2019](#)

99.1 [Press Release dated February 19, 2019](#)

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

WORKHORSE GROUP INC.

/s/ Paul Gaitan

Paul Gaitan

Chief Financial Officer

Date: February 19, 2019

EXECUTIVE RETENTION AGREEMENT

This Executive Retention Agreement (the “*Agreement*”) is made and entered into as of February 18, 2019 (the “Effective Date”) by and between WORKHORSE GROUP INC., a Nevada corporation (the “*Company*”), and Robert Willison (the “*Executive*”).

Recitals:

WHEREAS, the Executive is a key employee of the Company who possesses valuable proprietary knowledge of the Company, its business and operations and the markets in which the Company competes; and

WHEREAS, the Company and the Executive desire to enter into this Agreement to encourage the Executive to continue to devote the Executive’s full attention and dedication to the success of the Company, and to provide specified compensation and benefits to the Executive in the event of a Termination Upon Change of Control or certain other terminations pursuant to the terms of this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE PARTIES HEREBY AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

1. PURPOSE AND TERM; DUTIES

1.1 The purpose of this Agreement is to provide specified compensation and benefits to the Executive in the event of (i) a Termination Upon Change of Control or (ii) an Involuntary Termination. Subject to the terms of any applicable written employment agreement between Company and the Executive (as to which Executive acknowledges no other such agreement exists as of the date hereof), either the Executive or Company may terminate the Executive’s employment at any time for any reason, with or without notice. The term of this Agreement shall be the period from the date set forth above until Executive’s employment is terminated for any reason or this Agreement is terminated by mutual agreement of the parties.

1.2 The Executive’s job responsibilities will comprise of serving as the Chief Operating Officer of the Company assisting the CEO in managing and overseeing all operations and matters of the Company in order to establish a successful business and manage growth. In addition, Executive will undertake such functions as are customarily applicable to Executive’s position, as well as those that are reasonably assigned to you by the Board.

1.3 As part of Executive’s duties Executive will be required to work at the Company’s executive offices. The Executive is entitled to four (4) weeks of vacation which will accrue on a pro-rata basis during the year, in addition to all public holidays when the office is closed. Executive will be eligible to participate in all employee benefit plans established by the Company for its employees from time to time. In accordance with Company policies from time to time, Executive will reimburse you for all reasonable and proper travel and business expenses incurred by you in the performance of your duties.

2. COMPENSATION AND TERMINATION GENERALLY

2.1 Compensation.

2.1.1 Annual Salary. The Executive's current base salary of \$250,000 per annum, subject to periodic review and modification which may not be adjusted downward by the Company's Board of Directors (the "**Board**") as may be delegated to the Compensation Committee of the Board (references herein to the Compensation Committee shall include reference to the Board if no such Committee exists at any time) at such time or times as it shall determine. The Company's Compensation Committee shall also from time to time, in its discretion, determine the type and amount of other forms of compensation for Executive's service with the Company (including, without limitation, stock options or other forms of equity awards).

2.1.2 Bonuses. Executive Each calendar year during the term of the Executive's employment with the Company (including the calendar year ending December 31, 2019), Executive will be eligible to receive a cash bonus ("Cash Bonus") as determined by the Board based upon the achievement of performance goals established by the Board and provided to Executive in writing within thirty (30) days after the beginning of the calendar years subject to the Company establishing an approved budget (for calendar year 2019 the performance goals shall be established by the Board and provided to Executive in writing within thirty (30) days after establishing an approved budget). The Executive's target Cash Bonus will be 50% of the Base Salary with the potential to receive 100% of the Base Salary or up to 150% of the Base Salary if the highest performance goals as established by the Board are achieved. With respect to each calendar year during the term of the Executive's employment with the Company, the Company will determine the amount of the Cash Bonus to be awarded within sixty (60) days after the end of the calendar year to which the Cash Bonus relates and will pay the awarded Cash Bonus at the next payroll to occur following such determination. To be eligible to receive a Cash Bonus for a particular year, the Executive must be employed by the Company through the end of such calendar year.

2.1.3 Options. Subject to the shareholders of the Company adopting and approving the 2019 Stock Incentive Plan (the "Approval"), the Executive will be provided with an initial grant of options to purchase 400,000 shares of common stock, which shall vest over four (4) years in equal quarterly installments of 25,000 shares per quarter commencing the end of the quarter following the Approval. The exercise price of the options shall be the closing price as of the date of the Approval. The Executive has agreed that such options shall not be issued until such time that the Company has adopted its 2019 Stock Incentive Plan. The Executive may be eligible for additional equity incentive grants, subject to Executive's continued employment and satisfactory job performance, which may be made from time to time, by the Board, on the same terms as other executive employees of the Company. Terms and conditions of all the equity incentive grants, will be in accordance with the terms of the Company's Equity Incentive Plan in effect at the time of each such grant.

2.2 Termination of Employment Generally. In the event the Executive's employment with the Company terminates, for any reason whatsoever including death or disability the Executive shall be entitled to the benefits described in this Section 2.2.

2.2.1 Accrued Salary and Vacation. All salary and accrued vacation earned through the Termination Date shall be paid to Executive on such date.

2.2.2 Accrued Bonus Payment. The Executive shall receive a lump sum payment of any actual bonus amount to the extent that all the conditions for payment of such bonus have been satisfied and any such bonus was earned and is unpaid on the Termination Date.

2.2.3 Expense Reimbursement. Within ten (10) days following submission to the Company of proper expense reports by the Executive, the Company shall reimburse the Executive for all expenses incurred by the Executive, consistent with the Company's expense reimbursement policy in effect prior to the incurring of each such expense, in connection with the business of the Company prior to the Termination Date.

2.2.4 Equity Compensation. The period during which the Executive may exercise any rights ("*Exercise Period*") under any outstanding stock options (or any other equity award, including, without limitation, stock appreciation rights and restricted stock units) granted to the Executive under any equity incentive plan or agreement adopted by the Board of Directors (the "*Company Plans*") shall continue as set forth in such security; provide, however, such Exercise Period shall terminate immediately in the event Executive is terminated for Cause. Further, in the event the Executive is terminated for Cause or leaves for any reason except as set forth in Section 4, then the vesting of all outstanding stock options (or any other equity award, including, without limitation, stock appreciation rights and restricted stock units) shall cease.

3. TERMINATION UPON CHANGE OF CONTROL

3.1 Severance Payment. In the event of the Executive's Termination Upon Change of Control, the Executive shall be entitled to receive an amount equal to twelve (12) months of Executive's Base Salary which shall be paid according to the following schedule: (i) a lump sum payment equal to one-half of such amount shall be payable within ten (10) days following the Termination Date, and (ii) one-third of the balance of such amount shall be payable within ten (10) days of each of the three-month, six-month and nine-month anniversaries of the Termination Date (and in each case no interest shall accrue on such amount); provided, however, that if Section 409A of the Code would otherwise apply to such cash severance payment, it instead shall be paid at such time as permitted by Section 409A of the Code. In addition to the foregoing severance payment, in the event of the Executive's Termination Upon Change of Control, the Executive shall be entitled to receive, within ten (10) days following the Termination Upon Change of Control, a lump sum payment equal to one hundred percent (100%) of (a) any actual bonus amount earned with respect to a previous year to the extent that all the conditions for payment of such bonus have been satisfied (excluding any requirement to be in employment with the Company as of a given date which is after the Termination Date) and any such bonus was earned but is unpaid on the Termination Date; and (b) the target bonus then in effect for the Executive for the year in which such termination occurs, such payment to be prorated to reflect the full number of months the Executive remained in the employ of the Company; provided, however, that if Section 409A of the Code would otherwise apply to such cash payment, it instead shall be paid at such time as permitted by Section 409A of the Code. To illustrate, if the Executive's target bonus at 100% equals \$120,000 for the calendar year and the Executive is terminated on October 15th, then the foregoing payment shall equal \$100,000 (i.e., ten (10) months' prorated bonus at one hundred percent (100%) with October counting as a full month worked).

3.2 Equity Compensation Acceleration. Upon the Executive's Termination Upon Change of Control, the vesting and exercisability of all then outstanding stock options (or any other equity award, including, without limitation, stock appreciation rights and restricted stock units) granted to the Executive under any *Company Plans* shall be accelerated as to 100% of the shares subject to any such equity awards granted to the Executive.

3.3 COBRA. If the Executive timely elects coverage under the Consolidated Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985, as amended (“*COBRA*”), the Company shall continue to provide to the Executive, at the Company’s expense, the Company’s health-related employee insurance coverage for the employee only as in effect immediately prior to the Executive’s Termination Upon Change of Control for a period of twelve (12) months following such Termination Upon Change of Control. The date of the “qualifying event” for the Executive and any dependents shall be the Termination Date.

3.4 Indemnification. In the event of the Executive’s Termination Upon Change of Control, (a) the Company shall continue to indemnify the Executive against all claims related to actions arising prior to the termination of the Executive’s employment to the fullest extent permitted by law, and (b) if the Executive was covered by the Company’s directors’ and officers’ insurance policy, or an equivalent thereto, (the “*D&O Insurance Policy*”) immediately prior to the Change of Control, the Company or its Successor shall continue to provide coverage under a D&O Insurance Policy for not less than twenty-four (24) months following the Executive’s Termination Upon Change of Control on substantially the same terms of the D&O Insurance Policy in effect immediately prior to the Change of Control.

4. INVOLUNTARY TERMINATION

4.1 Severance Payment. In the event of the Executive’s Involuntary Termination, the Executive shall be entitled to receive an amount equal to twelve (12) months of the Executive’s Base Salary which shall be paid according to the following schedule: (i) a lump sum payment equal to one-fourth of such amount shall be payable within ten (10) days following the Termination Date, and (ii) one-fourth of such amount shall be payable within ten (10) days of each of the three-month, six-month and nine-month anniversaries of the Termination Date (and in each case no interest shall accrue on such amount); provided, however, that if Section 409A of the Code would otherwise apply to such cash severance payment, it instead shall be paid at such time as permitted by Section 409A of the Code. In addition to the foregoing severance payment, in the event of the Executive’s Involuntary Termination, the Executive shall be entitled to receive, within ten (10) days following the Executive’s Involuntary Termination, a lump sum payment equal to one hundred percent (100%) of (a) any actual bonus amount earned with respect to a previous year to the extent that all the conditions for payment of such bonus have been satisfied (excluding any requirement to be in employment with the Company as of a given date which is after the Termination Date) and any such bonus was earned but is unpaid on the Termination Date; and (b) the target bonus then in effect for the Executive for the year in which such termination occurs, such payment to be prorated to reflect the full number of months the Executive remained in the employ of the Company; provided, however, that if Section 409A of the Code would otherwise apply to such cash payment, it instead shall be paid at such time as permitted by Section 409A of the Code. To illustrate, if the Executive’s target bonus at 100% equals \$120,000 for the calendar year and the Executive is terminated on October 15th, then the foregoing payment shall equal \$100,000 (i.e., ten (10) months’ prorated bonus at one hundred percent (100%) with October counting as a full month worked).

4.2 Equity Compensation Acceleration. Upon the Executive’s Involuntary Termination, the vesting and exercisability of all then outstanding stock options (or any other equity award, including, without limitation, stock appreciation rights and restricted stock units) granted to the Executive under any Company Plans shall be accelerated as to 100% of the shares subject to any such equity awards granted to the Executive.

4.3 COBRA. In the event of the Executive's Involuntary Termination, at any time after the expiration of twelve months after the Effective Date, if the Executive timely elects coverage under the Consolidated Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985, as amended ("COBRA"), the Company shall continue to provide to the Executive, at the Company's expense, the Company's health-related employee insurance coverage for the employee only as in effect immediately prior to the Executive's Involuntary Termination for a period of twelve (12) months following such Involuntary Termination. The date of the "qualifying event" for the Executive and any dependents shall be the Termination Date.

4.4 Indemnification. In the event of the Executive's Involuntary Termination, (a) the Company shall continue to indemnify the Executive against all claims related to actions arising prior to the Termination Date to the fullest extent permitted by law, and (b) if the Executive was covered by the D&O Insurance Policy immediately prior to the Termination Date, the Company shall continue to provide coverage under a D&O Insurance Policy for not less than twenty-four (24) months following the Executive's Involuntary Termination on substantially the same terms of the D&O Insurance Policy in effect immediately prior to the Termination Date.

5. FEDERAL EXCISE TAX UNDER SECTION 280G

5.1 Excise Tax. If (a) any amounts payable to the Executive under this Agreement or otherwise are characterized as excess parachute payments pursuant to Section 4999 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), and (b) the Executive thereby would be subject to any United States federal excise tax due to that characterization, then if Executive would thereby be in a better after-tax position, the Company may elect, in the Company's sole discretion, to reduce the amounts payable under this Agreement or otherwise, or to have any portion of applicable options or restricted stock not vest or become exercisable, in order to avoid any "excess parachute payment" under Section 280G(b)(1) of the Code.

5.2 Calculation by Independent Public Accountants. Unless the Company and the Executive otherwise agree in writing, any calculation of the amount of any excess parachute payments payable by the Executive shall be made in writing by the Company's independent public accountants (the "Accountants") whose conclusion shall be final and binding on the parties. For purposes of making such calculations, the Accountants may rely on reasonable, good faith interpretations concerning the application of Sections 280G and 4999 of the Code. The Company and the Executive shall furnish to the Accountants such information and documents as the Accountants may reasonably request in order to make the required calculations. The Company shall bear all fees and expenses the Accountants may charge in connection with these services, but the engagement of the Accountants for this purpose shall be pursuant to an agreement between the Executive and the Accountants.

6. DEFINITIONS

6.1 Capitalized Terms Defined. Capitalized terms used in this Agreement shall have the meanings set forth in this Section 4, unless the context clearly requires a different meaning.

6.2 "Base Salary" means the greater of (a) if applicable, the monthly salary of the Executive in effect immediately prior to the Change of Control, or (b) the monthly salary of the Executive in effect immediately prior to the Termination Date.

6.3 “Cause” means:

- (a) the Executive willfully failed to follow the lawful written directions of the Board of Directors of the Company or Executive’s immediate superior; provided that no termination for such Cause shall occur unless the Executive: (i) has been provided with notice, specifying such willful failure in reasonable detail, of the Company’s intention to terminate the Executive for Cause; and (ii) has failed to cure or correct such willful failure within thirty (30) days of receiving such notice;
- (b) the Executive engaged in gross misconduct, or gross incompetence which is materially detrimental to the Company; provided that no termination for such Cause shall occur unless the Executive: (i) has been provided with notice, specifying such gross misconduct or gross incompetence in reasonable detail, of the Company’s intention to terminate the Executive for Cause; and (ii) has failed to cure or correct such gross misconduct within thirty (30) days of receiving such notice;
- (c) the Executive willfully failed to comply in any material respect with the Employee Invention Assignment & Confidentiality Agreement, the Company’s share dealing code, the Employee’s non-competition agreement or any other reasonable policies of the Company where non-compliance would be materially detrimental to the Company; provided that no termination for such Cause shall occur unless the Executive: (i) has been provided with notice of the Company’s intention to terminate the Executive for such Cause, and (ii) has failed to cure or correct such willful failure within thirty (30) days of receiving such notice, provided that such notice and cure period requirements shall not apply in the event that such non-compliance is of a nature that it is unable to be remedied; or
- (d) is convicted of a felony or crime involving moral turpitude (excluding drunk driving unless combined with other aggravating circumstances or offenses) or commission of a fraud which the Company reasonably believes would reflect adversely on the Company.

6.4 “Change of Control” means:

- (a) any “person” (as such term is used in Sections 13(d) and 14(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “*Exchange Act*”)) becomes the “beneficial owner” (as defined in Rule 13d-3 promulgated under the Exchange Act), directly or indirectly, of securities of the Company representing fifty (50%) percent or more of (i) the outstanding shares of common stock of the Company, or (ii) the combined voting power of the Company’s outstanding securities;
- (b) the Company is party to a merger or consolidation, or series of related transactions, which results in the voting securities of the Company outstanding immediately prior thereto failing to continue to represent (either by remaining outstanding or by being converted into voting securities of the surviving entity), directly or indirectly, at least fifty (50%) percent of the combined voting power of the voting securities of the Company or such surviving entity outstanding immediately after such merger or consolidation;
- (c) the sale or disposition of all or substantially all of the Company’s assets, or consummation of any transaction, or series of related transactions, having similar effect (other than to a subsidiary of the Company);

6.5 “Company” shall mean Workhorse Group Inc. and, following a Change of Control, any Successor.

6.6 “Involuntary Termination” means:

- (a) any termination without Cause of the employment of the Executive by the Company; or
- (b) any resignation by Executive for Good Reason where such resignation occurs within sixty (60) days following the occurrence of such Good Reason.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the term “Involuntary Termination” shall not include any termination of the employment of the Executive: (1) by the Company for Cause; (2) by the Company as a result of the Permanent Disability of the Executive; (3) as a result of the death of the Executive; (4) that occurs within the period of time to qualify as a “Termination Upon Change of Control”; or (5) as a result of the voluntary termination of employment by the Executive for any reason other than Good Reason.

6.7 “Good Reason” means the occurrence of any of the following conditions, without the Executive’s written consent:

- (a) Any act, set of facts or omissions with respect to the Executive that would, as a matter of applicable law, constitute a constructive termination of the Executive.
- (b) A reduction in the Executive’s Base Salary or, if applicable, target bonus opportunity (subject to applicable performance requirements with respect to the actual amount of bonus compensation earned similar to the applicable performance requirements currently in effect), and in the event of a Change of Control, as compared to Executive’s Base Salary and target bonus opportunity in effect immediately prior to the public announcement of the Change of Control; provided, however, that this clause (c) shall not apply in the event of a reduction in the Executive’s Base Salary or, if applicable, target bonus opportunity as part of a Company-wide or executive team-wide cost-cutting measure or Company-wide or executive team-wide cutback as a result of overall Company performance.
- (c) The failure of the Company (i) to continue to provide the Executive an opportunity to participate in any benefit or compensation plans provided to employees who hold positions with the Company comparable to the Executive’s position, (ii) to provide the Executive all other fringe benefits (or the equivalent) in effect for the benefit of any employee group which includes any employee who hold a position with the Company comparable to the Executive’s position, where in the event of a Change of Control, such comparison shall be made relative to the time immediately prior to the public announcement of such Change of Control); or (iii) continue to provide director’s and officers’ insurance.
- (d) A material breach of this Agreement by the Company, including, in the event of a Change of Control, failure of the Company to obtain the consent of a Successor to perform all of the obligations of the Company under this Agreement.

The Executive must first give the Company an opportunity to cure any of the foregoing within thirty (30) days following delivery to the Company of a written explanation specifying the specific basis for Executive's belief that Executive is entitled to terminate employment for Good Reason, and Executive terminates employment with the Company not later than (30) days following the Company's failure to cure.

6.8 "Permanent Disability" means that:

- (a) the Executive has been incapacitated by bodily injury, illness or disease so as to be prevented thereby from engaging in the performance of the Executive's duties;
- (b) such total incapacity shall have continued for a period of six consecutive months; and
- (c) such incapacity will, in the opinion of a qualified physician, be permanent and continuous during the remainder of the Executive's life.

6.9 "Substantive Functional Equivalent" means that the Executive's position must:

- (a) be in a substantive area of the Executive's competence (e.g., finance or executive management) and not materially different from the position occupied immediately prior;
- (b) allow the Executive to serve in a role and perform duties functionally equivalent to those performed immediately prior; and
- (c) not otherwise constitute a material, adverse change in authority, title, status, responsibilities or duties from those of the Executive immediately prior, causing the Executive to be of materially lesser rank or responsibility, including requiring the Executive to report to a person other than the Board.

6.10 "Successor" means any successor in interest to, or assignee of, substantially all of the business and assets of the Company.

6.11 "Termination Date" means the date of the termination of the Executive's employment with the Company.

6.12 “Termination Upon Change of Control” means:

- (a) any termination of the employment of the Executive by the Company without Cause during the period commencing on or after the date that the Company first publicly announces a definitive agreement that results in a Change of Control (even though still subject to approval by the Company’s stockholders and other conditions and contingencies, but provided that the Change of Control actually occurs) and ending on the date which is twelve (12) months following the Change of Control; or
- (b) any resignation by Executive for Good Reason where (i) such Good Reason occurs during the period commencing on or after the date that the Company first publicly announces a definitive agreement that results in a Change of Control (even though still subject to approval by the Company’s stockholders and other conditions and contingencies, but provided that the Change of Control actually occurs) and ending on the date which is twelve (12) months following the Change of Control, and (ii) such resignation occurs at or after such Change of Control and in any event within six (6) months following the occurrence of such Good Reason.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the term “Termination Upon Change of Control” shall not include any termination of the employment of the Executive: (1) by the Company for Cause; (2) by the Company as a result of the Permanent Disability of the Executive; (3) as a result of the death of the Executive; or (4) as a result of the voluntary termination of employment by the Executive for any reason other than Good Reason.

7. EXCLUSIVE REMEDY

7.1 No Other Benefits Payable. The Executive shall be entitled to no other termination, severance or change of control compensation, benefits, or other payments from the Company as a result of any termination with respect to which the payments and benefits described in Section 2 have been provided to the Executive, except as expressly set forth in this Agreement.

7.2 No Limitation of Regular Benefit Plans. Except as may be provided elsewhere in this Agreement, this Agreement is not intended to and shall not affect, limit or terminate any plans, programs or arrangements of the Company that are regularly made available to a significant number of employees or officers of the Company, including, without limitation, the Company’s stock option plans.

7.3 Release of Claims. The payment of the benefits described in Sections 3 and 4 of this Agreement is conditioned upon the delivery by the Executive to the Company of a signed and effective general release of claims as provided by the Company; provided, however, that the Executive shall not be required to release any rights the Executive may have to be indemnified by the Company or as otherwise provided under this Agreement.

7.4 Noncumulation of Benefits. The Executive may not cumulate cash severance payments, stock option vesting and exercisability and restricted stock vesting under this Agreement, any other written agreement with the Company and/or another plan or policy of the Company. If the Executive has any other binding written agreement with the Company which provides that, upon a Change of Control or Termination Upon a Change of Control or Involuntary Termination, the Executive shall receive termination, severance or similar benefits, then no benefits shall be received by Executive under this Agreement unless, prior to payment or receipt of benefits under this Agreement, the Executive waives Executive’s rights to all such other benefits, in which case this Agreement shall supersede any such written agreement with respect to such other benefits.

8. NON-COMPETE; PROPRIETARY AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

During the term of this Agreement and following any termination of employment, Executive agrees to continue to abide by the terms and conditions of each of the non-competition agreement (during the term of such Agreement) and the Employee Invention Assignment & Confidentiality Agreement between the Executive and the Company.

9. ARBITRATION

9.1 Disputes Subject to Arbitration. Any claim, dispute or controversy arising out of this Agreement (other than claims relating to misuse or misappropriation of the intellectual property of the Company), the interpretation, validity or enforceability of this Agreement or the alleged breach thereof shall be submitted by the parties to binding arbitration by a sole arbitrator under the rules of the American Arbitration Association; provided, however, that (a) the arbitrator shall have no authority to make any ruling or judgment that would confer any rights with respect to the trade secrets, confidential and proprietary information or other intellectual property of the Company upon the Executive or any third party; and (b) this arbitration provision shall not preclude the Company from seeking legal and equitable relief from any court having jurisdiction with respect to any disputes or claims relating to or arising out of the misuse or misappropriation of the Company's intellectual property. Judgment may be entered on the award of the arbitrator in any court having jurisdiction.

9.2 Costs of Arbitration. All costs of arbitration, including reasonable attorney's fees of the Executive, will be borne by the Company, except that if the Executive initiates arbitration and the arbitrator finds the Executive's claims to be frivolous the Executive shall be responsible for his own costs and attorneys fees.

9.3 Site of Arbitration. The site of the arbitration proceeding shall be in Loveland, Ohio.

10. NOTICES

For purposes of this Agreement, notices and all other communications provided for in the Agreement shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been duly given when delivered or five (5) business days after being mailed, return receipt requested, as follows: (a) if to the Company, attention: Chief Executive Officer, at the Company's offices at 100 Commerce Blvd., Loveland, OH 45140 and, (b) if to the Executive, at the address indicated below or such other address specified by the Executive in writing to the Company. Either party may provide the other with notices of change of address, which shall be effective upon receipt.

11. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

11.1 Heirs and Representatives of the Executive; Successors and Assigns of the Company. This Agreement shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of and be enforceable by the Executive's personal and legal representatives, executors, administrators, successors, heirs, distributees, devisees and legatees. This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of and be enforceable by the successors and assigns of the Company.

11.2 Amendment and Waiver. No provision of this Agreement shall be modified, amended, waived or discharged unless the modification, amendment, waiver or discharge is agreed to in writing, specifying such modification, amendment, waiver or discharge, and signed by the Executive and by an authorized officer of the Company (other than the Executive). No waiver by either party of any breach of, or of compliance with, any condition or provision of this Agreement by the other party shall be considered a waiver of any other condition or provision or of the same condition or provision at another time.

11.3 Withholding Taxes. All payments made under this Agreement shall be subject to deduction of all federal, state, local and other taxes required to be withheld by applicable law.

11.4 Severability. The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision or provisions of this Agreement shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision hereof, which shall remain in full force and effect.

11.5 Choice of Law. The validity, interpretation, construction and performance of this Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Ohio, without regard to where the Executive has his residence or principal office or where he performs his duties hereunder.

11.6 No Duty to Mitigate. The Executive is not required to seek alternative employment following termination, and payments called for under this Agreement will not be reduced by earnings from any other source.

11.7 Section 409A of the Code. To the extent (a) any payments or benefits to which Employee becomes entitled under this Agreement, or under any agreement or plan referenced herein, in connection with Employee's termination of employment with the Company constitute deferred compensation subject to Section 409A of the Code and (b) Employee is deemed at the time of such termination of employment to be a "specified employee" under Section 409A of the Code, then such payments shall not be made or commence until the earliest of (i) the expiration of the six (6)-month period measured from the date of Employee's "separation from service" (as such term is at the time defined in Treasury Regulations under Section 409A of the Code) from the Company; or (ii) the date of Employee's death following such separation from service; provided, however, that such deferral shall only be effected to the extent required to avoid adverse tax treatment to Employee, including (without limitation) the additional twenty percent (20%) tax for which Employee would otherwise be liable under Section 409A(a)(1)(B) of the Code in the absence of such deferral. Upon the expiration of the applicable deferral period, any payments which would have otherwise been made during that period (whether in a single sum or in installments) in the absence of this paragraph shall be paid to Employee or Employee's beneficiary in one lump sum (without interest). Any termination of Employee's employment is intended to constitute a "separation from service" as such term is defined in Treasury Regulation Section 1.409A-1. It is intended that each installment of the payments provided hereunder constitute separate "payments" for purposes of Treasury Regulation Section 1.409A-2(b)(2)(i). It is further intended that payments hereunder satisfy, to the greatest extent possible, the exemption from the application of Code Section 409A (and any state law of similar effect) provided under Treasury Regulation Section 1.409A-1(b) (4) (as a "short-term deferral").

11.8 Entire Agreement. This Agreement represents the entire agreement and understanding between the parties as to the subject matter herein (whether oral or written and whether express or implied).

[SIGNATURE PAGE TO EXECUTIVE RETENTION AGREEMENT FOLLOWS]

In Witness Whereof, each of the parties has executed this Agreement, in the case of the Company, by its duly authorized officer, as of the day and year first above written.

Executive

/s/ Robert Willison

Robert Willison

Workhorse Group Inc.

By: /s/ Duane Hughes

Name: Duane Hughes

Title: Chief Executive Officer



Workhorse Group Appoints Engineering Veteran and EV Industry Expert Rob Willison, PhD, as Chief Operating Officer

Willison to Lead Company's Transition into Production and Will Be Focused on Ensuring Quality, Profitable Manufacturing at Scale

CINCINNATI, OH -- February 19, 2019 -- Workhorse Group Inc. (NASDAQ: WKHS) (“Workhorse”), an American technology company focused on providing sustainable and cost-effective electric-mobility solutions to the transportation sector, has appointed former company Director of Research and Development Robert Willison, PhD, to the position of Chief Operating Officer (COO). Willison’s appointment follows the recently announced promotion of Duane Hughes to Workhorse Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Willison returns to Workhorse after serving as Director of Fleet Technology at Sysco Corporation, where he managed the coordination, design and project management of Sysco’s electric “trailer of the future.” In his former position as Director of Research and Development at Workhorse, Willison was responsible for various electric vehicle programs and systems, including the company’s work with the United States Postal Service (USPS) on the Next Generation Postal Vehicle, as well as the company’s NGEN composite-body electric delivery truck. The majority of Willison’s work centered on commercialization of prototypes to production vehicles, and he has extensive experience working with new technologies and integrating them into final-product vehicles.

Prior to his time at Workhorse, Willison was Partner and Chief Technology Officer (CTO) at Ray Technology, and before that, he was Director of International Operations and New Business Development at PDi Communication Systems. Willison also previously held senior management positions at Hughes Aircraft and Texas Instruments.

“Having served as Rob’s predecessor, I am acutely aware of the demands of the COO position as well as Workhorse’s needs for the role going forward,” said company CEO Duane Hughes. “Having also worked closely with Rob in the past, I am convinced of his ability to get that job done. He possesses a unique blend of technical capabilities, people skills and leadership experience, all of which will serve him well in this position. As our company continues its transition from development phase into large-scale production, Rob and his team will be focused on our core business in last mile delivery. More specifically, Rob’s main directive, and the chief emphasis of our company for the foreseeable future, is the manufacturing and delivery of NGEN electric delivery trucks profitably to fulfill the sizeable number of purchase orders currently making up our backlog.”

Willison added: “I look forward to taking on another senior position at Workhorse as well as playing a major role in its current evolution into a major production enterprise. Coming into this position already with a deep understanding of Workhorse, its technological capabilities, and its customer and vendor relationships will allow me to hit the ground running. We’re going to be focused on what we do best: trucks. My broad industry experience has provided me with the ability to help various companies create innovative products in a reliable and high-quality manner, and at Workhorse, I plan to do the same. In the process, we hope to further our mission of transforming the future of last-mile delivery.”



WORKHORSE

Willison earned a BSME, MSME, and PhD in Aero-Mechanical engineering, specializing in mechanics, robotics and spacecraft design at West Virginia University, where he was also a NASA Fellow. He holds a multi-engine, instrument-rated pilot certificate, and graduated from Sinclair College in Dayton, Ohio with an Airframe and Powerplant certificate. Willison was also the Chair of the Electromechanical Engineering technology department at Sinclair Community College and has taught engineering at University of Cincinnati as an adjunct Professor.

About Workhorse Group Inc.

Workhorse is a technology company focused on providing electric mobility solutions to the transportation sector. As an American original equipment manufacturer, we design and build high performance battery-electric vehicles including trucks and aircraft. Workhorse also develops cloud-based, real-time telematics performance monitoring systems that are fully integrated with our vehicles and enable fleet operators to optimize energy and route efficiency. All Workhorse vehicles are designed to make the movement of people and goods more efficient and less harmful to the environment. For additional information, visit www.workhorse.com.

Workhorse Safe Harbor Statement

This release includes forward-looking statements. These statements are made under the “safe harbor” provisions of the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements may be identified by words such as “believes,” “expects,” “anticipates,” “estimates,” “projects,” “intends,” “should,” “seeks,” “future,” “continue,” or the negative of such terms, or other comparable terminology. Forward-looking statements are statements that are not historical facts. Such forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties, which could cause actual results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements contained herein. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially include, but are not limited to: our limited operations and need to expand in the near future to fulfill product orders; risks associated with obtaining orders and executing upon such orders; the ability to protect our intellectual property; the potential lack of market acceptance of our products; potential competition; our inability to retain key members of our management team; our inability to raise additional capital to fund our operations and business plan; our inability to maintain our listing of our securities on the Nasdaq Capital Market; our ability to continue as a going concern; our liquidity and other risks and uncertainties and other factors discussed from time to time in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”), including our annual report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC. Workhorse expressly disclaims any obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statements contained herein, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as required by law.

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